

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 13, 1906

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1906, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of officers and members is requested.

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

## THE EXTRA EXPENDITURES.

The decision by the majority of the City Council to expend, as a starter in extras, nearly \$75,000 to fix up the water conduit in the manner proposed by the city engineer, will cause much discussion and not a little complaint among the taxpayers, to say nothing of those citizens who do not pay a cent in taxes but who are generally the loudest among the critics. That there are two sides to this question as well as most others, can be readily seen by the debate over it, as related in the report of the council proceedings in another part of this paper.

It is quite likely that there are some defects in the work done on the conduit, and possibly the plans were not as perfect as they might have been. Fault can be found on almost every piece of work, public or private. But there is a strong doubt very generally expressed, as to the necessity for much of the work contemplated in the movement for this extra expense, and a feeling that it is but the forerunner of further outlays in the same direction. Dark suspicions are hinted at of influences that have been secretly brought to bear to force the decision, but these are too vague and shadowy to discuss.

The party in power in the city owe it to themselves as well as to the municipality, that they do not pursue a policy of extravagance or lay themselves open to just criticism. As a prominent member remarked just after the installation of the present city administration, "this is an experiment." Caution should be used that it will not prove a failure. Economy, just dealing, sound policy, honest work, will count always in the public mind, while mere partyism, or spintwork, or personal gain, or any species of "grafting" or jobbery, will assuredly bring its own condemnation.

The welfare of this city is what its people desire to be upheld, no matter what party may be in control. And justice should prevail in the minds of the citizens and fair treatment be extended to all servants of the public. Right motives are to be attributed until wrong actions render that impossible, and rumors and unfounded imputations should not undermine public confidence. Let us wait and see what is done or left undone before we pass condemnation. But at the same time when any expensive proposition is being considered, the people and their representatives have the right to question every scheme, and to turn the light upon every undertaking, so that no rash project may be adopted and that the general interest may override personal or party considerations.

We hope the extra money to be expended will be used to render the water project stable and permanent, and that no needless work will be done or unnecessary material will be used. The whole matter will be watched with eager scrutiny, and people who regard much of it with disfavor will be ready to point out any blunders or attempts at favoritism or improper diversion of funds. But everybody ought to desire permanent and satisfactory work on the conduit by which this city is to receive its full supply of water, and be ready to support such plans and expedients as occasion shall really require.

## A GREAT AND VALIANT SOUL.

The cause of woman suffrage has experienced a sad loss in the demise of Susan B. Anthony, one of its foremost promoters and defenders. Her life was devoted to its advocacy. Not always wise in her attacks upon its foes or her arguments in its support, she nevertheless was sincere and zealous, able and vigorous, and thoroughly imbued with the justice and truth of her position. No one engaged in the conflict for equal rights of the sexes has been subject to more ridicule and misrepresentation than the valiant Susan B. And none have been more steadfast or more impervious to injustice and wrong. During all the years of her active public life she was true to the principles that she early adopted, and pursued her course undaunted by repeated failures and numerous rebuffs. She had her triumphs too, though they were few and far between. She outlived the sneers and gibes of the multitude and the opposition of numbers of her own sex, and saw many victories which were heralds of others to come. She was venerated by hosts of intelligent and progressive women who recognized her worth and her uncommon abilities. Her departure will be mourned by hundreds of thousands in this land, and also in

the emancipated nations of the eastern hemisphere. Her demise was not unexpected, because of her great age and the indications of approaching weakness and collapse. But she will be mourned in every circle where the elevation of woman is a leading motive, and her name will ever be identified with the cause of freedom and equal rights for all. She is a grand and noble spirit, and will reap the full reward for all her labors while in mortal life. Peace be to her and sweet repose to her earthly remains!

## BLESSING OF CHILDREN.

A correspondent in the north requests the Deseret News to state whether it is proper in blessing little children to use these words:

"We, the servants of God, take this child in our arms and give it a father's blessing."

The answer is, the form is incorrect. The revelation concerning this ordinance says:

"Every member of the Church of Christ having children, is to bring them unto the Elders before the Church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ and bless them in his name."

It is not a father's blessing that is bestowed by the Elders. Fathers who hold the Priesthood may bless their children in the name of the Lord, bestowing upon them a father's blessing. But when the Elders officiate in the manner directed in that which we have quoted, it is different, and is no more a father's blessing than confirmation by the laying on of hands is a father's confirmation.

We have noticed that some Bishops when attending to this ordinance confer upon the child a "Bishop's blessing." There is no such thing in the performance of a Church ordinance. The blessing of children comes under the Melchizedek Priesthood, and there is no need and no propriety in departing from the spirit and order divinely instituted.

However, it is well not to be too technical nor too critical. If the Lord did not overlook some of the mistakes of men, it would be a sad day for a good many people. He recognizes the intentions of the heart and accepts some things that are not strictly in line with the letter of His law. Every Elder should endeavor to be accurate in the administration of the ordinances of the Gospel, for though ignorance at one time might be excusable, now experience has brought knowledge, and all God's servants should walk in the light.

## AT VLADIVOSTOK.

According to the Portland Oregonian, orders have been received in that city for over a million dollars' worth of flour, beef, and other provisions, for shipment to Vladivostok. That indicates that the Russian policy in eastern Asia is not changed essentially, even if progress is temporarily checked. Russia must be contemplating extensive preparations for the retention of its eastern railway terminus, for not only do orders for provisions arrive from Vladivostok, but large orders for lumber, machinery, and steel come from the same place, all of which proves that Russia is about to undertake the task of making that place an impregnable naval station, as well as an important commercial port.

The really startling activity at Vladivostok is in sharp contrast to the situation in Japan. From that country comes an appeal to the world for aid to its starving millions whom charity at home is unable to reach. And the Japanese were the conquerors! It is strange indeed to find the victors suffering while the vanquished are having an abundance of food, and means to spend for government work. If the Japanese had been as successful in their diplomatic engagement as they were on the battlefields and in naval encounters, Russia would not now have been in the position of strengthening her position on the Pacific. As it is, Russia is still in full possession of a railroad which enabled her, after two years of hard fighting, to mass on the Manchurian frontier an army of more than half a million men. Japan is struggling with an enormous debt on account of the war. The Japanese were not masters in diplomacy. Had they had as much force in the Portsmouth assembly, as they had in the field, Russia would have been paying the cost of the war to Japan, instead of building fortifications.

Japan, however, has only started on her career as a great power. She has time enough to learn the art of diplomacy, in order to secure the achievements of her arms. And when China and Japan are both prepared to take a hand in the affairs that concern them, we fancy they will come very near enforcing any just demands they may make.

## CONGO ATROCITIES.

A meeting was held in Boston, a few days ago, for the purpose of entering "a protest against the sufferings and wrongs which the natives of the Congo state are now enduring at the hands of those who are in authority over them." For years charges have been made, that the affairs of the Congo state are such as to call for the interference of the world, in the name of humanity, and it is to be feared that the charges are but too well founded, notwithstanding the denials registered by those responsible for the mismanagement.

The history of the so-called Congo Free State forms a dark leaf in the annals of modern civilization. After the explorations of Stanley, it was evident that the interior of Africa was a fruitful field of exploitation. An association was consequently formed, ostensibly for the further exploration of the Congo Basin. The aim of the association was said to be philanthropic, and on that ground it was endorsed by various governments. In 1885 an international conference was held at Berlin, and as a result of the deliberations there, the association was recognized as the Independent State of the Congo, with King Leopold of Belgium as its sovereign. The new state pledged itself "to seek the moral and material regeneration and welfare" of the Congo natives. The conference, on its part, assumed "the

position of official guardian," and the powers composing it bound themselves "to watch over and care for the native tribes."

The United States was a party to that conference, and stands pledged, with the other powers, to "watch over the native tribes," but Secretary Root has indicated in a definite manner the impossibility of direct interference by the United States government in the affairs of this African nation, and that is, we believe, the position of the other powers, too.

The British government has interested itself in the matter, to the extent of making a thorough inquiry. Roger Casement, the British consul in Lower Congo, found the situation was much worse than had been suspected. Angry protests arose in Europe. Brave men in the Belgian parliament denounced the Congo government as "an enormous and continual butchery." Leopold and his friends cynically denied the truth of these charges, but the official reports prove that millions of people on the Congo were suffering the most horrible hardships. Natives were brutally tortured, if they did not perform a certain amount of labor. Many had hands, or feet, cut off, while others were maltreated in other ways. "Civilization" became a curse to the black people. Many were killed because they failed to furnish the supply of rubber, or ivory, demanded of them. Women, if they refused to do the bidding of King Leopold's commissioned officers, were subjected to the most horrible atrocities, such as being burned alive, cut up with axes, and other tortures which the minds of monsters can devise. But, the powers that pledged themselves to watch over the tribes are slow to fulfill their duty.

A Congo reform association, however, has been formed for the purpose of arousing the world to a realization of its duty in regard to the affairs of the Congo basin, and we hope it will continue its work, until the natives shall not have cause to curse the day on which the white man first was hospitably received in their primitive huts. Why is it that so-called Christian civilization nearly always carries with it so much cruelty and crime? Mohammedan culture, low-grade though it be at present, is not followed by such atrocities, although the followers of the Arabian prophet have a reputation for being ready with the sword.

Colonel Mann is beginning to learn that man's days are few and full of trouble.

Castro says that he will break up the Monroe doctrine. It behooves him to look out for breakers.

And here we had been thinking all the while that Ben Davis was an apple. This shows the tenor of our thoughts.

It looks very much as though the United States supreme court had given municipal ownership in Chicago a big boost.

It begins to look as though the delegates at Algiers were going to fight it out along numerous lines if it takes all summer.

Speaker Cannon says the House will "stand pat" on the statehood bill. But has the House considered well Davy Crockett's motto?

Publicity isn't a cure-all. If it were, Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone would not now be in jail, for they have had more publicity lately than anyone else.

Bandits held up a stage full of eastern tourists on Mount Hamilton and got only six dollars for their trouble. It was the triumph of Yankee thrift over western enterprise.

The union men of Chicago are going to have a union cemetery in which none but unionists shall be buried. Though their lives may not have been lovely and pleasant, in their deaths and burials they will not be divided.

Senator Dubois thinks that Mr. V. S. Peet should be in jail. The gentleman's offense was calling the senator's attention to some very contradictory statements he had made about "Mormonism." He, he, senator; be more liberal.

Why doesn't the Congo association take up the matter of the white girl slaves in New York instead of bending all its energies to the amelioration of conditions in Darkest Africa? Recent investigation in the metropolis shows that there is a great work to be done there.

Governor John C. Cutler is to be heartily commended for honoring the requisition papers in the case of Dr. Maxwell, wanted in Ohio for alleged criminal acts. If the "Dr." is innocent, he would not be so strenuous in his objections to go back and face the charges against him.

So Death Valley Scott has gone on the stage. And why not? Pugnacity and women with a "past," who haven't a bit more histrionic ability than "Scotty," do the same thing. It is a peculiar kind of elevation of the stage, but it seems about as good as the other kinds so frequently heard of.

It seems like old times to read about Indians ambushing white men. But even in Indian Territory, where the ambush happened, the thing is sporadic. The doom of the Indians engaged in this murder is almost certain. If the young bucks do take up the tomahawk (or rather breechloader) they will lay it down before many days. The glory of the red man has departed.

## EFFECTS OF THE FIGHT.

New York Press.

Never in the social annals of New York has the Four Hundred—its cliques, circles and groups—been disrupted as it has in the last year by the revelation of the insurance investigation. Just as men who have been boon friends for years have suddenly become enemies as a result of deals in Wall street, so their wives, prominent society leaders, have quickly become bitter to each other. It is almost an axiom that if two men quar-

rel their wives will pick up immediately the bones of contention. So it is that Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, whose husband has just been arrayed against Charles A. Peabody, has broken with the Peabody family. The members of the Peabody family, once clinging to the top rung of exclusive society, lost many of their friends the moment the insurance investigation committee exposed the methods of Peabody of the Mutual. Girlhood friendships have been destroyed, and even engagements between members of families whose names were dragged into the mire by the Armstrong committee have been broken.

## "A FOOL AND HIS MONEY," ETC.

Hartford Courant.  
Once in a while these rich men will squander. It seems to be beyond control. Here is the story telegraphed all the way from Italy about Willie K. Vanderbilt. They say that after escaping a lynching for running over a boy and after getting his liberty again, he voluntarily contributed \$10 to the local hospital at Pontedera. It was forty cents, not thirty cents, but actually forty dollars.

## A LENTEN HINT.

Richmond Times-Dispatch.  
The best Lenten hint we have heard for many a day comes from a Richmond girl. She says that instead of contenting herself with putting aside the candy box for party days, she is going to cultivate smiles and a cheerful disposition. It is as good a sermon as any you will hear during the season of Lent. It is the positive side of the proposition. Cultivate smiles and a cheerful disposition. It would be a glorious season for all who keep Lent would do likewise.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"To-Morrow Magazine" for March has a good portrait of William Morris on the front cover, and has many illustrations throughout. The editor's comments "On Sobriety," and the tendency of the epoch to become more drunk, as manifested in every phase of modern life, are original and thought-provoking utterances. In this number Hugh O. Peck contributes a short article on "The Tyranny of Family Love," indicating that in its selfish manifestations, love more often destroys than it advances the powers and opportunities of those whom it infects. Mrs. Lida Parce Robinson continues her serial on "The History of Human Marriage." An article by J. R. Trumbull on "Sugar Eats and Beet Sugar," accompanied by several illustrations, is as timely and timely. Miss Viola Richardson contributes a timely article on "Co-operation."—2338 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The March number of the North American Review deals with a number of timely and important subjects. "An American Citizen," who is described as one of the most distinguished of American citizens, calls serious attention to certain dangers that threaten "Our Navy." Henry James records his impressions of "Boston" on his late visit to that city. F. B. Loomis, formerly assistant secretary of state, discusses the "Proposed Reorganization of the Consular Service." A. B. Hepburn, president of the Chase National Bank, New York, sets forth the "Case of the Money Struggles." E. T. Bush, a New Jersey farmer, gives "A Rural View of Rural Free Delivery." Frederic Louis Hudekoper concludes his discussion of the question, "Is the United States Prepared for War?" The Congress of Warwick advocates the study and practice of "Scientific Agriculture." Brander Matthews, professor of dramatic literature in Columbia University, writes, "On the Publishing of Plays." W. P. Livingstone endeavors to forecast "The Future of the British West Indies." N. L. Stone, Tariff expert in the bureau of statistics, describes the "Most Favored Nation Relations between Germany and the United States." W. E. Humphrey, of the Merchant Marine committee of the House of Representatives, examines "Pending Shipping Legislation." The department of World-Politics contains communications from London, St. Petersburg, Berlin and Washington.—New York.

## JUST FOR FUN.

Tardy Indorsement.  
"I am afraid you are one of those people who look down on toll."  
"Not at all," answered the luxurious youth. "My great-grandfather worked hard and invested his money, and we are quite pleased with him for doing so."—The Bits.

A Vast Difference.  
"And you say this patent burner will actually reduce one's gas bills, eh?" queried the prospective customer.  
"No, you evidently misunderstood me," answered the conscientious dealer, who was trying to follow in the footsteps of the immortal Washington. "I said it would reduce the consumption of gas."—Ex.

"Chicago has one policeman to every three saloons."  
"This gives you three guesses as to where the policeman is."

"Miss Passay needs an entire new set of features to make her beautiful," said Dumleigh.

"No, no," said Keenan thoughtfully, "all she needs is money."

"Well, papa, I'll marry the old Croesus on one condition."

"What's that, my dear?"

"He must give me a wedding journey abroad."

"Oh, I'm sure he'll do that."

"And I insist upon going alone!"

## The Busy Corner

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Syrup stops the cough.  
Try it. If it does not  
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Large Bottle 25c.

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50c Satin Striped Challies at 37c. A prettier line of Challies was never imported for this market. You will be captivated with the dainty effects these goods present. If you will ever have Challies needs, you'll save money by purchasing at this extraordinary price of 37c.

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We have just received several hundred handmade hats, in all the new shapes and colors made of horsehair braid, chiffon and Moline. They are not "Sale" Hats bought for a special run, but we obtained them at such a price as will allow us to offer them to you at the Bargain Prices of \$2.00 to \$2.50. You can either purchase your trimmings here, or bring your own materials—it will make no difference to our offer—and we will do the work of trimming according to your order. ABSOLUTELY FREE. Remember every shape is new and correct, and don't forget that the offer holds good only

UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT.

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\$1.00 Spread for .80 \$1.25 Spread for .100 \$1.50 Spread for .120

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