

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3, 1909.

CONFERENCE NOTICE

The Seventy-ninth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 4, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday, April 5, beginning at 6 o'clock p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINGFIELD,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at the Tabernacle, Sunday evening, April 4, 1909, at 7 o'clock. All invited.

A special meeting of the stake superintendents will be held at room 301 E. D. S. college building, Monday, April 5, at 3:15 a. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
DAVID O. MCKAY,
General Superintendents.

THE CONFERENCE

Tomorrow, Sunday, the seventy-ninth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle. As is always the case at Conference times, visitors, numbering thousands, will come from all parts of the States, and from other States and Territories, to attend the meetings and receive counsel and instruction; to visit friends, or to transact business, and we bid them all a cordial welcome, earnestly hoping that their brief stay in the City may be pleasant and profitable to them in every respect.

It is generally said of each Conference that it is the best ever held. This will not be an exception. There is no reason why it should. The Latter-day Saints, as a rule, are advancing in knowledge, intelligence, faith, and good works. The leaders of the Church are united in their labors for the furtherance of the work of God in the earth, and they are guided by inspiration from on high. The promises of the divine presence whenever the people of the Lord assemble in His name is as valid today as ever. So there is no reason why the Conference should not be one of spiritual benefit to all who come with hearts prepared to receive divine blessings.

The first Church Conference was held on the 24th day of June, 1830. At that time there were about thirty members present, besides inquirers. It was an occasion of the outpouring of the divine Spirit. Some prophesied; others had their minds opened to heavenly visions, and their hearts were filled with love and joy unexpressed.

What a wonderful work has been accomplished since that first conference, seventy-nine years ago! What a marvelous chapter of Church history is contained in the brief period of time between that date and this! The Church has passed through experiences in which any organization not sustained by the power of the Almighty, would have been destroyed. It has suffered from the accusations of false brethren and apostates; from the falsehoods spread broadcast by the unscrupulous enemies of all righteousness; from the machinations of wicked politicians and office hunters; from the brutality of greedy mobs, covering the country. The Latter-day Saints have been imprisoned, driven from place to place, and slain to the testimony of Jesus; but notwithstanding all, they have been sustained by Him who laid the foundation of the work, and in His power they have gone forth to all parts of the world, and the Church has grown numerically, as well as spiritually, while the gospel message has proved a power penetrating the religious systems of today and changing the complexion of mankind concerning God, and man and his eternal destiny. It is one of the marvels of this work that the very men who denounce the gospel as heresy are gradually accepting its truth and the doctrines it proclaims.

The Latter-day Saints who met in this Conference, and those who are not, have a position to do as exact in spirit, have every reason to feel encouraged. Our lands and trails are being distributed by the thousands, and even millions, in the various Indian fields. More dwellings are being built than ever, and more honest souls accept the gospel. The "Crumbs" is a power for good in the world. It is a living witness, proclaiming the coming of that hour when in which truth, love and righteousness are the foundation stones of government and human conduct. And its message is being heard all around the world. There is every reason for rejoicing at the present time, and for the determination to go on with the work that means the redemption of mankind from sin and all its consequences. And may the Saints be filled with power from on high in ever increasing measure, to fulfil their great and important mission.

ONCE MORE

The Tribune is still "whining" because the "News" exposed the hypocrisy of the so-called American city council.

the liquor bill. But, since the paper itself admitted, under the "castigation" it received, that it is intended as a rum by which to fool the friends of temperance to vote a ticket acceptable to the liquor interests, our "loony" contemporary should not complain.

It will be observed that we have taken the liberty of borrowing the terms "whining," "castigation," and "loony" from the Tribune. Its own favorite rapping expression ought to have the effect upon it that music is said to have upon a savage.

The Tribune, in its whining reply, says "the Deseret News objects to the ordinance passed by the American city council simply because it is an American party ordinance; and its enunciation against it is intensified because it is seen to be a good and sound ordinance." To all of which we prompt by reply: "Not guilty!"

The "News" does not object to any ordinance because of its being an "American" party ordinance, but in common with all who have the welfare of this city at heart, we object to any measure that is not intended for the benefit of the people—all the people—but only for an ambitious clique that has asserted itself to the utmost to bring disgrace upon Utah by disseminating falsehood throughout the land, and that has proved itself unworthy of public confidence. We object to this particular ordinance also because we believe the effect of it, under an unscrupulous city administration, will be to increase the illegal traffic generally connected with the bad saloon.

As for the old, worn-out tale that the so-called American party leaders are in politics only because they object to Church influences, it is only necessary to say that everybody knows better. It is no secret that they are in politics for what there is in it for them. Their patriotism is not of the altruistic brand. The Church does not claim the right to interfere in politics, and does not interfere. But the American party leaders claim the right to disfranchise, virtually, American citizens because they may hold an ecclesiastical position, while they are perfectly willing to accept the influence of the saloonkeeper and red-light district in their politics. This is the real point in dispute, no matter how much verbosity is employed to conceal the actual fact.

ADMIRAL EVANS.

The warm feeling of patriotic pride which prompted so many of the citizens of the State of Utah to attend the reception tendered the Atlantic Fleet at San Francisco a year ago, when, under the command of "Fighting Bob," it had flushed the most perfidious portion of its historic world-encircling cruise, finds expression in the welcome which the people of the State, and City, extend to Admiral Robley Dunglass Evans today during his visit here. The American people honor the heroes who through peace and war have defended the country, but in addition to this the people of Utah take pride in Admiral Evans as a representative of the State in the Navy. Admiral Evans resided in Utah in his boyhood and was appointed to the Naval College by Utah's delegate to Congress, Captain Hooper. The memory of the honor conferred upon the High School Cadet corps at San Francisco last year, when they were appointed his escort, has also endeared him to the people of Utah. May Admiral Evans feel thrice welcome to the City and State. A feeling of warmth and good cheer toward him pervades every heart.

Every school-boy today is acquainted with the stirring incidents in his life from the time he was attacked by Indians when he was journeying to Utah until the time that he gave over the command of the greatest fleet of war vessels which ever circled the earth. His distinguished record during the Civil War, the part he played in the Spanish War, and every service done for his country have been such as to inspire the boys of the nation with a determination to also serve their country well. The United States need more men like "Fighting Bob" Evans to serve her. Utah's representatives in Congress could please her citizens in no better way than in helping to have the rank of Vice-Admiral created for Rear Admiral Evans, as suggested by the U. S. Navy League.

Aside from these considerations which Utah people have for hearing him, Admiral Evans is bearing a message to the Nation, which should prompt every one who can to hear him tonight when he speaks in the large Tabernacle. As citizens of a state having nothing to do with the sea, the people of Utah need to hear first hand, from the most competent authority, of the needs of the country in regard to Naval defense.

May the eyes of the Admiral in the City be such as to assure him that the people of the State have great regard for his manhood and service, and when he leaves, may he take away additional pleasant memories of Utah and her people.

AGE OF THE EARTH.

The question of the age of the earth is one that scientists have endeavored to solve by different calculations, but the only point agreed upon by them so far is that a very long period of time must be allowed for the development of our planet.

If it is supposed that the earth first commenced its independent career, as a mass of gas separated from the sun, it must further be supposed that it must gradually lose its high temperature and a solid crust would form on its surface. The same would follow, if as such scientists as Lockyer and Moule believe, the earth was at first formed by the accumulation of gaseous stones which became incandescent when attracted to their nucleus. A crust would form over the molten mass. Lord Kelvin calculates that it would only take a hundred years before the temperature of the earth would sink from 1,000 to 100 degrees, but, according to Joly, at least a hundred million years must have elapsed since the ocean was originated. This estimate is based on the amount of salt supposed to be contained in the ocean and the amount supplied by the rivers each year. The result of the calculation is that it

would take the rivers a hundred million years to furnish the salt now stored up in the oceans.

Calculations founded on the stratified and sedimentary layers yield still higher figures. Sir Archibald Geikie estimates the total thickness of those strata at about twenty miles, and that every meter in the strata would require from 2,000 to 20,000 years for its formation. The total age of the earth would therefore be from ninety to six hundred million years. That is not very definite.

According to another calculation the earth's radius has contracted 0.3 per cent, as a result of the cooling process. This estimate is based on the existence of the mountain chains. It is supposed that it has taken at least two billion years for the earth to shrink from its original to its present size.

Thus we see that scientists calculate the earth's age at all the way from a hundred million to two thousand million years.

It is a notable fact that the sacred historian, in Genesis, does not attempt to give the age of the earth, nor the time necessary for the work of creation. He makes clear that the world was called into being by God—that it is not the result of chance or accident; that the earth, as far as we are concerned, is the center of interest, and that the production of beings advanced continually toward higher organisms, each step being complete in itself, but serving God's purpose toward a higher development. He makes clear that the divine aim is the introduction of man as the crowning work of the creation. Not until He has placed man in His own image, in the Garden, does He "rest." These and similar truths, expressed in the most sublime language ever penned by man, the author of Genesis records, leaving to independent research the questions relating to the methods by which the creation was accomplished and the time required.

On one point complete harmony exists between the inspired record and the man of science who is capable of sound reasoning. And that is this: that the world is built according to a plan that is discernible everywhere. Every motion is timed for the achievement of some definite result. Law is in evidence everywhere, in the motion of the stars and the nebulae; in the blossoming of the flowers in the spring; in the song of the birds, the roll of the wave, or the whispering of the wind. The Bible historian speaks of creation and the scientist of evolution. But behind both stands the same divine Intelligence, directing, ordering, governing, independent of evolution there was, and is, an Intelligence that drew the plan.

A tax on stockings? No!

Wilbur Wright has stood before a king.

The embezzler always makes a mistake.

Hoboes and boys never object to sun baths.

If a man thinks he is thinking, he's thinking.

Scratch a gilded youth and you will soon come to brass.

No more welcome visitors than the Conference visitors.

The thief acts wisely in dropping the substance for the "shadow."

Admiral Evans found the High School cadets fine "rah material."

The debate on the tariff bill looks a good deal like "just fooling."

It's a pity the government cannot reassess the Standard Oil company.

Crazy Snake has not been captured. Crazy people are very wily at times.

The appetite of a politician for "pie" is more voracious than that of a boy.

While not of royal blood, Count Zeppelin has the ship to the German throne.

As a giver out of interviews E. H. Harriman is becoming a formidable rival to James J. Hill.

Photographs, monologues, eloquentists, bobs and book agents all speak for themselves.

The mother of a family of boys knows that it is never too late to mend no matter how late it is.

The weather bureau can earn golden opinions if it will furnish fine weather for the next few days.

At Gibraltar Colonel Roosevelt absolutely refused to be photographed. How foreign travel changes a man.

It is as hard to credit an enemy with a good action prompted by honest motives, as it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

City Engineer Kelsey is a fine engineer. He has succeeded in engineering an appropriation through the City Council for the purchase of an automobile for himself.

Governor Draper thinks the production of "Salome" in Boston by the Manhattan Opera company would be "indivisible." What Salome has need of right along has been more drapery.

"The Hymn of the Pioneer," an original poem by Kate Thomas, is numbered among the Christmas offerings. It consists of five stanzas neatly printed, and is on sale at the Deseret News Book Store today.

That President Taft should for a moment consider the revival of stamp taxes shows how really serious the deficit is. The cause is not far to seek; it is extravagance. The extravagance must be reduced or the taxes increased. If the deficit is not to continue to grow, The people can take their choice.

AN IMPORTANT DATE—BY JOHN SOUTH

[The 6th day of April is an epoch-making date in history. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints having been organized on that date, by divine commandment. In the following communication a friend of the "News" gives his reasons why he believes that the birthday of our Savior, and the Resurrection from the tomb also occurred on a date corresponding to our 6th of April—1841.]

Every Bible student, fully understands the circumstances that caused Jacob to go down into Egypt with his family. At this time they were very few. In time they multiplied to a goodly number and became a nation in the monarch who ruled over them. At their exodus from Egypt, their numbers were sufficient to give them a national character and from this on, their history assumes a national importance. So from this event we date their exodus from Egypt, and the beginning of their existence as a nation.

Exodus twelfth chapter, 1 and 2: "And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron, saying, 'After the month of March, the month shall be the first month of the year to you.'" This establishes beyond doubt, from what day their years were to be counted. Mr. Edward Robinson, in his Dictionary of the Bible, under the heading of the Passover, says: "They set off on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the passover, which was the middle of April."

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them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they (the parents) had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. What were the things they had performed? First, the circumcision of the child; second, the mother's free will offering; third, in common with Israel, the celebration of the passover. Jesus was born on the 6th, eight days after the circumcision took place, making it the 14th day of April, the time when the destroying angel passed over Egypt. Simon came in at that instant and scale to an already assembled people. In Luke, second chapter, we read: "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast." Jehovah, when He brought the people out from bondage, said, 'I that is, the passover,' should be the beginning of months and the first month of their year. This was very near the time of His (Jesus) birth, a striking coincidence, if it was so, that He should be born on His grave, the victor over death, hell and the grave, on the same day that he was born. What a celebration it was, indeed! A risen Redeemer of a fallen world! For this mighty event occurred in the first month of the thirty-fourth year, "since His coming in the flesh."

Now, let us offer another thought. If Jesus was crucified on the fourth day of the first month, He then lay in His tomb on the fourth, fifth and sixth days of this month and arose triumphant from His grave, the victor over death, hell and the grave, on the same day that he was born. What a celebration it was, indeed! A risen Redeemer of a fallen world! For this mighty event occurred in the first month of the thirty-fourth year, "since His coming in the flesh."

Now, then, stands out pre-eminently a witness for God. A Deliverer was sent to lead Israel out of bondage. Jesus was born near the time of this same event with the purpose in view to again deliver the people from a tyrant more relentless than Pharaoh of Egypt, and when the message of peace had been lost to mankind for ages. On a bright morning in the year 1830, the silence of the heavens was broken, the Father and the Son appeared in a vision and eventually on the 6th of April, 1830, since His coming in the flesh, He again established His Church on the earth on the day of the anniversary of His birth, no more to be taken from the earth. What more fitting day than this? We have the Bible, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Book of Mormon, all declaring the same truth, each in harmony with the other.

There may be some persons who have not read carefully the Book of Mormon and may not understand how this is determined; if they will read the first chapter of the Third Nephi, they will find these words written: "And it came to pass in the commencement of the ninety and second year (of the reign of Judges), behold the prophecies of the prophets began to be fulfilled more fully. . . . And it came to pass that when Nephi, the son of Nephi, saw this wickedness of his people, his heart was exceedingly sorrowful. . . . And it came to pass that he cried mightily unto the Lord all the day; and behold the voice of the Lord came to him, saying: Lift up your head, and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given and tomorrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfill all that I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. Although the wise men of the east watched for and were guided by the star of Bethlehem, there were wise men in the west who watched for the sign of His birth and it was given. And they therefore were acquainted when the time was given in a manner we read: 'And six hundred and nine years had passed away, since Lehi left Jerusalem. And nine years had passed away, from the time when the sign was given, which was spoken of by the

prophets, that Christ should come into the world.' They were able to determine with accuracy on this continent, the exact time to take place, to reveal to such an important personage, and all that were familiar with the prophecies connected with His life and ministry; they were guided by the sacred calendar. The recorder in the days of the Third Nephi was able to make a correct reckoning, and states positively, that Jesus was crucified in the first month of the thirty-fourth year of the Christian era, and on the fourth day of the month, but had it been otherwise, he would not have done so and made his record agree with the books quoted.

JOHN SOUTH

See the "Luna" First. And the Bible second. We positively don't conflict. Excellent program at both theaters.

Good time, Salt Lake, April 19.

SALT LAKE THEATRE

THREE NIGHTS, COMMENCING THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

Mr. Chas. B. Hanford

Presenting

"The Winter's Tale."

Friday night, "Orpheus."

Saturday night, "Much Ado About Nothing."

LYRIC MATINEE AT 2 P. M.

THE THEATER DIFFERENT.

ALL WEEK

THE WISE MAN'S RING. A picture novel dealing with ORIENTAL life and customs.

COMPASSION. A beautiful episode of semi-religious thought.

THE FOUR SWEETHEARTS. A romantic comedy.

THE SON-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW. A roving farce.

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