

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-fifth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, October 5th, 1894.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
First Presidency.

### THE UTAH COMPANY.

The people of this Territory are to be congratulated on the organization of the great Utah company, particulars concerning which will be found in another column. The magnitude of the properties involved, the objects of the corporation as set forth in its articles—above all, the names and influence and reputation of the chief stockholders, are a sufficient assurance that in the Utah company the Utah people are to have a strong, staunch friend, and the new State a potent factor in the promotion of its material prosperity.

To the stranger unfamiliar with the aims and methods of the leaders of the people who settled Utah, it will doubtless seem strange that the First Presidency of the Church should embark in an enterprise so immense as this and assume temporal burdens and responsibilities of such tremendous weight. Not so, however, with those who have watched or have been identified with the strong practicality of the "Mormon" religion. From the very beginning its leaders have inculcated by precept and example that temporal salvation was essentially a part of the Gospel. If they preached godliness on Sunday and in their family circles and public assemblages, they also taught and labored for the literal building up of Zion. They served the Lord not only in tabernacles and temples, but also in redeeming the deserts, beautifying their abiding places, developing and utilizing their resources, sustaining one another, and contributing to the support and comfort and happiness of the whole. Hence they were ever foremost in building canals and mills and factories; were the promoters of explorations and colonies wherever the opportunity for settlement was inviting; were ready to give of their time and influence and counsel and means to any and every enterprise that promised good results to the community at large. Thus they have been fathers to the people in more than a spiritual sense; and the benefits of their parental care are seen in Utah and the neighboring states today, and

would be still more visible had their advice and example been more closely and continuously followed.

As to the Utah company, therefore, while its principal stockholders are identified with it as individuals and not in the capacity of the First Presidency, their purposes will be understood and appreciated as in direct line with the policy alluded to. No man will venture to impugn the motives that have actuated them. For months and months the matter now consummated has been engaging their attention. Recognizing the responsibilities that rest upon them as leaders, they could not feel justified in folding their arms supinely and allowing things to drift, without at least an effort to bring about a change for the better. Sense of duty impelled them to use their influence, their credit and their means to advance the community's interest. No speculative inducement could have brought them to accept the cares and burdens thus voluntarily assumed. But full of faith in the resources of our Territory, hopeful of the encouragement and support of the people, conscious of the necessity that is every day apparent for a radical change in our position of dependence—we might almost say of industrial serfdom—they have conscientiously and courageously faced the situation. Some one had to do it; some one had to lead out, to devise ways and means for furnishing employment, to institute measures of temporal deliverance, to rescue the community from the vassalage in which conditions have placed it. Who could better attempt it than these men—whose life and work in the public interest have been before the people, whose high-mindedness and integrity are above suspicion, whose names are a synonym for honor and justice, and in and for whom every one who ever met or heard of them has the utmost confidence and esteem? No wonder the organization of the Utah company has made a profound sensation and has been received with joyful satisfaction by the business community at large. It opens to view future possibilities and achievements of the highest character, and means much more to the material advancement and welfare of Utah than any present observer can tell.

Just what enterprises will first be put under way may not now be stated. It is impossible in a scheme of such magnitude to present in the outset an accurate forecast of the details of the work. But time will rapidly develop them, and as fast as prudence will allow they will be presented for public inspection and approval. This much, however is sure: whatever shall be done will be in the interest of the people, and in every beneficent result that shall be accomplished, they and all of them will be entitled to share.

### PROTECTING PROPERTY.

The news brought in the dispatches regarding the destruction of sheep in southwestern Colorado will be accepted as an evidence of the incapacity or

unwillingness of county and state officials to protect property rights in that part of the country. If the officers were doing their duty there would be found no excuse for the wholesale butchery of sheep, and the perpetrators of the bloody work would be hunted down and punished. It is not difficult to comprehend that individuals who would, in the spirit of revenge, kill four or five thousand sheep belonging to other people, would not hesitate greatly in wreaking bloody vengeance on the owners of the animals if opportunity offered. Whoever has been guilty of this wholesale slaughter, committed without a shadow of justification in the law and in line with the secret work of the assassin, is an enemy to public peace and safety; and officers who would connive at his escape from the penalty of the law belong in the same category.

It may be urged that the sheep owners have overrun the ranges, to the injury of the cattlemen's interests. Suppose that were true, it does not afford any excuse for the cowardly work of which the cattlemen are said to have been guilty. If they have sustained an infringement of rights, they had a legal means of redress; but by their recent action they forfeit any claim to public sympathy. The fact that they have taken it upon themselves to drive out the sheepmen by such means argues that they have neither law nor justice on their side, or they would have invoked these instead of adopting the methods of the border ruffian.

It is to be hoped that for the fair name of Colorado the officials there will rouse from their apathy and sift this matter to the bottom, bringing the culpable parties to justice. Whether cattlemen, sheepmen or others are at fault, they should be made to realize the supremacy of the law, and the fact that it is a guaranty of a republican form of government in America that individuals shall not be deprived of property without due legal process. In more than one way this guaranty has been set at naught in the Centennial state. With this latest striking instance, the honor of that commonwealth is at stake to call a sharp turn in affairs, that Colorado lawlessness may not become a by-word in the country.

### THE GOVERNOR IS RIGHT.

Without any malice, or ferocity, or anything of that kind, the News ventures to say for the great majority of the people of this Territory that in refusing to commute the sentence of death passed upon Enoch Davis for the murder of his wife, Governor West yesterday saw his duty aright and faithfully performed it. Of course there is much repugnance to the idea of shedding the blood even of a wretched murderer; but all the sympathy on hand should not be bestowed upon the condemned, a little deserves to be retained for his victim. Besides, the community itself has a right to be rid of such characters, and the law plainly says how they shall be removed. As we have examined it, there was no legal ground whatever upon which to base the recent request for executive clemency.