

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 23, 1907.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-eighth annual, general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, April 5, 1907, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

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

The annual conference of the Sunday School Union will be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, April 7, at 7 o'clock p. m.

THE SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

The Seventh Legislature of Utah is no more. Its work, its achievements, its failures and shortcomings now belong to the history of this State. Criticism of individual legislators and of the entire assembly, is not lacking. Some of it is just, and much of it is unjust. But we have no doubt that most of the members return to their daily avocations, conscious of having served their constituents to the very best of their ability.

One great mistake of the Legislature was to permit bills to accumulate to such an extent that it became impossible, finally, to pay due attention to each measure. This is a fault any amateur deliberating body, without proper leadership, is likely to commit. To the lack of ability to economize the time is due the fact that so many measures really demanded by the people were neglected, or treated with levity, and that so many others were passed, upon which the Governor felt it his duty to set his veto. When the bills that failed to pass and those that were dispatched by the Governor, after having passed, are subsumed from the total number presented, the actual work accomplished is not very considerable, outside of the appropriations made.

It is but natural that the sheet which always sings a monotonous tune about "Church influence," because it is afflicted with a special and sad kind of mania, should cling after the departing legislators, the charge that they were hampered in their work by some mysterious interference. And yet, that same sheet says the Church is the antagonist of the smelters. Why, then, was not that mysterious influence at work for the defeat in the Legislature of the eminent Domain bill? Of course neither allegation is true. The Church neither antagonizes the smelters, nor has it any mysterious influence at work in the legislative assemblies of the State. Again, all decent citizens, both in the Church and outside, demanded the passage of a measure regulating Sunday amusements, and many asked for local option as a measure in the interest of temperance. But these bills were killed with scant courtesy. Where was that mysterious influence? It is decidedly unfair to charge the legislators with subservience. They are perfectly willing to bear the responsibility for their labors, themselves.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The development in the Agricultural College situation, in, we presume, a surprise to most of our readers. The question of submitting a proposition for the consolidation of that College with the State University to popular vote, was acted on adversely by the Legislature, in the belief that there was in reality no general demand for a plebiscite. But, since then a new board practically has been appointed by the Governor and ratified by the Senate, and a new era, it seems, is about to be inaugurated in the history of the great institution in Cache Valley.

President McCormick has withdrawn from the board after many years of faithful and, we believe, efficient service, and Prof. Kerr has signified his intention of resigning from the position he has filled with great ability. Many of the friends of the College will undoubtedly regret the loss to the institution of the services of these men, but they will also consider that the members of the board, as now constituted, are men and women who will have the interests of the College at heart and that they, too, are capable and loyal to the cause of education in this State. The members of this board serve without financial compensation, and they are entitled to a great deal of credit.

We sincerely hope that the storm clouds that seem to have hovered around the Agricultural College so long will be dispersed, and that unity will become prevalent in the administration of its affairs. If there are any instructions from the management of which all political and personal considerations, that are so productive of strife and contention, should be carefully eliminated, it is from the schools. The youth have the right to expect that all connected with educational matters set before them a shining example of what can be done through harmonious cooperation and unity; it is time enough for them to be initiated into the awful mystery of conflict, caused by ambi-

tion or jealousy, or what not, when they are entering upon the stage of a real life, where those features form such a large and prominent part of the drama. We trust the new board will exercise discretion and sound judgment. We hope the public will withhold all unfair criticism. No good is ever accomplished thereby.

The Agricultural College, though located at the enterprising and beautiful city of Logan, is a State institution in which all the people of this State are interested, because so large a percentage of the population consists of farmers. The welfare of that institution is of concern to every taxpayer in the State. The original plan was to make that school an agricultural college in reality, as well as in name. President Anthony H. Lund, we believe, was the originator of the bill creating the college, and the measure was put in accordance with an act of Congress, making the establishment of such practical schools possible in every state of the Union. The College has already done a great work for the State, and it deserves further support by all citizens, in order that it may accomplish still more good, in accordance with the plan for which it was originally established.

UTAH COAL COMMISSION.

And so we are not through with the coal shortage and freight rates' inquiry, after all. We were led to believe a few days ago that the Legislature had disposed of the question when it received majority and minority reports from its special committee appointed to investigate and take testimony on these perplexing problems, particularly when it adopted the former, which exonerated and commended the railroads. But the Senate yesterday, almost while the members were packing their belongings, and saying their farewells, concluded that it would not be proper to leave matters in the unsatisfactory manner in which they rested. They remembered, they said, that representatives of the railroad companies had testified, that in all probability the fuel scarcity would be more pronounced next winter than it had been this. The thought of it all was chilling at best, and so President Love was authorized to appoint an inquiry commission of five members, whose duty it shall be to fully investigate rate and fuel complaints and report the same with findings and recommendations to the next Legislature. Back and behind it all, however, appears to be a sort of concealed purpose, and that is, to collect facts and figures which may be presented on short notice next winter to the governor with a view to having him call a special session of the Legislature for the specific object of dealing with the problems named. As to the wisdom of this course we are not convinced. If legislative action were essential in the premises, there should have been a concurrence on the part of the House with the Senate, so that harmony of effort might prevail. As it is the step taken is altogether one-sided, and not likely to reach the result sought for. Besides, the governor of the state, could, if occasion demanded the assembling of the lawmakers in extraordinary session, take the initiative himself, independent of such suggestion as is contemplated. And if it is intended merely as a club to hold over the railroads they will see through the game and make ready to dodge the blow when it shall be struck. To us it has all the appearance of being a bit of the hasty and immature procedure that characterizes legislative bodies which are in the throes of dissolution.

REORGANITES AND OTHERS.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to a lecture on the "Reorganized Church," by Elder Joseph F. Smith, Jr., and published elsewhere in this issue of the "News." The lecture is full of information on that subject, and it proves conclusively that that denomination, historically considered, is a branch of the faction that followed Strang in apostasy. It is not a branch of the Church; still less a re-organization of the Church; it is simply an outgrowth of the Strangite movement. This has an important bearing upon the question of "succession."

The lecturer points out the inconsistency of the claim of the Reorganites, that the Church was rejected for not obeying certain commandments, which, at the same time, they say, never were obligatory but "permissive." But such contradictions are to be expected in those who deviate from the standards of truth.

One of the strange phenomena of our age is the rise and fall of so many spurious religious organizations. Some have risen to exist only a short time, and then to go down to oblivion. Others have a longer lease of life. But the fate of all is, ultimately, the same. Every plant not planted by the divine Gardener will be plucked up by the root.

The world has had the story of Downfall unfolded before it lately. No less strange is the story of Sandford's career. This "Elijah" built a temple and sent missionaries to foreign lands. But, finally, the end came. The vast pile of wood, brick and stone on Beulah Hill began to look deserted; rats infested the prayer-rooms in the minarets. None remained but a few half-starved dupes. The governor of Maine ordered an investigation of life behind the bars of the New Zion and Sandford's assistant, "Moses" Holland, was haled forth, with a number of half-insane creatures, who were handed back to their own people more dead than alive. Then Sandford bought a "fleet"—an old barkentine and two yachts. With "Elijah" Sandford and "Moses" Holland as admirals, they put to sea with seventy of the flock. The "holy fleet's" destination was kept secret, but it leaked out later that the pilgrims were at Beirut, in Syria. Their leader had acquired land near Joppe, and there some, at least, of the "Holy Ghosts" are said to be located.

The "Holy Rollers" also claim a chapter of American history. This sect was organized six years ago by the shores of Chesandagus lake in Western New York. Belief in hell is their chief tenet, and conversion is by fear. The penitent, it is said, lies on the floor at the end of a great hall and rolls over and over like a hypothesized film, until a big "mela" until the authorities are satisfied the devil is rolled out of him.

This fantastic ceremony has lasted as long as five hours, and as the unhappy penitent rolls the sins of a lifetime are elicited from him by confession.

Then, there are the "Flying Rollers," and the "Sanctified Church of Adam and Eve." The founder of the latter was arrested while preaching on the street, because the police thought he should have at least some covering. He declared all clothing unnecessary, and was promptly placed in an asylum.

The "Golden Ruleers" are a new sect, led by a barefooted, scantily clad old man, who appeared near Oklahoma City last summer and declared himself the "new Adam." He gathered forty male and women about him, and they started for the Pacific coast to found a new Eden. The leader declared he would never die, but would disappear from the earth in a cloud of fire.

There are only a few of the many anomalous religious bodies that have appeared to the public for a hearing in our age. The truth is that amidst this babel of voices, the sheep of the true Shepherd recognize His voice and follow Him. A false shepherd they will not follow, no matter under what name he appears.

THE SAN FRANCISCO SCANDALS.

There is no longer any doubt about the scandalous conditions that have existed in the municipal government of San Francisco. According to the testimony before the grand jury the dishonesty of officials and business men was simply appalling. It is charged that at the very time the city was staggering under the blow of the earthquake certain officials accepted over \$450,000 as a bribe from one corporation alone.

The Pacific States Telephone company, it is claimed, paid the supervisors to refuse to grant a franchise to the Home Telephone company, but the Home Telephone company appealed to Schmitz and Ruef, and through them the supervisors, some of whom, it is said, had already taken money from the old company, were coerced into granting the franchise to the new company. The supervisors thus obtained money from both telephone companies.

These are only a few main points of the complicated tale of graft that resulted in a number of indictments.

The story is one of amazing dishonesty. It should, however, convey to the citizens of the other cities in this country the lesson that good government cannot be expected from a gang of members of which look upon a public office in no other light than that of legitimate spoil, belonging to the "victor."

Mr. Stanley, the late African explorer, tells of a tribe of Africans, who on seeing him and his company, gave many signs of satisfaction because they hoped to get a large addition to their food supply. They were cannibals. There could be no friendly intercourse with them. All they wanted was something to eat. And so they had to be fired at. They were routed and scattered in all directions. There is no other effective way of treating the "cannibals" that see nothing higher, nothing nobler, in public service than a means of gratifying their depraved cravings. When they succeed, they are certain to rob the public upon whose favors they depend for the opportunity of committing their outrages.

Unfortunately, San Francisco is not the only city that is in the hands of an incompetent government. That public money has been squandered in our own City is beyond dispute, since the financial report for last year tells the story. In the figures representing a deficit that has not been accounted for satisfactorily. That large sums of money have been turned away from the public channels is also made probable from the fact that while the dues levied last year upon the various orders of shame undoubtedly exceeded the amounts of previous years, the part that found its way into the public treasury was considerably smaller. Where did the money go to? Then the management of the public work appears in a very queer light. For instance, as an illustration, contracts are given to parties in favor with the gang, to haul away a sand hill. They are to be paid a large sum of the people's money for that work and then they sell the sand or gravel and pocket that money too. Graft, graft everywhere!

The story of San Francisco ought to be a reminder to other cities that a day of reckoning is necessary, lest the evil assume too large proportions. The present conditions in this city command a conspiracy between disgruntled politicians to capture the offices they hoped to make the first stepping stones to further power and honors, to which they are in no wise entitled. We believe the citizens now realize that they have had enough of the rule of conspiracy and that it is time for a government that shall represent an era of good will between all classes, and administer the affairs of the City with ability and honesty.

FROM AN OLD BOOK.

Elder B. Morris Young is the proud possessor of a little book that is just a hundred years old. It has a double title, one English and the other French, and this quality is preserved throughout, one page being in one language and the next page in the other. The full title, then, is "The Economy of Human Life, translated from the English into French by J. Marie de Bordes, Economie de la Vie Humaine Traduite de l'Anglais en Français, par J. Marie de Bordes." It was copyrighted on Feb. 14, 1807, in the 31st year of the Independence of the United States.

The book treats on nearly everything pertaining to morality. The author is one Robert Dodsley, who, in order to give his work prestige, claimed that it was a translation from a Chinese author, who, in his turn had translated it from an ancient manuscript belonging to a Brahmin. The entire book consists of precepts stated in terse sentences, something on the order of the Proverbs of Solomon. It ends with a chapter on religion, which shows sincere devotion and spirituality, such as are very rare in modern publications.

We take the liberty of quoting a few sentences from the chapter entitled "Father," to give an idea of the religious literature of this country a hundred years ago:

"Consider, thou who art a parent, the importance of thy trust; the being thou has produced, it is thy duty to support."

"Upon thee also it dependeth, whether the child of thy bosom shall be a blessing or a curse to thyself; a useful or a worthless member of the community."

"Prepare him with early instruction, and season his mind with the maxims of truth."

"Watch the bent of his inclination; set him right in his youth; and let no evil habit gain strength with his years."

"So shall he rise like a cedar on the mountains, his head shall be seen above the trees of the forest."

"A wicked son is a reproach to his father, but he that doth right is an honor to his grey hairs."

"The soil is thine own, let it not want cultivation; the seed which thou sowest, that also shall thou reap."

"Teach him obedience, and he shall bless thee; teach him modesty, and he shall not be ashamed."

"Teach him gratitude, and he shall bless thee; teach him charity, and he shall give love."

"Teach him temperance, and he shall have health; teach him prudence, and fortune shall attend him."

"Teach him justice, and he shall be honored by the world; teach him sincerity, and his own heart shall not reproach him."

"Teach him diligence, and his wealth shall increase; teach him benevolence, and his mind shall be exalted."

"Teach him science, and his life shall be useful; teach him religion and his death shall be happy."

These are all excellent principles, well expressed. They are as important as they ever were. Especially timely is the exhortation: "Teach the child obedience, and he shall bless thee." Many children in our age of "liberty" know not what obedience really is, to their own disadvantage. "Teach him obedience, and he shall bless thee."

The newest Utah book, and decidedly the best of its kind ever issued, is "The City of the Saints," in picture and story, being an entrancing narrative of the great pilgrimage of the Pioneers; how they blazed a pathway to the Promised Land; how they built their homes by the mysterious inland sea, and the more modern chronicle of the resources, industries and attractions of the Beehive State. All of these are brought right up to the point of the latest available statistics from official and private sources. Every article is brief and breezy; everyone is in choice English. The illustrations are large, numerous and artistic in the highest degree. The cover page is in colors and of beautiful design and craftsmanship. It is just the thing to send away to friends who are desirous of learning of the attractions of this western wonderland; who would know something of the marvelous achievements that have been wrought in the waste places which have been made to blossom as a garden of uncommon beauty. For missionaries, who have to answer countless questions upon this topic and that, it is without the shadow of doubt, superior to all other efforts along pictorial and literary lines. Its price, too, is cheap, fifty cents, for which sum it will be mailed to any address in the United States. It is for sale at the Deseret News Book store, and the attention of missionary workers and Conference visitors is specially directed to it.

Tainted money is the sour grapes of philanthropists.

There are many aids to memory but none better than a collection agency.

The numerous affidavits in the Shaw case must tend to make the defendant swearing mad.

The California rivers are falling. In San Francisco the flood of corruption seems to be rising.

The uncertain glory of an April day is not half so uncertain as the weather bureau predictions.

Abie Ruef may become a prisoner in the former home of Mayor Schmitz. This would be to pile Pelion on Ossa.

A New York doctor has sworn that prunes are bad for a stiff neck. They tend to make boarders stiff-necked and rebellious.

The Persians have a different name for every day of the month. This must make it difficult for their parliament to adjourn sine die.

The Panama canal zone government is to be overhauled and considerable changes made. Will matters on the isthmus never get settled?

Nicaragua reports great successes over the Honduran army. Honduras' account of her success seems to have been "delayed in transmission."

Stuyvesant Fish says that faith is the basis of finance. Here it is particularly true that if faith hath not works it is dead, being alone.

United States bluejackets and marines have been landed in Honduras. Lucky for them that Sweetnam was not there to order them back!

Binks said you could not indict a whole people. And it begins to look as though you couldn't indict three whole companies of negro soldiers.

Mr. Bryan says that he does not know yet whether or not he will be a presidential candidate again. He may not, but everybody else does. He will.

St. Petersburg holds the highest death rate among the world's capitals. The " feud" between the revolutionists and the government officials doubtless has much to do with the statistics.

An Arkansas state senator has introduced a bill making it unlawful for negroes to wait upon or serve white persons as porters on trains, as barbers, or as waiters in restaurants or hotels, and equally unlawful for white servants to wait upon negroes. His reason for wanting such a bill enacted into law is to prevent negroes from taking the white women about the waist and helping them off the train. Was sillier reason for anything ever advanced? The Arkansas traveler was a man of wonderful enlightenment compared with this Arkansasian.

Gathered On The Battlefield of Thought.

Speaking of Rash statements in the Reality of popular expositions to the effect that the exponents of matter have been disproved are roundly condemned by Prof. R. A. Milliken, of Chicago University, in a review in Science (New York) of a recent work on the phenomena of radioactivity and the so-called electrical theory of matter. "Of course," he admits, "every trained reader knows that in the ultimate analysis of things there is nothing in the universe which is not hypothetical to any particular individual, except the fact of his own consciousness." But he goes on to say: "The ordinary reader will understand that in the above statements the author is merely denying the existence of matter in the broad, metaphysical sense in which the philosopher denies the existence of any external world whatever. He will rather understand him to be using language in the sense in which it is commonly used in books on physical subjects, and to be tacitly assuming the existence of an external world and yet denying the existence of matter as a constituent of that world. . . . Such assertions seem to me to be particularly fruitful of confusion of thought in the minds of the untrained, while to the trained they are devoid of all meaning. For matter as we ordinarily understand the term does not involve any particular hypothesis as to the inner nature of the atom. As commonly understood, matter is merely that something which possesses the properties of weight and inertia, and to be tacitly assuming the existence of an external world and yet denying the existence of matter as a constituent of that world. . . . Such assertions seem to me to be particularly fruitful of confusion of thought in the minds of the untrained, while to the trained they are devoid of all meaning. 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