

# DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - SEPT. 14, 1887.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-seventh Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be opened at 10 o'clock on Thursday, October 6th, 1887, in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City, and will continue until the business necessary to be transacted has been attended to. The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

On the evening of Thursday, the 6th, there will be a general meeting of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations.

On Friday evening there will be a general meeting of the Superintendents, Teachers, and all interested, in the Sunday Schools.

On Saturday evening there will be a meeting of the Priesthood.

These meetings will commence at 7 o'clock in the evening.

We wish the officers of these organizations to bear these appointments in mind.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

## A HEALTHFUL CITY.

The figures indicating the mortality of this city so far this year, support the proposition that it is a remarkably healthful one. The number of deaths in each of the eight months of the year now passed are as follows: January, 35; February, 47; March, 62; April, 36; May, 43; June, 41; July, 60; August, 62—total, 386. The death rate for March was phenomenal for this locality, and was swelled by 21 fatal cases of pneumonia, a disease never considered specially incident to nor particularly prevalent in this city. The number of deaths in March and August were equal, and the present indications are that the figure, 62, will not be reached again this year.

If an unusual cause swelled the death rate for March, the same may be said of August. Of the 62 deaths occurring last month, 32, or more than half, were of children under five years of age, and 15, or one-fourth as nearly as may be, were caused by cholera infantum. The population of this city is now estimated to be in excess of 30,000. Selecting the highest monthly mortality and we have within a fraction too minute to be noticed, two deaths per month per thousand or 24 per year. Cities having as high a mortality the year round as our highest for any month of the year, are not spoken of as being specially sickly.

The number of deaths in this city during June was 41, or one death to each 732 inhabitants, allowing the population to be 30,000; if we estimate the latter as high as 32,800, then the death rate would be one to 800. The latter rate is probably very close to the exact truth. In the absence of an accurate census of the city strict correctness in these statistics is unattainable.

From figures furnished by the *Sanitary Era*, the *Toledo Commercial* shows that, in 43 of the leading cities of the Union, whose aggregate population was 9,718,956, there occurred, during June, 16,618 deaths, or one death to 585 of the population. Thus the death rate of this city for June was more than twenty-five per cent lower than of the forty-three cities whose statistics were aggregated as above. Probably no fairer month than June could be chosen for making such a comparison.

One peculiarity of this city swells its death rate, and yet cannot be urged as an essentially unhealthy feature: This is a city of orchards and was laid out with the object of making it such. Orchards are the playgrounds of multitudes of children who thus have unrestrained access to fruits, unripe and uncooked, and the consumption of these without doubt is a prolific cause of mortality among the little ones, which probably does not exist to any similar extent in any eastern city which could be named. Remove this one cause of mortality among children in this city, and the statistics of it would be considerably modified. The prevalence of cholera infantum goes to support this view, as that is pre-eminently a disease caused by improper feeding.

Incontestable figures prove that the proportion of little children to the mass of the population is much heavier in this than in almost any of the large cities of the country, and, as it is among children that the heaviest mortality prevails, a due allowance for their numbers here compared to elsewhere would materially add to the favorable showing this city is able to make respecting the rate of mortality.

While the death rate proves our city a healthful one, it might and ought to be made more so, by the abatement of such causes of disease as impure water, made so by seepage from vaults, etc., decaying vegetable matter, which accumulates in such abundance in the orchards, gardens and yards of our roomy city, and the unrestrained consumption, by little children, of unripe and uncooked fruit.

## THE FRENCH MANEUVERS YESTERDAY.

FRENCH newspapers, and consequently French people, are jubilant over the success of the experimental mobilization of an army corps yesterday. One of the papers declared that if the army had been in such shape when the war with Germany broke out, that power would have met its match. This goes for what it is worth as an opinion. Conceding it to be a fact, it is still this side of the desired end, since to be merely equal to another is but to prolong a contest which in that case was settled in a few months by means of the absolute superiority of one of the contestants. France, to consummate her ambitious projects, must have a military footing surpassing that of Germany in all essential respects, and this it needs much more now than it did seventeen years ago. Then Germany was a word conveying but little that was geographically descriptive, a number of disunited States being regarded as what was meant by it; but Napoleon's proclamation of war solidified the Dutch-speaking people and France, while throwing down the gauntlet to Prussia only, found herself confronted by the entire German phalanx. Had the war been conducted by France and Prussia singly, there would surely have been a different tale to tell. Napoleon would have entered Berlin and made William a captive instead of having to surrender his sword and his capital to the hereditary foe.

That war not only united those States for the purpose of resistance to the encroachments of France, but for all purposes and all times to come. Without it Prussia would always have been on the alert, with its steel serenely secure. The immense army which France can now place in the field on short notice—800,000 men, capable of being doubled by means of conscription and otherwise—can now be offset by the northern power with comparative ease, so it would appear that being a match for the German forces then, or even now, is to have a power practically unavailable.

Much progress, however, has been made, and it is proper to say that the French frontier was never as well prepared for resistance to invasion as now, while in point of discipline, regularity, promptness, strength and morale of the army, it greatly surpasses anything yet accomplished by modern peoples. In action, it is mechanical in its exactness, in alertness it is a wonder. It is probable that the editor preferred understating to overstating what he regarded as the fact about his country's forces in which respect he would be somewhat dissimilar to many of his brethren.

It should not be forgotten that most of the improvement that has taken place in France's armed defenses was the work of General Boulanger—the man whom Germany regards as such a menace to her welfare that she repeatedly demanded his removal from the President's cabinet and persisted in the pressure against him until it was found necessary to send him away. He has not, though, gone so far but what at twenty-four hours' notice he could be astride his charger with half a million men at his back and nearer to Strasburg than Paris. When *La Revue de la Revue* supplanted *La Marseillaise* as the national air, there will be mischief in the breeze, and diplomacy will not be able to dispel it.

## CHURCH INTERFERENCE WITH THE STATE.

THERE appears to be something in the atmosphere of the age favorable to the cultivation of reformers. Men of large souls and philanthropic dispositions as it were. A percentage of that class of mortals are weighed down with deep anxiety to have the "Mormons" wiped out politically, religiously, socially and otherwise.

Among these pious people are the members of the National Reform Association. They lately held a meeting at Saratoga Springs, New York, where they uncorked on the "Mormon question." The result was the emission of a set of resolutions in reference to the application of Utah for statehood. They resolved that such an effort was

"a deep laid plot." This is a new way of defining the endeavor of a people to emerge from Territorial vassalage into the political effulgence of statehood, but "reformers" are sometimes given to eccentricities that are more or less unaccountable, and would probably be deemed inexcusable in other people.

They also assume the prophetic role and prognosticate that if Utah were admitted into the Union, the "Mormons" would soon "restore polygamy," and it would ultimately become necessary for the Federal government to interfere by the use of the military on the subject. A time of distress and probable exile for the non-"Mormon" population is also predicted, in such case, with solemn gravity.

The fact is ignored by the resolvers that the constitution for the proposed State adopted by the convention cannot, according to its own provisions, be altered or amended except by consent of Congress and proclamation of the President. Considering what has been the attitude of both they would not be very likely to fulfill the fearful forebodings of the persistent reformers. As to the anticipated distress and probable exile of the non-"Mormons," the expectation is nothing more substantial than a shadowy phantasm without foundation, while the bloody forecast about Federal interference is either thrown in for effect or is an exhalation from the brains of a class of mortals whose imaginations must be in an abnormal condition. No people have in their history given more potent evidence of honesty and sincerity than the Latter-day Saints. To hold that the people of Utah are acting disingenuously and to anticipate that they will fly the track of any compact into which they may enter does not accord with their career. The same may be said in reference to the rights of the minority, which have, so far as political power has existed in the hands of those who constitute the majority, been respected and maintained. There being nothing, therefore, in the premises upon which the predicted military interference is based, the bloody part of the resolution is a myth of the imagination.

These national reformers assert that the "Christian schools in Utah are prospering," but are not sufficiently rapid in their operation to avert impending political perils. This is a sort of admission that these institutions are a kind of political corrective, but are so slow in their effects as to lead to impatience, causing a more heroic process to be desirable. The solons who met at Saratoga finally come to the point, after duly paying the way for the drastic dose the application of which they complacently recommended. They "unite with the Federal judges, preachers, editors, teachers, and leading business men of Salt Lake City in asking Congress to extend over Utah the Idaho statute." The particular statute in question is the one of infamous character and history which practically disfranchises every citizen in our sister Territory who happens to be a member of the "Mormon" Church.

To that class of nutshell and gall reformers to which those who met at Saratoga belong the Idaho statute in question has been a sweet morsel, rolled around and under the tongue with great gusto. But the satisfaction, chewing it is curtailed on account of the lump not being large enough for the capacious cavity into which it is inserted. Its dimensions should be increased until it covers Utah, or perhaps every spot of the country where Latter-day Saints are located.

When the real character of the reformers is known, astonishment at their attitude and action will be annihilated—the members of the association are all priests. They are all clergymen of different denominations. They were from different parts of the country and had assembled at the celebrated watering place for the double purpose of pleasure hunting and formulating mischief against a class of religionists who differ from all of them and whose success in doing good is so phenomenal as to incite their envy. They got together and as religious reformers "resolved" to do unto others that which they would not that others should do unto them, for in their practice they reverse the golden rule given by the Great Master. The "Mormons" have just as much right to get together and resolve that people who belong to such churches as those to which the Saratoga crusaders are attached should, on account of such religious connection, be denied the suffrage, as they had to act as they did. It would just be as consistent, but both would be glaringly and monstrously inconsistent.

The question may well be asked whether the heads of these religious bodies will ever learn to separate the Church from the State. Why is there not a hue and cry raised against them because they step out of the sphere of the Church and meddle with State affairs? Echo answers, Why? And why is the falsehood iterated and reiterated that the bounding of the Latter-day Saints does not partake of the nature of a religious crusade? Echo again answers with an interrogation, and an adequate reply is not forthcoming.

H. E. Fyson had his legs pretty badly hurt at the Ontario Mill on Monday last. He was running a car on the cage when the elevator man started the cage before the car was quite on and the result was that it ran off, jamming him between the car and the elevator. —Park City Call.

## MEN WHO LIVE IN THE PAST.

In a speech opening the gubernatorial canvass on the part of the Democrats at Hamilton, Ohio, yesterday, Hon. Thos. E. Powell, the Democratic nominee, devoted a great deal of time to the attitude of the opposition element. He referred to his competitor, Governor Foraker, in scathing terms, showing that the latter expects to win on the memories of the past, not the realities of the present; referred to his coarse and unjustified attack upon the 400,000 Democrats of Ohio, whom Foraker had called "ex-rebels," "dirty Democrats," etc., and made a number of strong points against the Republican nominee and his platform.

There is, apart from politics, much to be condemned and more to be criticised in the policy some people have of fixing their gaze, in one direction. It was not intended by nature nor the Author of nature that this should be so, either in a mental or an optical sense. While we have neither sympathy nor antagonism for the Ohio Republicans as such, we have in common with a majority of right-thinking and progressive people an abhorrence of the policy there or elsewhere which keeps the eyes and the mind fixed eternally and unchangingly upon the past, particularly when the present is so full of matter demanding constant consideration and the future so boundless in its undeveloped realities. It is not necessary nor even proper to neglect any period of time, past, present or to come; one is the lamp by which our feet are guided during the second, and both these, when properly used, are a guide and protector through the other. But to know, or at least to teach, nothing but what has been is to disclose a mental condition unfit for places of responsibility and trust.

Ohio is a great State in several respects. It is great in the propagation and enunciation of political wisdom, or what passes for wisdom among those who live by politics. "The Ohio idea" is heard in almost every campaign of importance. It is also great in area, population, wealth and intelligence; but it must be conceded that among those of its sons who aspire to membership in the statesman's class are many who are neither qualified nor in especial demand. Nine-tenths of the newspapers of the country place the present Governor of the State in the latter category, not because he is wanting in ability, earnestness, or anything of that kind, but because he is a man of to-day. To hear him speak one would conclude that he fancied the war was still going on, that the slaves were yet in bondage, that armed conspirators were shadowing the government, and that peace had taken its flight for ever. At least, that is the strain he talks in; nothing said about the tariff, nothing about taxation, civil service, inter-State commerce, the Indian question or other live and pressing subjects, concerning which the voter wishes to know the speaker's or writer's views and why he claims for them superiority.

However, the class of people referred to are not confined to Ohio. A more or less limited representation of the gentry are to be encountered in every State and Territory. That their declamations continue to dissolve and fade away is not due to effort on their part by means of which they have advanced from out the slough of Despond, but because the advancement of the others makes the view of them dimmer and dimmer. It is a poor basis to work upon, this boast of superiority in the present because of some good accomplished in the past; it is very much like trying to make a living with no other capital than a pedigree—being, in fine, a pensioner on the dead. Yet, that is the meaning at present forced upon Republicanism in Ohio by Mr. Foraker, and which Mr. Sherman hopes may be successful so he can foist it upon the nation next year.

## NOTHING IN THE WAY.

The following appeared in the New York *Star* of the 2nd inst:

There can be no doubt that the constitution which was proposed to the people of Utah has been adopted by a very large majority.

This instrument prohibits polygamy. The prohibition is absolute and does not require legislation to put it into effect.

The adoption by the people of Utah of such a constitution seems to us to put an end to the differences between them and the other American communities. It is a signal triumph of civilization, and illustrates how easily our institutions overcome difficulties which in other countries would have produced violent disturbances.

Polygamy in Utah goes down before the influences and moral forces of our time. It was a strange intrusion into this clear-headed and practical age of old and forgotten barbarisms, and will long furnish food for philosophic speculation and themes for romance.

Many will be inclined to doubt the sincerity of this change of opinion by the Mormon leaders. The future will prove whether there is ground for these doubts. So far as the law is concerned all has been done that could be asked. Judge Edmunds himself could not have written a prohibition of the condemned practices more stringent than the one that the Mormons have placed in the organic law

which they will present to Congress. It will not be in accordance with American precedents to receive this act of renunciation with suspicion and disbelief.

## A DIFFERENCE.

ONE of Buffalo Bill's cowboys—a gigantic fellow considerably over six feet in height and strong as a mule—got too hilarious on one of the streets of London the other day, and that kind of thing being strictly prohibited in the world's metropolis, a policeman immediately paid his respects to the disturber of the peace. The genius of the western wilds did not, however, propose to surrender in that ignominious way, and pulling off he knocked the guardian of the law squarely down. For this he was tried, convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment almost before he realized what was going on. Now they are petitioning from all around to have him pardoned, the most of the people considering the punishment excessive. This incident is eminently illustrative of the two prevailing characteristics of the Old World and the new; there the disposition is to apply the law right away and make it hold; on the plains of the "Wild West" it is to be a law unto one's self and let the statutory article alone.

## AGITATION ABOUT FREIGHT RATES.

THE meeting of business men held at the call of the Chamber of Commerce last evening was an event which promises important results to the financial interests of this Territory. It was an assemblage which largely represented the capital and energy of the commercial circles of this commonwealth, and in its proceedings were displayed a full knowledge of the injustice of the railroads towards the Territory, and a united determination to insist upon the redress of the wrongs complained of, until victory should be achieved. The report of the committee giving figures which showed how Salt Lake City and Ogden are being discriminated against, was a carefully prepared document, and the reading of it had a telling effect upon the assembly.

The merchants and business men of this Territory are committed to a policy of resistance towards a continuation of railroad discrimination against their interests. Their main cause of complaint is that tariffs are so arranged as to favor Omaha, Kansas City, Portland, San Francisco and other points east and west, at the expense of Ogden and Salt Lake City, and they demand that the railroads cease to build up terminal points like those mentioned, at the expense of the populous and naturally rich belt of country of which this city is the metropolis and natural commercial centre. The relief they ask is such a readjustment of rates as will place Utah points on an equality with cities east and west.

The railroads must yield. They may, if they choose, continue the struggle for a time, but their ultimate defeat appears to be sure. About \$15,000 per day is paid in freights, the year round, to the roads centering in this city, which proves that the financial interests involved in the pending struggle are too heavy to be longer kept in bondage by any railroad management with which they have to deal. Besides the financial strength of the complainants, the weight of logic, and the best interests of the railroads, are on their side.

The true policy for all the roads to pursue which share in the traffic to and from this Territory, is to build up the latter, and foster its mining, manufacturing and commercial interests. When the Union Pacific system fosters Oregon at the expense of Utah, and when the Central Pacific neglects its eastern for the sake of its western terminals, and when the D. & R. G. favors eastern points in preference to those on its own line, a "penny wise and pound foolish" policy is followed.

It is presumed that railroad officials are selected for their far-seeing financial ability and good generalship; and if these qualities characterize the heads of the freight departments of the roads with which Utah business men have to deal, the early success of the latter in gaining the points they seek is the more certain.

The D. & R. G. is shrewd enough to see the direction in which its interests require it to move, and has already remedied in great part the causes of complaint which Utah business men had against it, and has promised further concessions. That the management of the Union Pacific is feeling the pressure, is evinced by the fact that a representative of that road made the request in the meeting last evening that decisive action be deferred until Messrs. Monroe and Potter could reach this city and confer with business men here with a view to a peaceful settlement of pending differences.

In behalf of the officers of the latter road personally, it is but justice to say that, on account of existing complications between it and the government, they do not feel in a position to enter extensively into new measures or methods, but have felt compelled to follow a very conservative course for a time, and the recent sweeping changes