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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 31, 1906

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1906, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of officers and members is requested.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 8, 1906, at 7 o'clock p. m. Officers and workers are requested to be present and all the Saints are invited. The subject of "Parents' Classes" will be considered.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
General Superintendent.

A BURSTED BUBBLE.

The great water sensation which the city attorney and his assistant attempted to spring on Thursday, was flattened out and given its quietus on Thursday evening by Councilman Fernstrom, when it was brought before the committee on waterworks. Mr. Mulvey presiding. According to the assertions by the sensationalists, work on the conduit about which there has been so much controversy, was likely to be closed down for the alleged reason that "the city neither owned nor controlled one drop of the Cottonwood waters," which were to flow through the conduit into this city.

The impression was sought to be conveyed that the arrangements entered into by the former city administration, by which an exchange was effected between the owners of certain water rights in Big Cottonwood creek, and Salt Lake City, of their rights for water from the Jordan and Salt Lake canal, was in effect a "bumbo game" in which the city became the victim and the farmers referred to were the gainers. The Salt Lake public are familiar with the plans for an additional outlay of \$75,000 by the present administration for patching, plastering and covering up the conduit, and the question has naturally arisen, what is the use of spending that sum, or any money at all, on a conduit which cannot convey any water from the Cottonwoods, if the city doesn't own a drop of the water.

The resolution introduced by Councilman Ferry for an investigation to determine what rights the city acquired by its negotiations for the Cottonwood waters, was quite proper under the circumstances, for, in view of the rumors that had been set afloat, it became necessary to make certain whether the city would be able to control the water said to belong to it or not.

When the matter came up before the committee on Thursday evening, the statements made by the city attorney and his assistant in support of their sensational arraignment of the previous administration, collapsed entirely when Mr. Fernstrom presented the facts, substantiated by the records, and their whole structure fell flat to the ground.

We hope our readers have given attention to the report of the committee's proceedings, published in our local columns on Friday evening. In that a fair and reliable account of what took place is presented. We need not go into the details therein given. Suffice it to say, the rights of the parties with whom the city contracted were established by a decree of arbitration, issued by the board of water commissioners and approved by the district court, on Nov. 23, 1893. Those rights are defined and specified. They appear of record in the minute book of the district court. They could have been read and understood by the city attorney and his assistant, if they had taken the trouble or had the disposition to investigate.

In the contract made by the owners of those water rights, the city obtained all that those parties legally possessed and controlled, in exchange for water from the city canal. Whatever ownership or control those parties had under the decree of the court Salt Lake City now owns and controls, amounting to nearly one-half of the entire flow of Big Cottonwood creek. Thus the story that was given to the public to cast doubt upon the rights of the city to those waters, and to make it appear that the conduit is a needless piece of public work amounting to nothing but the weakest and thinnest kind of a partisan bias that can be of no benefit either to the public or to any one engaged in the silly effort.

The only excuse that could be offered for this agitation was the fact that the figures that appeared in the arbitration and the decree of court, defining the rights of the parties to the agreement with the city, were not

specified in the contract. But Mr. Fernstrom clearly explained the reasons for this, and the difficulties under which the agreement was secured, and swept away all pretended legal and logical objections that were interposed, by showing that the city was now controlling and using the waters of Parley's creek on similar arrangements to those in relation to the waters of the Cottonwoods.

The idea that the city's rights to the waters which are looked to for its permanent supply should be assailed by the city's legal representatives, must strike the ordinary observer as something very peculiar, and the agitation of the whole question suggests that instead of the public interests being held in view, an attempt is being made to cast improper reflections upon the previous municipal administration. This seems to be the sole aim of some members and officers of the present administration. It is unworthy of any cause or party or policy. We do not believe that all of the officers or councilmen are engaged in that kind of work.

Whether they are or not, we take occasion in a friendly spirit to point out the folly of such a course. It may seem to some of them that it would be a big thing to put the previous city government in an unfavorable light before the citizens. But they will find that the great body of the voters do not care anything about that, either one way or the other. What the people of this city are concerned about is the use of the Cottonwood waters for domestic and other purposes. All the stumbling blocks that have been raised in the way of this consummation have been regarded as partisan measures and not in the general interest.

It was claimed before election that if the party seeking to gain control should succeed, the great project on which the public depended for a permanent water supply would be impeded and delayed, if not entirely obstructed, and that all kinds of schemes would be invented by which "graft" could be secured. It will be very "bad politics" to give color to those forebodings by such tactics as are being used by certain individuals, at the dictation of the force which is alleged to be behind the whole movement.

Nothing will be gained by casting up mire and dirt against your predecessors, gentlemen. It will not make you look any fairer or finer in the public estimation. Never mind what they did or neglected to do. You are in face of a test which will demonstrate whether you are serving the public or trying to serve yourselves, whether you make a good record, or simply work to blot and disgrace the record of the past. Take our advice. Quit that kind of business.

Go to work and bring in those waters, the right to the use of which has been secured by the city. Push on the work of the conduit as economically as possible. Show that you are in earnest in seeking the general welfare. Stop quibbling over technicalities that are as worthless as peanut shells. Don't make yourselves ridiculous by wasting time over petty fogging pinpoints, but do something in the direction desired. Your partisan and personal jangle have no weight with the public.

The city needs that Cottonwood water. It has been desired for a great many years. Plans in that direction did not originate with the last city authorities, but they went to work to make those plans immediately practicable. Let them have the credit for what they did. The public approved of their action. Don't you try to misrepresent it or make capital out of belittling it. Leave it alone. Go ahead with the work necessary to be done. This will put you before the public in a far better light than as the detractors of former public officials.

You are on trial. You have no permanent lease of official life. Give this city a live and honest and capable administration of public affairs, and that will count a million times more than all you can do or say to make your predecessors appear small or ignoble. This is public sentiment briefly expressed, and upon your present course will depend your future status in the public estimation. Give us the needful water supply and stop fooling!

A QUESTION OF GLASSES.

To many it appears strange that persons sometimes so radically change their views and sentiments as to deny one day what they the day before asserted to be the truth; to slander and malign friends whom they have professed to love and revere, and to pronounce as black what they formerly affirmed was white, and evil that which they once knew to be good. But such curious phenomena may be accounted for on natural principles. It is not strange that minds sometimes become darkened and that the whole spiritual world, as far as they can see, becomes totally different from what it was before.

In the material world the fact is well known that the same room may assume totally different aspects, depending on the light that is let into it. It may at one moment be flooded by illuminating rays, and all the objects then stand out in their proper forms and reflect their true colors. Anyone in the room can perceive them clearly, if he has eyes with which to see. He can talk intelligently of what he sees, because of the light that reveals all. But if the light is excluded, the scene is changed. Form and color fade away to the observer, although they exist just as they did before, and there is no more perception. The eyesight may be as perfect as ever, but without light, it is of no use.

Again, everyone is familiar with the change that apparently takes place in the world, when colored glasses are placed between it and the eye. Seen through a pair of blue spectacles the entire world will look blue. Trees, grass, houses, animals, all will appear to be blue. The change is instantaneous. A man accustomed from infancy to seeing the world through colored glasses would, no doubt, ridicule those who should declare that there are many and various colors. Often

people engage in disputes over facts which each one sees through his own glasses, and they cannot agree, because unwilling to discard the mediums that impart the color to what they view.

That is, metaphorically speaking, the trouble with many who see different from what they once did. For some reason or other, generally through transgression, they lose the light and are left in partial and total darkness. They are then unable to distinguish truth from error, and their reasoning upon such subjects is as rational as the dispute of blind men upon forms and colors of objects they have never seen. Or, for some reason or other, they have commenced to see their surroundings through the black glasses of hatred, or the green goggles of jealousy, or the yellow spectacles of envy. Consequently all is changed to them, though not in reality.

There is no other remedy than to take off the goggles. The world is there in all its beauty of form and splendor of color. The friends are there, as full of love and self-sacrifice as ever. Truth has not changed its pure robes of white. Take off the goggles and look around without prejudice!

COAL MINERS' DISPUTE.

It looks as if a strike of coal miners, involving in the neighborhood of half a million workmen, is impending. There is little prospect of an immediate agreement between the laborers and the operators.

The dispute is as to the wage scale, which the miners claim should be raised; and also some other conditions of the labor in the mines, but the one of first importance is perhaps that concerning the recognition of the union. That has been the crux of many labor disputes in recent years, no matter what the points of difference otherwise have been. It is a pity that that question has not long ago been settled by legal enactments.

The general public may not feel competent to judge as to the merits of the controversy between the two parties, but all know that a prolonged strike would mean intense suffering among the workmen who are but ill prepared to support their families, without steady work and wages. All know from the past, the women and children will be subjected to unnecessary hardships and deprivations, and that the public estimation, never mind what they did or neglected to do. You are in face of a test which will demonstrate whether you are serving the public or trying to serve yourselves, whether you make a good record, or simply work to blot and disgrace the record of the past. Take our advice. Quit that kind of business.

The general public is also interested in the supply of coal. Modern industry cannot do without it. And not only must it be supplied in sufficient quantities, but at reasonable rates. Neither miners nor mine operators have the moral right to permit their disputes to assume such proportions as to render necessary the shutting off of the coal supply, and no conditions can arise that will induce the people to tolerate such an outrage.

The history of coal mining proves that neither operators nor miners are particularly sensitive to the rights of the public. They have acted as if they alone were the parties interested. But they are not, and therefore have no right to ignore the interests of the third party. It is time for the citizens to assert their rights, and by suitable laws compel arbitration, as a preventive of strikes. As it is now two influential classes of society declare war to death and carry on their battles on neutral territory, and when one of the combatants is exhausted, or when both are unable to fight, they come down to arbitration. Why not require them to arbitrate first? There is no other method by which such disputes can be settled.

A MURDER CASE.

San Francisco papers contain lengthy accounts, under blazing headlines, of the murder at Stockton of a miner, in all probability by a woman with whom he is said to have lived for several months, notwithstanding other kaleidoscopic marriage relations. His dead body was found by train hands at the railway station. It had been forced into a trunk left at the depot, and was discovered in consequence of the offensive odor emitted from it.

The tragedy is another illustration of the truth proclaimed from olden times, and so often verified, that the house of transgression is "the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." It was Solomon who said of the "strange woman": "She hath cast down many wounded, yea, many strong men have been slain by her," and history verifies this. More sanguinary tragedies, more bloodshed, more untimely graves are the direct results of transgression of the divine laws of chastity, than of any other of the many crimes by which human beings destroy themselves. Our pleasure-mad age does not appear to be sufficiently aware of the inevitable consequences of transgression of those laws.

The officers whose duty it is to prosecute the suspected murderers, express astonishment at her nerve. The District Attorney says that in all his experience he has never seen her equal. He never saw an accused person more cool or unconcerned. She seems to take everything as a matter of course, and is as much interested in what goes on about her as though she were on a pleasure trip or sightseeing. Her acting is said to be perfect. In telling her story, much of which is known to be fiction, she is neither hysterical nor brazen; just calmly confidential, self-possessed with the self-possession of feigned innocence. She has rehearsed that story, it seems, until it has hypnotized her into the belief that no one can doubt it.

It is a psychological puzzle that criminals, of what has been called the weak sex, often display more real strength in the supreme test, than do those of the other sex. It is equally strange

that women, when they embark on a criminal career, do so with much greater deliberation and keen eye for all the details than the men. French criminologists have pointed out that if in a criminal scheme the most minute points are taken into consideration and never lost sight of, it is practically certain that the conception and perpetration of the crime are mainly the work of a woman. It is therefore not so strange, after all, if this woman has made up a story in which she places perfect confidence for her defense, because of the attention given to every detail of it. With that class of criminals, that procedure comes natural. The officers, however, are not deceived. They are said to have the facts before them, and the ends of justice will be fully met. Judging from the reports, the case bids fair to become one of the "celebrated" murder cases of the country.

One becomes an "accomplished member of society" by becoming rich.

The only places that should be "wide open" on Sundays are the churches.

For a higher wage the coal miners propose to wage war to the bitter end.

Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy and refrain from April fool jokes.

It may be that the Standard Oil has no master mind but it has a master hand.

And now St. Louis wants the national capital. It surely will be a long felt want.

The earth is soon to be weighed. It is to be hoped that it will not be found wanting.

District Attorney Jerome having got his special grand jury, people will naturally look for some grand results.

Yale is going to have a professorship of lumbering. Couldn't she lumber along a little longer without a professorship of R?

The editor of Harper's Weekly says President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton, N. J., has no enemies. He can hardly be so negative.

If the strike of the coal miners goes, as now contemplated, there will be more April fools in the land than people bargained for.

Mr. Carnegie is in favor of government control of railroad rates. He doesn't go so far as to advocate government control of rates for steel rails.

And now Jack London has been accused of plagiarism. Only a short while since he was accused of anarchism. He doesn't mind it a bit as it all helps the sale of his books.

General George W. Davis, formerly of the isthmian canal commission, and governor of the canal zone, and later chairman of the board of consulting engineers, favors a sea-level canal. The general's head is level.

The more desperate, abandoned and notorious the criminal the harder his lawyer always works to turn him loose on society again," says the Chicago Tribune. Certainly, for the more desperate the case the bigger the fee.

Senator J. Ralph Burton's attorneys have filed a brief in the U. S. supreme court declaring that the integrity and perpetuity of our form of government are menaced if it shall be held that a jury of twelve men, upon purely a political question, such as this, can create a vacancy in the United States Senate. And for more than a century and a quarter the American people have been taught the jury system is the bulwark of their liberty. That teaching still goes.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Christian Intelligence.
These considerations make pertinent the suggestion of Dr. Wenner of this city that a modification of the plan adopted in France be introduced in our American system. There, one whole class is surrendered to religious instruction under direction of the Church. He suggests that surely here a half day, e. g., Wednesday afternoon, could be surrendered to the churches for such instruction as they may provide. Under this plan the school curriculum could be arranged so that the absentees should not suffer serious loss, and the religious instruction need not be turned into the street. Under it the attendance on the instruction given by the church should be the basis of an encouragement as they may provide. When the importance of systematic religious instruction of the children is considered, this suggestion is worthy of careful consideration. There are difficulties in working out such a scheme, but they are not insuperable, and the end to be attained is well worthy of the effort. It is the able soldier, who himself has served in the Philippine Islands, in an interview, recorded by L. O. Thayer, in the current number of Leslie's Weekly, defends the honor of our troops, and tells why it is necessary to strike hard in battle with the ferocious and treacherous Moros. Additional timely features of the issue are a page of photographs showing the havoc wrought by the recent cyclone and tidal wave in the South Pacific Islands; a well-illustrated article by Eleanora Franklin on the famine and misery in Japan. A drawing on the front by H. G. Dart shows the airship of the future in full operation. -225 Fourth Ave., New York.

The Cultivist of Cincinnati and Tomorrow Magazine of Chicago have now consolidated, and the result is a considerably enlarged publication. Warren Hurt and Margaret Warren Springer have been added to the editorial staff. -2235 Calumet avenue, Chicago.

Boston Transcript.
In the March number of the magazine of the American Bible League, the Bible Student and Teachers' Rev. William H. Bates, D. D., of Pueblo, Colo., has an article on "The Bible in the Light of Modern Thought," in which he says: "In 1894 there was a congress of Bible scholars at Detroit. Highest criticism was much in evidence. President Harper and other luminaries were there. Howard Osgood, one of the Old Testament experts, professor of the Old Testament in the University of Rochester, was also present. When his opportunity came to speak, he read a paper on the subject of the Bible. He said that he had asked if those who correctly represented the position of the higher critics. President Harper

and others assented. Then, holding up a book, he called the attention of his auditors to the fact that the propositions he had read were extracts from the writings of the infidel Tom Paine! Consternation and confusion reigned for a time in that congress. The next day the Associated Press had not heard of it!"

The Congregationalist.
I am bound to believe in three things concerning our American Christianity. The first is that the incarnation will be a profounder and a more intelligent faith. The ideal expression of the moral life of God in Jesus Christ will be a deeper insight for our successors and a more precious possession. The universal expression in man of the moral order in the being of God will be held in a stronger grasp and a deeper regard. In the moral constitution of the race, and in the Supreme Leader of the race, men will more and more look for the expression of the moral being of God. Christ is light, absolute and infinite. Christ is the light of the world, the apostle from the Father of light. He is the light of the world, in Christ and in the true disciples of Christ is bound to prevail.

JUST FOR FUN.

The Supreme Test.
(From an Exchange.)
He had called at a house in the suburbs on business, and as he rose to go he said:
"I believe you were in the lake district last summer?"
"Yes."
"Go fishing?"
"Catch anything?"
"One little perch."
"Ho, ho, ho! That's what I expected. Well, good-night."
When the caller had gone the wife said, indignantly:
"Richard, how can you sit there and tell stories in that bold way? You know we caught over twenty fish weighing five pounds apiece, and that big jack weighed eleven pounds."
"My dear wife," returned the husband, soothingly, "you don't know human nature. That man is not willing to take my word for \$500. If I had told him of those fish he would have gone away believing me to be the biggest fibber in the kingdom."

Ups and Downs of Politics.
Crosby, though ambitious for political preferment, had about made up his mind that public office was not for such as he.
"There's a popular prejudice against rich men," said Crosby.
The committee whispered apart for a little.
"Sir," said their spokesman at length, "we advise you not to give up."
"No," said Crosby. "What then?"
"Give down," said the committee, as with one voice.
Such, it is believed, was the beginning of the campaign fund.

Stude and Ungentlemanly.
Oldham—"You don't seem to like these wines. Gayboy, who dined with me the other day, told me he thought they were the finest he ever tasted."
Wrounder—"Well, that shows that Gayboy is a true gentleman. He'd rather lie than seem to be discourteous."—Chicago Tribune.

There in Spirit.
The last snail had just been ordered from Ireland.
"Well, I'll have to go," he hissed, "but if you keep on drinking Irish whisky you won't know the difference. Angerly shaking the dust from his tail, he writhed up the gangplank—Philadelphia Ledger.

Breaking It Gently.
"Harold, are you sure you can support me in the style?"
"To which you are accustomed? Yes, dear, but I can't support you in the style to which I am accustomed. My salary will have to do for two hereafter, you know."

A Penny Saved.
A penny saved is frequently a penny that somehow worked down into the pocket of some coast-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.
The April number of The Black Cat comes with the following five short stories, all written in the style for which this little magazine of fiction is renowned: "He," a \$200 prize story; "Amos Clubb, Detective"; "The Menace of Shin-Bar"; "The Sole Survivor"; and "The Reign of King Leo." Short-story Pub. Co., 144 High St., Boston, Mass.

"Gotham in Golden Chains" is the title of an article by John Coulter in the National Magazine for April. The same magazine contains three striking character studies of famous men: "The Queen of the Heights," a beautiful poetic essay by Charles Warren Stoddard; "Fighting Joe Wheeler," by W. F. Melton; and "A Day With Markius It," the foremost statesman of Asia, by Yone Noguchi. Minor notes on celebrities are: "In Memoriam: Frederic Lawrence Knowles," by Aloysius Cole; "The Passing of Jules Verne," by Sarah D. Hobart; and "Arriving the 'Man of Destiny,'" a curiously interesting new anecdote of General Grant, by J. A. Dobson. There are fine stories by Mark Twain, H. C. Gaus, Rhoda Cameron and C. W. Tyler; and notable poems by Catherine Jewett, Ernest McGaffey, Frank Putnam and Alex. Derby. Joe Mitchell, Charles' "Affairs at Washington," Gilson Willet's "Adventures of a Special Correspondent" and Frank Putnam's "Note and Comment" afford fresh and breezy glimpses of current life in many lands.—Chapline Pub. Co., Boston, Mass.

The fierce criticism excited in certain quarters by the recent signal victory of General Wood and a handful of American soldiers over a band of Moro outlaws in the Philippines finds no approval with Brigadier-General Frederick D. Grant. This able soldier, who himself has served in the Philippine Islands, in an interview, recorded by L. O. Thayer, in the current number of Leslie's Weekly, defends the honor of our troops, and tells why it is necessary to strike hard in battle with the ferocious and treacherous Moros. Additional timely features of the issue are a page of photographs showing the havoc wrought by the recent cyclone and tidal wave in the South Pacific Islands; a well-illustrated article by Eleanora Franklin on the famine and misery in Japan. A drawing on the front by H. G. Dart shows the airship of the future in full operation. -225 Fourth Ave., New York.

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