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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 14, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will be held in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday,
April 3, 1904, and continue until Wed-
nesday, April 6. A general attendance
of the officers and members is requested
and expected.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

FAST DAY.

As the General Conference will commence
on April 3, the first Sunday in
the month, which is the regular Fast
Day, the Saints in the Salt Lake and
adjacent stakes of Zion will observe
the monthly fast on Sunday, March 27,
1904. The stake and ward authorities
in distant places will use their own
judgment as to making the change for
this occasion.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The general conference of the Deseret
Sunday School Union will be held at
the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sun-
day evening, April 3, at 7:30 o'clock,
and the attendance of all officers and
teachers is desired. A general invita-
tion is extended to all Sunday school
workers and Saints to be present.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

THE MAYOR'S VETO.

The Salt Lake public ought not to be
misled as to the position of the Mayor
in reference to the resolution, intro-
duced by Mr. Black in the City Council,
and which has been vetoed by the
Mayor. The reasons given by the Exe-
cutive are ample to explain his attitude,
but they may be summed up in brief
in this way:There is a State statute which confers
upon the Mayor the authority to ap-
point all the appointive city officers and
agents, "by and with the advice and
consent of the City Council." Mr.
Black, and a majority of the council,
acting on party lines and for avowed
party purposes, undertake, by a
resolution, to set aside that statute and
usurp the authority vested thereby in
the Mayor. It is an attempt to re-
verse the order established by law. The
Mayor very properly refuses to be a
party to such a scheme.The proper method is to pass an
ordinance in accordance with the law,
providing for such appointive offi-
cers and agents as are needed
for municipal purposes, the positions
to be filled by appointment of the May-
or and the City Council, also fixing
their compensation. That is the
straightforward and legal manner of
procedure. The Black resolution is
clearly a departure from the lawful
method, and the council ought to be
able to see that without difficulty.Elective offices are authorized by law
to appoint "their deputies and assist-
ants who shall be confirmed by the City
Council," and this shows that appoint-
ive officers are not thus empowered but
that their agents, deputies and assist-
ants are to be appointed by the Mayor
and Council as provided for in the same
section of the statute—Laws of Utah
1899 p. 124.Now if the majority of the council
will be governed by the law—and if
they are not their acts and resolutions
will be void, we believe the Mayor will
meet them in a spirit of fairness and
amity and so arrange matters that city
affairs will be properly conducted and
without friction. Let them try it!

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

The attempt which is now being made
here to stir up additional popular
wrath through misconceptions of the
Utah situation, is a most inconsistent
and fatuous movement. It purports
to be induced by the testimony of
President Joseph F. Smith before the
committee of inquiry at Washington.
The prime movers in it affect to be
much concerned because President
Smith expressed the view, that the peo-
ple of Utah generally "condoned" the
offense of his living with the wives
who he married previous to the is-
suanee of the "Manifesto." We will
copy here from the official full report
of the proceedings what President
Smith stated he meant in his evidence,
and also Senator Hoar's summing upof the testimony of President Smith as
he, the Senator, understood it. Presi-
dent Smith said:"Mr. Smith. That is what I mean. It
was understood that plural marriages
had ceased. It has been the contin-
uous and conscientious practice and rule
of the Church ever since the manifesto
to observe that manifesto with regard
to plural marriages; and from that time
until today there has never been, to my
knowledge, a plural marriage per-
formed in accordance with the under-
standing, instruction, conviction, coun-
sel, or permission of the presiding au-
thorities of the Church, or of the
Church, in any shape or form; and I
know where I speak, gentlemen, in re-
lation to that matter.""Since the admission of the State
there has been a sentiment existing and
prevailing in Utah that these old mar-
riages would be in a measure condoned.
They were not looked upon as offensive,
as really violative of law; they were,
in other words, regarded as an existing
fact, and if they saw any wrong in it
they simply winked at it. In other
words, Mr. Chairman, the people of
Utah, as a rule, as well as the people
of this nation, are broad-minded and
liberal-minded people, and they have
rather condoned than otherwise, I pre-
sume, my offense against the law. I
have never been disturbed. Nobody
has ever called me in question, that I
know of, and if I had, I was there to
answer to the charges or any charge
that might have been made against me,
and I would have been willing to sub-
mit to the penalty of the law, whatever
it might have been."Senator Hoar thus epitomizes his un-
derstanding of Pres. Smith's testi-
mony:"Senator Hoar. I would like to know
at some convenient time from Mr. Tay-
ler what in Mr. Smith's statement he
expects to contradict and what of it he
accepts? I understand that Mr. Smith's
statement is in substance this:"That he and his Church accept cer-
tain divine revelations which have come
to them, including him as one of the
presidents, in the past; that one of
those divine revelations was an injunc-
tion to polygamy, to plurality of wives;
that he interprets that injunction not
to mean that it is binding on all men
under all circumstances, but that it is
like similar injunctions to persons who
believe in monogamy, and that that is
shown by the fact that that was the
construction of it; that only 3 or 4 per
cent in old times of that communion
lived in polygamy; that thereafter, and
after the practice of polygamy had been
declared an offense by the civil law,
there was another revelation suspend-
ing it, and that that revelation was re-
tracted, but not for the future require-
ment, and that from that time forward
his church has ceased to inculcate it,
and has regarded the practice of poly-
gamy, with the exception I am about to
state, as a thing which has been ob-
eyed by the civil law; that there have been since
then no plural marriages under the
sanction or with the knowledge of the
church or a society, but that he him-
self and, according to his belief, other
persons in high places of authority of
the church, and with his full approba-
tion, I suppose, have said that while
they would contract no more plural
marriages and would resist, with all
their influence and all the authority of
the church, any new one, and while the
church has never sanctioned or solemn-
ized one since that later revelation,
they will not desert the wives and the
children to whom they had been mar-
ried under the old dispensation, and
that he himself has maintained those
wives and their children in separate
families, and has lived in the relation
of husband and wife with them so that
new children have been borne to him
by all of them."I do not know that I have given the
whole statement, but in substance. I
think it would shorten and make clear
this inquiry if we were to know whether
you expect to controvert that statement
in whole or in part. If I have in any par-
ticular misstated it, I wish Mr. Smith
would point out the particular in which
I have misstated it."Mr. Smith. I understand, Mr. Sena-
tor, that you have stated the case as Iunderstand it.
Now we ask our readers if that is any
just cause for the noise sought to be
aroused at home? There are some new
residents here who may be rationally
concerned about the "condoning" of in-
fractions of the law. They never con-
sented to it personally, perhaps. Neither
have they in so many words "condon-
ed" some other offenses that may have
to be brought to light, if this agitation
is kept up. The few "Mormons" who
are living with wives whom they mar-
ried many years ago are not the only
offenders against Utah statutes and or-
dinances, by any means.But passing that, is it not a fact that
the general sentiment has been for
many years, that those old re-
lations, fast diminishing, should
not be disturbed if new plural
marriages were not entered into? Ask
any unbiased old settler—we do not
mean anti-"Mormon" zealots, if this
has not been the case. There can be but
one answer, and that in the affirmative.
Now what good will come from further
protests and further tumult? Will it
clear the atmosphere? Will it help busi-
ness? Will it do any good at all?Now, rational, clear-headed folks, we
will give you a hint. As there are
wheels within wheels in most schemes
invented by aspiring persons, you will
find that there is a secret political wheel
within that which is now started to
revolve. And some of you will want to
kick yourselves severely when you find
how you have been roped in, for the
furtherance of a plot that ought to be
patent to you when you see who are
its chief movers. And finally we say,
don't go wild over the present rum-
pus, but keep cool and look before you leap!

A FAIR STATEMENT

The New York Independent, a strong
religious paper anti-Mormon in senti-
ment, does not agree with many of the
public journals in their opinions as to
the investigation by the Senate com-
mittee under cover of inquiring into the
qualifications of Reed Smoot for a seat
in the United States Senate. We copy
its article on the subject verbatim, and
we think that is a sufficient answer to
the one-sided comments of a local
anti-"Mormon" sheet on a single para-
graph of the article. The Independent
says:"The Mormon investigation is taking
a wide course. The question before the
Senate Committee is whether Mr.
Smoot, a Mormon Apostle, shall be ad-
mitted to the United States Senate. It
is agreed that no polygamist can be ad-
mitted to Congress, but Mr. Smoot is
not a polygamist, and no one pretends
that he is. So the real question in dis-
cussion is whether one not a polygamist
but an active and ruling member of
the Mormon Church, can be received as
an elected States Senator or Representative.""On the face of it the question would
seem ridiculous, for our Constitution
excludes religious tests. But it does not
exclude polygamists. Yet no one
charges immorality of this or any other
sort against Mr. Smoot.""Then, if no immorality is in a pri-
mary and personal way chargeableagainst Mr. Smoot, is he guilty in any
such secondary way, by incitement or
connivance, that he may properly be ex-
cluded? This is a main question now
under investigation.""To prove this it must be shown that
Mr. Smoot, as a ruling officer in his
Church, encourages other people to
practice an immorality, in the matter
of polygamy, or which he is not him-
self guilty; and to this purpose the evi-
dence is now being presented. The pre-
sent head of the Mormon Church has
been under long examination by the
committee, and he has admitted nearly
everything which the opponents of Mr.
Smoot have charged. While he denies
that any new polygamous marriages
have taken place, unless it may be in
very rare cases against the law of the
Church, he confesses that he has him-
self lived, and scores of other old men
have lived, since the admission of Utah
as a State, in continuous polygamous
relations with the plural wives whom
they took before that time. When asked
if that is not polygamy he said No;
that polygamy is taking of an addi-
tional wife, which he has not done, but
that it is polygamous cohabitation.
When asked if he does not know that
this is against the law of Utah, he says
Yes, but that he felt he must take that
risk for the sake of his families. He
did not think it right to throw off his
wives and children; and to avoid jeal-
ousies and friction he must remain in
husbandly relations to his wives. He
has not taught others, he says, to dis-
obey the law, but he chose to do so
for what he thought good reasons,
while taking no new wives. The vast
majority of his people, he said, are
monogamists, and the polygamists are
dying off, being now old men and in a
few years there will be none left.""This is a very frank statement. It
admits pretty much all that is charged.
It is a confession that would exclude
Apostle Smith from the Senate, but not
Apostle Smoot. It raises a question on
which honest moralists may differ. The
question whether polygamy or adultery
or murder is or is not right, is one that
must be barred from public discussion;
but the question whether those who
living in polygamous communities, Mor-
mons or Moslems or Pagans, have con-
tracted plural marriages, must, on be-
coming Christians, give up all but one
of their wives, is one that good mis-
sionaries have differed about. A year or
two ago the family of one of our In-
dians was converted. The old man was
told that before he was received into
the church he must give up one of his
wives. It was a very hard thing to do,
but the old woman took her blanket,
departed to live alone, saying that the
younger wife needed his protection and
care more than she did. Good moral-
ists differed as to whether the right in-
struction was given them. But the
Utah law forbids living in plural mar-
riage, as well as plural marriage itself,
and no pluralist has any place in Wash-
ington. The testimony of the head of
the Mormon Church shows that while
the Church holds that plural marriage
is in itself right, and that it was or-
dained by revelation to Joseph Smith,
yet the further taking of plural wives
is now forbidden, while the continuance
of plural relations with those previously
taken is winked at, but not taught.
So far no evidence has appeared on
this line to exclude Mr. Smoot.""But another line of testimony is be-
ing prepared, and will show, if
possible, that Mormons are under such
pounds to obey their Church that they
are not free to be good citizens of their
country—that is, that the authorities
of the Church rule, and control the po-
litical action of their members, so that
a man has no right to accept a political
office except by permission of the Apo-
stles of the Church. It is recalled that
Mr. Thatcher was excluded from the
Mormon Church for acting 'politically
against the Church's orders.' It has
been asserted that there are oaths tak-
en which are treasonable. For this we
await the further evidence. Thus far
nothing has been proved that is likely
to show that a loyal Mormon may not
also be a loyal citizen, unless he be liv-
ing a polygamous life. Practically the
question before the Senate is whether
any Mormon can be a member of that
body. Must that Mormon State be re-
presented only by a Gentile? Much as
we despise and detest Mormonism, we
must wait further evidence that a
Mormon cannot be admitted to Con-
gress.""An unqualified success" usually
means that it is not a pronounced fail-
ure.Kuropatkin is said to be Russia's
hope. Up to the present time he has
been hope deferred.Pitcher Wiggs of the Salt Lake team
will undertake to give his opponents
a great wiggling the coming season.The Russians are beginning to show
the Japanese that naval warfare is a
game at which two can play.Because Salt Lake is to be a port of
delivery it will not justify the holdups
in making the cry, "Stand and deliv-
er."Joseph Chamberlain is said to hold
the balance of power in England. That
is meet for he is great at straddling
and balancing.Judge Hiles testified before the Smoot
investigation committee that Hon. J.
L. Rawlins is a "Mormon." The deci-
sion is plainly ultra vires.The Kansas newspaper libel law has
been declared unconstitutional. In the
language of the immortal, pro tempore,
William Allen White, "What's the mat-
ter with Kansas?"Inspector Silence of St. Louis has
been shot for criticizing the chief of po-
lice of that city. Henceforth he will
understand why it is that silence is
considered golden.A negro has been lynched in Califor-
nia because he resisted being tarred
and feathered. What right had this
negro to thwart the party that was
merely in pursuit of a little innocent
pleasure?And now Canada wants a navy. She
needs one just as much as any other
American power does. And as this
country has the great navy fever in
such a virulent form at present how
could it be expected that our northern
neighbor could long escape it?"I hope," said Representative Alden
Smith, "that the day is not far distant
when with the general consent of the
American people the speaker will be
lifted into the executive office." From
this it must be understood that the dis-
tinguished Michigan would have Mr.
Cannon hoist with his own petard."We might have set the East on fire
had we cared to tell all we know about
polygamy," says a witness in the Smoot
case who has just returned from Wash-
ington. How fortunate, then, that "we"
did not tell him. Had all been told even
North River might have been set on
fire.

Why not throw the appointment to

cadetships to the naval and military
academies at Annapolis and West
Point open to competition and not
merely to alternateships? It is the bet-
ter way and is a guarantee that the
most eligible boy will get it. It has
been the practice in the past and should
be continued.The Tribune says: "Mr. Van Cott
finds that when Judge Hiles knows a
thing he knows it." Is that so? But
how did Judge Hiles feel and where
did he find himself when Senator Raw-
lins proved that he didn't know what
he swore he did know? What is that
legal adage about, "Falsus in uno
falsus in omnibus?"It seems quite impossible to find out
anything about the new political party
said to be in process of formation. Ask
any one supposed to know about it and
the answer is, "I know nothing." In
fact it seems to be a "know nothing"
concern all the way through, actuated
by the same bigoted and narrow mo-
tives that were behind the famous
Know Nothing party of fifty years ago.

ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO.

Sacramento Bee.
Should the two territories be united
to form one new state, it will be second
in size to Texas only, embracing 235,380
square miles, leaving California in the
third place in point of area. The new
state will be larger than New England,
the Middle States, Virginia and South
Carolina all put together.

Pueblo Chieftain.

The only valid objection that can be
urged against the separate admission
of Arizona and New Mexico is that they
would give the west an unfair repre-
sentation in the United States senate,
and that objection is not a valid one for
the reason that senatorial representa-
tion is not and was never intended to
be a matter of population, but was de-
signed to give each territorial element
of the nation an equal share in this part
of the national government. Congress
has already recognized the separate and
individual existence of the people of
New Mexico and Arizona by establish-
ing separate territorial governments,
and it is an injustice to them and to the
people of the west to destroy what has
been created and to fuse them together
as a single political unit.SALT LAKE THEATRE
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Book Store, Schramm's Drug Store,
Smith's Drug Store, University of Utah
and L. D. S. University.

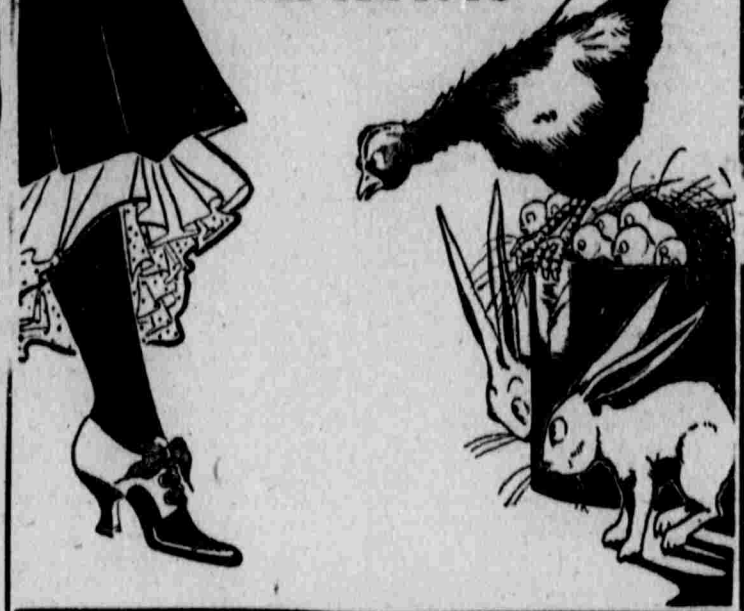
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