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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 23, 1908.

**CONFERENCE NOTICE.**  
The Seventy-ninth semi-annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1908, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members of the Church is hereby requested.  
On account of the general Conference being held on the first Sunday of October, it is suggested that the last Sunday in September be observed as fast day in the Salt Lake, Ensign, Liberty, Pioneer, Granite and Jordan stakes.  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHON H. LUND,  
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

**STRIKE AT THE ROOT.**  
Public conscience has, finally, been awakened to the menace to public morals always present in the protected Commercial street traffic, and the County authorities will, we feel certain, have the approbation of the majority of the citizens in the crusade they have commenced against the evil. Now they should not be content with half measures. They should go to the very length of the authority given them by the law. It is not enough to fine, or imprison, the women who may be caught in transgression. The patrons of such places are equally guilty, and so are those who act as "agents," or who rent their property for immoral purposes. We hope the authorities will strike at the root of the evil and not be content with trimming the tree a little.

It has been demonstrated beyond a doubt that the people of this City do not want a "red-light" district under police protection, on the West Side. The citizens there have protested, and expressed a determination to appeal to the courts for protection against the "American" iniquity. But not only the citizens on the West Side, but citizens in all parts of the City have joined in that protest, proving that no such "district" is wanted anywhere. This being the fact, it is time that the evil be removed entirely, as far as this can be done. The "American" City authorities, cannot be expected to keep their antielection reform pledges. They were made to be broken. The efforts of the County authorities will, therefore, be all the more appreciated.

We realize that some well-meaning men and women regard the social evil as "necessary," and the crusade against it as futile. But that is a false position. The reasoning is illogical. The social evil is not any more "necessary" than stealing. It may be true that legislation and courts have not been effective in eradicating that evil. People steal in spite of law and courts. Some thieves even declare that they are suffering from a disease that impels them to steal. But we do not license thieves, by requiring them to pay part of their profit into the public treasury. We do not build stockades, or establish districts, and tell the thieves that as long as they stay there they can go on robbing the public. Why should transgressors against the moral code be treated as privileged individuals? The idea is absurd. Let the crusade go on until the City shall be as clean as earnest effort in the interest of morality can make it.

**RELIGION IN POLITICS.**  
The Methodist bishops who are directing a concerted attack upon Speaker Cannon are criticized, justly we believe, by some influential and impartial journals. The Springfield Republican, for instance, says that the moment a church or denomination uses its ecclesiastical machinery to promote political ends, through the medium of elections, the cry of clericalism may easily be raised. It is necessary, the Springfield paper says, to say this in passing because the confusion of the respective spheres of church and state in this country would be disastrous. An organization built up for religious purposes, cannot be used in the political field without serious danger of charging our policies with religious strife and jealousy.  
In the same way the New York Evening Post looks "with unmingled regret," it says, upon the Methodist re-entrance into politics as a body. "Every one knows," the Post adds, "what an outcry would arise if it were to appear that the Catholic church had given orders to its priests to read from their pulpits a flaming attack upon the most powerful officials of the government next to the President. The very best policy for all sects and for the country itself is the rigid suppression of those benighted persons who would use a church machinery for this or that political propaganda." We heartily endorse the sentiments quoted. According to Section 124, Doctrine and Covenants, the Latter-day Saints "do not believe it just to mingle religious influence with civil government, whereby one religious society, is fostered, and another proscribed in its spiritual privileges, and the individual rights of its members as citizens, denied." And this has always been

the guiding principle in the Church. The Methodist bishops are criticized not only for their concerted attack upon Speaker Cannon, but also for planning to assault Mr. Taft because he is a Unitarian. This movement is not even open and above board. It is, as the New York Evening Post says, a whispering campaign, accompanied by stirring personal appeals not to let high heaven witness the seating in the White House of a man who denies the divinity of Jesus. That this is un-American should be apparent to all. There should be no religious test in this country, as a condition of office-holding. There are perilous times ahead if the tendencies to fight political battles on religious ground are not overcome. When citizens line up on different sides of a religious creed in the election of a President, or any other political official, American institutions as planned and constructed by those who fought for American liberty will be no more.

**Jews Vindicated.**  
Police Commissioner Bingham of New York made a statement in an article published in the North American Review, to the effect that 50 per cent of the criminals of the city were Jews. It has become an article of faith with some that the "foreign element" of this country furnishes the larger percentage of criminals, and we suppose General Brigham is one of those laboring under that false impression. The Jews of New York then gathered statistics and proved that he was mistaken, and now the Commissioner has manfully acknowledged his error, and the controversy is settled without bitterness on either side.  
According to the statistics, of the 4,573 indictments in the County of New York for the year 1907, but 14.5 per cent were found against Jews. Coroner Harzburger has told one of the leading New York Jews that the crimes that are being charged up against the Jews were monstrously overestimated. During his experience as coroner never was any Jew brought before him accused of homicide. Of the 2,848 convictions in the county of New York during 1907, only 16.14 per cent were Jews.  
We have no doubt that reliable figures would prove that the foreigners generally are quite as moral and law-abiding as native-born citizens. There is no valid ground for the assumption that crime is imported and virtue indigenous. That is a superstition which is anything but a credit to those who entertain it.

**HARVEST NOT SO GOOD.**  
The estimates made in June by the Government officials as to the condition and prospective yield of the season's crops, led to the belief that by the middle of September the return of prosperity would be enormously accelerated.  
Within a week, however, the crop estimate has been so far revised as to indicate something like 666,000,000 bushels of wheat instead of the 737,000,000 promised by the June estimate; the estimate for oats has shown a decrease of more than a hundred million bushels; while corn shows a probable falling from the largest estimated crop ever known to one that, though very large, will be no greater than that of 1907, and will be less than that of either 1905 or 1906.  
These facts may furnish at least a part of the reason why the return of prosperity has not been up to expectations, and may account for the somewhat uncertain tone prevalent in general business.  
On the other hand the crops in Europe are shorter than usual, and this fact is likely to keep the prices of our own foodstuffs at a high level. Thus the agricultural West will still profit by the situation, while the East will again feel the effects of higher prices for food stuffs.  
The high price of food will be somewhat oppressive to American consumers and particularly to the workmen in the industrial centers in which the resumption of former activity is not yet a fully accomplished fact.  
Speculation upon what is merely probable is once more shown to be a very uncertain source of profits. Very few men can successfully forecast even the general trend of the future, even when the young crops are standing in the field.

**NOT GOOD WHEAT.**  
A correspondent writing from Sunnyside, Utah, under date of Sept. 9, says he has received a small quantity of so-called Alaska wheat, which is being widely advertised as superior in yield, quality, and everything else, to the common variety. The Alaska wheat costs \$20 a bushel, but our correspondent says it is to all appearances a very common product, very much inferior to wheat raised in Utah.  
The extravagant claims made for the grain, and the exorbitant price asked for it, have caused investigations by experts, and the results of these are not flattering to those who are trying to place the product on the market. The Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, on the 12th of this month, published the following report:  
"Assertions of huge crops or good flour making quality not justified. Adams' only claim of proportion of two hundred bushels an acre is with an eight of an acre patch two years ago. For last year admits farm average only thirty bushels. So far this year only twenty-five bushels to the acre. Offers excuses such as weeds and under-sowing. Not true that wheat has been successfully grown elsewhere. Misleading to say frostproof, for admits some injury by snow. Flourmaking qualities unknown. Adams was given experiment station analysis last year and told with it that milling test was necessary to show the quality with certainty. Has not had the test. The wheat in appearance is much like certain large, coarse wheats not valuable for flour."  
With this report others that have been published agree, and farmers should therefore be on their guard lest they be imposed upon.  
Who says the art of letter writing is dead?  
Harry Thaw has visited nearly as many jails as Howard did.  
Love is not blind. Were it, how

could it see perfection in the adored object?  
Mr. Rockefeller says that his income has been greatly exaggerated.  
Mr. Roosevelt to Messrs. Mack and Bryan: "One at a time, gentlemen."  
Mr. Taft enjoys the campaign so hugely that he laughs and grows fat.  
There are people who absolutely refuse to have honors thrust upon them.  
Whenever cholera gets foothold in a place it soon has the people on the hip.  
Political controversy is largely a game of cross questions and crooked answers.  
If those flurries in Wall street do not soon cease, it may be necessary to put the lid on.  
A college professor says that man has two souls. Be that as it may, many a man is two faced.

It is said that Evelyn Nesbit Thaw will lecture. If she does, let it be her Harry; and behind closed doors.  
People claiming to be heir to the President's policies will please take notice that he is very much alive.  
Judge Taft not only stands on the Constitution, but he is so loyal to it that he travels in the "Constitution."  
If Boston is made greater, the felices of the universe will have to be enlarged to correspond with the Hub.  
No one should be able to make a better platform than the Carpenters and Joiners now holding a convention.  
No one can deny that Colonel Stewart is a fighter. He fights every proposition looking to his retirement.  
Factor or no factor in the campaign, Mr. Hearst is kicking up a great fuss and must be having lots of fun.  
The campaign begins to warm up. Were it the year 1839 instead of 1908, deeds would by no means be improbable.

Automobiles are divided into two classes—runabouts and flyabouts. A third classification should be made—gadabouts.  
While the young idea should be taught how to shoot, don't let the young idea learn with a .22; they are so dangerous.  
When a European prince abandons his American wife he should not be too severely blamed, for she was a fool to marry him, and she being a fool is some ground for abandonment.  
It appears from Eastern reports that an evangelist is in danger of being arrested for criminal libel because he charged, in a pamphlet, that there is "a conspiracy against the divinity of Christ," led by President Roosevelt, and declaring that "the election of Taft would be an insult to the Christian religion." The Tribune virtually charged, not long ago, that the President had entered into an agreement with the Church for the "importation of girls." When it comes to criminal libel, the Evangelist is a mere tyro, in comparison with the Tribune.  
**A BUSY TEN DOLLAR BILL.**  
Oseola Sentinel.  
Mr. Brown keeps a boarding house. Around his table sat his wife, Mrs. Brown; the village milliner, Mrs. Andrews; Mr. Black, the baker; Mr. Jordan, a carpenter, and Mr. Hadley, a flour, feed and lumber merchant. Mr. Brown took ten dollars out of his pocket and handed it to Mrs. Brown with the remark that there was \$10 toward the \$20 he promised her. Mrs. Brown handed the bill to Mrs. Andrews, the milliner, saying: "That pays for my new bonnet." Mrs. Andrews in turn passed it to Mr. Jordan, remarking that it would pay for the carpenter work he had done for her. Mr. Jordan handed it to Mr. Hadley, requesting his receipt bill for flour, feed and lumber. Mr. Hadley gave the bill back to Mr. Brown, saying: "That pays ten dollars on my board." Mr. Brown again passed it to his wife, remarking that he had now paid her the \$20 he had promised her. She in turn paid Mr. Black to settle her bread and pastry account. Mr. Black handed it to Mr. Hadley, asking credit for the amount on his flour account. Mr. Hadley again passed it to Mr. Brown, with the remark that it settled for that month's board, whereupon Mr. Brown put it back in his pocket, observing that he had not supposed a greenback would go so far.

**HER VACATION.**  
Boston Herald.  
A married woman of limited income, who was off with her husband for a month's vacation by the sea, says it was the first holiday she had found for years. "Think of it!" she exclaimed. "For four weeks I shall sit down to the table and not know what I am going to eat." That was where her "holiday" came in, and there are many more "little housekeeping women" who will sympathize with her idea of what a vacation means.

**OUR MORAL AGITATIONS.**  
New York Evening Mail.  
"It has seemed to me," said the virtuous Mrs. Trollope, speaking of a similar period of moral agitation in America, "that the old women of this country make the laws for the young men to break." The comment was grossly unfair, but not quite without point then—or now. An American community may be tremendously in earnest over the cigarette iniquity and yet tolerably callous about the employment of child labor, the prevalence of lynching, and the scandal of divorce laws, by which a man's wife in one State is not a wife in another.  
**THEY REMAIN CHINESE.**  
Brooklyn Citizen.  
Three Chinese girls born in San Francisco tried to force themselves into an American school on the plea that they are native Americans, but the city attorney takes the view that a white would not be a negro if born in Africa, nor a negro a white if born in a white man's country, so a Chinese is Chinese wherever born, and the three girls must go to the Oriental school. This is in line with our own supreme court decision that if the state provides special schools of equal standing with the whites for the colored children, the colored children must attend them.

**JUST FOR FUN.**  
**A Doctor's Mistake.**  
A physician in a small town in northern Michigan got himself into a serious predicament by his inability to remember names and people. One day while making out a patient's receipt his visitor's name escaped him. Not wishing to appear so forgetful and thinking to get a clue he asked her whether she spelled her name with an e or i. The lady smilingly replied, "Why, doctor, my name is Hill."—Success.  
**From What It Grew.**  
The Bishop of Rimmond told a good story the other day about his father. "He was a farmer," said Dr. Puleine, "and a nice old gentleman, too. One year he took it into his head to grow fax. So he sowed the seed, and, having a good crop, sent it away to be made into a table cloth. Some time later when seated at dinner he remarked to a lady near him, 'Do you know, I grew this tablecloth myself?' 'Did you, really?' she answered, with the greatest surprise. 'How ever did you manage it?' 'Well—most mysteriously—you'll promise not to tell any one. I'll tell you. I—planted a napkin.'—Tit-Bits.  
**The New Jersey Way.**  
Somebody sent an infernal machine to the governor of New Jersey to kill him. Generally speaking, an infernal machine is used to elect rather than to eliminate a New Jersey politician.—Louisville Courier-Journal.  
**A Puzzle.**  
"When Mr. Francis Darwin stood up to deliver his address, every seat was taken."—Daily Mail.  
Study for "The Descent of Man." Mr. Darwin trying to sit down again.—Punch.  
**Who Is Conrad?**  
At any rate the letter ought to entitle Conrad Kohrs to a place in the next issue of "Who's Who."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
**Boss—Can you give us our customary majority this fall?**  
Henchman—No; but I can buy it for you.—Puck.  
**"Your proposal comes too late."**  
"You have engaged yourself to another."  
"No, but the silly season is over now."—Louisville Courier-Journal.  
**She—Do you think nervousness can be cured by auto-suggestion?**  
He—No; but I think a good many cases could be cured by auto suggestion.—Judge.  
**Nell—Mrs. Buggins says she hates to have her husband out of her sight.**  
Eddie—He must be a very good husband or a very bad one.—Philadelphia Record.  
**"I shall insist on being under no obligations," said the candidate.**  
"I shall make no promises whatever."  
"That is all we desire," said the reform representative genially. "We want you to promise not to make any promises."—Washington Star.

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