

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted).
Corner of South Temple and E. Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose - - - Editor.
Horace G. Whitney - - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):

One Year \$3.00
Six Months 1.50
Three Months75
One Month25
Saturday Edition, Per Year 1.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year 1.50

NEW YORK OFFICE.

In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Of-
fice, 1127 Park Row Building, New York.

CHICAGO OFFICE.

In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
foreign advertising from our Home Office,
21 Washington St. Represented by F. S.
Webb, Room 111.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 78 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading mat-
ter 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, - MARCH 7, 1904.

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Confer-
ence of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will be held in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday,
April 3, 1904, and continue until Wed-
nesday, April 6. A general attendance
of the officers and members is requested
and expected.

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

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE?

The Herald, on Sunday morning, con-
tained an editorial lamentation over the
effects of "the publicity being given the
domestic affairs of men" prominent in
the "Mormon" Church. It bewails the
results which, it says, "must follow the
flaunting of such revelations, as are
bound to come out in the hearing."
Further, it says: "Nor should it be for-
gotten that the non-Mormons as well
as the Mormons will suffer. The injury
to the State must fall upon all citizens
alike."

Granting, merely for argument's
sake, that these prognostications are
well founded, where does our contem-
porary place the responsibility for the
troubles present and to come? Upon
the parties who stirred them up? Upon
those who made the charges, some
of which are false and others of which
have been acknowledged? Oh no. The
fault is laid incidentally on the out-
spoken witness and directly upon Sen-
ator Smoot. The Senator is assailed
thus:

"It was Smoot the Apostle, not Smoot
the Mormon who invited the attack;
and his friends who conceded the
honesty of those who sincerely believe
his religion. In the senate would be a
violation of the State's pledge that no
church influence would be permitted in
the political and civil affairs of Utah."

We think that the honesty and sin-
cerity of a number of good people who
object to the Senator's position on re-
ligious grounds should be conceded.
And also that their opposition should
not arouse animosity on the part of the
gentlemen's friends. But at the same
time we may make a fair estimate of
their intelligence, their information and
their reasoning powers. The State of
Utah agreed by its Constitution that:

"There shall be no union of Church
and State, nor shall any church domi-
nate the State or interfere with its
functions."

Was the election of Reed Smoot by
the Republican party of Utah in regu-
lar form, a union of Church and State?
Is there anything in the State Consti-
tution or State laws which forbids the
election of a man because of his posi-
tion in a church? On the contrary, is
not this clause a part of the same sec-
tion in which the foregoing appears?

"No religious test shall be required
as a qualification for any office of public
trust, or for any vote at any election."
Article 1, sec. 4.

The brain that can evolve a rational
argument out of these provisions, to
show that the election of Reed Smoot
was "a violation of the State's pledge,"
is certainly abnormal, and we must be
excused if we fail to see the relevance
of the Herald's reference. And while
we concede the sincerity of uninformed
people who may entertain such erro-
neous views, how about those who man-
ufactured the charges that brought out
the responses which have occasioned
so much excitement? Our contem-
porary shifts the responsibility on Reed
Smoot, under the plea that he is an
Apostle and therefore ought to have
known what a rampus he would create.

That might do for the ignorant and
prejudiced, but the people of Utah
know that George Q. Cannon was an
Apostle and served several successive
terms in Congress, and more than that
was one of the First Presidency of the
Church. He was finally rejected be-
cause he was an avowed polygamist;
never objected to because he was an
Apostle. There is no more reason why
an Apostle should be disqualified than
any other Elder in the Church, from

serving his State or his country in any
capacity whatever.

We endorse the Herald's desire for
"the exercise of forbearance on both
sides, the elimination of personal an-
timosities and the absence of controversy
at home." But we suggest that this is
not likely to be brought about, by
blaming witnesses for answering ques-
tions, nor by accusing innocent per-
sons, nor by trying to blame a Church
for the doings of the State or a party
in it, nor by pandering to the wilful
defamers of both, who have caused all
the disturbance and will be responsible
for all the evils that the Herald pre-
dicts, if they shall fall upon all classes
in this devoted State.

NOT TO BE DEPEND UPON.

We have already mentioned several
mistakes in the hurried synopsis made
by reporters, of the investigation at
Washington and sent over the wires to
the press. When they are palpable er-
rors, either in transcribing or transmit-
ting, and give wrong impressions they
ought not to be published without cor-
rection, either in the text or by ac-
companying explanation.

One very pronounced mistake of this
kind is in regard to the family status
of President Joseph F. Smith's two
cousin-sons and the two latest appointed
Apostles; Pres. Smith is reported as
saying, "they are reputed to be the
husband of more than one wife." This
he certainly could not have stated.
Neither of the gentlemen referred to is
so "reputed." The error is evidently
the reporter's or the word "not" has
been omitted in dispatching. But the
Tribune features the blunder, and em-
phasizes it as one of a number of
framed and enlarged alleged utterances
of President Smith, in these words of its
own:

"The first counselor now is John R.
Winder. He and his fellow counselor
and two Apostles have been appointed
since Mr. Smith became president. They
are reputed to be the husband of more
than one wife."

The Tribune, in the same frame,
speaks of one of these two apostles as
having "a wife and children but is not
a polygamist." It is well known in this
community that the other three gen-
tlemen, thus mentioned, are to be
classed in the same category as the
Apostle referred to.

The same paper makes strained ef-
forts every day to prejudice the case,
and makes not only irrational deduc-
tions from the partial evidence given,
but gross misstatements of both fact
and conclusion. Of course that is noth-
ing new, and judging from its record is
only what might be expected. But the
reading public should be cautious about
depending upon either its assertions or
its arguments.

A RELIABLE PAPER.

The reliability of the Tribune's Wash-
ington correspondence may be gauged
by its repeated efforts to give Senator
Kearns credit for measures and labors
performed by Senator Smoot. Several
instances of the kind have come to our
notice, but the following we leave to
the tender mercies of the spicy weekly
paper called Truth from which we
copy:

"What a ubiquitous person Senator
Kearns is. His organs, the Tribune and
Herald, have him in Washington mak-
ing eloquent speeches and using his
"unfailing efforts" in numerous ways on
behalf of his constituents and at the
same time the same papers report him
in New York or Chicago. Here is a
case in point. On Friday, February 26,
the Tribune had the following:

"Senator Kearns was at the bureau
of forestry today regarding the crea-
tion of the Tooele forest reserve peti-
tioned for. This reserve will not be
created unless the citizens who have
purchased lands by agreement from
the state of Utah within the bound-
aries of the proposed reserve will re-
lease the land to the state. If this is
done the state must release said lands
to the government and select in lieu
thereof a similar number of acres of
public land in another part of the
state."

"On Sunday, February 28, the same
paper had the following:

"Senator Kearns returned to Wash-
ington today from Chicago, having ac-
companied Mrs. Kearns that far on her
journey home."

"The Senator has received a peti-
tion from a number of women in Og-
den, the wives, sisters and daughters
of honorably discharged soldiers, urg-
ing the passage of service pension bill.
He will put the petition before the sen-
ate on Monday."

"Few people can be in Chicago and
Washington at one and the same time.
This, however, is only another example
of the wonderful abilities of our senior
senator."

The common custom of the Tribune
to contradict itself in its own columns,
an old failing, still continues and one
only needs to compare one part of its
imprint with another in the same issue,
to see what value is to be placed on
many of its utterances.

RUSSIA'S "MISSION."

The dispatches have told us how the
Russians have fasted and prayed, as a
preparation for their Asiatic campaign,
and how they have sent with their
army a holy image, to insure success.
It sounds strange, in these days of ma-
terialism and skepticism, to hear of
such preparations for a national strug-
gle, but it is in perfect harmony with
the Russian national character. The
Slav is intensely religious. He will save
money for years, in order to be able
to visit the Holy Land, and worship at
the sacred shrines. He will return con-
fident, after having bathed in the Jordan,
and obtained a candle lit from the
sacred flame in the sanctuary. All his
life is shaped in accordance with his
religious ideas, and it is therefore not
strange that fasting, prayer, and kon-
worship should enter into the prepara-
tions for a murderous war.

Every true Russian is animated with
the idea that his country has a holy
mission to perform. The time will come,
he thinks, when the world will grow
tired of the religious strife that is now
tearing it to pieces. Then, he thinks,
the faith of the Orthodox Greek church
will be accepted as a matter of course.
Further, in the opinion of the enlight-
ened Russian, the democracy of the
world, sooner or later, turn into an-
archy. Then it will be Russia's mis-
sion to restore to the confused, strug-
gling world the blessings of social or-
der and imperial authority, which, in
his view, are the sine qua non of
civilization and progress.

The Russians are even now point-
ing to the disorders of countries
with popular government as a verifica-
tion of their predictions. Russia looks
to the regeneration of the world ac-
cording to her own pattern, as her sac-
red mission. For this she is expand-
ing in every direction. For this she is
jealously guarding her own institutions
against all foreign influences.

The Russians are right in these their
happy dreams, to this extent, that, fi-
nally the Gospel of the Crucified One
shall prevail among the nations of the
earth, and regenerate their institutions.
The kingdoms of this world shall be-
come the kingdoms of our Lord, and
all power, dominion, and glory shall be
His. But they are wrong in supposing
that their form of religion is the Gos-
pel of Jesus in the pure state in which
it alone can become a world power.
They forget that the Greek church
has but little resemblance to that of
the apostolic age. When the world,
tired of strife and contention, begins
to seek rest, it will accept the true
Church of God. It will abandon all
merely human dogmas and turn to Him
who alone can give rest to the weary.

Meanwhile, there is no doubt that
Russia too has a world mission. What
that is will appear as the history of the
world is being unfolded.
Get your sago diggers ready.

Korea feels almost war-ridden to death.

Even Homer Davenport sometimes
nods.

Port Arthur was bombarded on the
principle of hit or miss.

It is all right to stand pat but it is
better to stand plumb.

Nothing is better for the spring fever
than a stroll over the hills.

Senator Charles Dick has a smooth
face. Also manners of the same kind.

In reality the flour trust is more of a
grinding monopoly than the beef trust.

The Russians are very confident as to
the result of the war. Still pride often
goes before a fall.

To stop salaries and confirmations is
far from being so commendable as to
stop quarrelling.

As Korea is to be the battle-ground
she must expect to be ground down no
matter which side wins.

Professor Langley says that his fly-
ing ship experiments are over. They
certainly showed over confidence.

Panama has a standing army of one
hundred men. Such an army can never
be a standing menace to her liberty.

France and Great Britain will not in-
tervene in the far eastern war. Why
should they? They would have noth-
ing to gain thereby.

It comes from New York that Sen-
ator Fairbanks is to be President Roose-
velt's running mate. If he is chosen
he will have to step lively to keep up.

Russia may crush Japan with mere
weight of numbers, but when the
crushing is over her machinery will be
sadly in need of repair.

Dowie looks upon the crowds that
listened to him in Madison Square
Garden as cherubim and seraphim com-
pared with the crowds that have chased
him in Australia.

Governor Odell now emphatically de-
clares that he would not have the
chairmanship if it were offered him on
a silver platter. With what kind of a
spoon in his mouth was he born?

Lord Hope, former husband of May
Yohe, has married the daughter of an
Australian banker. For the banker's
daughter it will no longer be a life
without Hope.

There is a demand for the further
investigation of alleged frauds in the
postoffice department. The prospecting
already done and the results obtained
are certainly most encouraging to those
who would go ahead.

Senator Dewey says that the Cham-
ney M. Dewey who made so many
speeches before there was a Senator
Dewey is dead. But Senator Carmack
insists that though dead he is not for-
gotten.

By bombarding Vladivostok the Jap-
anese have demonstrated what Admi-
ral Sampson did by bombarding San
Juan de Porto Rico—that the amount of
damage inflicted is infinitesimal com-
pared with the waste of ammunition.

The statement by the virulent anti-
"Mormon" paper of this city that the
Pacific ocean is not "anywhere on
earth," is a sample of its logic, or its
lying, or both as the reader chooses to
take it. If the ocean named is not
"anywhere on earth" where in heaven
is it?

SPEAKING OF THE WAR.

Toronto Mail and Empire.

But the failure of the Russian fleet,
assuming it to be assured, does not
mean the failure of the Russian cam-
paign. Naval success on the part of
Russia would probably have brought
the war to a speedy end. It would
have enabled the continental empire to
menace the very existence of Japan, a
situation which would have precipitated
prompt intervention. The second phase
of the struggle, the tedious and costly
land operations, will now go on, though
they will be necessarily restricted until
the opening of spring. In this campaign
Russia expects to recover the disasters
of its naval engagements. Its immense
resources and powerful military organi-
zation make Russia a formidable an-
tagonist, even under the disadvantages
that confront it in eastern Asia.

Chicago Journal.

He would be a rash man who would
predict the outcome of the war. But it
is permissible to speculate upon the
results of Japanese success, in view of
what has happened thus far. What will
they be? Will Russia be forced out of
Asia by the pressure of Japan on the
east and of England in India on the
south? That seems unlikely, but it is
probable that Russia's march of ag-
gression and conquest will be checked
for many years to come. Instead of
exploiting China, as she has hoped to

do, she will have her work cut out for
her in maintaining her position in Si-
beria. China will be given to the Jap-
anese, to Germany, to France and to the
United States as a field of trade until
the time comes when these powers will
quarrel over possession of it, and the
universal war in the far east of which
we have heard so much of late becomes
an actuality.

Philadelphia North American.

The metamorphosis of the situation
in the far east has been dazzling. Such
feats as the "little brown sailors"
crowded into a day of naval fighting
must have stirred the blood under any
circumstances, but, following immedi-
ately a season of sluggish negotiation,
they have set the world agape. And yet
the contrast of yesterday and today is
but the contrast between the genius
of Russia and the genius of Japan. So
long as tortuous and half-splitting di-
plomacy was the work in hand, Russia
dominated and events moved ponder-
ously, if they moved at all. This was
true until Japanese patience disap-
peared. Then came war. And with
war the spirit, which in a generation
has transformed a few million semi-
barbarous islanders into a first-class
power, took command of the schedule
of developments.

Toronto World.

The dramatic interest of the present
war is easy to understand. On the one
side is Russia, with its enormous terri-
tory, second only to that of the British
empire, and with ambitions that have
for years excited the imagination of the
world. On the other side is an Asiatic
power that has sprung into prominence
by its sudden adoption of western ideas,
its aggressive patriotism, and its easy
victory over China. Then, there was
an eager desire for a test of the terri-
ble engines of modern naval warfare. But
beyond all this sensational interest
there is a permanent and worldwide in-
terest in the present war. More is at
stake than Korea of Manchuria. There
is the supremacy of eastern Asia; there
is the leadership of the yellow peoples;
there is the question of sea power on
the Pacific Ocean. All these prizes lie
in view of Japanese ambition, though
her statesmen may be sincere enough in
declaring that her present aims are
more modest.

London Daily Mail.

Despite the lesson of the Boer war, the
Japanese did very little open order and
extended formation work in their last
maneuvers, but operated in solid mass-
es, as trim and right-angled as though
shaped with a spirit level. When Field
Marshal Marquis Yamagata was asked
if Japan would not change her field tac-
tics to suit the conditions of modern
fighting, he replied: "Japan will reveal
her tactics in battle. Be sure that they
will be those necessary to insure vic-
tory." This was not the self-confi-
dence of the unbeaten warrior, but the
expression of the only spirit Japan
knows, for she never confesses defeat
even at a remote possibility.

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