

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted).
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets Salt Lake City, Utah.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):
One Year \$5.00
Six Months \$3.00
Three Months \$1.50
One Month75
Saturday Edition, Per Year 2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year 2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,
112 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 7 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City
as second class matter according to
the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 23, 1904

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-fifth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, commencing on Thursday, October 6, 1904. A general attendance on that day of the officers and members is requested and expected.

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

CONFERENCE NOTES.

The General Priesthood meeting will be held in the tabernacle on Friday night, commencing at 7 o'clock.
The special Priesthood meeting usually held on the day after conference consisting of the General Authorities, Stake Presidents and Bishops, High Councilors, Patriarchs, Presidents of Temples and Presidents of Missions, will be held in the Assembly hall on Saturday, the 8th, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. The members of the General Boards of the Sunday School Union and Y. M. M. I. Association are also invited to this meeting.
The General Conference will adjourn on Friday afternoon to Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.
Sunday School Union will convene in the Tabernacle on Sunday night, commencing at 7 o'clock.

THE "NEWS" AND POLITICS.

Some of the most ardent partisans on either side appear very anxious to urge the claims of candidates for public support, through the columns of the Deseret News. That is very natural, because they know that they would by this means reach a much larger number of the citizens than by any other journal. Also they know that some of the partisan papers are so unreliable and untruthful that their utterances have no weight with the thoughtful reader, and that their pretended political correspondence is evidently often manufactured by their own scribes, while such tricks are never resorted to by the "News."

But our friends should understand that the Deseret News is not taking any side of the contest between the genuine political parties in this State or in the Nation, being entirely independent on such matters. Suppose we publish today a communication eulogizing a Republican nominee for a public office, or setting forth his eminent qualifications for the position, and all that is thus said of him is true, would we not be under obligations, in fairness, to insert in our columns tomorrow or when desired, a response from an advocate of his Democratic opponent, which would be equally truthful and justified by the facts? When would the comparisons and controversies cease? And if we gave place to some articles and letters on such subjects and excluded others, would we not be charged with partiality, bias, "church influence" and other dreadful things?

Some folks are so unsophisticated as to think that because they are so earnest in the belief that a given candidate or party should be supported because that would be for the interest of the Latter-day Saints, or for the "entire State," that this paper ought to espouse that cause and urge its success. For the benefit of all concerned, we declare that this paper has no candidates and no party to press upon the people of Utah. There are members of each party on the staff of the "News" and among its employees in the various departments, but partisan arguments and strife are not permitted to enter into the work of this paper. Every person engaged upon it is perfectly free to take his or her own course politically as an individual, but the "News" is entirely independent. It will print accounts of political movements and matters of general interest, but has no advice to give as to persons or parties in the present contest.

Every legitimate political organization stands with us on equal grounds in that respect. We despise the tricks of the sycophants, defamers, mud-throwers, lie-makers and character assassins, but their libels are usually too vile to notice by way of reply.

Every voting citizen of this State is perfectly free to cast his ballot as he pleases, and we have no counsel to give on this subject but that no one should yield his right of franchise to the dictation of another, no matter who or what he may be or pretend, nor barter it for money, place or power, or suffer himself to be swayed from the path of rectitude by the wiles of the maligner, the threats of the blusterer, the bribes of the corruptor, or the influence of any kind of force or compulsion. Cast your ballots, friends, as freemen and freewomen, having in

view the welfare of the State and the Nation as reason dictates and God gives light to your own souls!

LET IT BE INVESTIGATED.

There should be a thorough investigation into the alleged incidents attending the demise of little Marcus Brown, who was drowned in the city canal in his course through the tunnel which he had entered in sport. It has been intimated that he was "smoked" back into the tunnel, or otherwise compelled to go on until he fell into the water, by older boys who are said to be in the habit of ill-using their younger school-fellows, as some brute archers will, unless they are deterred or prevented by a stronger power. From what we have learned, it appears that the unfortunate boy was more rash and adventurous than frightened or under compulsion. He might have been dared to go farther into the tunnel than others had gone, and lost his footing when the rushing water was reached. But this at present is only conjecture, and we think there should be a most diligent, prompt and complete inquiry until the facts are definitely determined. This is due, not only to the parents who are bereaved and in doubt as to the particulars of his shocking death, but to the school that he attended and the schoolfellows who are under suspicion. A rigid investigation is called for and we hope the whole matter will be fully cleared up, no matter what may be disclosed or who may be implicated. We believe, however, that the deplorable affair was purely an accident.

FOR CHARITY'S SAKE.

One of the characteristics of our time is the numerous fakes that exist and flourish in the broad daylight of science. We are accustomed to speak of the age of superstition, but truly it is doubtful whether the past centuries can show more confusion in the spiritual realm, than is now hampering the present generation. Religious frauds are very often harmless, and truth is best served by passing them by in silence. In fact, that very often proves their finish. But sometimes they assume such a form that it becomes the duty of the press to warn the public against being imposed upon.

Such is the case when religious fakery pretend to be the dispensers of charity, and under that pretense draw on the generosity of the public for their own support in idleness, instead of distributing the means gathered in accordance with the promises made to the donors. That is a kind of rascality, under the cloak of charity, that cannot be too strongly condemned. We have been informed that our city is, at present, not free from perambulating fakery who solicit money and goods for alleged orphans and destitute people, and keep what they obtain for their own use.

We should think the charitably inclined public would be more discriminating, even in well-doing. Why should they entrust the distribution of their bounty to strangers, even if these pose as street preachers? Why should they not first investigate alleged cases of destitution, before they give relief, and then see to it, that the means are not appropriated for other purposes? And if they have no time for personal investigation, why do they not entrust the carrying out of their intentions to men, or women whom they know and have confidence in? Nearly every church organization has its charity funds, that are handled by responsible persons. Then there are orphanages, hospitals, infirmaries, etc., with hundreds of opportunities of doing good. There should be no room for the class of mendicants referred to. If they are not personally known, or have no references, no credentials, they should be left alone, for true charity's sake.

THE KNOW-NOTHINGS OF OLD.

In spite of the Constitution of the United States, and in spite of the experience of ages in which that document is rooted, fanatics will wage war upon their fellow-men because of their faith. If history has a lesson plainer than any other, it is this, that persecutors always are in the wrong, and that, in the long run, their plans will be frustrated, and they themselves will be forgotten, or remembered only in the class of Nero.

Years ago our country had a Know-Nothing party which aimed at the control of national politics through antagonism to Rome. The party was long ago dead, but its aims and principles may be studied with profit by those who may be in danger of falling into the errors of that crowd of zealots. According to the Catholic Light, a paper published at Scranton, Pa., the oath and requirements exacted of members have recently been despoiled from cryptogram rituals in the State Historical society of Columbus, O.

Applicants for membership were required to answer such questions as these:

"Are you 21 years of age? Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, the Creator and preserver of the universe, and that an obligation at this time taken will be binding upon you through life? Were you born within the limits or under the jurisdiction of the United States of America? In religious belief are you a Roman Catholic? Have you or have you not been reared under Protestant influences? But the chief question seems to have been this:

"Are you willing to use your influence and vote only for native-born citizens for all offices of honor and trust in the gift of the people, to the exclusion of all foreigners and aliens and of Roman Catholics in particular and without regard to party predilections?"

Having answered such questions satisfactorily, the candidate was solemnly made to swear that he would "advance the interests of every native-born American citizen, especially members of this order, to the entire and absolute exclusion of all aliens and foreigners, more especially those who belong to the Roman Catholic faith."

Members could be expelled for various sins, one of which was, refusing to vote the ticket nominated by the order.

As already remarked, the party was dead long ago, and it would be well to

let its follies be buried for ever with it, but for the fact that such follies may serve others as a warning to avoid the pitfalls into which fools are sure to precipitate themselves, if left without anything to indicate the safe road.

A RUSSIAN SUCCESS.

How the Novoe Vremya, a prominent Russian paper, regards the Lena incident, is seen from this comment, said to be from its solemn columns:

"The appearance of the transport has already thrown a panic into the contrabandists of the Pacific coast and created a tremendous sensation throughout Europe, only showing how the slightest success on the part of Russia creates apprehension throughout the rest of the world."

Russian editors who look upon the arrival of the Lena in San Francisco as a "success," must be very modest. The boat came, humbly asking for shelter and the privilege of repairing, and in all probability it will not be permitted to leave port again before the war is over. And yet she is spoken of as a success? And she is said to have created a "tremendous sensation" in Europe! The Lena has succeeded in running away thousands of miles from the scene of conflict, and to hide in a neutral harbor. But that is not the kind of success a warship generally is expected to have in a war. If every Russian soldier were to make a similar run, on his own individual account, Russia would soon score at least 500,000 "successes."

PANAMA.

We do not anticipate much of an exodus of laborers from this part of the country to Panama, but the conditions in that interesting part of the western hemisphere are, nevertheless, of general interest.

According to consular reports, business will probably be good there for the next 10 years. The Panamanians are alive to their opportunities. Monopolies in the necessities of life have been forbidden; cattle, for breeding purposes, ice, guano, plants, seeds, machinery and materials for printing books have been placed on the free list—in short, almost every article or product necessary to the development of the country. The National Assembly has commenced to devise means for improving the country. Mansions and palaces, courthouses, police stations, school houses and other public buildings will be erected; roads are to be constructed; bridges are to be built across the streams, lighthouses are to be erected at the ports, rivers and harbors are to be cleaned, cities are to be lighted, and a general system of improvement is to be inaugurated.

But with all this in prospect, Americans are warned that they will find food and other living expenses abnormally high. They will also find the health conditions bad. It is first recently that attention has been paid to sanitation.

The shifty boss and a shift boss are entirely different.

How the correspondents will roast the censors "when this cruel war is over."

Carrie Nation wants to meet Bishop Potter in joint debate. In the subway joint?

In New York the question is often asked, "Who in the diggins is Higgins?"

A campaign is never really opened until the bung has been drawn from the barrel.

Not one of the candidates who have written letters of acceptance has used short hand.

What is the matter with General Kuropatkin? He has not retired for a fortnight or so.

The principles of the New Liberal party, boiled down, may be expressed in four words, "The gospel of hate."

Kuropatkin says that the Japanese tried to turn the Russian left and got left. He thinks it served them right.

It is pretty safe to say that there will be several presidential elections before the Panama canal is ready for business.

In co-ed. institutions the co-eds. should become trained nurses so that they might give first aid to the injured on the football field.

Are the coal men who combined, in defiance of the statutes, to raise the price of coal to be allowed to go unwhipped of justice?

Russia is sore over the success of British diplomacy in Tibet. And at present there seems to be no plaster anywhere to be had to put over her wound.

A posse of Kentucky feudists have left Breathitt county to rescue William Britton from the officers. They are determined that Brittons never shall be slaves.

Two Geneva scientists claim to have discovered that dentistry can be made painless by the use of blue lights. In the future teeth are to be drawn in the key of blue instead of with the old fashioned key.

J. P. Morgan has just paid ten thousand dollars for four collie dogs with pedigrees traced back to the collie that went into the Ark. Mr. Morgan has money, if not phsyche to throw to the dogs.

The first 25,000 of the souvenir gold dollars minted by the government to help along the Lewis and Clark expedition in Oregon have been delivered and are now to be sold for two dollars apiece. That is Uncle Sam's method of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before.

A library of 1,700 volumes on "Mat-

rimonial Institutions" has been given to the University of Chicago by Professor George Elliott Howard, lecturer of the university and formerly a professor of history at Stanford University. Some patriotic Chicagoan should endow the University with a companion library on "Divorce Institutions."

A thoroughly depraved and untruthful paper refers to the confession of the editor of a swindling eastern publication, now defunct, particulars of which are in the regular press dispatches, and remarks: "It is a good example for the criminal and gutter-snipe journalists to follow." Sure. When are you going to follow it? Is the general query to the libellous and vituperate paper aforesaid.

PEACE CONGRESS.

San Francisco Call.

The International Peace Congress will hold its thirteenth session in Boston during the first week of October. Thither delegates from a majority of the civilized countries of the world are to betake themselves in unselfish humanitarian devotion to the cause of the nations' good. Though the unlucky number of their convention seems to be signalized by a war the bloodiest of the generation, these delegates to the fostering of universal peace will, by the very fact of their convention, give earnest of the growth of better ideals in the world's councils.

Los Angeles Express.

When Tennyson dreamed of the furling of the battle flags "in the parliament of man, the federation of the world," there was little thought of practical application of the poet's imagery. But since then The Hague tribunal has been established, and now at St. Louis an official parliament of man is assembled and the spirit of its members breathes a desire for partial world federation.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The Interparliamentary peace conference which has been in session at St. Louis adopted two important sets of resolutions. It asked the great powers to intervene between Russia and Japan to facilitate the restoration of peace, and it set forth the need of another international conference similar to the one held five years ago at The Hague.

Work enough is provided in these great problems for a series of international peace conventions, and the Interparliamentary conference desires to see established a permanent international congress with periodic sessions to handle them, and such other similar proposals as may be made. That such a congress would be a most valuable instrument for promoting world peace cannot be doubted. It would be in a small way the beginning of a confederated world government, and might be the precursor of that great ideal of the far future, a world state.

New York Mail.

Interventions and congresses of the powers have played a part in recent history very different from the far-seeming professions with which they were launched. The Berlin congress, to stay the hand of Russia after its last war with Turkey, created a standing inferno in the near east in which Christian and Moslem populations are bled to death. The inference of Russia, backed by France and Germany, at the close of Japan's war with China, was the largest single factor in causing the present war.

New York Evening Sun.

Can we do anything? The members of the Peace Congress in session at St. Louis on Tuesday adopted the following resolution after the word "immediately" had been substituted for "at the proper time"—a very material change: "The Interparliamentary Peace Conference, shocked by the horrors of the war that is being waged in the Far East between two civilized states, and deploring that the powers signatory of the convention of The Hague have been unable to have recourse to the clauses thereof which direct them to tender their mediation immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities, asks the powers signatory of the convention of The Hague to intervene at the proper time with the belligerents in order to facilitate the restoration of peace, and instructs the Interparliamentary bureau to bring the present resolutions to the knowledge of the said powers." The intentions of the delegates may be most honorable, but they do more credit to their hearts than their heads. Intervention cannot be effective unless it is called for by both powers. It is certain that Japan is just as much opposed to meddling by outsiders as is Russia.

TEA

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