

**DESERET EVENING NEWS**  
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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 17, 1903.

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.**  
The Seventy-third annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, commencing on Saturday, April 4, 1903. A general attendance of the officers and members of the Church is requested.  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHON H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

**CHANGE OF PAST DAY.**  
As the General Conference will be in session on the first Sunday in April, it is deemed advisable that the fast, usually observed on the first Sunday in each month, be held on the last Sunday in March, 1903, on those States and Wards where the officers and members in large numbers will attend the Annual Conference. This will apply particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and adjoining places. The Presidents of States and Bishops at distant points will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHON H. LUND.

**THE IDAHO SUGAR INDUSTRY.**  
The action taken by the Idaho Sugar Company on Monday, shows that at least one association of capitalists has at interest the welfare of the farmers as well as of the manufacturers. The new company has been organized for the promotion of the sugar industry in the State of Idaho. It has been encouraged in its enterprise by the bounty granted by that State for two years, for the manufacture of sugar from beets grown in that State.

The company has the right, under the law passed at the recent session of the Legislature, to the full benefits of that bounty, and seeing that it has to establish the works, purchase the plant, and perform all the labor necessary to make the manufacturing part of the industry a success, it is entitled to the entire sum that will accrue from the appropriation. But feeling desirous to share with the farmers the benefits of the bounty the company voluntarily announced at the first meeting of the directors that ten per cent of the bounty should be given to the beet growers, pro rata to the total number of beets accepted under contracts.

We are sure that the farmers who raise the beets for sugar manufacture will appreciate this free gift from the company, which will be added to the price paid for their products, and that it will stimulate them to emulation in the production of roots bearing a high percentage of saccharine matter. It is not altogether the number and weight of the beets produced that counts, it is the sugar-bearing properties they possess that determine their value. Our farming friends in the north should follow closely the instructions given by those who know, as to the seed, the planting, the manner of cultivation, and all the particulars relating to the production and harvesting of the beets which they supply to the factory.

The work of construction will be pushed with a vim, so that the buildings will be ready for the plant in time to commence operations in the fall of the present year. The machinery is on the way, the promoters of the enterprise are familiar with the management and details of the work and the State of Idaho is to be congratulated on the prospects before it of becoming one of the great sugar-producing regions of the United States.

**A GREAT SAINT'S DAY.**  
This is the day for "The wearing of the green." Every true Irishman loves the color as representing the "wild sod," "The Emerald Isle." But the green ribbon worn today is specially in honor of St. Patrick, Erin's patron saint, whose memory is kept green by the celebration of his natal day. His birth and breeding are shrouded to some extent by the mists of past centuries, but the facts of his mission in the cause of Christianity in Ireland, and in Scotland, have come down through the ages pregnant with good influences, for he labored with a zeal and devotion for the pure love of humanity worthy the emulation of all mankind.

It matters not whether St. Patrick was the means of delivering Ireland from the curse of venomous snakes, or was the instrument of other wonderful and marvelous things said to have been done in his day. His name acts as a charm upon his countrymen, and there is a glory round it that is pleasing for everyone to contemplate. Then, hurray for St. Patrick and the

wholesome and ardent sons of Erin! May they be as brave as they are valiant, and enjoy to the full the liberty that is given them under the Stars and Stripes, to be one day achieved on the green and lovely Isle that boasts the life and labors of their patron saint!

**SUICIDE INCREASING.**  
A short time ago, no less than nine persons, five women and four men, committed suicide in Chicago in one day. And it was a Sunday, too. This reminds one that the Chicago Tribune claims that self-destruction is on the increase. According to that authority, the number of suicides during the first two months of this year was double that of the corresponding month of the preceding year.

It is rather strange to hear that the cause of this is supposed to be the hard financial conditions. Is it possible that in these prosperous times, people are driven out of the world by the difficulty of obtaining the means of living? That appears to be the fact. The times are prosperous, but many grow weary of the struggle for a share of the prosperity, and give up in despair. They are ground to death between the millstones of life, by the fortunate ones who turn the steam on, that keeps the machinery going. It would be difficult to designate any one condition as the cause of the increase of suicides. It is due to a number of causes. But undoubtedly it is something abnormal. Man loves life. He does not, under normal conditions desire death. When death, nevertheless, is being sought by increasing numbers, that should be a warning of some disease in the body politic, for which the remedy should be sought. To preach against it, moralize about or denounce it, has no particular effect. It must be treated in the source.

**LIBERTY FOR RUSSIA.**  
The decree of the Czar of Russia relating to religious liberty and certain civil reforms may, or may not, be of the greatest importance. It all depends on whether it is carried out according to the intention of the emperor.

It expressly states that it is called forth by the "troubles agitating the country." It is the Emperor's effort to establish peace to the disturbed provinces. For years these troubles have been a menace to the government, occasionally breaking out in riots and disorders. The Emperor has recognized that they are a menace. As he puts it, they confuse the public mind, remove the people from productive labor, and "often ruin families dear to our heart and young energies among high and low, necessary to the internal development of the country."

As a remedy he first proposes to "strengthen and decree the undeviating observance of the principles of tolerance, laid down by the fundamental laws of the Russian empire which, recognizing the orthodox church as the ruling one, to grant to all of our subjects of other religions and to all foreign persuasions freedom of creed and worship in accordance with other rites."

Russia has had religious liberty, nominally, for years. The established church is the Greek Catholic, of which the Emperor himself is the head, but all religions have had "liberty" on paper. Notwithstanding this, Jews and Roman Catholics have often been persecuted. That, it appears from the decree, will no longer be the case. "All our subjects of other religions," and, what is especially worthy of notice, "all foreign persuasions," are to be granted freedom of creed and worship. This embraces the Jews living within the boundaries of the empire, and exempts them from persecution on account of their faith.

The civil reforms are also notable. It is announced that while the communal system will be upheld, facilities will be given to the individual to withdraw from it when he desires without too great sacrifice. The peasants are to be freed from the liability to forced labor, and the use of the state credit institutions to strengthen village life, is ordered.

Of course, between the announcement of these reforms and their practical execution, is a long step. The Czar's intentions are good, but bad government is often due to bad officials, and in Russia the Emperor may not always know what is going on in his vast realm. How can he?

It is well that the reforms commence with due attention to religious liberty. For that is the foundation of all freedom. When the people are permitted to look after the welfare of their own souls, they are rapidly educated in the habit of thinking for themselves, and that qualifies for self-government. Without religious liberty, there can be no true civil freedom.

It must be admitted that Russian rulers have caused to go slow in their reform movements. The grandfather of the present Czar, Alexander II, freed the serfs. He was called the "Peasant Czar" and the "Great Liberator." A strong demand had been made by a powerful party for more liberty, and Alexander II granted part of the freedom demanded. Yet, radicals developed into a revolutionary party known as Nihilists, and the man who had granted more liberty than any other Russian ruler was assassinated in 1881. Alexander III spent his reign in trying to stamp out the Nihilists and many innocent persons suffered in consequence. The present Czar, though having gone back on all compacts with Finland, seems to have determined to continue the work of his grandfather in Russia. May he succeed!

**PRETTY POSITIVE.**  
The "News" has published the press reports of the action taken by the Presbyterian Ministerial Association at Washington, D. C., in declining to do as the Salt Lake association requested. The following particulars, however, given by the Washington Times, place the matter in a clearer and more positive light, so we reproduce it for the public interest as well as for the benefit

of the Salt Lake Ministerial Association:  
"The Presbyterian Ministerial Association of Washington has decided to take no part in the protest made against Senator Smoot's induction into the United States Senate.  
"This position was agreed upon at a special meeting called last Saturday to consider a communication sent the association from the Ministerial Association of Salt Lake City, Utah, and the action of the local ministerial association has now been forwarded the western organization.  
"The local association was asked to use its influence against Senator Smoot on the ground that he is a high official in the Mormon Church. No charge of polygamy was made against him.  
"Several of the ministers were inclined to take some action, but the general debate produced strong argument for the position. The majority finally voted that inasmuch as no charge of polygamy was made, no action should be taken. They based their decision on the fact that the charge of church membership was made against him, and that in high authority had held prominent places in the National Government and that in opposing Senator Smoot they would be violating the spirit of the Constitution. The communication from Salt Lake was therefore returned with the intimation that the local association could take no action until more serious charges are made."

**This Mississippi floor is no bubble.**  
The top of the St. Patrick's day morning to ye.  
When Rhodes scholars meet Greek then comes the tug of war.  
For the canal, the isthmus of Panama is a hard road to travel.  
A Paris artist says that New York is an ugly city. He should see Chicago.  
The laws enacted by the Legislature just closed have the merit of being new at any rate.  
Buffalo detective talent is not of the Sherlock Holmes variety, no matter what else it may be.  
Every man is supposed to be guilty until proven innocent, seems to be the theory of many people.  
If the rule to speak nothing but good of the dead were applied to the living, how much better the world would be.  
Said Pasha says that Turkey is going to live up to its promised reform. That being the case, the less said the better.  
Mayor Carter Harrison of Chicago is a great believer. He believes in a fourth term. Already he has had three.  
By selecting April 1 as the day on which to begin his tour of the country the President makes it plain that he intends to have a good time, unless he is fooling.  
Thanks to the veto it is not a misdemeanor for a boy under eighteen years of age to go to a drug store and get a mild narcotic for his father on a physician's prescription.  
Dr. Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton, wants twelve million dollars to put that institution of learning on a proper basis. If he gets it, it will be on a gold basis sure enough.  
Minister Bowen is getting a little apprehensive that the powers are not playing fair in the matter of the protocols. They do seem to be as quiet as little boys who are up to mischief.  
On several occasions of late the Governor when looking over bills passed by the Legislature and in his hands for signature, has sung a song learned in his youth, "Have courage, my boy, to say no."  
If the President rides horseback from Laramie to Cheyenne in a day, it will not be a very rough ride after all, the distance being but fifty-seven miles, not much of a stunt for a rough rider and ex-cowboy.  
Sven Hedra now speaks of making an attempt at reaching the North Pole "in an entirely new and comparatively easy way." Mr. Hedra is a Swedish explorer, who has acquired fame for his work in central Asia.  
Philadelphia has developed a genuine horror in uncovering the doings of the negro herb doctor Hoxsey. Whether the man was a professional poisoner or merely an ignorant pretender working simple people remains to be seen. But the case seemingly has all the elements of a stupendous crime.  
The leading article in Leslie's Weekly for March 12, is on Utah, written by Governor H. M. Wells. A fine portrait is given of the Governor and there are a number of well written and finely illustrated articles on Utah affairs. The Governor's contribution is well worthy of perusal by saint and sinner.  
The Deseret News acknowledges with thanks a specimen of "Birch bark" or natural parchment, also one for the Deseret Museum. It was taken from the forests of northern Indiana, by Francis M. Shaver of Moab, Utah. It is tough as parchment but soft and smooth as fine paper, and will doubtless be treasured in the museum's collection of curiosities.  
The Cleveland Plain Dealer remarks:  
"Not the least notable feature in connection with the swearing in of new United States senators in Washington last week was the cordial reception given by the ladies' gallery to Reed Smoot of Utah. The ladies cheered the 'Mormon' senator-elect enthusiastically as he approached the chair, and after he had been made a full fledged senator and was returning to his seat he received round after round of applause from the fair visitors. Many of them craned their necks to get a good square look at the tall and lank follower of Prophet Joseph Smith."  
What would our contemporary imitate?

**THE CUBAN TREATY.**  
Chicago Record-Herald.  
If the people of the United States needed argument as to the advisability of this treaty they could get them from the Cubans, who are all agreed that its effects will be not only to make Cuba more prosperous but to knit her more closely to the United States. The difference of opinion in Cuba lies solely in the relative emphasis the two factions place on these two effects and in their varying interpretation of the value of the latter.  
Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
If the treaty is ratified by both the United States and Cuba, whether immediately carried into effect or not, a case may be made under it for the supreme court to determine the century

old question whether the action of Congress is necessary to the validity of a treaty affecting tariff duties. It is not unlikely that some senatorial vote may be influenced by a desire to have this vexed question settled once for all and so dispose of a subject of continual friction between the two bodies of Congress.  
Chicago News.  
With the canal question out of the way the question of the Cuban reciprocity treaty becomes paramount. Unfortunately the outlook for that measure is distinctly less favorable. In spite of the almost unanimous popular demand and the urgent appeals of President Roosevelt, it is painfully apparent that many of the senators are determined to block the Cuban treaty if they can possibly do so.

**San Francisco Chronicle.**  
As Congress will never approve the treaty, whatever executive or other favoring senator may obtain in return for their votes for its ratification this amended will be so much to their good without corresponding benefit to the Cuban party. Congress will never ratify the Cuban or any other reciprocity treaty because no such measure can ever bear the light of open discussion in the congressional forum.

**Kansas City Times.**  
The least that should have been done in making the treaty was to have reduced the existing tariffs from 40 to 50 per cent. The treaty calls for a reduction of only 20 per cent. Some who advocated this small rate acted in good faith, believing it impossible to get a higher rate at the hands of the United States Senate. Others urged it in the hope that the Cubans would not accept it, and that as a result the sugar interests of this country would have nothing to fear from Cuban competition.

**Milwaukee Wisconsin.**  
There is so much double dealing and treachery among politicians of the present day that people are not surprised when any dirty trick is resorted to in order to kill a measure of national beneficence.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS.**  
The March number of Young's Magazine contains the following short stories: "An Ambiguous Ancestry," La Touche Hancock, "The Letters of a Visitor," Andre; "On a Still Hunt," E. L. C. Ward; "The Girl Who Didn't Care," Lew Thayer; "Letters That Crossed in the Mail," J. Totten Smith and La Touche Hancock; "The Hundredth Woman," Matt Hamilton, Jr.; "The Dream and the Waking," Helen F. Huntington; "A Confession," D. F. F. Huntington; "A Chicago Calendar of Domestic Anarchy," Maro O. Rolfe; "A Midnight Quest," Wilson P. Burgess; "At the Refuge of the Helpless," M. O. T. Stewart; "The Pig of Old," M. A. H.; "A Modern Delilah," William S. Birge, M. D., and "A Cloud with a Silver Lining," Nellie D. S. Graham.—203 Broadway, New York.

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