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

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NOTICE.

The Fifty-ninth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Thursday, April 6th, 1899.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY.

In a government like that of the United States every citizen has a dual responsibility; that is a privilege to exercise and a duty to perform. He cannot consistently be a mere silent partner in the great business of conducting the affairs of the nation. It is not enough that the voter shall go to the polls and cast his ballot for good and fit men for public office. He should take part in the proceedings preliminary to an election. His voice and influence in the primary are needed and are of primary importance.

"The stream cannot rise higher than its fountain," is a familiar adage. It holds good in politics. People are prone to blame public officials for many wrongs which result, chiefly, as they should know, from the stations they occupy, inefficiency or dishonesty. The power to put wise and honorable persons into office is in the hands of the voters, and if they do not use it, who is to blame but themselves?

"You I don't take any stock in politics," is a common expression from people who think, by holding such a sentiment they shine superior to the common kind of mortals. Yet those very men are the greatest grumblers against political evils; or "the wicked rule and the people mourn," whose fault is it in such a republic as ours? Is it not the fault of the citizens who hold themselves too high to get down to a practical part in the selection of its rulers?

It is argued by some persons who have taken part in the primaries that it is useless to attend those meetings because cliques of politicians most privately behatched and arrange their programs, binding themselves to carry it through. If that is true, there is nothing to hinder counter combinations, and a determination on the part of disinterested citizens to put down the political rings formed for personal ends.

One thing is sure; that is, if the better class of the community do not perform their part in political work, the other class will "run the machine" and rule in the land. They should be thoughtfully considered by all who desire the welfare of their country, and their acts should be governed accordingly.

Governor Roosevelt, at a club dinner in New York recently, administered a rebuke to those who hold themselves aloof from practical politics, on the ground that it is degrading to mix with the kind of people who control affairs. We commend his words, as follows, to all who take that view of the question:

"You cannot delegate your duties and privileges and remain free men in more than name. If you let a class of professional politicians do all the work, you may rest assured they will take all the rewards, and they ought to. You cannot govern yourselves by sitting at home and thinking how good you are. You have got to attend gatherings where the dross—not to call the special persons, and where you will meet people you cannot patronize, and who will get the best of you if you don't look out—lots of shy ones. One of the most amusing men on earth is the man who attends a primary for the first time. If he is true to his ideal, the man who governs himself he goes home and says politics is corrupt and vile. If he is worth his salt he keeps on going until he suddenly finds that he counts. So he is doing his share toward an American citizen, he ought not to be proud for doing it, but he ought to feel ashamed of himself if he doesn't do it."

WILL PROPOSE ARBITRATION.

When the Russian minister to the Vatican communicated to the pope the czar's proposition for a peace congress, his holiness at once gave his approval of the plan, and assured him of the cooperation of the Catholics. He added that, in his opinion, the establishment of a permanent international court of arbitration would be the most practical method of reaching the desired end.

It now appears that the United States delegates to the congress will lay before that assembly a plan for arbitration agreeable to our government and which, it is believed, may prove acceptable. Lord Salisbury, in his instructions to the British ambassador at St. Petersburg on the subject, stated that Great Britain was deeply concerned in the maintenance of general peace, and that "her majesty's government will gladly cooperate in the proposed effort to provide a remedy for the evil" of militarism.

If this be a correct statement of the attitude of the British government, as it certainly reflects public sentiment in her majesty's kingdom, the British representatives may be counted on to support our delegates. The United States, Great Britain and Russia should be able unitedly to carry a proposition looking toward international arbitration.

It is eminently proper that this country should take the lead in this movement. The United States have demonstrated to the world that different nations and interests can be united under one government. Have not more done on a wide scale what most of the European countries have accomplished to some extent on a smaller scale? Here it has been demonstrated that different nationalities, speak one a smaller or large so the European nations, can work together towards one common end. In Europe this experiment has not yet been tried to any great extent, and cannot be made until dynastic and other interests are placed second to the background.

The formation of an international court of arbitration would be a step toward the establishment of Russian interests, after the American pattern, and might eventually lead to a federation in which the propensity of war between any two of the Old World nations would be as obsolete as the supposition of an armed conflict between any two of the States is at present. With an international court established and recognized, "The United States of Europe" would no longer be an idle dream.

The friends of peace in this country have none to view the meeting of the congress with hopeful expectation. Secular and religious bodies have already, by resolutions, expressed their sympathy with the object of the assembly. Others should take the matter up and bring the world to be down as to the public sentiment in the home of light and liberty.

AGUINALDO'S PROMISE.

News comes from Manila that Aguinaldo has announced his intention to "march into Manila within twenty days unless the Americans withdraw in the meantime." As there will be no withdrawal, Aguinaldo can fulfill the promise only as a prisoner of war.

The little pronunciamento shows conclusively who is responsible for the armed resistance to the United States in the Philippines. At the outset of the rebellion it was announced that the insurgents were under the control of the leaders, demanding autonomy or death. It was asserted that the so-called "government" desired an American protectorate, but that the people could not be induced to yield. The attitude of the people is now represented by, when a general in whom they have unlimited confidence is holding out to them such views of victories and spoil.

The secret of the power of this chief over his followers, the Belgian consul at Manila ascribes to his kindness, justice and moderation. He is not credited with much ability or intelligence. As an illustration of his character, it is told that on one occasion he captured a rival officer who led a revolt against him. His friends advised him to put him to death, but Aguinaldo saved his life. Another young chief, whom the officers insist on condemning to death, is still a prisoner under the protection of the general. It is this trait of character that has made him so popular among the soldiers, that although he has many enemies among the officers, no one dares to attack him. If this is correct, it is further evidence that the responsibility for the continuation of the war rests with him, and that he could end it, were he a friend of the United States.

If Aguinaldo is a patriot, a Filipino George Washington, it should not be difficult for the American commission to treat with him. The American country, as officially declared, is "to make such disposition of the islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the inhabitants of said islands."

On this basis, and from the United States commissioners and the Filipino patriots can meet. But if Aguinaldo is merely a mercenary agitator, the way will have to go on until he is no longer capable of blocking the way to progress. Aguinaldo's hope seems to be that the country in due time will be tired of the irregular warfare and withdraw, but the United States can hardly afford to do that after having forced Spain to relinquish her sovereignty over the islands, and would lose much of the prestige gained by the brilliant success achieved in the war, if a fault were made before the Philippines are enrolled in the rank of free commonwealths under republican institutions.

BISMARCK'S FORECAST.

The "Reflections and Reminiscences" of Bismarck dictated by himself after his retirement from office contain, among other things, a forecast of Russia's future policy which, by the way, does not seem to indicate the part that country is now playing in China, nor the peace proposition of the czar. As commentated by the Literary Digest, the reminiscences of the iron statesman are this:

"As to Russia, what is likely to be her future policy? She will seem to 'thoroughly fulfill her responsibilities and ready for war.' She will not attack Germany, because such a war even if successful, would bring Russia no advantages. Nor will Russia attack Austria at once. But she will demand of Turkey the key to the Dardanelles, or to the Black sea, in the form of control of the Bosporus, and will offer in return a protectorate against England and other powers. The sultan will be disposed to consent, no longer having the power to refuse. Russia will be refused. Russia will fall upon him and overrun Moldavia. Then let England see Russia not have marched the fortifications of Constantinople. Russia will be in a position to say to England, 'Give up Egypt, and I will withdraw from Turkish east has to spend fortunes for Russia; Russia also will have to spend fortunes which can be utilized by the weight of reproaches and concessions. Her first object, then, must be to clear the Black sea and secure the key from the sultan by force, money or whatever. Should England let Russia against this? No. If Russia shall succeed, no power will dare to attack Russia's key position known. Germany would not be injured by Russia's gain. Austria, to the south, her interests might even be advanced by it. The czar gain Russia's good will by making it possible for him to do what he wishes."

Will this political prophecy be fulfilled? Our school purpose that an entire change of program would take place with the partition of China, but perhaps that is for a decade to be strictly drawn to be entered in the sultan's dominions.

HONESTY IN BUSINESS.

An Eastern exchange tells a little story which is good enough to repeat:

A lady went to a jeweler and ordered a ring of her own design. She insisted on having an estimate of the cost, and the jeweler said: "Well, I will run the job at $15."

When the lady called for the ring she was delighted with it, and the jeweler said smilingly: "There was a good deal of work on this ring." Astonished, the lady hastened to say that she would not pay any more than the sum agreed on. "Well," said the jeweler, "the work cost me less than my estimate, and I have made the price accordingly. Your ring will cost you only $12."

It is needless to say that the customer was both delighted and confused. To a bystander who had witnessed the transaction, and who expressed his surprise, the jeweler remarked:

"I do business at a certain profit, and guarantee both my materials and my work. When an estimate for work is handed upon, I make it a rule to charge enough, and invariably stick by my customer, the benefit of what it falls short. I don't work for nothing, and do not ask it from others. Sometimes, when I do a job with my mind to take an interest of satisfaction of the customer of patronage. You know something of the extent of my business, the number of hands I employ, and the trade I carry on. Well, I can afford to be honest, and I find it to be far the largest and most profitable trade in my line of any house within a hundred miles of here."

The above is narrated not as a fanciful sketch but as a fact. The business methods here explained would probably be considered by some as "too honest," yet it is evident that anyone known to deal with the public in such a manner would gain by the confidence exhibited. Everybody professes to believe in the old maxim of honesty as the best policy, but how many put it to a practical test in their daily dealings with their fellowmen?

TOO FLIP.

"An evening contemporary says the pope is worse and that his condition is critical and dangerous." The Times says he is in good health. Herald, March 21.

This is what the "News" did not say: "Notwithstanding frequent assurances that the health of the aged Roman pontiff is in the best condition, persistent rumors are still in circulation of a most disquieting nature. A recent dispatch from Paris to a New York paper stated, that it is known in the Vatican that his successor is to all appearance so near death that the question of his successor is already a subject for discussion."

And here is what the Herald has on its second page of the same paper that stings the above star on its editorial page:

New York, March 22.—A dispatch to the World from Washington says: Apostolic Delegate Martinelli, who is in constant receipt of news from Rome every morning, is frank in discussing the pope's condition, believes that the pontiff's advanced age renders it extremely probable that his end cannot be far off. A recent letter from a Vatican official quotes the pope as saying since his last attack:

"When I die, I shall not give much trouble to the doctors, nurses or servants. I am only skin and bones, and my life will go out like a lamp which has no oil to feed it."

Church officials here think that is just the way it will go to his relief, and that it already he is nearer the end than is believed in the country.

London, March 22.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: The pope is beginning to suffer from the effects of his exertions. Yesterday he asked one of his personal attendants how many in the congregation the attendant thought really enjoyed in his recovery. Then he added, despondingly: "What mockery it is to talk thanksgiving for my recovery. I shall not live a week." The exclamation was followed by a prolonged and shivering fainting fit.

It is suggested that the editor of the Herald should read his own paper as well as scrutinize contemporaries for the purpose of catching at straws. The "News" endeavors to publish the news, as it is flashed from afar or gathered at home. And no paper is responsible for what the wires waft over the land or the cable conveys under the sea. Our neighbor should not be too flip with its little pen-shooter but the pellets rebound on its Noble brow.

THE IRON AGE.

The Iron Age says pig iron is quieter this week. Probably there is less speculating at high prices.

Chatham is getting ready for statehood. One of its legislators has been arrested on a lottery charge.

A naval militia is about to be organized in Hawaii. Under good officers the Kanakas ought to be good sailors and marines.

The story that President McKinley will come West in the summer has been revived. He intends to Utah will not be low central than in the other states.

Indications for a lively contest in the Chicago municipal election next month are very strong, as 12,302 votes have registered this year, against 12,000 at the former highest registration.

Gen. Otis was to make a forward movement on the Filipino lady-bugs hours after the proclamation by the commission. As half the time has elapsed, sterling news may be expected soon.

San Francisco may fair to become a great money-lending center for the Eastern business, as the Rothschilds, and Drexel, Morgan & Co. of New York, have arranged to open big banks there.

A California photographer has secured from the Filipino leaders their photographs to circulate. He wants to take a photo that is at, to, in which he is not as well as to his business as the average newspaper reporter.

Gen. M. Hall Schoolfield, of Brunswick, is said to have calculated that if the pensions at the age of 65, 600 will live to be 70, 120 to 80 years and 17 to be 90 years old, while of 1,000 octogenarians, 4 have a fair chance to pass the century mark.

The proprietor of the Sorrel Windsor Hotel does not appear to be in much of a hurry to accommodate those who reserve rooms and pay for the insurance during all the time the hotel is made for occupancy.

A California retired gentleman named Tubb has gone to Honolulu in furtherance of a scheme to have Molokai, where the lepers of the Hawaiian islands are kept, made into a national leper settlement. Possibly the afflicted people now there will not relish their home being a dumping ground from other parts than the island group.

Taking the evidence given before the beef inquiry commission in Chicago, it is a wonder that Gen. Shafter's army was able to fight at all in the Santiago campaign. The American public will want something more than a few "cases" to be the reasons in reply to the evidence adduced.

The charity work of the American government in Cuba is proving exceedingly expensive, and may Uncle Sam be heavy these reconcentrados out into the rural districts, give them some farming implements and let them go, rather than continue the free soup business all summer.

The colony of colored people who left Oklahoma with the intention of settling in Liberia, Africa, have become weary after a week on the journey, and will probably settle in the vicinity of New York. Colonists who grow tired at a week's trip in this country would make a weak showing as workers in Liberia.

The work of recutting upper Egypt is now said to have commenced with the construction of a big dam across the Nile. Great Britain proposes to expend $500,000 a year for thirty years on the development of the agricultural region of that country by means of irrigation. It is thought 3,500 square miles can be added, in this way, to the arable area.

THE PEACE TREATY SIGNED.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The effort of the final conclusion of peace upon the action of the insurrectionary rising and the specially recruited regulars is of general interest and will doubtless be defended by the authorities general. It was recent the circumstances sought the regulars taken into the service, after the war broke, were promised their discharge as soon as the conflict was over. Of these there are between 20,000 and 30,000 enlistments. The volunteers enlisted for "two years or the war," and if it should be that they may be held from twelve to fifteen months longer, quite likely the need will not exist, as the regular and regular army promises to be large enough to meet all the military demands of the country, especially in view of the fact that the collapse of the Filipino rebellion is now believed to be a matter of a few days only. Should this anticipation prove correct an early return of the volunteers in the far East is to be reasonably counted on.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

When the signed copies of the treaty are exchanged the war will be legally as well as actually over. Then will begin the solution of the question whether Spain has not deceived the loss of territory and the United States lost by its gain. It will take many years for the correct answer to that question.

New York Evening Post.

Peace made with Spain is brought within sight by the action of the queen regent of Spain yesterday in signing the treaty, and real peace in the Philippines was thought at Washington to be, in the light of Gen. Otis's dispatches, only a matter of days. What the exact situation at Manila is, and by what means Gen. Otis expects to bring about the cessation of hostilities, we can only be guessed. * * * It is certainly to be hoped, for every reason, that the Filipino insurgents, whose membership is now complete with the arrival of Mr. Dewey, may speedily be able to secure peace.

New York Journal.

The signature of the treaty definitely terminates our position in the Philippines. Hitherto we have been acting simply under the law of self-preservation. The treaty of peace of August 12 gave us the right to occupy Manila. That occupation was challenged by Aguinaldo, who, with a Spanish subject, who, corresponding the engagements of his government, attacked us and compelled us to defend ourselves. Hitherto we have been officially offensive, but strategically and politically defensive. So, too, has been our occupation of Cuba and other towns which we should have to Alone if there had been only the Spaniards and ourselves to consider. Now the Philippines are ours.

Worcester Evening Gazette.

There is still much red tape to be handed in concluding the affair. In the first place, Secretary Hay must be formally notified of the fact that the treaty has been signed by the queen regent. This Spain must make her special envoy to bring the exchange copy of the ratification, and must notify this country when to sail appear. After the exchange of ratifications, one of the first things will be to arrange the details of turning over to Spain the $20,000,000 payment for sovereignty over the Philippines. The problem of transferring the money across the ocean will be left to the bank designated as Spain's fiscal agent. It is thought likely that the payment transactions will be concluded by early June.

GEN. OTIS'S TASK.

New York Evening Sun.

A Manila dispatch in The Sun reports "a Filipino military," who has been captured by the Americans, says that the chief force concentrated to the north of Manila numbers 4,000 men. The main army, consisting 10,000 troops, is concentrated at Malolos, the insurgent capital. It is the main army with which Gen. Otis will have to deal when he is ordered chosen by the Filipino generals. While it seems so inspirited, it is not rather shortsighted to talk of a consolidation of the situation in three weeks?

Denver Post.

If anything can be judged from this the assertion in the reports of the census that Hawaii Otis has thirteen hundred thousand Filipinos to deal with, or, in other words, 1,300,000 to 1,000,000 to 1, 1,000,000 to 1, 1,000,000 to 1,