

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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THE DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 18, 1901.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, April 6, at 10 a. m.

LORENZO SNOW,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

MONTHLY FAST.

As the general conference of the Church will be in session on the first Sunday in April, the monthly fast which would otherwise be held on that day, will be observed on the last Sunday in March and the fast meetings be held on that day, March 31, 1901.

LORENZO SNOW,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene Sunday, April 7th, 1901, at 7 p. m. in the Tabernacle. It is desired that each Stake of Zion be represented at this meeting, and that Stake superintendents, officers and teachers attending the General Conference of the Church be present.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

GEORGE REYNOLDS,

General Superintendency.

HORACE S. ENSIGN,

General Secretary.

THE LATE LEGISLATURE.

The fourth session of the Legislature of the State of Utah ended its labors at midnight on Sunday. Its legal termination was on Thursday, but by the customary fiction, that day was supposed to continue until the work of the session was finished.

It has become the fashion in Utah to loiter during the beginning of the legislative duty, and rush toward the close. It is a bad arrangement, and reform in this respect is not only advisable but imperative. There is little or no preparation before the opening of the Legislature, and therefore it takes a long time to get its machinery in full running order. Then there are always a number of new and inexperienced members who have to be initiated into its rules and methods, and thus its movements are somewhat retarded. This accounts in some degree for the delay complained of.

The friction that occurs between the two legislative houses, forms another factor in the problem of prompt action within the time specified by law. It looks sometimes as though measures originating in one house, are opposed and occasionally killed in the other, out of rivalry or resentment. Unhappily taken at proceedings on either side, and legislation is measurably affected thereby. At any rate time is wasted by these disagreements.

The exceptions taken by some people to the so-called junketings of the Legislature are not to be considered very seriously. With the exception of the trip to Idaho, the visits of our lawmakers were strictly within the bounds of their duty, as they were made to State institutions which called for public support, and it was quite proper that they should be inspected and their needs investigated. The complaints made in this regard may be viewed rather as a social than otherwise.

The real thing to be deprecated is the haste which becomes necessary towards the close of the session, because of inactivity in the beginning. Measures are rejected in a hurry, only to be revived hastily and dispatched or passed with scant ceremony and slight scrutiny. Deliberation and calm judgment ought to be exercised over every measure and proposition designed to be embodied in the statutes of a State. Time is essential to weigh such important matters and to reach correct conclusions.

Altogether the Legislature has done a great deal of work and much of it is praiseworthy. We fear, however, it has added to the burden of taxation by some measures that have prevailed when the crying need of the times is for a lightening of the load and the relief of the taxpayers. This will be better understood when the powers given for this purpose are exercised, and the sums required are demanded. The people will then express their feelings in a manner that will be clearly understood.

We believe that the majority of the members of both houses have endeavored to carry out the wishes of their constituents, while a few have taken the ground that they were elected to press forward their own notions and opinions. Taken as a body, the Legislature has been conscientious and desirous of accomplishing good for the State.

In most of the measures adopted the Governor has been in harmony with the Legislature. Wherein he took a different view from that of the majority, he exercised the discretion expected of him and the authority vested in him. We believe he did this in all sincerity of purpose and with the conviction that it was for the best interests of the whole State. While the Executive is the servant of the people he is not expected to be either a puppet or a figurehead, but in legislative matters a balance wheel and a guide.

One of the evils of crowding bills through toward the end of the session is the pressure it brings to bear upon the Governor. He is compelled to work almost day and night, and measures that demand great care and deep thought have to be passed upon too hurriedly, and without opportunity for inquiries and explanations that might put them in a different light from that possible in hasty examination.

Whatever may be thought, however, about delay in the opening and hurry at the close, the fourth legislative session has been a busy and active one, and the best energies of the people's representatives have been employed. We hope much good to the State will result therefrom, and that the public will appreciate the services rendered by the intelligent gentlemen who have spent so much time and talent in the public interest.

The Deseret News has offered a number of suggestions during the session which have been adopted, and some that have not prevailed, but have had the effect at least of modifying the measures that passed. We congratulate all the Senators and Representatives of the work accomplished, and in the rest that will now succeed the weary toil of the last days of the session. May they enjoy "all the comforts of home" and the plaudits of "Well done good and faithful servants." Au revoir.

WHAT THE FIGURES TELL.

The New York World, by studying the figures of per capita consumption of food stuffs in this country, as given in the Statistical Abstract for 1900, has found out that a rather remarkable change in the diet of the nation has taken place in the two decades between 1880 and 1900. In the former year the people consumed 1.35 bushels of wheat and wheat flour, and 28.88 bushels of corn and cornmeal per capita, while last year the per capita consumption of those articles was only 4.74 and 21.44 bushels respectively. Thus in twenty years the annual consumption of cereals had been reduced over five bushels per head.

This is remarkable enough, but the increase in the consumption of sugar is still more remarkable. It was 12.9 pounds per capita in 1880, and 65.2 pounds in 1900. The remark is justified that it looks as if we, as a nation, were about to make sugar, instead of bread, our "staff of life."

The figures on the consumption of liquid refreshments are more than discouraging to the earnest workers in the cause of total abstinence. After twenty years of labor in that direction, it is found that the yearly consumption of distilled spirits is the same as it was at the beginning of that period, namely 1.27 gallons per head, while the drinking of malt liquors had almost doubled. But perhaps this is only in appearance a defeat for the temperance cause. No one can tell what the condition would have been but for the work of the temperance people. The craving for liquor, when habitually indulged in, increases. To keep the annual consumption of such beverages from growing to a ruinous proportion, is certainly a victory. The dikes that are constructed in order to prevent the ocean from inundating the land are by no means useless, even if they fail to add to the cultivable area. And on the same principle, the moral influences that keep vice from flooding society are commendable, even if they do not succeed in entirely stamping out the evils against which they are directed.

Another interesting lesson from census statistics relates to the land and water of the United States. It is shown, for instance, that Alaska has 580,581 square miles, while Texas has only 268,790; also that only six States, Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana and Maine have a larger water surface than Utah, which has 2,383 square miles of water.

The largest county in the Union is Custer county, Montana. This county, 26,489 square miles, which, it is pointed out, makes this one county larger than any of the following States: Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey or Vermont. Together, they have an area less than that of Custer. Other large counties are San Bernardino in California, 19,947; Lincoln, Nebraska, 19,437; Coconino in Arizona, 13,822; Nye in Nevada, 17,576; Chouteau in Montana, 16,945; and Socorro in New Mexico, 15,386. The largest county in Texas is El Paso, with 9,353. There are about 25 counties in the United States larger than El Paso. Rhode Island has the smallest county—Bristol, with 25 square miles.

PRESIDENT DIAZ.

Numerous reports are being circulated concerning the alarming state of the health of President Diaz, of Mexico. He is said to be dangerously ill, but there are different versions as to whether he is suffering physically or mentally, or both. Generally the rumors are regarded as canards hatched at El Paso, or some other border point, but the well informed Chicago Record takes them seriously. That paper remarks that, "Evidently the health of Diaz is broken, and the assertion that he is hopelessly insane comes well authenticated."

Diaz is 71 years old. He has been president since 1877, with the exception of four years. He is prominently identified with the history of his country, having taken part in all its wars and revolutions, since his early youth. Should it prove true that his

health is broken and that he is now near death's door the anxiety felt for him would be almost universal. The question is whether the Mexican Republic can be maintained after his death without an internal struggle in which perhaps other powers might become involved.

It has been said that no country in the world has shown so much social, moral, and industrial progress as Mexico during the administration of Diaz. When the character of the people of that republic is considered this fact speaks volumes for the sterling qualities of the mind that has directed this progress.

There is no need of worrying over the possible fate of Mexico at the present time, at least not till confirmation is obtained of the alarming rumors as to the health of the president. No doubt there are rival factions in the country, but might seem an opportunity of declaring open hostilities. But there are enough intelligent, patriotic Mexicans in the country to lead the ship of state onward in the course set by the present chief executive. Those Mexicans know that internal troubles in a state bordering upon a strong country, by which the peace and the commerce of the latter are disturbed, is suicidal. They will do all in their power to maintain peace and order.

A BABYLONIAN MYTH.

An interesting Babylonian myth has been deciphered from cuneiform tablets in the British Museum. It is supposed to relate to the first man, and critics see in it some slight resemblance to the narrative in Genesis about the expulsion of our first ancestors from the Garden of Eden. Professor Zimmern, of the University of Breslau, gives this Babylonian myth in a brochure, from which the Literary Digest quotes as follows:

"Adapa, evidently the first human being according to Babylonian tradition, is the son of the sea-god Ea. The latter has created him and endowed him with great wisdom, but has not given him immortality. Adapa lives in the sanctuary of Ea in Eridu, at the mouth of the Euphrates and Tigris. Here he acts as the capacity of a priest of Ea, and among other things he is charged with catching fish in the sea near by in order to supply the sanctuary. One day, as he is out on the waters in the pursuit of his calling, the sea is suddenly lashed into fury by a sudden south wind, and the boat in which Adapa is seated is overturned and he himself is cast into the sea. As a punishment for this, Adapa is seized and bound, and breaks one of his wings, so that for seven days he is not able to fly over the land. And the god of heavens, Enlil, who is the ruler of the world, sends his messenger to the earth in order to call Adapa before him to give an account of his deed. Ea instructs Adapa concerning the things in heaven and what he can expect there at the hands of Enlil. 'When you appear in the presence of Enlil, they will offer you the food of death—don't eat it! They will give you water of death—don't drink it! The messenger of Enlil arrives and everything happens as predicted, with the exception that instead of the food of death, he eats the food of life, and the water of death, he drinks the water of life. But, obedient to the command of Ea, Adapa refuses to take this food and drink, and thereby forfeits his chances of obtaining immortality. Enlil says: 'Let for him the food of life and let him eat!' And they brought him the food of life, but he would not eat it. Water of life was brought, and he refused to drink. In amazement Enlil says: 'Adapa, why did you not eat and why not drink? Now you shall not live!' And he commanded: 'Take him hence and return him to the earth.'"

The supposed resemblance of this myth to the Bible narrative is that in both the first progenitor of man lost immortality by not eating "the food of life." But since every other detail is different in the two, it would certainly be rash to conclude that one is but a corrupted version of the other. At the time of Moses, the various nations had, we may conclude, various myths and legends concerning antediluvian events. He, being versed in the learning of the Egyptians, no doubt was as familiar with them, as is today a professor of history with the data recorded in historic times. Being guided by the Spirit of Truth, he, when compiling the first chapters of Genesis, which may be regarded as a preface to his history of the Hebrews and their laws, led to reject all that which was of a legendary character and to preserve the authentic substrata on which the myths had been built up.

The accounts with which scientists are unwinding the mysteries of the long past ages is one of the remarkable features of our time. If the present pace of progress is not interrupted by wars, and commotions of universal reach, or by cataclysms, it is probable that in human history may be traced back to the very infancy of man.

And there are signs that point to this continent as the cradle of the race. If Mr. Plongeon is correct, there was a time, long ago, when the American people dominated the world, as the Anglo-Saxon race does today. Their ships went westward over the Pacific and eastward across the Atlantic. They founded colonies everywhere. They gave to other nations their language, their philosophy and their religion. They made maps, observed the stars, cultivated the arts, and were mighty in war. What a wonderful field of investigation these suggestions open up! And how truly wonderful that such truths should first occur to an illiterate boy! Inexplicable upon any other supposition than the true one, that to him it was given in this age and generation, to "commune with Jehovah." And to be enlightened by that divine Spirit in whom all "live, move, and have their being."

EXCOMMUNICATION OF TOLSTOI.

The examination of Count Tolstoi was publicly announced a few days ago. The document formulated by the authorities of the Greek church is remarkable for its temperate tone, and it proves that the world is moving even in Russian ecclesiastical circles. It sets forth that the count "to the grief and horror of the whole Orthodox world, has, by speech and writing, unceasingly striven to separate himself from all communion with the Orthodox church, and this not only clandestinely, but openly, and in the knowledge of all persons." All attempts to dissuade him from his conduct have proved without avail. Consequently the Orthodox church no longer considers him to be one of its members. And it does with the earnest hope that he may be restored to truth and the orthodox church.

The Boston Transcript compares this excommunication to that which severed Spinoza from the Roman church in 1656. That document said:

"By the sentence of the angels, by the decree of the saints, we anathematize, cut off, curse, and excommunicate Baruch Spinoza, in the presence of those sacred books, with the six hundred and thirteen precepts which are written therein, with the anathema wherewith Joshua anathematized Jericho, with the curses wherewith Elijah cursed the children, and with all the curses which are written in the Book of the Law; cursed be he by day, and cursed by night; cursed when he riseth up, and cursed when he goeth out, and cursed when he cometh in; the Lord pardon him never; the wrath and fury of the Lord burn upon him, and bring upon him all the curses which are written in the Book of the Law. The Lord blot out his name under heaven. The Lord set him apart for destruction from all the tribes of Israel, with all the curses of the firmament which are written in the Book of the Law. There shall no man speak to him, no man write to him, no man show him any kindness, no man stay under the same roof with him, no man come nigh him."

Somewhat similar was the terrible pronouncement against Victor Emmanuel, in more recent times. That monarch was cursed in every part of his body, and in every act of his life. But the Russian excommunication carries no curse with it. It merely expels from the orthodox church a man who, in his senses, long ago has placed himself outside its domain.

The action of the church can, of course, have no special effect upon Tolstoi. His views are ripened and cannot be changed. In history his name will stand out among the greatest of Russian philosophers. And as for the hereafter, he will be rewarded according to his works. His assaults upon modern government have been made with skill and earnestness, and not without effect. And his writings will be read and studied, perhaps more extensively than ever. To the western world it is not clear that Tolstoi has antagonized Christianity, though he has assailed many abuses that obtain in the so-called Christian world, both in doctrine and practice.

MOSQUITOES AND FEVER.

Summer is approaching, and with warm weather comes the ubiquitous mosquito. And this reminds one of the bad reputation this insect, or some species of it, has established for itself during the last few years. It is no longer looked upon as an intolerable nuisance only, but as a dangerous pest. In fact, some diseases formerly ascribed to bacteria, or miasma in the air, have now been traced to the bite of the busy little insect.

The experiments with yellow fever on Cuba are of special interest. One fact has been established by them and that is that that disease is not, as formerly supposed, contagious. Subjects, liberally paid for exposing themselves to the fever, were placed into quarters where filth, moisture and heat were present, and they were kept there for a long time without showing any symptoms of the malady. They were even laid on beds in which yellow fever patients had died, but they were not affected thereby. But when placed in a room with the deadly mosquito or after holding their hands in a jar in which a dozen or more of the insects had been placed, they succumbed to the disease in from three to five days. The virulence of the disease was in direct proportion to the amount of injury inflicted by mosquitoes.

All this is very interesting. But it remains to determine whether the mosquito is itself producing the yellow fever poison, or whether it merely is a conveyor thereof into the human system. The experiments should be continued. Perhaps they might lead to a reconstruction of the entire theory on the contagiousness of certain diseases. It may be found that medical science has not as yet spoken its last word on that subject. There may be more to learn yet.

It being established that the mosquito is responsible for yellow fever, the most practical question is how to cleanse the regions infested, from that pestiferous insect. But on that question but few practical suggestions have ever been made. Everybody knows that it breeds in stagnant water and that marshy ground generally swarms with mosquitoes. Proper drainage is therefore a natural remedy. The vigorous sanitary measures put in force in Cuba by the American authorities, materially reduced the cases of yellow fever there, either in lessening the number of insects, or by destroying their breeding grounds, or by removing largely the sources of supply of yellow fever poison. Sanitation did the work. And the Cuban experiments, though establishing the dangerous nature of the insect, also furnished a valuable lesson in sanitation.

Pat Crowe and Dewet are still advertised in the want columns.

It may be that Deseret has lost his mind and is mad, but there is method in his madness.

The Legislature has been slandering considerably of late. Now it has "moseyed" for good.

The candy makers have been holding a convention at Burlington. Every member had a pull.

Gen. Otis is reported to have said that he did not want to capture Aguinaldo. That wish was easily gratified.

Spain has gone on to the gold basis. Her credit is so poor that it matters little on to what basis she goes. Poor old Spain!

It would be appropriate to have Buffalo Bill open the Buffalo exposition. And with his trusty rifle he might "shoot Niagara."

Chicago wants the Olympic games in 1904. And yet Chicago has been holding out to the world the idea that she is opposed to gambling.

Marconi says that two hundred miles is the limit of distance at which wireless telegraphy can be employed. That fact shuts off gossip from Mars.

Why do not these big Filipino generals who are surrendering and swearing allegiance to America, tell Gen. MacArthur where Aguinaldo is?

News comes from Pekin of the physical collapse of Li Hung Chang. Very soon news from the same place may be expected of the collapse of China.

In Knox county, Ky., the other day, a mountain lion carried off a young babe. No doubt the lion was a household pet of some member of the "Chlor Invisibles."

Boston spends more per capita, on public libraries than any other city in the Union. And that is one of the ways Boston keeps intellectually ahead of the rest of the country.

All the powers are wondering what Russia's policy in Manchuria is. It seems to be to stay there. And none of the powers are, apparently, inclined to tell her to "keep off the grass."

At Omaha the other day the cow Sweet Violet was sold for \$3,765, five dollars more than the heretofore unapproachable Carnation sold for. But \$3,765 is a long price for a shorthorn.

The great and glad news comes from across the Atlantic that M. de Rodays will recover from the wound inflicted by Count de Castellanos. Had the count sniped him on the hip as well as thigh perhaps he would not.

It is said that Mrs. Potter Palmer purposes to overthrow New York's "four hundred" and reorganize society. It is a big task and may be a worthy ambition. By the way, the "four hundred" seems to have expired by the statute of limitation.

At Tien Tsin the Russian and British soldiers are reported to be face to face to each other. It will be better for the peace of the world if these soldiers are faced about and made to march many miles. Making of faces at people never yet did any good.

The Legislature has finally adjourned. It ran three days over the legal limit. This seems to have become a fixed custom, and were the session ninety or a hundred days instead of sixty it would doubtless be the same. Why a legislature cannot complete its work in its legally allotted time is one of the mysteries of political life. Perhaps it will be different when Clio is established; but not much before that time.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

Sacramento Bee.

The Peace congress at The Hague was something more perhaps than the benign hope of a humanitarian. It may have been indeed, as is assumed, it was, no less than a move in a deep-laid plan by which Russia was to secure commercial supremacy in Asia. Her future lies that way and thither away from her. It is extremely probable that the division of the world should lay down their arms, and that swords and guns should be beaten into plowshares and pruning hooks, was doubtless a move in the direction of securing to Russia the domination of the commerce and finance of the world.

Chicago Record.

The question of interest in this situation is as to whether this division can be effected amicably, or whether the powers will fall to quarrelling among themselves as to which is to get the better share. Into this quarrel it is evident England would be glad to draw America. However much Secretary Hay's pro-British feelings may sway him, it is extremely probable he will go any further in the negotiations than to use dignified protest or exhortation with a safeguarding of America's trade interests. This, at least, as far as the United States is prepared to take a hand in the further settlement of the Chinese question. An open alliance with England, and perhaps Japan, to resist by force, if necessary, the integrity of the Chinese empire could only be justified in the remote event of Russia's refusing to recognize this treaty rights and interests in the east.

Worcester Spy.

The London dispatches published yesterday morning, in nearly all the newspapers of America relative to secret negotiations between England and the United States, looking toward a united stand against Russian aggression in Manchuria, may be of considerable significance, no matter what official denials are made in Washington. If they do not mean what they say, the dispatches are a flavor that smacks strongly of European diplomacy. The substance of them, it may be asserted safely, did not have its inception in any foreign correspondent's mind. They are the "inspired" sound, and suggests those numerous bits of information published in the German organs that are supposed to be in close touch with the government, and hence are known as "inspired" organs.

DECLINE OF MARRIAGE.

New York Medical Journal.

Several theories have been advanced to account for the increasing unpopularity of the institution. It is possibly true that young men have become more shy and embarrassed in the presence of the modern go-ahead girl; but this scarcely accounts for the single condition of the thousands of young working women, all of whom presumably are not modern go-ahead girls. The present tendency is undoubtedly to cultivate self-assurance and independence in young women, and to encourage them to become self-supporting. Many avenues are open to them; they can make a comfortable living and enjoy life. Many a woman, in fact, can make a better living for one than the majority of young men can make for two (with the prospects of more). This situation tends to check marriages in two ways. First, it makes the women more independent of men, and therefore, in the second place, perhaps a trifle less attractive to them. The pushing and business-like woman does not appeal to the population of cities and towns, and the delicate emotional sentiment that prompts a young man to seek a mate for life. The competition and stress of modern life are also deterrent to matrimonial ventures.

Charleston News and Courier.

It is very probable that the condition as to the decreasing popularity of marriage and the tendency of young people of both sexes to postpone entering into that estate, or to eschew it altogether, is nearly, if not wholly confined to the population of cities and towns, and thickly settled districts of other than an agricultural character. It is very questionable, we think, that there is much decrease in the proportion of marriages to the population, or tendency to postpone marriage on the part of the young people, in any strictly agricultural community. And if this view be correct, the explanation of the rule of such decrease and tendency in other communities should not be far to seek. It would be found, we take it, without difficulty, to be simply in the increased cost of living.

New York Tribune.

In the great cities of this era, and especially in New York, the tendency

SPRING MILLINERY OPENING

FOR 1901 AT Z. C. M. I.

Utah Ladies always want the Best Styles and the Best Goods, and they deserve to have them.

In Utah the ladies have as delicate and discriminating taste as to what is good and beautiful in the line of Headwear as have any people in the world. That is one reason why they give to Z. C. M. I. so much attention—

We have the best and handsomest goods obtainable. This year is no exception to the rule, and in our Spring Millinery Opening which

Occurs

Monday,

Tuesday and

Wednesday,

March 18, 19, 20.

We have the proof. Our Millinery Department is in careful, competent hands, for the most satisfactory service to our patrons. The ladies are cordially invited to come and inspect our PATTERNS, HATS AND BONNETS and everything in the line of Choice Millinery at prices that cannot be surpassed in any competitors in the field. Come, ladies, and on these three days you will behold a bower of beauty that will indeed please the eye and gladden the heart. Special attention is drawn to our magnificent line of house productions.

OUR CLOAK DEPARTMENT

Has just been newly fitted with a new and choice stock of elegant goods. Just the thing for the season.

Come and examine our special Spring Suits & Dress Goods

Our splendid assortment is unequaled in the West, as an examination will show. Everybody welcomed to our great mercantile establishment.

Z. C. M. I., T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS.



About time to think of the Easter Suit for man or boy.

We've been thinking about them for some time.

Evidence enough in these big stocks we've gathered for you.

One particular suit for men especially worthy of mention today:

A handsome brown mixed Cheviot with a greenish cast.

Coat round cut style—padding canvas, and tailoring of the highest order.

Lined with a fine serge.

A suit that your tailor would charge you \$25.00 for.

Our price is just \$15.00; And will venture you'll say it is the best thing you ever saw for that money.

Must be an even hundred other styles to show you.

ONE PRICE J. P. GARDNER,

136 and 138 Main.

FIRST

Everybody wants to be first. That is, everybody who is anybody. You do, anyway. And we want you to get there, too. We want you to hold your head up and take a new interest in life. We want your chest to swell high with pride and your heart beat fast with pleasure. That's why we carry the

CLEVELAND BICYCLE.

Come and get one and the world will be at your feet.

Cleveland