

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 17, 1902.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, in this city, Friday, April 4, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. The general authorities of the Church, presidents of stakes and also all engaged in the ministry, who can make it convenient to attend, are cordially invited to be present.

JOSEPH F. SMITH  
JOHN R. WINDER  
ANTHONY H. LUND,  
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

A conference of the Sunday schools of the Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 6th, at 7 o'clock. Stake and ward officers and teachers are requested to attend and an invitation to be present is cordially extended to the public.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
GEORGE REYNOLDS,  
JOS. M. TANNER,  
General Superintendency.

## RIGHTS OF RELIEF SOCIETIES.

This is the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of the Relief society of the Church by the Prophet Joseph Smith. It is being celebrated by the ladies of the society in this State, with appropriate services and refreshments, and the wisdom of its establishment is universally recognized by the Latter-day Saints. Its branch societies extend throughout the land of Zion and into many foreign nations, and the work it is accomplishing is beneficial and of untold value. We congratulate the sisters on the progress made by this excellent organization.

It appears that notwithstanding the pointed instructions that have been given out by the Church authorities, in reference to wheat stored by Relief Societies in accordance with counsel given many years ago on that subject, some of the local authorities will dispose of the wheat against the wishes of those societies. This occasions much ill-feeling and the practice ought to be stopped. The wheat thus laid by through the care of the ladies belonging to the Relief Societies, is not the property of the ward nor of its Bishop. It belongs to the society that has stored it. No disposition of it without the consent and good-will of that society is proper, but is in violation of repeated instructions from the Presidency of the Church.

The Deseret News will not undertake to decide any question of dispute between members of a ward and its Bishop. The Presidency of the Stake wherein that ward exists should be appealed to, in any case of that kind. If satisfaction cannot then be had, the matter can be laid before the Presidency of the Church, who will see that justice is done and that right prevails. The First Presidency, however, should not be bothered with original complaints. Local matters should be disposed of locally whenever that is possible. Members should not jump over the heads of their Bishops to the First Presidency, or to the Presidency of the Stake, but settle such affairs as belong to the Bishopric with the Bishop and his counselors first. There is a proper order to be observed in the Church and it should be strictly adhered to.

Individual cases ought not to be presented to the Deseret News for a decision or an opinion. Each case has some difference to that of others. There are also two sides, at least, to every question and both must be heard before a just judgment can be rendered. It is not the province of this paper to settle such disputes. We can give information and explanation, on general principles, when they are of sufficient importance to engage public attention. But the Bishop's courts and the High Councils are organized for the purpose of settling difficulties, and they must be respected in the positions to which they have been appointed.

We have given a general answer to the question of the disposal of wheat belonging to Relief Societies, but do not attempt to decide any special dispute between a society and the Bishop of the ward wherein it is organized. Circumstances sometimes arise which render necessary action that may not be strictly within the lines of rigid rules. If a Bishop steps outside those limits improperly, the Presidency of the Stake is the proper body to settle any conflict that may thus be caused. On general principles, however, the greatest care should be exercised to prevent such disputes, and the rights of individuals, of associations, and of all persons and bodies should be respected and never infringed upon.

## NEW YORK SUNDAY LAW.

New York city is divided in sentiment on the Sunday saloon question. The religious elements which, however, are not united on that and other important questions, generally regard the Sunday traffic in intoxicants as a great public evil. A few prominent divines, as well as some of their followers, join with people on the other side of the dispute, and manifest strong regard for the wishes and appetites of persons who patronize places where liquor is sold.

One recent argument offered by the advocates of open Sunday saloons is that, "Under democratic forms of government a law is not permanently enforceable by elected authorities, where a large number of persons in the locality do not consider the act forbidden as immoral in itself, and are unwilling to yield obedience to the law."

New York is a cosmopolitan city. All kinds of people from a great many nations are congregated there. They have their peculiar customs, desires and habits. They have rights as citizens. These should all be considered. But there is one principle that ought to be recognized in all democratic governments, and that is that the will of the majority should prevail. Suppose there is a considerable number of citizens favorable to Sunday liquor-selling. If they are in the minority their personal wishes should not overcome majority rule. The fact that New York has a Sunday closing law, would go to show that the majority has decided against the open Sunday saloon. If that is true, the proper thing for the minority to do is to acquiesce and conform to the law, and while the law stands untrampled it should be enforced, and officers who neglect or refuse to perform their duty should be impeached and deposed.

There are, no doubt, many respectable and well meaning persons who have contracted the habit of drinking intoxicants in a moderate way, who do not indulge to excess, and to whom an occasional dram has become an imaginary if not a real necessity. They regard the Sunday closing movement as oppressive and an infringement upon their liberties. Many of them will either defy the law or seek to evade it, and dealers in the liquors thus in demand will be ready to supply it and risk prosecution. These facts are held by some of the New York advocates of the open saloon as sufficient to warrant the removal of the law's restrictions. But, after all, it has not been shown that the majority of the citizens desire the repeal of the statutes and ordinances that make Sunday liquor selling unlawful, and until such a change of sentiment is effected, the argument is against the saloons and their supporters.

We have not mentioned, in this connection, the religious sentiment which is opposed to the Sunday liquor traffic, as promoting the disturbance of the Sabbath peace and of religious worship and of that rest which is needful on the day observed in Christendom for that purpose. Some regard should certainly be paid to their objections, and particularly so if they are endorsed by a sufficient number of persons unconnected with religious societies, to constitute a majority of the community in which the dispute arises.

The officers of the law have no right to take any sides on the question of the law's enforcement. Their duty is simply to execute, not to oppose or advocate its provisions. Their opinions as to its advisability have nothing to do with the subject. If the law says intoxicants shall not be sold on Sunday, executive officers have no option in the matter but are required to enforce the law, impartially and to the extent of the power entrusted to them. This applies to every spot in the United States. This is a popular government, and while the wishes, desires and necessities of every class of people are to be wisely considered, it is the rule of the majority that must prevail or our system of government will be a farce and a failure.

## ARCTIC EXPLORER HEARD FROM

According to a letter received from the Baldwin-Ziegler Arctic expedition, which left Tromsø on the 16th of July last, all the members of the expedition are well. The letter was written in latitude 80 degrees and 24 minutes, on Alger's Island, Franz Josef land. At the time of writing, preparations were being made for a journey northward on sledges for the purpose of establishing depots at intervals of twenty miles. This expedition is regarded as the best equipped that ever attempted the perilous journey across the frozen deep in the north. It has a larger amount of supplies than had Nansen's crew in the Fram. If everything goes according to the plans laid, the outside world may hear from these explorers as they progress northward, for they have a number of little balloons which will be sent up from time to time with messages that a kindly disposed wind may carry to the confines of civilization.

## A BOER CONFERENCE.

The Boer delegates in this country, Messrs. Wessels, Wolmarans and White, are evidently laboring with some specific end in view, though what that really is, does not appear clearly, except that it may be presumed that their desire is to raise up friends for their cause. At the first interview with President Roosevelt they were told that this country would not in any way intervene in their behalf, and at a second interview they stated that they "neither asked, desired, nor expected intervention on the part of this country." Their mission here must then be for some other purpose.

Now, the Chicago Inter-Ocean tells about a secret meeting between these Boers and Dr. B. G. Clark, a former member of Parliament, who is said to be one of the strong leaders of the English peace party. The meeting was arranged with great secrecy, and Dr. Clark, it seems, was annoyed when he became aware of the fact that his presence in Chicago was known to the public. The question naturally arises, whether the chief object of the Boer visit to this country was to meet this representative of the English peace

party, in order to go over the situation with him. Dr. Clark, it is claimed, believes in the preservation of the independence of the former South African republics. If the object was to meet on American soil an English champion of peace, and through him appeal to British public opinion, it may be quite true that the envoys, though coming on an important mission to this country, neither expect, nor ask for, American official intervention at this time.

The Boer delegates, however, would do well to take the American people into their confidence. If they expect American sympathy, mysterious movements and secret sessions do not appeal to the open, frank and fearless attitude of Americans. If they would state in unequivocal terms just what they want, their case would be judged on its merits.

## GERMANY'S FRIENDSHIP.

A speech delivered recently in the Prussian Diet by Baron von Richthofen is attracting considerable attention. The British government gave permission to German philanthropists, to distribute their gifts to South Africans in concentration camps and the baron read, in the Diet, the British answer to the request for the privilege of distributing the means collected. After the reading he said the English and German nations are connected by ties of blood, race and friendship. They are cousins who may again find themselves side by side. He expressed sympathy for Lord Methuen.

It is supposed that this speech was "inspired," and as such it is taken to mean that Germany is anxious to establish closer relations with Great Britain. And coming so closely upon the visit of Prince Henry to this country, it must be regarded as an intimation that there is no intention of slighting England, whatever may be the results of the royal visit to the American republic. It is also an indirect apology for the bitter attitude of the German press.

There is an evident desire on the part of the German emperor, to make friends among the great nations of the world. If his overtures are met in a friendly spirit, such efforts would result in the preservation of the peace of the world for a long time. It has been supposed that the trade rivalry between England and Germany would prevent the entente cordiale which ought to exist, but rivalry in trade does not necessarily mean animosity, between nations any more than between individuals. There are markets enough in the world for all the trading nations. And by peaceful enterprises these can be further extended. Germany is clearly in earnest in endeavoring to establish an era of good will. She needs it. She is emerging from depression and industrial derangement. But other nations need it too, and they can do no better than to grasp cordially the hand of friendship that is proffered to them.

The President is growing fat. Why shouldn't he? He has a fat job.

It is better for a man to devote his life to science than to give his body to it.

The days are coming when the small boy will be doctored with tractors and molasses.

A Dallas, Texas, man is trying to find his mother-in-law. But he isn't working overtime.

It is a week since General Kitcheners sent a message beginning: "I greatly regret to report."

Down in Indian Territory the improved order of red men is made by merely cutting off their hair.

General Funston's contempt for American conditions is only equalled by his contempt for Filipinos.

Among other things for which St. Patrick's day is famous is the defeat of Jim Corbett by Bob Fitzsimmons.

Boston is discussing the question of licensing newsboys. Why give them any more license than they now have?

In Council Grove, Kansas, funerals are classified as "society events." Council Grove must be a pretty dead town.

The Chicago Tribune says there is too much manna in giving Cuba reciprocity. But manna shall yet become manna.

The pyramids are to be lighted with electric lamps. But the simile "like Egyptian darkness" will still hold good forever.

The Philadelphia Record says that Speaker Henderson is a stumbling block. His position has generally been regarded as a stepping stone.

Mary Anderson Navarro warns young girls against taking to the stage as a profession. She might just as well warn young ducks not to take to the water.

A Connecticut school teacher recently spanked forty-nine pupils in thirty-seven minutes. He didn't spare the rod but time alone can tell whether or not he spoiled the children.

Senator Sagasta has been commissioned to form another cabinet. So often has he done this that by this time he should be a master of the art of carpentry and joinery.

Civil Service Commissioner Rodenberg has tendered his resignation to the President. It is his intention to enter politics. Does he find politics and civil service reform inconsistent?

We rejoice with our Ogden friends in their festivities over the prospects to the Junction City, opened by the Lucin cut-off. They are having a good time. May it continue and never be cut off!

The Boston Herald significantly remarks that "the memorial addresses on William McKinley are considerably more eloquent and appreciative than the state of the McKinley memorial fund up to date." The reason doubtless is that talk is cheap.

The surprise of General Methuen was accomplished in a large measure through the Boers wearing khaki uniforms the same as the British. While intention is the sincerest form of flattery, still the British cannot be blamed

if they do not appreciate it in this instance.

Old Geronimo, the Apache chief who has been "doing time" at Fort Sill for the last fourteen years, has learned somewhat of the ways of civilization. He has just taken advantage of the constitutional provision which says that the right of petition shall not be denied, and petitioned the government at Washington for release.

A few years ago everybody was engaged in making out a list of the "hundred best books." Now the evil is probably to be revived in an aggravated form, for Lord Acton (and there is no better authority) has just said that of all the books ever published not more than four thousand are entitled to immortality. Now look out for lists of four thousand immortal books.

It is only a month or so ago that Secretary of War Root sat down hard on General Miles for expressing an opinion on the Schley case. Again he has had the same operation performed upon him. He applied to him for assignment to the Philippines, claiming to have a plan whereby he could settle the war. He was informed that the war was already settled and that he could not go. General Miles does not seem to recognize what every one else does—that he is persona non grata with the administration.

The religious press of Great Britain is excited at the alliance of that country with "a heathen, oriental government," as Japan now is called. The editor might be reminded of the fact that during the late unpleasantness in China, the "Christian" powers did not hesitate to admit Japan to the combination of forces that operated on Chinese soil, and that the conduct of the Japanese soldiers was so much Christian at that time, as to cause general comment, while the exploits of some of the other soldiers was barbarous in the extreme.

This is St. Patrick's day. It will be celebrated in every land where Ireland's sons and daughters can wear the green, and find the potheen, and raise a shout for the patron saint. Joy to the warm hearts and buoyant spirits of the lads and lasses of the Emerald Isle! They are among the moving forces of humanity and keep it from stagnation. If they bubble over occasionally with excessive enthusiasm, their many good qualities commend them to the world which they help to stir into useful activity. Here's to St. Patrick of blessed memory!

In an eastern village, we are told, there is a little settlement of professed followers of Tolstoy. They call themselves "The Brotherhood Church." One of their doctrines is that it is unlawful for the members either to give or to receive money; and, though they work for their living, they are pledged to accept payment only in kind, and according to their special need. Among the members all property is common, and individual members have no hesitation in descending upon and demanding entertainment from outside persons whom they have reason to believe in sympathy with their doctrines. They do not believe in matrimony.

The decision of Judge Cox of the United States circuit court of New York overruling the ruling of ex-Secretary of the Treasury Gage, that an American citizen lost his citizenship by a residence abroad of more than five years, was right and sensible. An American citizen never loses his citizenship, until he forevermore allegiance to the United States and takes the oath of allegiance to another government.

Mr. Gage's ruling was arbitrary and absolutely without authority of law; it was an assumption by an executive officer of both legislative and judicial powers. If a secretary of the treasury may say, and his saying have the force of law, that an American loses his citizenship by remaining abroad more than five years, he may fix the period when a man's citizenship ceases at any other period. The ruling was an assumption of autocratic powers. Recent Publications.

## THE CAPTURE OF METHUEN.

Kansas City Star.  
The capture of General Methuen by the Boers is regarded as likely to prolong the war through the general encouragement that it will inspire. But it must not be forgotten that the cheers of the Irish members of the house of commons, on receiving the news of the last Methuen disaster, will also "help some." At least that is the way it looks to Americans. Yet when General Funston rebukes the same sort of encouragement given by certain Americans to the Filipino insurgents, he is called shocking names by the usually chaste New York Evening Post.

Chicago News.

The British loss was heavy, for in addition to the capture of the general all the British guns and baggage were taken. It will be extraordinary if the Boer success against one of the most experienced of their generals does not stir the British people at home in serious self-questioning and further demands for a more competent administration of the war office. The capture of a British general will not freshen heart into the Boers. Instead of Methuen's taking Delarey or Dewet, Delarey has taken Methuen. What assurance can the British have that the war is nearing its end while reverses like these are possible?

San Francisco Chronicle.  
In submitting the army estimates for the current year, Brodrick, the British war secretary, informed the house of commons the other day that 30,000 men were being supported by the government in South Africa. From other sources it is learned that 250,000 of this number are in active service against the Boers. Still, the members of parliament who have served in South Africa say that the subjugation of the comparatively small body of burghers will precede the sending of fresh troops to the scene of action. The statement seems almost incredible, but it is unquestionably true.

Springfield Republican.  
"Who would have thought?" This is a question about as commonly heard in England with reference to the Boer war as it is in the United States with reference to the course of this nation in the Philippines.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
If the Boer resistance is as nearly at an end as the British public have been repeatedly assured in the "L. I. J." statements how many Boers are there so many effective troops to make his

successful attack on General Methuen? What explanation is there for the present British disasters within the last two or three weeks? It may be claimed that these daring and successful movements are like "the dying furries of a harpooned whale," but the Boer whale has been an unconquerably long time dying, his destructive "furries" having been going on many months after the death stroke was claimed to be given. The end of the war may possibly be near, but there is very little indication of it in the news of the last few weeks.

San Francisco Call.

The moral effect of the victory is sure to be immense. For some time past it has been taken for granted that the Boers have no chance of success and that it is the duty of their leaders to make terms to save a useless spilling of blood. Moved by that belief public sentiment has been to a large extent adverse to the Boers. It has been felt that their continuance of the fight was nothing more than savagery carrying on a hopeless battle out of a mere feeling of revenge or a delight in fighting. In the light of the victory of Delarey that sentiment will pass away. When a Boer force can take the aggressive in an attack upon a British column under one of the foremost of British generals and utterly destroy it, there clearly remains for them a good fighting chance for victory and independence.

Peoria Journal.

Notwithstanding the many Boers that have been killed or captured, the force in the field seems to be about as large as it was a year ago, thus demonstrating that the Boers must be receiving recruits from outside sources. There is not a doubt that the subjugation of the Boers is the biggest task that the British have undertaken in the past hundred years. The expense up to date has been enormous, and the soil of the South African country has drunk up the blood of some of the best of England's officers and men. In the meantime the taxes in Great Britain are increasing, and the tax payers are groaning.

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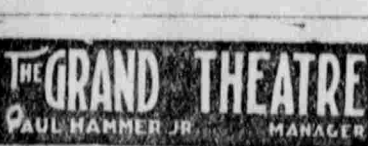
## CHARLES DALTON

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AND TOMORROW NIGHT.

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Seat sale begins Tuesday.

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