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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 22, 1908.

## CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-ninth semi-annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1908, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members of the Church is hereby requested.

On account of the general conference being held on the first Sunday of October, it is suggested that the last Sunday in September be observed as fast day in the Salt Lake, Ensign, Liberty, Pioneer, Granite and Jordan stakes.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE IS WRONG.

Methodist ministers back east have for some time waged war upon "Uncle Joe Cannon," speaker of the House of Representatives, on account of his attitude on the temperance question. They have assailed him, especially, for having suppressed the Littlefield liquor bill.

Mr. Cannon, in a speech at Danville, Ill., Sept. 10, replied to the charge. He stated that the bill as presented was considered unconstitutional by the lawyers, and that he would support a substitute bill which would remedy the evil complained of and at the same time be constitutional. During the course of his address the speaker stated that he made no attack upon the bishops or the Methodist church. "It is a good church," he said, "and they are good men." But this did not prevent them from making mistakes, at times.

As an illustration of the fallibility of the judgment of the best of men, Speaker Cannon referred to the case of Senator Smoot. He said:

"For instance, Reed Smoot was sent to the Senate from Utah. There was a hysterical cry against him on account of polygamy. An investigation was ordered. It was proven that Smoot never had more than one wife, yet the cry arose against him that he believed that God had ordained polygamy."

"Now no two men ever worshipped God alike. We cannot change God. We worship our conception of him."

"A number of the bishops of this church made it a matter of earnest appeal to see to it that the Senate took action to turn Smoot out. That was not good for the church. It was not right or godlike."

"In morals the church is all right, but when you run it to denounce things mistakes are made. I am throwing no stones. We Methodists have no monopoly on mistakes. The talk of these bishops on my attitude toward the room question and about my czarlike power is nonsense."

The Northwestern Christian Advocate of Sept. 16, undertakes to refute this. That journal maintain that it is no business of the Speaker, nor of the House, whether a proposed measure is constitutional, or not; it maintains that the House cannot oppose a bill because of its unconstitutionality; to do so would be to usurp the functions of the courts. And then it takes up the Speaker's reference to Senator Smoot, as follows:

"These [bishops] who expressed an opinion upon it were better informed regarding the Smoot case than Mr. Cannon seems to be. Mr. Smoot was not opposed because he was a polygamist, but because he was a member of the hierarchy, the majority of which had broken their sacred pledge to the nation to abandon polygamy and polygamous practices, and because he had taken a secret oath which a federal court had decided no one could take and be a loyal citizen of the United States. Mr. Cannon evidently has not investigated the Smoot case. The charges upon which the protest against the seating of Reed Smoot were based were fully proved. If Smoot had been a Democrat we have no doubt he would have been unseated."

The Northwestern Christian Advocate is very much opposed to church interference in politics; as a matter of fact, in the somewhat dim moral light of that light-bearer one of the chief crimes of the Church here is its alleged political activity, which, however, has no real existence. It is, therefore, somewhat strange to find it defending the concerted Methodist attacks upon senators and congressmen. We are reminded of the moral rule of the man who warned his son against the allurements of the convivial glass, and when the object of his solicitude made a remark about the habits of his mentor, promptly replied: "When I drink it is all right." We have a strong suspicion that the Advocate stands on a similar high level as regards church interference in politics.

But, let that pass. We are not among those who have hysteria each time a Methodist bishop, or a number of bishops, express political preferences and opinions, as long as they do so as American citizens. But if their political activity is to escape condemnation it must be honest and straight forward, as becomes Christian gentlemen. The preachers of truth and righteousness cannot afford to lie and falsify in the interests of party politics, or any other interests. And in this respect the advocate is particularly weak. In the lines quoted, few though they be, we find no less than five notorious misstatements of fact, not to use an ugly term.

1. Senator Smoot was opposed because he was represented to be a poly-

gist, though the Advocate says he was not.

Rev. John Lellich, in his sworn statement to the Senate did allege that the senator from Utah is a polygamist, and that impression was thereby created throughout the country. It was, in fact, so widespread, owing to the falsehoods promulgated in petitions, and from pulpits and platforms, that Senator Beveridge during the debate in January, 1907, took occasion to say:

"It is pertinent in a debate of this kind to refer to what exists in the minds of the public—what the people have been led to believe. We, as a court, will of course try Senator Smoot upon the record. But it has been given out to the people in numberless methods that Mr. Smoot, a polygamist, is occupying a seat in the Senate of the United States."

That was one of the deplorable features of the crusade against Senator Smoot. Ministers of the gospel vied with low-grade politicians in disseminating falsehoods and appealing to the lower passions, to gain a point. The Advocate seems to have forgotten the perfidy that was committed in the interest of anti-Mormonism.

2. Senator Smoot is not a member of a "hierarchy." The Church of which he is a member and an official has no "hierarchy." It is just as absurd to speak of an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a "hierarchy" as it would be to refer to the Apostle John, or Paul, whose chief glory was the position of humble servants of the Lord, as "hierarchies," or to refer to John Wesley as a "pope." A "hierarchy" in the church was the outgrowth of post-apostolic conditions. It was the natural sequence of a pre-late. It did not exist in the apostolic age, and it does not exist in the Church here, because this Church is the Apostolic Church restored. Those who speak about a "Mormon" hierarchy do so, either because of ignorance of our Church organization, or for the same reason that anarchists refer to the President of the United States as a "czar," or a "tyrant." It is done merely to excite prejudices and inflame the minds of the ignorant. But we submit that a religious journal ought to be fair in controversy and not attribute to an opponent that which he himself repudiates.

3. It is emphatically not true that the Church has broken any pledges regarding polygamy. The number of families living in the plural marriage relation has steadily decreased since the issuance and acceptance by the Church of the Manifesto, and that fact alone stamps as untrue the assertion that the Church has broken the pledge contained in that document.

And as for unlawful cohabitation, the understanding was that that would gradually disappear with the passing away of the practice of polygamy. Said Senator Dubois in 1903: "We promised that the older ones, who had contracted those relations before the Manifesto was issued, would not be persecuted by the Gentiles; that time would be given for them to pass away, but that the law would be strenuously enforced against any polygamous marriage which might be contracted in the future."

The "Mormons" have kept faith; the anti-Mormon agitators who instigated the crusade have broken the pledges. 4. It is absolutely false that any member, or officer, of the Church has, as such, taken any oath prejudicial to loyalty as a citizen.

If the Christian Advocate had consulted the Report of the proceedings before the Senate committee investigating the case against Senator Smoot, it would have found that that charge was eliminated. Senator Hoar stated that he understood that the committee had reached a conclusion that there were two issues in the case—one whether Senator Smoot had practiced polygamy, and the other whether he had taken an oath or obligation superior to the oath which he must take to qualify him as a Senator. Whereupon Dubois stated that both these contentions were set aside entirely by the attorneys representing the Protestants. Mr. Taylor added that he had never had the idea of proving the allegations regarding an oath inconsistent with senatorial duties. Senator Beveridge remarked that he understood Mr. Taylor to say that the charge was not one to be withdrawn but one that never had been made, and Senator Dubois again affirmed that "no charge had been made against Mr. Smoot of taking an oath inconsistent with his oath as Senator except the Lellich charge, which had been abandoned and repudiated." So much for the Advocate's statement that Senator Smoot was tried on the charge of having taken a secret oath.

That charge is on a par with the old charge against the first Christians, that they killed an infant in their secret meetings and partook of the flesh and drank the blood. The old pagan scoffers were just as correctly informed about the meetings of the Nazarenes as is the Advocate about the Latter-day Saints.

5. It is, finally, not true that the charges against Senator Smoot were fully proved. They were not proved at all. On the contrary, they were proved to be false from the first to the last.

In view of the ill-considered defense of a crusade of which future students of American history will be ashamed, just as students today feel the disgrace of the trials and burnings of "witches" in former days, we cannot but agree with the New York Mail, that Mr. Cannon has accumulated a number of enemies of the sort that would be a credit to any man. Senator Smoot's enemies certainly are a credit to him, and so are, on the other hand, his friends.

## DANISH AMERICANS.

We notice in Danish papers an account of a gathering recently held in the little Danish city of Skive, Denmark, of Americans of Danish parentage. The meeting was held in the old Danish castle, Krabbesholm, and it was attended by several hundred delegates. The King and Queen and other members of the royal family were present and so was the Prime Minister, and it is said the King enjoyed himself in conversation with several of the American farmers. Utah was also represented at this

gathering. The Danish vice-consul here, Mr. Peter Hansen, had sent a letter, which was read at the opening session, together with other letters, and it was later published in several papers.

Mr. Hansen, who has held the position of Vice-Consul for Denmark for about 17 years has done good work for Utah in keeping the government and country he represented informed on the true conditions of this State and particularly of the people of Danish origin. By truthful statements of facts, accompanied by the proofs, he has often been able to correct false rumors and refute slanders. And the general impression, we believe, among those who know Mr. Hansen is that he has ably filled the position of vice-consul, and his recent resignation is therefore a surprise to his friends.

Quite a number of Utah citizens are of Danish extraction. About 22,000 Church members have come to this country from Denmark, and many others not members of the Church. They have done their share in building up this country, and today many of them are occupying prominent positions in business, in educational work, in the social circles, etc. The share that used to insult our immigrants has forgotten the debt of gratitude the State, in common with other states of the Union, owe to the European immigrants, and not least to the Scandinavian race.

## THE SCHOOLS IN POLITICS.

The New York Post discovers an educational paradox in the recent action of a professor of philosophy, Prof. Coe of the Northwestern university in exchanging his chair for one in a theological seminary in order to enjoy academic freedom.

Since a university has always been regarded as the very citadel of intellectual liberty, and a theological school looked upon as the mere stronghold of dogmas, such a step does not look paradoxical. But is it necessarily so? Are not the universities considerably dominated in some instances, by political or personal cliques that tend to take away from the brainy and public spirited professor his intellectual freedom? Do we not hear, at every election, from the professional politician who secures the nomination of boards of trustees, that professors should have no political opinions? At least they should never express them; or, at the extreme limit allowable, they should take no actual part in politics. So runs the usual argument, and such is the actual fact.

It not infrequently happens that the board of trustees of a theological seminary is composed of broader and more liberal men than are to be found on the boards of the professedly impartial universities, whether the latter appear to be institutions of the State or of private foundation.

The Post points out there is in the West a tendency in universities toward the erection of a religious atmosphere in the school, showing a concession towards the religious leanings of the masses of the people, and also a tendency on the part of theological schools to group themselves about the State universities. It is said that this latter grouping has been largely accomplished in California and that the yearning for university affiliation is making itself felt in most of the great theological schools throughout the country.

It seems to us that the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction could be taken out of partisan politics to advantage. It is a position requiring certain technical and professional qualifications, in relation to which the general public has comparatively little means of judging. Most of the States have made it an appointive office. In only a few Western states is this office elective. Our own State Board of Education would be the official body upon whom should naturally devolve this choice of appointment.

But how may the office be taken out of politics? One party has already made its nomination for this office, and others are about to do so. We have not the slightest inclination to suggest to any political party its course of action in relation to the policies it advocates or the men it chooses for the advancement of its political principles. Yet here is an opportunity for statesmanship. Why cannot eminently qualified for this high office? What should hinder, in future nominations, the selection of some leading educator, chosen because of his qualifications, and voted for by all legitimate parties as an excellent man for the place?

It seems to us that a movement of this kind, being good in principle, must also be good politics.

The dairyman never deals in the milk of human kindness.

There should be a good deal of tin-tinabulation about canned oratory.

A great many of the airships are more or less troubled with dip-somnia.

The Hon. J. P. Meakin is a bird. The Eagles have made him a life member.

Hearst counts that day lost in which he does not spring a new Archbold letter on the public.

What is the attitude of the public towards the Carpenters' convention? Joiner, of course.

During that great and destructive telephone fire in Paris truly could the operators answer, "Line busy."

"Plan obsequies of dead judge," says the S. F. Call. It would scarcely be proper to plan the obsequies of a live judge.

The red fire, the "red special" and the red man should join forces in the present campaign, if the eternal fitness of things is to be observed.

By challenging William Randolph Hearst to substantiate his statements, Governor Haskell has put him in a hole. A hole is the place to put a plug.

Orville Wright doesn't know what caused the accident to his aeroplane, but the fact most strongly impressed upon

his memory is that there was an accident to it.

Mr. Swinburne's book "The Age of Shakespeare," is to be published this week. The subject has some interest but not so much as "What is the Age of Anne?" not Anne Hathaway's.

There will be no change in the management of the Republican National campaign. To change chairmen during a campaign would be as great folly as to swap horses while crossing a stream.

How easy it is for honest men to differ. Democrats say the Republican campaign book is the greatest work of fiction published this year, while Republicans assert that the Democratic campaign book is the greatest work of fiction of the season.

William J. Bryan has offered the mascot mule presented him by the Agricultural Society of Minnesota as a prize to the county showing the largest percentage of increase in the vote for Democratic electors over the average vote for electors in the last three campaigns. Mr. Bryan should be above working a confidence game on any county.

## FIRST UNITED STATES CENSUS.

New York Times.  
The heads of families whose names adorn the pages of the first United States census of 1790, now for the first time published at Washington, were less than eight times as numerous as the many 70,000 census takers that will be required to count the population of 90,000,000 in 1910. There were six persons in the average family, so that, exclusive of slaves, the total population in 1790 is set at 3,231,533. The schedules for the states of Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee and Virginia were destroyed when the British burned the city at Washington in the war of 1812, but the records of the rest of the colonial states are complete. The cost of the first census was \$14,377. For the census of 1910 it will be approximately \$14,000,000, and the country is growing so tremendously that Director North predicts it may therefore require a complete enumeration every five years, instead of for each decennial period. The United States marshals and their assistants, 650 in all, acting under orders from President George Washington, had greater difficulty, it seems, in obtaining answers to their simple questions about free persons and slaves than do the later enumerators with their more complex requirements. One section of the colonial population found Bible warrant for opposing the count, while other forefathers were somewhat fearful that increased taxes would result from their disclosures. The heads of families in this city and state did admit, however, the possession of 21,129 slaves, besides many persons bound in service, and they freely gave their names. It is of passing interest to those who are still in doubt about the pronunciation of the name "Roosvelt" that it was spelled in the original census sheets with a single "o."

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