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Salt Lake City, Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 14, 1902.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, in this city, Friday, April 4, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. The general authorities of the church, presidents of stakes and also all engaged in the ministry, who can make it convenient to attend, are cordially invited to be present.

JOSEPH F. SMITH
JOHN R. WINDER
ANTHONY H. LUND
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health department of the city is to be commended for the work that is being performed in the general cleaning up which is in process, by which the sanitary situation will certainly be largely improved. It is a great misfortune that we have no crematory in which to destroy the garbage, defunct animals and other waste matter that ought to be effectually disposed of by fire. If the facilities afforded by such a building were at the disposal of the health officers, much better results could be accomplished than those that are now achieved.

Another commendable step towards the preservation of the public health was taken by Dr. King, Chemist Harms and Attorney Nye, in urging before the committee on municipal laws and sanitation, the necessity for the passage of a new ordinance regulating the sale of ice. This article of merchandise has become more than a luxury. During several months in the year it is a positive necessity to comfort and palatable food. It has come into such general use that, if it is furnished in an impure condition, it becomes a menace to the public health. That it ought to be officially inspected appears to need no argument to satisfy reasonable minds.

We can understand the reason why some dealers object to the measure that is now proposed. We do not wish to support anything that would be injurious to their business, if it was not preservative of the general welfare. But we think the arguments presented in their behalf to the committee were fully met, and completely covered, by the reasons offered from the gentlemen we have named, and the public interest must be consulted far beyond that of individuals. Councilman Thomas was undoubtedly right in his contention, that Salt Lake is entitled to pure ice as much as Chicago is, and the ordinance proposed being modeled upon the lines of the Chicago provisions which have been found to operate beneficially, it ought undoubtedly to be passed as recommended by the committee.

In these times of adulteration, and the prevalence of commercial schemes and practices over public and private interests, for speculative purposes, it becomes absolutely necessary that a strict oversight shall be maintained as to the food supplies offered for sale, so that the public may be protected from impure and deleterious articles, that they may not be imposed upon in pocket or injured in health. It is gratifying to know that our health department is alive to the situation and the needs of the times.

AN UNSETTLED QUESTION.

The police committee of the City Council has postponed for thirty days, consideration of the appointment of three patrolmen as nominated by the Chief of Police. The reason offered for this delay is, that "further wrangling over the police question is not desirable for the present."

This may be considered good policy, in view of the obstacles in the way of a permanent adjustment of the difficulties surrounding the police situation. It is very regrettable that the force should be left in the condition attending its deprivation of three men, when every member of the force is needed and the number ought to be increased rather than diminished. A great deal is expected of the police department, in the preservation of the public peace and the arrest, care and employment of offenders against the city ordinances. It cannot be reasonably expected that these duties can be satisfactorily performed by the few men now employed on the police force.

The reason assigned for putting off consideration of these appointments, is a tacit confession of inability to bring about that harmony in the City Council which is essential to success in the conduct of municipal affairs. The idea that competent men, against whom nothing can be urged on the score of fitness for the position, cannot be placed in office because of a determination not to confirm the nominations of an officer who is not altogether acceptable to some persons, is a

reflection on the judgment, public spirit and regard for the city's welfare, expected in officials elected to attend to public business and not to gratify personal pique or private predilections.

Is there any likelihood that this matter will be in any better shape in a month from this time than at present? If not, will the question have to be shelved from month to month indefinitely? And is the police service to be thus continuously crippled without prospect of a final settlement of the trouble? It will have to be squarely met at some time. And the sooner it is disposed of the better it will be for the city and all persons concerned.

The Deseret News has no selections to make, no individual or individuals to condemn or support; but it regards this police matter as disgraceful to the city, and the depletion of the police force as very unfortunate and pregnant with danger to the community, considering the small number of its peace officers, even when the force is complete as provided for by law.

TAXATION OF CHURCHES.

A number of Chicago citizens have started a regular agitation for the purpose of inducing the state legislature to tax church property. They are holding mass meetings and passing resolutions in the interest of their cause. The movement is supported by the Turners, the Federation of Labor, and some other societies, representing, it is estimated, about 200,000 persons.

"They think the churches in the United States hold an immense amount of property, in fact, one billion dollars' worth, and that it is a great injustice to other taxpayers, that this property is exempt. Only one-third of the people, they argue, have interest enough in churches to become members of them, and the other two-thirds do not, although they are not all free thinkers by any means. The result is that two-thirds of the people are called on to pay taxes for the benefit of as much more than they ought to, as the amount of taxes from which the churches are exempted."

The leaders of the movement are rather suspicious of the churches. They claim to see in their existence a danger to our free institutions. One of the speakers at a mass meeting expressed that fear as follows:

"The problem before us is whether we are to have a secular society or a spiritual society. Are we to be able to keep the state distinct from the church, as the Constitution ordains it, or go back to the bad times of a religious government? Taxation is a powerful means of changing social conditions. Ever since men began to think clearly about it, they have understood that it was wrong that some men should be taxed for the benefit of others. If the church property keeps increasing under its unfair privilege the time may come when the church will have power enough to destroy free government. The millionaires in Washington might make a deal with the church and crush out the liberties of the people."

It is difficult to see how there is any more danger in the purchase of the churches by millionaires, than there is of their "buying up" the various organizations that clamor against the churches. But if there is any danger in that direction, it would certainly be augmented by the levying of taxes on the church property. For many churches are now struggling with financial problems that ice-cream parties and other cheap methods of obtaining funds fail to solve satisfactorily. Were the burdens still further augmented, selling out to millionaires would seem to be about the only recourse open to a number of them. The proposed remedy would precipitate the very evil now regarded as a future possibility.

The fact is that the property of the churches generally represents but the voluntary contributions of all classes of citizens that pay their proportion of the taxes. To require them to pay an extra tribute to the public treasuries for the privilege of contributing to a philanthropic institution from which they derive no financial benefit, is hardly just and equitable. The state and church are separated in this country. But the state cannot do without the religious influence of churches. The Chicago agitators may think that they derive no benefit from the pulpit, but they do. The influence of God-fearing men and women in a community, even if they are few, is so great that it cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Why, the Almighty, we are told, would have spared Sodom, had there been but ten righteous persons in the doomed city. Is there no lesson in the fact that the world today clearly shows that material prosperity, progress, and enlightenment closely follow the path of the cross? What would the United States be, were the country deprived of the religious life and light it enjoys? France once tried the experiment of extinguishing such light as it had, and substituting reason, but the failure was terrible. The churches may be weak and erring in many respects, but they more than repay the state for the privilege they enjoy of promulgating the principles of morality and loyalty, in houses free from taxation.

General Funston captured Chicago with much greater ease than he did Aguinaldo.

What care the automobilists for the rules of the road when the automobile rules the road?

A burlesque trust is proposed. And it will not be any burlesque on trusts, but the real thing.

Eggs at eighteen cents a dozen can no longer be considered a delicacy for the table of Dives.

If Neptune treats Henry as well as Uncle Sam did, the prince will have nothing to complain of.

Chicago is making war on the smoke nuisance. The smoke of battle there is bituminous coal smoke.

King Edward has abandoned his proposed trip to Ireland. He will not thereby forfeit the love of his Irish subjects.

Some people seem to think that a hammerless gun is a harmless one. They should understand that there are no harmless guns.

There never were so many automobiles at Monte Carlo as now. Still fast rollers will never supplant half rollers at the famous resort.

Louisville's health officer has opened war on the sale and manufacture of hamburger cheese in that city. He has a strong scent and should accomplish something.

A contemporary calls Senator Berry a "small bore." It is a time of small bore, for own and every other government have adopted them for their armies and navies.

The Iowa legislature has killed the woman suffrage amendment, but Iowa, with all her cabinet positions and speakerships, cannot kill the suffrage movement.

A Bryn Mawr professor thinks the

and energy. Delaney is said to be one of the greatest strategists of the Boers. Previous to the war, he was a merchant. He voted against the ultimatum that precipitated the hostilities, but when the die was cast, he took the field on which he has so signally distinguished himself.

WAR HUMORS IN ASIA.

A Seattle dispatch gives as the opinion of an English captain just arrived from Japan, that war between that country and Russia is imminent. Were this an isolated rumor, it would not attract much attention, but when the same opinions are expressed in different quarters, one naturally concludes that where there is much smoke, there must be some fire.

Not long ago it was reported that Russia had dispatched 500 troops to invade Chinese territory, in the district of Jehol, no more than a hundred miles from Pekin. The excuse was found in the fact that Chinese bandits had seized a priest. The telegraph wires had also been cut, and this furnished an extra reason for the invasion.

The trouble is that Russia may not confine her operations to the release of the captive priest and the repair of the wires. In the disturbances that have occurred she may find an excuse for the seizure of territory, or at least its temporary occupation by troops, which, however, amounts to the same thing. But Japan and Great Britain have declared their intention of preventing any further encroachment, even if it has to be done by force. For that reason there is nothing incredible in the rumor that the Russians are hurrying on the work of fortifying Port Arthur, or that the Japanese are preparing for an attack. Russia appears to be carrying out her plans with regard to China, without the slightest regard for the alliance that was announced to check her progress. Perhaps a great foreign war, with prospects of glorious victories, would not be entirely unwelcome to the Russian government, at a time when the empire is rendered shaky by internal revolutionary agitations.

It is hardly to be supposed that the Japanese are anxious for a single-handed contest with the Russian giant. Still, if they believe that such a contest is inevitable, sooner or later, they may perhaps conclude that the present moment is more favorable than any which the future may bring. At all events, the situation in eastern Asia is full of interest just now. When the storm breaks loose again, it may attain disastrous proportions.

MOST PROFIT FROM LABOR.

A contributor to Popular Science Monthly raises the question whether intense activity for comparatively brief periods, followed by longer periods of rest, is not the most profitable way of working. He finds proofs for the affirmative side of this proposition in what may be observed in the lives of animals, of children, and of women engaged in the fields in which their genius asserts itself. As quoted in Public Opinion, he sums up his argument thus:

"We have now considered the life of the animal, the child, the woman, the genius, the criminal, the savage, the man, the theory that brief periods of work at the very highest possible tension, alternating with longer periods of rest for changed activity, represent the best working conditions and have found not a little evidence to support it in every quarter. The experience of other than more professional athletes, the methods of animal trainers, the results of half-time schools, the progressive reduction of the hours of labor for working-men and shop-employees will furnish many more data of the same kind. It has been argued that two hours physical labor per diem would distribute the product economically, to keep the whole world well supplied, so great has been the advance in labor-saving machinery, methods of transportation, etc. Is it altogether unreasonable to suppose that two hours intellectual work, under tight conditions and with economic distribution of the product, would suffice to keep the whole world supplied here also? Two hours of every one's best would be something worth achieving, physically and intellectually. An end something like this is the ideal to which things are bound to tend. Some part of the future may be able to sing: 'Better the New World hour than the long European day.' The racial nervousness of the American people, the pathological in reality, is perhaps the groundwork for this achievement."

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cradle of the human race was in southeastern Asia. It may be, but the cradle of the human race has become about the most ubiquitous thing in the world.

Hon. W. S. McCormick has signified his willingness to accept the position of secretary of the interior. Now let the President signify his willingness to appoint him and all will be well.

Perhaps General Methuen was released because the Boers thought he would be of more service to them in leading British troops into traps than as a prisoner.

The health department is going to see to it that the people are furnished with pure ice. Does the department understand that it has undertaken a job compared with which that of Sisyphus was easy?

There is some prospect that an agreement regarding Cuban reciprocity will be reached. This shows more reciprocal regard for either side than has been displayed heretofore. All government is in a measure a compromise, and without it the progress made would be sorry indeed.

"The fashionable devotee has a blue room in which to pursue her Lenten meditations. Blue is assured of society's patronage for some time to come, for it is the favorite color of England's queen," says a Washington paper. It looks more like a color scheme to draw attention to the devotee than for meditation and spiritual contemplation.

A novelty in automobiles is, says the London Graphic, the automobile sleigh. In this vehicle the motor is connected with a paddlewheel. The wheel, which is constructed entirely of steel, catches in the frozen snow and so drives the sleigh forward. These motor sledges are said to travel at twice the speed of a sleigh drawn by horses. They should be useful in countries with long winters, and perhaps in Arctic explorations.

Rev. Lorrimer, of New York, thinks that in fifty years the people of the United States will have no Sabbath, if the present rate of living is kept up. He does not believe that religious life in the country is at quite as low ebb as some critics maintain, but he admits that it would be imprudent to ignore entirely the accusations they are making. "We live," he says, "for money by day and pleasure by night. I have no fear in saying that, at the present rate at which we are living, in fifty years we will have no Sabbath."

A GRAND OLD MAN.

Los Angeles Herald.
The last of the European trinity of "grand old men"—Gladstone, Bismarck, and XLI—has just entered upon his ninety-third year of life and the twenty-fifth of his pontificate. Not only the vast membership of his church throughout the world, but enlightened people of all classes regard the pontiff as the grandest figure now on life's stage. His personal purity and the true Christian spirit that has always characterized him have endeared him to all intelligent people, of whatever spiritual belief. An amazing change has been wrought in the world's evolution since the day when Gioacchino Pecci first saw the light, March 2, 1810. The map of the world, in fact, has been changed in nearly every part since that date. Before many grandfathers of the present day were born, the pope held the distinguished position of nuncio to Brussels (1848). He was made an archbishop in 1848, and next year it will be half a century since he became a cardinal.

New York Herald.
When Jackson was president for the first time and Webster was serving his first term in the senate, Leo was a young man and a member of the Belgian court. He was an archbishop before our American war was fought, and a cardinal when few people beyond their own neighborhood had ever heard of Lincoln and Grant and Sherman. He was elected pope twenty-four years ago, when his sixty-eight years, his extreme old age, and his feeble health made it seem impossible for him to live more than a few months. Yet he has been the incessantly active head of the great Roman Catholic church for a longer period than any but a very few of the spiritual sovereigns of that institution, which was centuries old and a world power, when the oldest of existing European nations was in its feeble and miserable childhood.

Kansas City Star.
In a country where the church has such a hold on the people as in Italy, a conflict with the papacy is a desperate struggle. The state has not succeeded, for instance, in making marriage a civil ceremony. Society in Rome is sharply divided into the "Reds" and "Blacks." Most of the old and noble families refuse to go to the quirk or to admit to their circles those who are on good terms with the monarchy. The papacy has another advantage. In dignity and prestige the Vatican, occupied by Leo overhauled the quirk, where the young Victor Emmanuel. Notable persons from every land go to Rome, and they usually seek an audience at the Vatican in preference to one at the quirk. The church party is trying on the consequent humiliation to the king as a power working in favor of the removal of the capital to another city.

New York Mail and Express.
In the eyes of all the world the central figure is that of a fragile and emaciated man, so old that all the dross of the flesh seems to have fallen from him, leaving but a shadowy mortal garb for a benign spirituality fused with a master intellect. The earth is belted with the millions who worship in the faith of which he is the head. But the pontifical jubilee of Leo XIII. is of scarcely greater interest to them than to thoughtful men of other creeds. For those who do not bow to him as Pope of Rome claim full share in the reverence due him as a mighty man. When the final word is written of "the pontiff of the Vatican," the world will be the poorer, for the church party is trying on the consequent humiliation to the king as a power working in favor of the removal of the capital to another city.

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affairs is such that the Philippine commission is almost ready to declare the whole of Luzon pacified, an announcement that will probably now not be long delayed.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The American Boy for March has a number of interesting stories, among which are: "A School Lookout," by D. B. Robinson; "Cuthbert's Rattle," by Edgar D. Price; "A Night in the North," by Frank Baird; "A Grandmotherly Lark," by Minna Stanwood; "Toby," a story for "Little Boys," by Roberts Silvey. Among other leading features we notice "The Pioneer Annual," "The Pioneer Farmer," "A Boy's Relief Society," "Two Boys at the Passion Play of Oberammergau," by Harry Steele Morrison, and "The Boy with an Aim." The special departments are interesting and instructive. Handsome illustrations adorn nearly every page. —The Sprague Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich.

In the March number of the North American Review Wolf von Schlerer writes of "Germany's Political Turning Point," showing how the change in national and international conditions which has brought about a virtual dissolution of the Dreikaiser system makes it necessary for the government of the empire to adopt a policy of active friendship toward Great Britain and the United States. Hanns Taylor, in "International Arbitration and the Pan-American Conference," explains how the Pan-American conference in its conclusions regarding obligatory arbitration took a hopeful step beyond the limit at which the action of the congress at The Hague was stayed. L. A. Miner, a teacher in the North China College, Peking, gives a historical exposure of the development of "Muscovite Designs on Manchuria." J. H. Walker advocates a radical reform of "The Banking and Treasury System of the United States." A Friend of the Navy brings to notice "Some Neglected Naval Lessons of the Spanish War." Claude Phillips discusses "The Quality of Emotion in Modern Art." Hugh H. Luck expounds the reasons for the antipodean legislation which is designed to effect "Chinese Exclusion in Australia." Dr. S. A. Knopf calls attention to the gravity of "The Tuberculosis Problem in the United States." Representative W. H. Moody, in reply to Maurice Lusk, the "Constitutional Power of the Senate." In "The Philippines after an Earthquake," Stephen Borsal, who has just returned from a protracted visit to our recently acquired possession, tells a discouraging story of the conditions now existing there; and Mr. Harold Cox describes "The Public Debt of the British Possessions." —New York.

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