DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, - - August 30, 1892.

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Semi-annual Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion will convene in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, on Saturday, September 3rd, 1892. Meetings will be held as follows: Saturday at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., and Sunday at 10 a. m., 2 p. m., and 7:30 p. m.

A general attendance of the Priesthood and people is desired.

The Stake organizations of the Relief Societies, Sabbath Schools, Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations, and the Primary organizations are requested to have their reports ready in time for the Conference.

ANGUS M. CANNON,
JOSEPH E. TAYLOR,
CHARLES W. PENROSE,
Stake Presidency.

FRAGMENTS.

THE City Council will meet in regular session tonight.

THE Ogden and Butte baseball nines play at the "Junction" City this afternoon.

LOOK out for counterfeit silver dollars. They have been put in circulation in the city.

THE clearings at the Salt Lake Clearing House yesterday amounted to $377,-631 as against $294,981 for the same day last year.

HON. FRANK J. CANNON will address a Republican meeting at the school house in Farmers' ward, on Friday evening next, at 8 o'clock.

IT is again rumored that Ex-Chief of Police James has been prevailed upon by his attorney to contest the legality of his removal from office by the Mayor and City Council.

THE Democrats of the Eleventh ward will hold a grand rally tonight at the ward meeting house. Prominent speakers will discuss the principles of Democracy. The public are invited.

AT a meeting of the Federated Trades Labor Day committee last night, it was reported that the city merchants were contributing liberally towards the prize list for the sports at Garfield Beach on Labor Day.

THE Fourth ward Democrats will meet for organization at the Fourth ward assembly hall, on Thursday, September 1, 1892, at 8 o'clock p. m. All are requested to attend. Prominent speakers will address the meeting. Thomas S. Lewis, Chairman.

THERE will be a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club at the headquarters 221 South Fifth West street, on Friday evening September 2nd, for the purpose of reorganizing. Other important business will also be transacted bearing upon the coming campaign.

THE Agricultural Collegiate Logan will reopen on Thursday, September 8, and from all appearances the attendance will far exceed that of any previous year. Many changes and improvements have been made and students will have everything needed for their convenience and comfort.

AT a meeting of the Democrats of the Sixth ward last night an organization was perfected as follows: A. G. Quinn, president; Thomas Green, first and James H. Pontius, second vice-president; Walter J. Pontius, secretary, and H. S. Kimball, treasurer. The address of the evening was delivered by Hon. J. W. Judd.

THE fire alarm which was sounded at 3:20 yesterday afternoon was in consequence of a blaze at the tenement house occupied by Mrs. Wine, in Spears's court, on Second South between Second and Third East. The conflagration of a gasoline stove did the mischief, involving a loss of about $15. One of the door cases and also two Brussels carpets were badly damaged.

Y. L. M. I. A. Notice.

THE Y. L. M. I. A. officers meeting will be held at the residence of Mrs. M. Y. Dougall, on next Saturday, September 3rd, at the close of the morning session of the Stake Conference. It is necessary that each association in the Stake be represented. Please take note of the change in time and place of meeting.

MARY A. FREEZE,
Stake President.

IT WAS "GRANDPA'S HAT."

Frank Johnson's Escapade.—Other Police Court Cases.

Jerry Driscoll, an old, intoxicated and extremely good natured Irishman, was taken in tow by the police on Main street last evening. He wore two hats, a gray slouch and a black silk stove pipe, the former surmounting the latter. He talked of politics in general and protection in particular, and was followed down the street by a large and increasing crowd. His antics were carried on at such length and the crowd became so augmented that the patrol wagon was sent for and the son of Erin given a free ride to the City Hall. There he explained that he had been wearing "Grandpa's" hat and that the silk hood gear was the cause of his arrest. After having a good-humored chat with Desk Sergeant McCurdy he was placed in the "drunk" house to sober up. This morning he appeared in court and related his troubles to Judge Easler, who suspended sentence upon him after he had pled guilty.

Frank Johnson said he went out for the purpose of taking in the fairs last night. In his rounds he came in contact with a couple of persons who he alleges "bounced" him for $5. It is claimed that he then proceeded to "get even" by breaking furniture belonging to his alleged visitudes. As a consequence he was arrested for malicious mischief and will be called upon to await the charge this afternoon.

John G. Sage was arrested on a complaint of having violated the peace. He left $25 to secure his appearance for arraignment.

The cases of drunkenness were disposed of as follows: James P. Murphy, plea guilty, sentence suspended; James Murphy, plea guilty, sentence five days; John W. Lindsey, plea guilty, sentence suspended; William Kemp, plea guilty, fined $5; H. H. Hall ditto, $5.

MR. SEARS, Sr., EXONERATED

Resolutions of Confidence Passed by the Chamber of Commerce.

YOUNG SEARS AND EDWARDS.

The Latter's Whereabouts Unknown.—He Is Believed By Some to Be a Myth—But there is a Reality.

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce held a special meeting last night for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the alleged conspiracy to extort the chamber to the railway companies.

President John W. Donnellan occupied the chair, while a short-hand reporter reduced all questions and answers to writing.

S. W. SEARS, JR.

admitted his connection with the whole affair, but gave his reasons as being other than financial. He had known E. E. Edwards for several years, yet he knew but little about him. He had first met him in San Francisco. Edwards had no needed in getting complete control over the witness by reason of obtaining damaging information against his private life. In San Francisco Edwards was known as handsome Jack Ellsworth, and was supposed to be in the employ of the Southern Pacific. He always wore a black suit and silk hat, and is about twenty-five years old. Some three years had passed since witness had seen him, when very unexpectedly he walked in the secretary's office on the 26th of July last and announced that Mr. Eccles of the Union Pacific had made a proposition to him looking to the securing of certain papers of great value in the courts pending here concerning freight rates. Holding as he did this unexplained power over witness he frightened him into the scheme.

Many questions were asked young Sears and among others this one:

"Was any money paid you?"

"No, but I understood from Edwards that Mr. Eccles had offered to pay $2,500 for certain documents."

At this juncture the witness was told that, while not under oath and his statements purely voluntary, yet he was in no wise bound to state anything that would criminate himself. It seems that early in the morning Mr. Stinson, of the transportation bureau, under the pleas of the excitement, made some threats that might cause the young man to hesitate in making a clean sweep. However, Mr. Stinson withdrew all such remarks and the examination proceeded.

"Where is Edwards?" he was asked.

"I don't know, unless he is in Chicago. He told me to let him hear from me there. I last saw him in Denver."

"Where the papers were given to Edwards? If so, by whom?"

"Not unless he took copies of them. He had access to these rooms and knew what papers he required. The originals are all here and have never been taken away to my knowledge."

"Do you know of your father having any knowledge of this transaction?"

"Nothing further than this: Edwards told me he had met my father one day in the office and told him about it. That I never talked with him about it, and do not now believe that he had any knowledge of the deal."

"What about that eighteen-page speech and other papers you were to deliver, etc?"

"I was not to deliver anything. Such papers as were wanted were to be left in a drawer here, and some representative of the railroad would come in and take them. This speech or argument on the case was to be among them when prepared."

President Donnellan here stated that the board had the sole, but at the suggestion of Secretary Sears the latter was permitted to place his own safe in the office just a few days ago.

"Did you show the papers to Edwards?"

"No; he told me he had been in here and seen them. He generally dropped in when my father would go to luncheon."

The witness was then shown the bundle of letters now in the possession of F. L. Williams, attorney of the Union Pacific.

"I recognize every one of them. They are in my handwriting and were written at the instigation of Edwards. While there are apparently several names—back and running—I sent both."

The documents were then shown to Heber M. Wells, W. H. Rowe, Mr. Bierstman and others, who for many years had been familiar with the handwriting of S. W. Sears, Sr., and they all testified that none of these documents were his production.

"What of the letters in reply?"

"All the letters were written here. This one was gotten up at the suggestion of Edwards, in Denver. It Mr. Eccles saw fit to make it public, I was to write this kind of a letter giving it, and it would be followed by one confirming it. Edwards was not in Omaha. He went east."

"Were you to get any money out of this deal?"

"Not a cent. Edwards held me down, and promised if I would do this he would forever keep quiet on that other matter. I was afraid of this man and for that reason only I consented to do the act. I saw him often about noon in the office and would meet him at the Walker, but never spoke to him in the presence of a third person."

"Is there any such man as E. E. Edwards?"

"Yes, my honor there is. I know him to San Francisco, also in St. Louis, in Denver and here. What I say now is to the truth. What I say now is done at the suggestion of Mr. Donnellan and Mr. Stinson and my father, all of whom advised me to tell the whole truth."

"Who got the mail for the Chamber of Commerce, and what about these letters?"

"I did, and whenever there were letters for Edwards I gave them to him, up to the time we got a box. I never visited his room. One letter-carrier had a postoffice order in it, but I knew it was not for him, so I re-sealed it and put it back in the general delivery. No such letter as the one said to have been picked out of the waste-basket was ever received by me. These letters were simply 'built up' and were all made here."

"Did you ever pass as Edwards?"

"No, I never did, nor at any other assumed person."

"What were you to do with the money coming from Eccles?"

"I was to forward it to Edwards at Chicago in the general delivery."

"What did you tell Eccles about your father's connection with the affair?"

"Nothing."

"Did you ever go to the office I asked you spoke to Edwards—to which he replied—I never saw Edwards?"

"I was much astonished at this and in speaking of the amount may have said my father once had a chance to sell out to a similar one for $75,000. Did not recall if I never saw Edwards with anyone, except a strange woman, while he was here."

P. L. Williams—The railway people have all along supposed Edwards to be a person and upon this theory the detectives have been working. Young Sears was interrogated for the purpose of finding him, as we desired to get at the person who was the author of this base project. We did not think young Sears was the man.

Mr. Stinson—We want to get at the truth, and I'll give $100 to help find him.

S. W. Sears, Jr.—Edwards knew what he wanted and picked out the special sheets. Everything needed by the railway was to be placed where they could be reached. As to the so-called blunder occurring, I never saw it.

In reply to a question by Mr. Wells young Sears expressed his willingness to write or write a letter to Edwards or to use any means of identifying the mysterious personage.

When asked if he had anything to say, Sears, Sr., replied:

"All I can say is, I have no statement to make. I know no more about this than anyone of the directors—never saw any of these letters and had no intimation of the matter until it was in print, and never told any one about it."

On motion the board then went into executive session.

MR. SEARS EXONERATED.

When the doors of the executive session were opened the following resolutions had been adopted on motion of Fred Simon, seconded by S. W. Morrison:

Resolved, That we, the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and members of the transportation bureau, in view of the evidence submitted to us and also having duly considered the same, extend to Seymour W. Sears, Jr., secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the transportation bureau, a vote of confidence for the work carried on by him as such secretary and commissioner, and hereby tender our support and sympathy, and pledge ourselves to continue our assistance and support in the adjustment of the grievances of the people of this city and territory against the railway companies in a fair issue.

JOHN W. DONNELLAN, President.
FRED SIMON,
Chairman Transportation Bureau.
HEBER M. WELLS,
Vice-President Chamber of Commerce.
SETH W. MORRISON,
Second Vice-President Chamber of Commerce.

M. J. GRAY,
JOSEPH GROSBECK,
W. H. RIDGE,
JOHN H. WHITE,
H. P. BIGGS,
A. A. PARKER,
E. R. WEST,
GEORGE DERBER,
GEORGE H. MAYNARD,
W. C. B. ALLEN,
GEORGE A. LEWIS,
JOHN R. WINDER,
Board of Directors.

The following statement can be fully relied upon and appears to throw some light on the mystery about the man Edwards:

THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

"For nearly eighteen months I have been in the habit of calling daily at the office of the County Clerk for items for publication. Some time in May or June last, the Chief Editor of the DESERET NEWS suggested that I had better call at the Chamber of Commerce on my way from or to the office, and see if there was any news Secretary Sears might have for publication. I did so. My time of visiting the Chamber was invariably between 10 and 11 a. m. I had been going for some weeks and had never met Mr. Sears, Sr., and as I did not get some items which other papers had I concluded Mr. Sears, Jr., was not fully conversant with the details of the office. One day I asked young Sears what time his father's office hours were. He told me that his dinner hour was from 1 to 2 invariably, and that I would in future get what there was for publication.

"In the early part of July I noticed a young man in the office with S. W. Sears, Jr., who made himself so much at home that I concluded he was in some official way connected with the Chamber of Commerce. For a full week in succession I noticed this person in the office every day from 1 to 2 p. m. Then I called one day and the person was absent. I asked young Sears who his friend was. He told me he was a young man recently from the Pacific coast; that he was a railroad man expecting employment at some of the roads in Chicago; that