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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 27, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence on Friday, October 6th, 1905, at 10 a. m., in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City. All the officers and members of the Church are invited and urged to be present during the sessions of the Conference.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

THE ANIMUS OF IT.

The animus of the movement which centers in the so-called "American" party was plainly exhibited at its convention on Tuesday, when the temporary chairman, Thomas Weir, who is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, made these remarks:

"I feel to sympathize with and pity the Mormon people. I don't include them in the same category with the Hierarchy. They are a good people, and I would trust them as readily as I would anyone else. But they must break away from the shackles that bind them. Why, my Mormon friends, you will never be American citizens until you do."

After expressing his lack of objection to tithe-paying, for which of course every Latter-day Saint should feel deeply grateful, the gentleman added:

"But I don't want that tithe-paying idea carried into municipal work, so that a laboring man can't get a job unless there is evidence that he gives up ten per cent of it."

He then indulged in expressions about the "hierarchy," which were but parrot-like repetitions of the unsupported and ribald charges that are contemned by the respectable non-"Mormon" portion of the citizens, and he wound up his echo of the attacks made upon men respected by hundreds of thousands of good people by exclaiming:

"LET'S KNOCK 'EM OUT!"

We would like the speaker to bring forward evidence that would justify his notion that the "Mormon" people are in "shackles that bind them." In what way are they bound? Who binds them? Is any "Mormon" hindered from voting as he pleases? If so, who fetters him? Is it the President of the "Mormon" Church or any of his immediate associates in the ministry? If so, give us the particulars. Tell us the name of the "shackled" individual and of the shackler. When and where and how was it done? We challenge Mr. Weir to produce the proofs of his repetition of a baseless slander that he ought to be ashamed of echoing.

It is a reflection upon the entire body of the "Mormon" people whom he pretends to praise as good and trustworthy. They are as free as he dares to be. They are as much American citizens as he is; most of them were born so. If not, they are such by choice. They have the Australian ballot, they choose their own parties, support their own candidates and no one, whether dubbed "Hierarch" or otherwise, attempts to interfere with their full liberty. Every person and paper that alleges to the contrary utters falsehood and libels the majority of the people of the State of Utah, as well as the leaders of the Church who are grossly and unjustly assailed.

We defy the bitterest enemy of the "Mormon" Church to show wherein President Joseph F. Smith has attempted to dictate the political course of the members of the Church, or to restrain them of their liberty. The very individuals who talk about "shackles" are tied up to their own cliques, and "orders" and combinations and political bosses, in bonds which the great body of the free people of Utah would rebel against and snap asunder with indignation, if attempts were made to fasten them upon their souls. A man like Mr. Weir, saying nothing of his religious affiliations, should be ashamed to stand up before an audience and utter such untruths as accaped from his lips and such an exhortation as that with which he concluded his intemperate remarks.

"Knock 'em out, eh" How? Will the success or defeat of any party or faction in this city or in this state "knock 'em out?" We think not. They live in the hearts of the people who revere them as men of God presiding over the Church of which they are members, and they know that their liberties are not infringed in any manner whatever by the men thus misrepresented, and are fully aware that the bondage to be feared is that which the maligners and plotters who seek to grasp the control of public affairs would bring upon them.

What does Mr. Weir mean by insinuating that in municipal work "a laboring man can't get a job unless there is evidence that he gives up ten per cent of it?" In what department of this municipality is a test of that kind required? Who is the head of it that makes such a demand. How does he find out whether the applicant pays his tithing or not? Are all the laborers on city work tithe payers? How does he know? Was he not again merely playing the parrot and repeating the nonsense and vicious falsehood concocted by the promoters of the so-called "American" party? And when he sees his silliness in cold type, does he not feel chagrined at making such an exhibition of himself before the public?

But the temporary chairman fairly expressed the sum and substance of the aim and purpose of the un-American party with which he has allied himself. It is an anti-"Mormon" combination. That is all there is to it. It makes promises of a wonderful "boom." Who profited by the first "boom" that overwhelmed this city? How many good men were financially ruined by it? Who, but a few real estate speculators made gains by it? This is a "Liberal" movement under a new name, more inappropriate than its first title. Have we recovered yet from the "Liberal" manner in which the city ran into debt? What causes the burden of taxation under which the citizens are sweltering? Do they want a little more of it? Well, we shall see.

It is clear and plain now what is meant by this organization with a name that is the very reverse of its sentiments and purposes. It signifies opposition upon religious grounds to gratify the spite, ambition and desire for "graft" which animated its projectors. The wonder is that a number of substantial business citizens are so foolish as to be allured into such a cabal. It serves to show how easily some folks can be effected by claptrap, and drawn into a whirlwind of religious prejudice without sense or reason. It will not take long to determine the extent and force of the tempest, and it needs no prophet to foretell the final result. Meanwhile, let sensible citizens do their duty and keep clear of false issues and senseless agitation.

IS IT SOLVED?

We hope that the announcement concerning the probable speedy solution of the smelter smoke problem will prove to be correct. If the nuisance is abolished there will be universal joy throughout this county. We do not know of any one who desires the destruction of the great industry, which furnishes employment for a large number of people. The most pronounced protestants against the injuries inflicted upon the farming population by the fumes from the smelters, have never manifested any desire to suppress the smelting industry. All that has been demanded is the abatement of a palpable nuisance. If that is effected, there will be no outcry from the agriculturists or horticulturists of Salt Lake County.

It may be that in some cases the damages claimed to have resulted from the poisonous fumes from the smelters have been somewhat exaggerated. We do not say that they have. But that is probable. However, it is beyond doubt or reasonable question that grass, grain, fruit, bees and stock of different kinds have been seriously injured, and that animals have died in consequence of the smoke settling upon vegetation, particularly when the atmosphere is damp, causing the fog to fall and blight all it touches. It is of no use to belittle these bad results. They have been measurably admitted by the payment of heavy damages to persons who have been thus injured in their property. It is no more right or fair to attempt to lessen the injuries inflicted than it is to magnify them.

The Deseret News has contended from the beginning of this controversy that some means could be applied for the correction of this evil, without harm to the smelters or very great expense to the companies that operate them. We believe that still. If it is true that successful methods have been discovered, we shall feel highly gratified. While we have sympathized with the people who have suffered from the nuisance complained of, we have at the same time advised patience on their part in hopes that a remedy would be provided for the undoubted evil existing.

We want the smelters to continue in operation. We also want protection for the farmers and others affected by the metallic fumes poured forth continuously to their detriment. As soon as the remedy spoken of proves to be effectual, the announcement should be made, the means should be applied to every smelter in this region, and the entire community will unite in supporting and encouraging the industry which we are sure no one here desires to be hampered or retarded.

FAKE JOURNALISM.

Governor Folk and party are now back in Missouri. The Governor expresses himself as well pleased with the trip, though the party, of course, had some experiences of a less pleasant character.

One of these was with a Denver reporter. The newspaper scribe was sent to interview the Governor, but he either did not succeed in finding him, or he did not go to the trouble of looking for him. At all events, the interview did not take place. But the reporter, nevertheless wrote a sensational story in which he made the governor talk about himself as a candidate for President. Those who know the Governor readily saw that the writer of the interview was entirely unfamiliar with Folk's way of speaking. He forced a correction by the Denver paper that used it, but the interview had been sent over the country and has caused him some embarrassment. "The reporter never saw me," the Governor said to a representative of the Kansas City Star, "and put words in my mouth that were absurd. I was more surprised probably than any one else."

We refer to this notable instance of dishonest journalism, as an illustration of the contemptible methods sometimes resorted to for sensational purposes. Most of the stories circulated about conditions in Utah, and the doings and aspirations of leading citizens here, are as absurd and as untrue as that alleged Denver interview with Governor Folk. It is deplorable that persons exist who are depraved enough to prostitute the press, and it is equally deplorable that the press that permits such outrages notoriously, is not ostracised. We believe, however, the time is approaching when the people will demand truth and facts of the press, as well as honesty in the administration of public affairs and in private business. All this rests ultimately with the people, and, therefore, the people themselves are, in the last instance, responsible for the conditions existing.

S. A. HEDIN GONE.

The death of S. A. Hedin has been announced these days in dispatches from Stockholm. He has been prominent in the political field of his country since 1869, when he was first elected a member of the parliament. In politics he has always been a Liberal. For years he fought for accident and old-age insurance for workingmen by the government. Other measures for the benefit of the workingmen were proposed by him, and some of them were enacted by the parliament. He labored for universal suffrage, and was a strong advocate of what has been called pan-Scandinavism, based upon perfect equality between the three nations. Hedin was also an historical scholar and wrote extensively. Among his best works are "The Union of Sweden and Norway," "Studies in the History of the French Revolution" and "The Women of the French Revolution." His last years were spent mostly among his books, in a study decorated with the flags of the Scandinavian nations.

COMPULSORY PROHIBITION.

Some army doctors hold that alcohol taken in very small quantities is beneficial in the tropics, but the Prohibitionists in Massachusetts have adopted a resolution asking the government to prohibit anyone in the Panama canal strip from selling, or giving away, alcoholic beverages, to any employe of the government. They recommend thirty days' imprisonment and expulsion from the Strip as a penalty for the violation of this prospective measure. A copy of the resolution has been sent to President Roosevelt, as a gentle hint of what is demanded.

We presume this enforcement of Prohibition among government employes in the Canal zone is a second step, in the campaign for temperance which commenced with a demand for the abolition of the army canteen. The next would be making total abstinence a sine qua non of government employ everywhere. For, if that rule can be enforced in Panama, it can be extended to government employes at home. And if it is desirable to enforce prohibition in one place, it is equally desirable to enforce it everywhere.

With the cause of temperance we are in hearty sympathy, but we are afraid any effort to force people to be good must fail. It is contrary to God's dealings with His children. Every effort should be made to induce men and women to leave alone that which has proved a curse to so many, and which will bring many more to an early grave and eternal misery, but only such means as are consistent with man's moral nature and free agency can be sustained, because no others will be crowned with success. If Lucifer himself, the bearer of light, became an outcast from heaven, because he persisted in advocating a compulsory plan of salvation, it behooves mortals to proceed with caution, lest they fall into a similar error.

In a way is was a Weir-d gathering.

A man may refuse to run for office and still not stand "pat."

It seems inconsistent for a Jew to change his politics for "pork."

In politics patriotism is usually nothing more than a by-product.

The New York Fusionists get hot all right enough, but they don't fuse.

So far as able, the life insurance magnates are carrying a policy of silence.

With his new wig, Mr. Rockefeller will be able to enjoy hair breadths escapes.

A Newport lady has given her pet dog a royal burial. It probably was a Prince Charles.

During the municipal campaign it will be safe for the weather man to predict "hot air" each day of the week.

Secretary Shaw definitely announces that he will retire from the cabinet February 1, 1906. Now look out for a new Iowa idea.

If you find that the price of beef has gone up, remember that the packers who pleaded guilty to conspiracy have to pay their fines.

Paul Morton proposes to let the Equitable dead past bury its dead. It is a wise conclusion. And particularly so where the past is so unsavory.

Admiral Dewey says that the "lessons of the war are more big ships, more big guns." To the naval man all the lessons of all time are "more big ships, more big guns."

Augustus Heinze says that Thomas Lawson's charges against him are absolutely false. Not his worst enemy expected that he would admit that they were absolutely true.

Justin McCarthy says that his three objects in life have been attained. They were: To write books, to be a member of parliament, and to live in London. Few are the men who can say the same of their ambitions. And perhaps it is well that all men do not realize that for which they strive.

The recommendation of the jury in the Shockley murder case was, to put it in the mildest way, a great surprise to the public. That a cold blooded, double murderer could get a recommendation of mercy is truly a most astonishing thing. If capital punishment is ever justifiable surely this is a case where it is.

China objects to the terms of the Russo-Japanese peace treaty so far as it concerns the evacuation of Manchuria. And well she may. Her experience with Russia shows that the province is considered legitimate prey, and she doubtless fears that Japan is imbued with the same idea. China must wake up if she would have her wishes respected. An inert mass never commands respect.

The New York Evening Mail makes the pointed remark that, "the people will not be free from the danger of corporation domination until they have written it in their law, as something more than a 'moral yearning' that secret contributions shall not be accepted by campaign committees from corporations, and until they have made the lobbyists' trade infamous, by custom as well as statute. It is mainly through these two avenues that organized wealth makes its influence unduly felt in government."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The American Illustrated Magazine for October—the new name for Leslie's Monthly—comes with a number of splendid articles and illustrations. Among these are: "Fire at Sea," Lawrence Perry; "Eel Martin's Record," Benjamin B. Lindsey; "Mary Frances," a story, Mrs. L. H. Harris; "Plupy's Lecture," a story, Henry A. Shute; "Vancouver's Voyages," Agnes C. Laut; "The Story of American Painting," Charles H. Caffin; "Miss Middleton's Gardeners," a story, I. K. Friedman; "Henry J. Esch," the author of the bill for the compulsory installation of the block system, Arthur J. Dodge; "The Man With the Mark," a story, Norman H. Crowell; and "For the Safety of the Public," John J. Esch.—Colver Pub. House, 147 Fifth Ave., New York.

Wayside Tales for October opens with a discussion of a number of the questions of the day, such as "Chinese Trade" and "Heaven and Love," by "the Fool." Then comes a novelette, "The Negro Vallet." The magazine has several short stories and excellent pieces of poetry. One of the striking features of it is a paper by Jane Brookshire, in which she proves that women of the smart set gamble. In a former contribution it has been proved that they smoke! The magazine has several beautiful illustrations. It is a credit to the new management.—M. S. Company, Association Building, Chicago.

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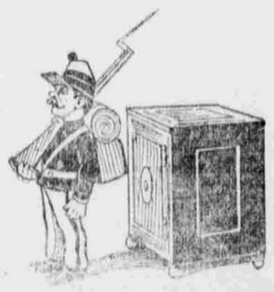
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