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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 19, 1909.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-ninth annual general
Conference of the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints will as-
semble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake
City, on Sunday, April 4, 1909, at 10
o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the
officers and members is hereby re-
quested.

A general Priesthood meeting will be
held in the Tabernacle on Monday,
April 5, beginning at 6 o'clock p. m.

The first Sunday of April being Con-
ference it is suggested that Sunday,
March 28, be observed as fastday in
Salt Lake, English, Pioneer, Liberty,
Granite, and Jordan stakes.

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

RELIEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE.

The April Conference of the Relief
Society will be held in the Salt Lake
City Assembly Hall, Friday and
Saturday, April 2 and 3, 1909, meetings
commencing at 10 a. m. and at 2 p. m.

Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, an
officers' meeting will be held in the
fourteenth ward, at which all stake
officers of the society, who can, are ex-
pected to be present.

Saturday afternoon at 2 will be the
closing meeting of the conference. It is
desired that there should be a repre-
sentation from every stake organiza-
tion and a large attendance of mem-
bers.

The General Authorities of the
Church, and officers and members of
the Y. L. M. J. A. and Primary associa-
tions are cordially invited to be present
at the conference meetings in the As-
sembly Hall.

BATHSHERA W. SMITH,
General President.
IDA SMOOT DUSENBERRY,
Counselor.

THE HUNTINGTON PLAN.

The city of Huntington, West Vir-
ginia, has adopted a plan of govern-
ment that is said to be non-partisan,
not only in theory but in practice. It
is founded upon the Galveston plan,
but contains some important additions
and modifications.

The plan provides for a citizens'
board consisting of sixteen persons from
each ward, and a board of com-
missioners. The commissioner receiving
the greatest number of votes at the
general election is, by reason there-
of, the mayor of the city.

The citizens' board is made large and
representative. It is not intended that
it shall meet very often; only when
necessary to check any wrongful ac-
tion of the commissioners in the pas-
sage of harmful ordinances and fran-
chises. The board is in the nature
of a referendum board, but ordinances
and franchises become effective unless
vetoed by the board. In other words,
no action of the citizens' board is re-
quired to make an ordinance or fran-
chise effective, but the board's veto
renders them ineffective.

Concerning the nomination of candi-
dates, the following provision is made:

"It is provided that candidates to be
voted for at any municipal election for
members of the board of commissioners
and members of the citizens' board
may be nominated by convention, pri-
mary or petition, in the manner and
under the provisions now or hereafter
prescribed by state laws relating thereto;
provided, however, that no political
party shall nominate more than three
persons for the office of members of
the board of commissioners, no two
of whom shall be from the same ward,
and no more than eight persons in each
ward of the city for the office of mem-
bers of the citizens' board. If any cer-
tificate of nomination, or any petition
for nomination of candidates for either
the board of commissioners or the citi-
zens' board shall contain more names
than prescribed in this section for such
office, then the ballot commissioners
shall take the first three names for
board of commissioners and the first
eight names for citizens' board as the
nominations of such party for said re-
spective offices. And, provided fur-
ther, that there shall not be printed
on any ticket on any ballot to be voted
at any municipal election for the elec-
tion of officers of the city more than
three names for the office of member
of the board of commissioners nor more
than eight names for the office of mem-
bers of the citizens' board."

The Dallas News, from which this is
quoted, explains that the plan teaches
the voter to "edit" his ticket and vote
independently, because although he
may vote for four candidates for com-
missioner, yet he can find only three
on his ticket, thereby compelling him
to look for the fourth man on some
other ticket than his own. The com-
missioner, when elected, will, for this
reason, it is thought, not feel so bound
to his party as if elected solely by the
votes of his party without the aid of
votes from opposing parties. The fact
that only two candidates on any one
ticket can be elected to the board of
commissioners will induce the voters
to vote for the best man for the office
of commissioner, and not for the best
candidate of his ticket and seek the
other two on other tickets. And since
the police and fire departments, the
public health and other services, are
placed under little inducement to a
political party to make the effort to
capture the board for political ends.

Many cities of the United States are

at present looking for a system of mu-
nicipal government that places the
control of affairs in the hands of the
people and does away with the system
of speculation and plunder. Many a
city has a record of graft, corruption,
and bottomless debt, of which it is
thoroughly ashamed. But the public
conscience is awakening, and one re-
sult of this is seen in the earnest ef-
forts at reform in the interest of hon-
esty and a square deal.

Strictly in line with the tendency of
municipal reform is the suggestion of
Mr. A. L. Weil, president of the Yel-
low League of Pittsburgh, the organ-
ization which brought to light the
wholesale graft in the Pittsburgh city
government. He believes that one of
the most important steps to be taken
must be the complete removal of na-
tional politics from city elections. This
is the opinion of many who have
studied closely the problem of mu-
nicipal government. They know that mu-
nicipal voting must be made independ-
ent if the best results are to be ob-
tained.

MERE ASSUMPTION.

The Tribune in a vicious attack up-
on legislators who have remained true
to the people of Utah and their con-
scientious convictions, has this to say,
among other things: "What is censur-
able is the assumption that because
the Church had made a certain declara-
tion, therefore the Legislature was
bound by it and must comply with the
Church demand."

This refers to the Conference resolu-
tion on the temperance question.
The paper quoted, as usual, misrep-
resents matters. No one has ever as-
sumed that the Legislature was bound
by that resolution, or that the Legisla-
tors "must" comply with the Church
demand. The presentation of the case
in that light is but another malicious
attempt at stirring up prejudice
against the Church, which, by the
way, seems to be the only mission the
anti-Mormon sheet has found as an
exceedingly poor excuse for its exis-
tence. But the Church does not inter-
fere with the Legislature in any shape
or manner whatever.

The Church, at the October confer-
ence declared itself on a moral ques-
tion of great importance, and resolved
that its officers and members use their
influence with the people's representa-
tives in the Legislature to enact legisla-
tion closing the saloons and inhibiting
Sabbath desecration. It was "assumed"
that the officers and members of the
Church had a perfect right to use their
influence as American citizens, in favor
of righteous legislation. That was all
that was assumed. The liquor dealers
have assumed as much for themselves
and their iniquitous schemes, without
any objection from any quarter.

Any church has a right to speak upon
a moral issue and to give utterance to
the views of its members upon such
issues. And if the declaration made is
right, and in the interest of morality,
it is binding upon all connected with
the church, legislators not excepted.
For legislators, too, are morally bound
to do what is right. It is binding upon
them, not because a church may have
declared for it, but because it is right.
No man in public life in this Republic
is exempt from the duty of doing what
is for the best interests of morality.
The church to which he belongs may
point out what his duty is in a given
case, when opinions conflict and inter-
ests clash, but it cannot properly com-
pel him to perform that duty. That
must be left entirely with his own con-
science. So the assumption that the
Tribune assumes is nothing but the
most flimsy of all assumptions.

OPIUM AND LIQUOR.

China's war upon the opium traffic
is one of the remarkable manifesta-
tions of the present operation of the
Divine Spirit among the children of
men, for the moral and physical uplift
of the race. The opium habit is a me-
nace to the Chinese, as intoxicating
liquor is to Western nations, and the
resistance to its ravages has come
as a result of a realization of its dan-
gers.

It seems that from 10 to 20 per cent
of the male population is addicted to
opium, and that in some localities as
many as 80 per cent of the adult males
use it, and that many women are the
victims of the vice. It has been es-
timated that opium costs the people the
enormous sum of \$200,000,000 a year.
The opium habit, like the drink hab-
it, is easily formed but hard to break.
It brings its woes to the high officials
and to the poorest laborer. Many
wealthy families through this cause,
have been brought to extreme poverty.
The laboring man who earns from \$4.00
to \$7.50 a month, will soon spend
more than that amount on opium. As
a result he will first borrow, then
sell to a pawnbroker or others, his
clothing his home, his very wife and
children to supply that awful desire for
the cursed drug. Many of the dense
of vice have received their supply of
victims by the help of opium. Many
have gone the limit until nothing re-
mains but the craving for that which
they cannot supply, and then they turn
to the opium to bring them death as
their only refuge.

The increase of suicides is noted as
an alarming feature of the curse it
has brought upon the country. A doc-
tor, a resident of Chaoting, in West
China, is quoted as having spoken of
China as "The Land of Suicides,"
where there are "500,000 cases a year."
In his letter, published in 1898, he said:
"In the 30 days, ending June 18th
among the persons who came to our
home for help there were 19 cases of
opium suicide. In a population of 500,
000 more than 1,200 cases of opium
suicide occurred in 12 months in which
the aid of the missionaries was sought.
There are also many cases where the
aid of the foreigner is not sought.
Every year in China half a million
people attempt suicide by opium, possibly
many more. The majority of the cases
are those of women who cannot other-
wise escape the tyranny of cruel hus-
bands. The opium makes the suicide
possible and easy. It is the cause of
poverty, ruin and despair, or of a wife
sold into a life of shame, which makes
death desirable.

But the war upon opium is hampered

by mercenary interests. In 1842, after
the "Opium war," by treaty of Nankin,
China, as a result of her attempt to
destroy opium in Kwong Tung prov-
ince, was forced to yield Hongkong,
and to pay for the opium seized and
destroyed. Then China was compelled
to allow the trade to continue. Hong-
kong became a center of that trade
and of smuggling operations. Hong-
kong still demands the right to sell
opium to China. And official corre-
spondence, published in Hongkong dur-
ing December, 1908, shows that the
officials of the British government are
supporting that demand and prevent-
ing the Chinese authorities from carry-
ing out regulations which would "seri-
ously restrict and hamper the sale of
raw opium in the Kwong Tung Prov-
ince."

It is almost incredible that any
Christian nation can endeavor to pre-
vent China from trying to overcome
a vice that threatens to ruin the race,
but that seems to be the fact. In
China the apologists for the opium
trade are fighting hard for the revenue
of the trade, just as the apologists
for and beneficiaries of the saloon in
the Western world are doing for their
selfish interests.

LABOR COLONIES.

The State of New York is trying to
deal with the tramp problem on the
pattern furnished by the labor colonies
of Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland.
Leading charitable organizations and
large business concerns support the es-
tablishment of such colonies.

The idea is to send those convicted
of vagrancy to labor colonies, where
they will be detained for a longer or
shorter period, and teach to reclaim
and cultivate the land. They are to
be paid for their work and the amount
earned turned over to them when re-
leased. It is stated that the plan has
worked so satisfactorily in the Euro-
pean countries where it has been tried,
that vagrancy there is practically un-
known.

That the tramp question demands
special attention in this country, is
evident to all. It is claimed that we
have here from 500,000 to 1,000,000
vagrants. The loss suffered through
tramps by railroads is estimated at
\$25,000,000 annually, which accounts for
the interest in the proposed new plan
of dealing with them by railroad of-
ficials.

Castro is Venezuela's Philip Nolan.

A tax on coffee? That settles it. No
more coffee.

England with all her Dreadnoughts
dreads Germany.

Speaker Cannon has a way of smok-
ing them all out.

An evidence of confidence—loaning
a stranger money.

The session laws of 1909 may be
even "practically over."

Sitting on the bleachers is not the
way girls bleach their hair.

The more of a dream a woman's
bouquet the more expensive it is.

A girl who takes music lessons does
not always thereby acquire tone.

"Spring is here," says an exchange.
Yes, here tomorrow and gone today.

The session laws of 1909 will be
known as the black and blue laws.

Is it any worse to take baths on Sun-
day than to hold legislative sessions on
Sunday?

"After the Salome dance—what?"
asks the Globe-Democrat. Generally
an encore.

One good way to raise revenue for
the government would be to reduce
expenses.

In this country it is the school boy
who suffers most from the "sleeping
sickness."

The duty on lead ores is not dis-
turbed though a great many interested
in them were.

At the dinner of the Sons of Eli to
President Taft what the Wilson-Gor-
man bill was to President Cleveland.

Hoke Smith says that his favor-
ite diet is chicken. And he is of
Georgia, the land of "possums."

A man may have a wrong reason
for being right but he cannot have a
right reason for being wrong.

The Payne tariff bill may yet be to
President Taft what the Wilson-Gor-
man bill was to President Cleveland.

Fine tribute that of President Taft
to the memory of Grover Cleveland.
The great best appreciate the great.

It is announced that on his African
trip Colonel Roosevelt will shave him-
self. May he have no closer shaves
while in the Dark Continent!

Charles M. Schwab says that the new
tariff bill is too drastic. Andrew Car-
negie said, writing of the tariff, that
the evidence of interested parties was
not to be relied upon.

PETROSINO,

New York Commercial.

The probability is that the married
police detective, Lieutenant Joseph
Petrosino, was close to being right in
his notion that there is no regularly
organized and maintained society that
is responsible for all the so-called
"black-hand" outrages and attempts
at blackmail, extortion and other
crimes but that individuals or small
groups of conspirators are the names
of and devise symbols for a criminal
organization largely imaginary; and if
this theory is correct, it goes a long
way toward explaining why it is that
they have multiplied and grown
bolder and bolder in their operations,
why they have succeeded so far, and why
so many detectives are so often suc-
cessful in their comparative have been
to cover and brought to punishment
for an organization, with branches and
likely now and then to accidentally dis-
close some of its secrets and its ma-
chinery as to become the victim of
some traitorous member, thus permit-
ting the police authorities to

"round up" the society and its mem-
bership and eventually to break the
system up entirely; but one man re-
sponsible for all the "black-hand"
devices and methods has no
secrets but his own and nobody's
treachery to fear.

New York World.

New York has been feeling long
enough with the blackhanders and as-
saults who terrorize Italian and other
immigrants in the city. It is not too
late for the Aldermen to recede from
their position as protectors of danger-
ous criminals. If they should serve
detained notice even now, by giving
Gen. Bingham a secret-service fund,
that the whole community propose to
make war on this class of men, and
not leave the work to private gener-
osity, it would have an excellent moral
effect. Nothing so discourages crime
conspiracies as the knowledge that any
one of the conspirators may be
feathering his nest by secretly betray-
ing his fellow-conspirators. Whatever
means taken, the entry of the black-
handing letter, the stiletto and the
bomb must be put down.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

George F. Parker, in his second pa-
per on Cleveland, in the March Mc-
Clure's, gives the first authentic story
of the remarkable campaign which
elected him to the presidency a second
time. Prof. M. A. Rosanoff describes
the experiments made by scientists,
which show, with the exactness of
mathematics, the effects of alcohol on
all human activities; J. A. Conant, the
artist, tells of his experiences in paint-
ing a portrait of Lincoln; T. R. Mac-
Machen describes the country where
Roosevelt will hunt in South Africa,
and James I. Ford contributes a pa-
per on "Our National Stage." Mrs.
Humphrey Ward's great novel, "Mar-
riage a la Mode," is continued, and
the number contains the following short
stories: "Bibi Steinfield's Hunting,"
by Eleanor Stuart; "The Reformation
of Jack Ketch," by James Hopper;
"Mrs. Sweeney's Vengeance," by
Charles R. Barnes; "The Fountain
Light," by Fielding Hall; "The Vacant
Road," by George Kibbe Turner; "The
Strength of the Law," by F. J. Louriet,
and "The Reckoning," by Robert
Lounsbury Black—41-50 E. 23rd St.,
New York.

President William D. Witt Hyde in
his article in The Homiletic Review for
March gives a concrete example
of what is known as the "Case Sys-
tem" (see February Review). This ar-
ticle is on "The Attitude of the Col-
lege and the College Man toward Im-
morality," and refers to a particular
student who was recently removed
from Bowdoin College on account of
immorality. Professor George B.
Eager, of the Southern Baptist Theo-
logical Seminary, Louisville, contri-
butes an article on "Current and
Christian Ideas of Progress." He takes
the ground that progress "is rooted in,
and conditioned by the new birth from
above." The president of Middlebury
College, Vermont, John M. Thomas, in
a noteworthy article entitled "Faith
and Old Testament Criticism," says
that "if good people fully understood
the advances to religious thinking,
to practical piety, and to the lines of
defense of the Christian view of life,
from the change of attitude,
they would thank God for this
revolution of opinion as devoutly as
they now thank Him for the mission-
aries." "Relations of Babylonian and
Old Testament Culture," by Dr. König,
of Bonn University, Germany, is the
third in the series of articles dealing
with "the controvertible connections
between Babylon and the Bible with
regard to primitive history." "A Par-
adox in Personality," is the title of an
article which will be eagerly read, if
for no other reason than that it deals
with the religious philosophy and po-
litical apologies of ex-Premier Bal-
four, the present leader of His Maj-
esty's opposition in the House of Com-
mons—Funk & Wagnalls Company,
44-60 East 23rd Street, New York.

Gunter's Magazine occupies a unique
and popular field in the magazine world
by devoting its 160 pages of reading
to up-to-date stories of real adventure
and adventure, fully illustrated. The March
number is about the "best yet" issue
of the magazine. It is notable particu-
larly for the pleasing variety of the
stories and the quality of unadulterated
entertainment, the giving of a thrill of
pleasure to the reader, is evident
throughout. Besides a complete novel,
the March number contains install-
ments of two serial novels, eight short
stories, in addition to the usual de-
partments of verse and humor. The
cover design is by Charles Hope Pro-
vost, a striking frontispiece is from
the brush of J. A. Conant, equal to noted
artists. The contributors are H. Rider
Haggard, Roy Norton, Rafael Sabatini,
Eleanor M. Ingram, Leslie Stuart, Al-
lan Updegraff, Philip Jacques, Little
McClung, W. W. Audick, Alan Gordon,
Ruth Huntoon, Fred Jackson, Har-
garet Erskine, and Herbert Wynd-
ham-Gittens—78-80 Seventh Ave., New
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BOTH PHONES 3568

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Evening—25c, 50c, 75c; Box seat, \$1.

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gerie dresses, silk and
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women's fine tailored
shirts.



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story