

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 12, 1903.

## THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle Salt Lake City, commencing on Saturday, April 4, 1903. A general attendance of the officers and members of the Church is requested.

JOSEPH E. SMITH,  
JOHN B. WINDER,  
ANTHON H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

## CHANGE OF FAST DAY.

As the General Conference will be in session on the first Sunday in April, it is deemed advisable that the fast, usually observed on the first Sunday in each month, be held on the last Sunday in March, 1903, in those Stakes and Wards where the officers and members in large numbers will attend the Annual Conference. This will apply particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and adjoining places. The Presidents of Stakes and Bishops at distant points will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

JOSEPH E. SMITH,  
JOHN B. WINDER,  
ANTHON H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

## BISHOPS, ATTENTION.

Attention is directed to the announcement from the First Presidency at the head of this column. It is hoped that there will be a full representation from the different Stakes of Zion, and from the missions in various parts of the world, at the Annual Conference of 1903. The monthly fast day, usually held on the first Sunday in the month, is to be observed on this occasion on the last Sunday in March. In those wards where it will not cause any serious inconvenience, the Saints in this city and county and some other places adjacent, should hold their fast meetings on March 29, as they will want to attend the General Conference on Sunday, April 5, as well as its other sessions. The Bishops should make arrangements accordingly. Those at distant places are not required to make the change. They can act according to circumstances and that which appears to them desirable. The Mutual Improvement meetings can be arranged for, suitable to the occasion. If proper notices are given in the respective wards in due time, there will be no confusion and no inconvenience arising from these instructions.

## THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.

In giving advice to its readers to follow the instructions of President Joseph F. Smith, as to minding their own business and abstaining from participation in slander, backbiting and evil-speaking, we had no intention to offer any such suggestion to a person or paper engaged in the dissemination of scandal and anxious to repeat with exaggerations every vile rumor, affording a chance to charge "polygamy" against some prominent "Mormon."

We directed our remarks especially to members of the Church who, as we said, ought to be "circumspect in their utterances," and who should not join in the circulation of reports unsupported by proof, and which are simply the scandal-monger's delight. We had no idea that hired Paul Pry, or dealers in purulent gossip, would imagine that we expected them to take notice of our counsel. However, if they please to take it to themselves, well and good.

It is doubtless the business of a public journal to print the news. It is not the business, however, of any decent paper to charge in sensational headlines, something totally unwarranted by the body of the article. Nor is it of any benefit to this community or to the general public, to make the unwise action of one individual in a religious meeting, the occasion to revive a scandal which was silenced some time ago through its utter lack of evidence to support it, and the repetition of which merely fans into flame the smoldering embers of prejudice fast dying out.

If a salacious story is started about some non-Mormon moving in certain circles in this city, whether it seems to have a basis of fact or not, we do not find those folks who are so ready to shout "polygamy" and to parade the names of men and women in print, so terribly anxious to give the details, nor pleading that it is their business and their duty to the public to gather and publish them. Court proceedings are a very different thing. If a crime has been committed, or if there is evidence sufficient for a public trial that is another matter. It is public property. Spending scandalous rumors of good people's sins is

to gratify suspicious minds and to damage if possible a whole community. Is not a public duty nor the legitimate work of any decent journal or individual.

We repeat our assertion that any person who violates the law of the land and should be amenable to the law, also that any member breaking the rules of his church is open to a trial before its courts for his offense. But evidence is required in both cases before conviction, and without it there can be no just judgment or punishment. We do not desire to screen anyone from the consequences of guilt; we simply desire the spread of scandal and the repetition of shameful gossip to the injury of the reputation of people who may be entirely innocent.

We wish further to reaffirm the statement that people are under no obligation to reply to the impudent queries as to their private affairs, put forward by reporters or others, for the purpose of dealing up a mass of slanderous and insinuations, guesses and innuendoes. Inquiries after legitimate news when made respectfully should be responded to, as a matter of courtesy, in the same spirit. But the journalistic garbage-gatherer, the fake "story" maker need not receive any consideration, and the manufacturer of libels, against the character of ladies especially, deserves such treatment as their nearest male relatives are able to bestow. That is the "suggestion" we have to make in this connection. Perhaps for the present that is enough.

## ANOTHER PEACEFUL BLOCKADE.

A rather curious story comes from Washington, to the effect that a U. S. squadron is about to cross the Atlantic and establish a "peaceful" blockade of the port of Lisbon. The object is to furnish the European powers a lesson as to the ability of this government to make war upon any European country.

The squadron is to consist of the Kearsarge, Admiral Barker's flagship, the Illinois, the Indiana, the Maine, the Iowa, the Massachusetts, possibly the cruisers San Francisco and Albany, and colliers and supply ships. In the lee of the Azores the fighting ships will be coaled and provisioned, so they will reach Portugal in readiness for action. The fleet will proceed as though war were actually on. The cruisers will scout in advance, and the supply ships will be protected by the battleships. The question is to prove to the world that our battleships can cross the Atlantic and then have sufficient coal and other supplies to conduct offensive operations on a large scale.

If this plan is to be carried out, the consent of Portugal must, of course, be obtained, and all suspicions of ulterior motives must be removed. The admiral in command will also lavishly entertain the nobility and naval officers of Portugal on his flagship, and visitors will be welcomed on all of the ships. It will be a demonstration of the meaning of the term "peaceful blockade," which caused some confusion when the "allied" fleets crossed over to Venezuela. This will be the only "peaceful" blockade so far on record.

But what would be gained by such a demonstration? If it proves that our ships can cross the Atlantic and then fight, it also proves that European ships can do the same trick in the opposite direction. What would be gained by such a demonstration? If the question is of giving our officers and men practice in war maneuvers, the contemplated trip may have its beneficial results, but if, as intimated in the Washington dispatches, the aim is to impress Europe with our naval strength, it will be a failure. The United States has already impressed the world with the magnitude of its wealth and resources. It is on the road to eminence in matters of art and sciences. It can leave the military honors to the countries across the sea. If they are content to excel in the carrying of burdens that retard their progress in every respect, we need not envy them. It may be all right for Uncle Sam occasionally to take a lift, just to find out what he can do in that line, but he would never play the part of the slave that perpetually carries the yoke. The United States will gain in power and influence by its traditional policy. The future belongs to the industries that build up the world, not to those that are devoted to destruction.

## MAN'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

There was a time when men generally thought the earth is the center of creation, and that human beings are the favored ones for whom not only the earth but the sun and the stars were created. In this view the earth was the most important planet in the system.

But science discovered new facts, and other conclusions were formed. In the new light, the earth became an insignificant part of the solar system. The sun was reduced to a rather inferior star, and man became a mere atom.

This view, however, is now disputed by Dr. A. R. Wallace, who is quoted to the effect that the sun is at the center of the universe, and that the earth is a very important part of the solar system. "Those," he says, "may be right who, holding that the universe is a manifestation of mind and that the orderly development of living souls supplies an adequate reason why such a universe should have been called into existence, believe that we ourselves are its sole and sufficient result, and that nowhere else than near the central position in the universe which we occupy could that result have been attained."

The prominence of Dr. Wallace in the scientific world has secured for his utterances on this subject almost world-wide attention. He is called the father of the evolution theory, for he was the forerunner of Darwin. In view of the latter's researches and speculations Mr. Wallace formed and committed to writing a theory of development by natural selection which was finished before the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species." The manuscript was actually sent to Darwin by Mr. Wallace for presentation to the Linnean Society. On reading it, Darwin found to his surprise that it contained in essence the

main idea of his own theory of natural selection.

In this controversy, as in others, there are clearly two sides, with some truth on both. As far as man is practically concerned the earth is his temporary abode, and to him the "center" of the universe. The sun is to him the great light of the day, and the moon and the stars the lights of the night. The earth is his alma mater. It is here that he receives his training for eternity.

But that does not say that there are not other worlds of equal importance to other intelligent beings. On the contrary, reasoning from analogy, we are forced to the conclusion that other parts of the great "mansion" have been prepared with equal care for the reception of children of the eternal Father.

## PREDICTED TROUBLE IN CHINA.

One is apt to consider the many rumors of impending trouble in China as emanating from a source that has achieved notoriety for unreliability, but a writer in Harper's Weekly calls attention to the fact that the most extreme view of the situation is held by a responsible and reliable party. In the person of Dr. Robert Colman, Jr., who for a long time has been a physician to members of the royal family. Dr. Colman in 1900 called that a war was inevitable. His prediction then came true. He again says it will come, unless the powers anticipate it, by a rapid advance on Peking.

Should hostilities once more break out, there will be a scramble for territory, and spheres of influence. Russia, Germany, France, and Great Britain will once more find themselves "co-operating" for the division of the land and the commerce of the Chinese. The position of the United States cannot logically be any other than it was during the last struggle. It will be to maintain the open door, no matter who gets the "sphere of influence."

Dr. Colman says that troops are now being drilled on the northern border, and that the insurgent movement is under the direct protection of the throne. China, he says, or rather the Manchurian dynasty in China, has, in fact, determined once more to try conclusions with the foreign devils, and generals and emperors are acting with a single mind and a single will.

## "THE MORMON AS HE IS."

The Oaks for March 7, published in Chicago, contains a special feature an article entitled, "The Mormon as He Is," by Robert McClellan. It is an impartial and truthful presentation of the subject, and will prove interesting reading to all who care to know something of Utah and her people. The author closes his article as follows:

"The Mormon is not going backward. His church is not losing ground. Those two facts ought to be well considered by even those most hostile to any doctrine ever promulgated by Joseph Smith or Brigham Young. That portion of the west which lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada promises at no late date to be occupied in the majority by Mormon farmers, Mormon merchants and Mormon financiers. The new senator-elect is one of the Apostles of the Church, a man of education, travel and means, with a pleasing address and wholesome character."

The article is prompted by the attack of Rev. Lellish on Senator Smoot, which the author characterizes as "a bit of meddlesome interference, such as the missionary the world over is too apt to carry into his work."

## NEW IMMIGRATION LAW.

The new immigration law provides for a tax of \$2 on every immigrant. This has to be paid at the port of entry by the owner of the vessel on which the stranger arrives.

The excluded persons are: Idiots, insane persons, epileptics and persons who have been insane within five years previous, paupers, persons afflicted with a loathsome, dangerous or contagious disease; persons who have been convicted of crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, polygamists, anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of all government or the assassination of public officials, women of bad repute and persons who attempt to bring in such women, and persons whose tickets or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who are assisted by others to come. But the act does not exclude persons convicted of a purely political offense; nor does it exclude actors, artists, lecturers, singers, ministers, college professors, or persons belonging to any learned profession, or persons strictly employed as personal or domestic servants.

Special precautions are taken against contract laborers. Immigrants will be closely watched. They are liable to deportation at any time within two years and from any point, all expenses of transportation to the port of deportation to be borne by the persons bringing such aliens. The penalty for violation of the law is \$1,000 for each and every alien unlawfully landed.

Scandal mongering is not news mongering.

This bill between storms might be called the mean time.

The vote on the Panama canal treaty will make Senator Morgan speeches.

Yesterday was the last day of the Legislature's sixty days, but the end is not yet.

Mr. J. P. Morgan has just arrived from Jekyll Island. Does he bring news of Mr. Hyde?

If the sun doesn't shine for all these days it shows its impartiality by not shining for any.

Kipling has written a peace poem. Is it a declaration of war against the poet laureate?

"There are tricks in all trades but hours," the legislator remarked when he stopped the clock.

"There is virtue in the Elkins law," says an exchange. It is to be hoped that it will come out on trial.

Mr. J. P. Morgan has returned to

his own dear native land. What's home without a Morgan, anyhow?

On his Yellowstone Park trip the President will seek rest rather than hunt game. May he not seek in vain?

The pugilists would do well to cultivate Anteus' chief characteristic, that of coming up stronger everytime they "go to grass."

The director of Yale gymnasium has invented a thought weighing machine. Can it weigh the thoughts of Yale's thoughtless youths?

Religious freedom in Russia! The czar's decree establishing it must be ranked among the great declarations of human rights. All honor to Nicholas!

Burke said that a whole people could not be indicted; but Judge Adams seems to be of opinion that a very large portion of the people can be enjoined from striking.

The Presbyterian ministers of Washington do not see eye to eye with the Ministerial association of this city on the Smoot case. The Washington ministers have much the better eye.

Representative Lacey of Iowa objects to Virginia placing a statue of General Robert E. Lee in the national Capitol. The gentleman from Iowa is entirely too straight Lacey'd.

Alfred Russell Wallace has been evolving new theories as to the center of the universe. No matter what theories he may establish Boston will continue to be the Hub of the Universe.

Ira D. Sankey, Evangelist Moody's partner, has gone totally blind. It will be no comfort to the great gospel singer to know that Homer and Milton, two of the world's greatest poets, were also blind.

The assertion that the tax-raising bill passed by the Legislature meets with the approval of the people of this city is so palpably untrue that it is amazing even considering the source from which it springs.

The Buffalo police studiously refrain from divulging the name of the woman in the Burdick case, though they know who she is and can take her in at any time. It is wrong in them to keep the public in suspense.

The Senate was not called in extraordinary session in vain. The committee on foreign relations has authorized a favorable report on the Cuban reciprocity treaty, and the Panama canal treaty is to be voted on Tuesday. Score one for Mr. Roosevelt.

## THE RETURN OF GORMAN.

Chicago Record Herald.

The return of Arthur Pue Gorman of Maryland to the Senate gives the Democrats a leader of strategic ability and of commanding influence. He has suffered no loss of prestige by his four years' absence from the Senate. On the contrary his leadership was promptly recognized by his election as chairman of the Senate caucus committee, which carries with it the positions of chairman of the caucus and chairman of the steering committee. All of which not only restores Senator Gorman to his old position as floor leader, but apparently assures harmony in the party ranks.

## New York Evening Sun.

The Gorman policy never changes. It is unobtrusive, subtle, now evasive, now aggressive, but always sleepless. Fine scruples never guide it and it can be as demagogic as Bryanism. But it always takes note of human nature and the credulousness of a people too busy to dig deep for the truth. As a result of the Gorman policy a danger on the uselessly optimistic and foolishly sentimental Mr. Gorman is an ideal manager for the bear garden known as the minority. He will subdue Tillman, put his hand over the mouth of Carmack, pull the coat-tails of Patterson at the psychological moment, and smooth Bailey to submission.

## Springfield Republican.

As a tactician, A. P. Gorman has no superior or equal on the Democratic side of the Senate, and his selection as chairman of the Democratic caucus and leader of the minority comes as a matter of course. But what the minority really needs in the way of leadership is not a shrewd parliamentarian, superior in obstructive tactics, but a man of forensic ability, courage and devotion to principle who will lead the minority up to an aggressive and enlightened policy of constructive statesmanship, and hammer at the majority from the standpoint. Unfortunately there is nothing in the record of Senator Gorman to prove him at all capable of any such leadership.

## Chicago News.

Gorman may not have a presidential boom but he has something which seems likely to inflict a severe puncture on the Parker and Garvin booms.

## ADMIRAL CROWNSHIELD.

Jacksonville Times-Union.

Admiral Crownsfield asks to be retired, and Secretary Moody has decided to relieve him from active duty at once, and will grant his request. Admiral Crownsfield lacks two years yet of the age of retirement, but no one will object to granting his request. It will not hurt the navy one bit.

## Indianapolis Journal.

There is a suggestion of smallness in Rear-Admiral Crownsfield's request to be placed on the retired list on account of dissatisfaction with the flagship allowed him. An officer of the army or navy is not expected to put his personal feelings against orders.

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