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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 1, 1903

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints will be held
in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake
City, commencing on Saturday,
April 4, 1903. A general attendance
of the officers and members of the Church
is requested.

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

RELIGION CLASS OFFICERS'
MEETING.

The Presidency of Stakes, Bishops
of wards, Stake and ward superintendents
and members of the Stake Boards
of Religion classes together with the
officers and instructors are cordially
invited to attend a meeting of Religion
class workers to be held at Barratt
Hall on Saturday, April 4, 1903, at 4:30
o'clock p. m.

ANTHONY H. LUND,
RUDGER CLAWSON,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendent.
L. JOHN NUTTALL,
General Secretary.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL
UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the
Deseret Sunday School Union will be
held Sunday, April 5, 1903, at 7:30 p. m.,
in the Tabernacle. The attendance
of stake and ward officers and teachers is
urgently requested and all the Saints
are invited. A preliminary meeting of
stake superintendents, assistants and
secretaries will be held in the assembly
room of the Salt Lake Business College,
Templeton Building, at 5 o'clock p. m.,
Sunday, April 5. A full attendance is
desired.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendent.

A MEAN FALSEHOOD EXPOSED.

It is very desirable that this city shall
be cleansed, so far as possible, of the
immoral and vicious elements that dis-
figure it in certain districts. The move-
ment to close the gambling dens, con-
trol the liquor traffic, and restrict if not
suppress the vice resorts, is, we are
glad to say, supported by the leading
and most potent influences in the com-
munity. It is now proposed to purge
the thoroughfare known as Commercial
street, and compel the removal of the
habitués who give it an ill reputa-
tion, to a retired, or less public dis-
trict where their presence will not be a
constant blot, defacing the business
center, and forcing itself upon public
attention. The project is commendable;
whether it is practicable remains to be
seen.

The chief difficulty in the way seems
to be the probability that even if the
saloons and other resorts are sup-
pressed or chained out, respectable
persons and firms will still hesitate to
rent or buy the property at anything
like its market value, or attempt to
transact business in a locality where the
odium will still rest and the odor
of it remain, at least for a long time
to come. This is something to con-
sider, because there are property and
corporate interests there that cannot be
tortured.

In alluding to this subject, a morning
paper which seldom if ever loses an
opportunity to say something
mean and spiteful about the "Mormon"
Church, makes this assertion, referring
to the "gamblers and fast women":
"It is well known that no class
of tenants pays a higher rental than those
mentioned above, but there is a moral
consideration that carries more weight,
especially with the Brigham Young
Trust company, a Mormon Church cor-
poration, which owns the fourth story
brick building." * * * The ownership
of this block has been a serious embar-
rassment to the Church in its campaign
against Sunday saloons and other forms
of vice."

The statement that the Trust com-
pany mentioned is a "Mormon Church
corporation" is wholly and gratuitously
false. Without saying a word as to that
company or its respectability, it is not
and never has been in any sense a
"Mormon Church corporation." There
was no need to inject that malicious un-
truth into the argument about the diffi-
culty in the way of the purifying pro-
ject. The "Mormon" Church has never
interposed any obstacle in the way of
cleaning the city. If we desired to
make reprisals, we could prove beyond
fair denial that the Salt Lake Tribune
has caused more "embarrassment" to
those engaged in the suppression of
Sunday saloons and other forms of
vice, "than any other influence in town,
but we forbear. We simply wish to ex-
pose the vindictive and mendacious
spirit of that paper in this particular.
The Brigham Young Trust company

was organized for the management of
certain pieces of property belonging to
the church, which could not be
otherwise readily disposed of under
the different interests in-
volved. The church had nothing
to do with it. Since its organiza-
tion there have been numerous
changes in the ownership of the capital
stock, and today it is very largely held
by non-Mormons. The building on
Commercial street is one of the com-
pany's properties which it would doubt-
less be glad to dispose of, but which is
a corporation holding and cannot be
thrown away, nor can it be sold except
as the company shall agree and direct.
That, however, is for the stockholders
to determine. The "Mormon" Church
has no control of the property in ques-
tion nor of the company that owns it,
and is no more to be blamed for the
"embarrassment" of social reformers
concerning it, than the Tribune is for
the conduct of the gambling house in
its own near proximity. The cause of
moral reform will not be assisted in the
smallest degree by unwarranted and
venal attacks on a Church that has
been ever opposed to the vices now
sought to be thrust out of sight. Let
the purification go on, but don't mix
malignant falsehood with righteous
flights of pretended moral exaltation.

APRIL FOOL.

There is difference of opinion as to
the true origin of the custom that has
dedicated the first day of April to the
pranks and jests of "fools." That it is
a very ancient custom is quite cer-
tain. Its beginning is lost in the ob-
scure past.

Some hold that it is of Hindoo origin.
They state that the oriental feast of
the "Huli," which terminates on the
last day of March, is similar to the
April fool's anniversary. The observ-
ance of the Huli consisted mainly
in sending people on fool's errands, to
imaginary persons, or to persons out
of town.

Others consider the observance of the
day as a commemoration of the suffer-
ings of our Savior, when He was mock-
ed and jeered by an infuriated popu-
lace which preferred a notorious criminal
to the all-compassionate Nazarene.
Possibly it is one of the observances
that have been borrowed from paganism
and given a new significance
among so-called Christian nations.

But whatever is the origin and what-
ever was once the meaning of it, it is
certainly in as bad taste to abuse
friends and acquaintances on that day
as on any other. The practical joker
is a nuisance who should be abated.
He has no legitimate place whatever
in civilized society. The humorist and
the satirist have each their good mis-
sion to perform, but the fellow who
seeks pleasure in the discomfort of
others, is on the level with the untor-
mented child that amuses itself by plucking
the wings from live insects.

One remarkable joke was played on
the London people forty-three years
ago. A great number of well known
residents of London received by mail
a card bearing the inscription: "Tower
of London. Admit the bearer and
witness the annual ceremony of
washing the white lions on Sunday,
April 1, 1860. Admitted only at the
White Gate." It is almost incredible,
but on the date designated numerous
cabs rattled about the Tower all that
Sunday morning, with occupants who
in vain were looking for the "white
gate." As a demonstration of the credu-
lity of human nature, the hoax was
a grand success. And perhaps that was
what the perpetrators of the joke in-
tended it to be.

NO ROOM FOR CHILDREN.

If one were to go from place to place
to look for a house to rent, one would
be astonished at the number of land-
lords who, even in this city, absolutely
close the gates against children. This
is the deplorable condition in all large
cities. And yet, there is preaching and
moralizing against the tendency toward
small families. All are aware that the
babies are very much needed in the
economy of the nation. And yet land-
lords would deny parents a sheltering
roof, because they are parents.

A Chicago alderman recently took a
decided stand in the defense of the
children. He introduced an ordinance
to prevent unjust discrimination of
landlords in this matter. The ordinance
had the following remarkable "where-
as":

"Whereas, it has become and is the
custom of owners, agents and man-
agers of apartment houses, flats and
tenements to discriminate against and
refuse to let or rent to parties or fam-
ilies in which there are children or in-
fants, thereby discouraging and mil-
litating against what would be the nat-
ural and probable increase to the popu-
lation of Chicago, contrary to the in-
junction imposed upon our first par-
ents upon their expulsion from the Gar-
den of Eden to multiply and replenish
the earth, and against the policy and
purpose of our national administration."

The ordinance was, of course, sent
to a committee to be done away with.
The objections against it were clear, al-
though the sentiment embodied cer-
tainly will appeal to a great number of
people.

Every question has two sides, and
this is not an exception to that rule.
One reason why landlords object to
children is because they generally are
permitted to destroy property beyond
the unavoidable wear and tear. Par-
ents' endeavor to remedy this, by
exercising the necessary control
over their children. But very often
they do not do this. They do not take
care of rented property, as they would
their own. They are indifferent, and
the children are left to themselves to
do whatever damage fancy suggests.
Landlords by law could be compelled
to rent houses to families with chil-
dren, but the same law should protect
the property against vandalism, by making
the parents financially responsible to
a greater extent than is the case now.
Parents and landlords might go to-
gether and settle this matter in ac-
cordance with the interests of both.

THE COUNSEL OF A FRIEND.

It is generally agreed, says a St.
Petersburg dispatch to the Lon-
don Times, that the credit for the Czar's
recent liberty edict is largely due to a

meteorologist, M. Domtchinsky. It ap-
pears that this gentleman had attracted
attention on account of his successful
weather predictions, and that he gained
the confidence of the Russian ruler in
this way. At one time, so the story
goes, the Emperor asked the scientist
to give his opinion of the situation in
Russia. He did so, and the result was,
it is said, the recent manifesto on tolera-
tion and reform.

It is also asserted that the hand of
the young empress of Russia is discern-
ible in the manifesto. This is possible,
although the Czarina is not popular in
Russia. Undoubtedly she exercises a
good influence over her Imperial con-
sort, although she does not come out
in open agitation for any reforms she
may consider desirable.

The Czar, it appears, is easily influ-
enced by good counselors. The initia-
tive to the peace tribunal was inspired
by another friend, an author on military
subjects. There is safety in counsel,
and a ruler that is not above listening
to good counsel, is sure to benefit those
over whom he has been placed. It is
asserted, however, that the most promi-
nent members of the committee ap-
pointed to carry out the ideas of the
ukase, are notorious for their repressive
measures in the past. If this is the
case, nothing of great importance can
be expected from the manifesto at pres-
ent. The emperor has yet to learn that
good administration is as necessary as
liberal edicts.

LEGAL FEES.

To the Editor:
St. George, Utah, March 29.—Is there
a legal rate for affidavits in this state
beyond what notaries public and other
officials having seals, may not go? If
so, what is the rate?

AN ENQUIRER.

Yes, there is a rate fixed by law for
fees of notaries and other officers hav-
ing a seal. For drawing an affidavit
or other paper, fifty cents for the first
folio; for each subsequent folio fifteen
cents. For taking an acknowledgment
or proof of a deed or other instrument,
to include the seal and writing of the
certificate, for the first signature, fifty
cents; for each additional signature
twenty-five cents. For administering
an oath or affidavit, twenty-five cents.
Any higher rate would be illegal.

Every dog and every fool has his
day. This is the latter's.

The Rev. Mr. Leitch seems to be as
full of fight as a slander.

Terry McGovern does not seem to
be able to govern his temper.

The Digger Indians should be set to
digging the Panama canal.

One should have "patent insides" to
digest patented breakfast foods.

An automobile trust is being formed.
But no automobile can be trusted.

On dull days like this it is a comfort
to know that April showers bring May
flowers.

"Smuggling on a large scale," says a
Boston paper. Newfoundland fish
coming in illegally?

If Hon. Willis Sweet is sent to Porto
Rico it will be most fitting. The Porto
Ricans would then have Sweetness and
light.

The President is to resume his fenc-
ing lessons. His object is not to be
able to sit on the fence, a thing he is
incapable of doing.

Little drops of water and little grains
of sand are now coming through the
service pipes. The result is not an ocean
but something like mud.

Count von Reventlow says the first
German squadron could "smash"
Dewey's "heterogeneous assemblage."
There was some such boasting as that
about the Spanish fleet before the bat-
tle of Manila bay.

The Springfield Republican thinks
that General Leonard Wood has too big
a reputation, and argues that he did
not create "a civilized government out
of chaos." Perhaps the Republican
would be willing to compromise and ad-
mit that he created a great reputation
out of chaos.

It was a happy suggestion of Mr.
Ernest Thompson Seaton's that there
be a western hall of fame at the
Louisiana Purchase exposition to be
filled with statues of the great men who
led in the exploration and development
of the great west. And in the present
case it is eminently fitting for St. Louis
as the outfitting point for so many
historic expeditions and the home of
the fur trade.

The findings in the Burdick inquest
place the stamp of suspicion upon Pen-
nell. The judge says that to him must
be accorded the same right that is
accorded the living—that of being
deemed innocent until proven guilty. It
is a legal and a proper presumption,
but often overcome, in the minds of
people, by strong suspicion. Even
Pennell (wayward if not wicked) being
dead he is entitled to have nothing but
good said of him.

Senator Tillman is on a worse ram-
page than the Father of Waters.
Speaking at Detroit last week he said:
"It will mean that more blood will flow
than was shed in the civil war if you
hesitate in trying to subvert us. You
denigrate the Indians and shut out the Chi-
nese, but had it been known by the
soldiers who surrendered with Lee that
it was your devilish intent to set up the
negro over the white man we would
have fought you till now." To which
the only answer is: "Wow!"

It seems that Mr. J. P. Morgan has
been purchasing some works of art that
are spurious. The custodians of the
Louvre have been caught in the same
way. Only a few years ago the authori-
ties of the Berlin museum purchased
what purported to be some antique
bronzes. They were not, but it took
a year or two to determine the fact and
while forgeries they were truly works
of art. If Mr. Morgan has been im-
proved upon so has the Louvre and so
was the Berlin museum. He was in very
good company, and if any are minded
to twist him upon his spurious pur-

chases he can retort that it is better
to err with Pope than be right with
Pye.

THE COAL STRIKE COMMISSION.

Boston Globe.

The finding of the coal strike com-
mission does not provide for the recog-
nition of the miners' union. But the
coal road presidents knew the union
perfectly well when they met it, even
if they have not been formally intro-
duced.

Philadelphia North American.

But let the United Mine Workers note
also that the commission "recognizes"
the non-union man and his right to
work and live. It is for them to make
the victory of organized labor a boon
to all labor and a misfortune to none.

Philadelphia Enquirer.

The strike has been very costly to
everybody, including the innocent con-
sumers, but the great principle of arbitra-
tion has been sustained, and if the
recommendations of the commission
are carried out there will be peaceful
settlements of disputes hereafter.

New York Press.

On some later but not far distant day,
when the American people put into op-
eration the forces which shall command
a decent regard for their rights from
the coal trust and the coal miners alike,
the value of the important service the
president's commission has performed
will be better appreciated.

Philadelphia Press.

Nothing in the anthracite strike
commission promises to have a more
lasting or deeper influence than its con-
demnation of violence during the strike
and its direct and unmistakable asser-
tion of responsibility for those who
shared in all the various forms which
violence assumed. Its wages award will
be forgotten, its recommendations will
be forgotten, but its change, its asser-
tion of personal rights and the sanc-
tion of law will long be cited.

New York Tribune.

"A sweeping victory for the miners!"
exclaims one commentator upon the re-
port of the president's commission on
the anthracite coal strike. "A bomb in
labor circles!" declares another with
equal assurance. Both are wrong. The
great coal strike by Edith Robinson,
called "An Involuntary Benefactor" is
a clever instance of contrary false ver-
sions. There is a nature story by
Dr. Charles C. Abbott, called, "A
Fresh on the Marsh," and Florence
Kingston Hoffman has an amusing tale
of "A Lucky Stratagem." The number
closes with a laughable story by El-
mer Fiver. An amateur hypnotist
puts up a joke on his sister's lover,
which might have been serious but for
the sister. It is called "A Plunge in
Triplex." Much information, timely
and interesting, verse in the April
number is by Lewis Worthington
Smith, Charles Francis Saunders, In-
gram Crockett, Edward Wilbur Mason,
William Ford Hillyer, Edmund Vance
Cooke.—Philadelphia.

In its household numbers Collier's
Weekly has made a novel departure in
the magazine field. The April house-
hold number surpasses in interest that
for March. The chief feature is a full-
page copy of John S. Sargent's official
portrait of President Roosevelt, just
added to the White House gallery of
the Presidents. Other art features are
a \$1,000 double-page drawing by Gil-
son, "Some Women Prefer Dogs," and
a dry-point etching of the French ar-
tist, Paul Helie. The fiction in this
number is very strong. There are also
three articles on important topics—Miss
Marie Van Vorst's "One Must Live,"
the woman who tells; Rear-Admiral Mel-
ville's study of "The Modern Battle-
ship," and Anthony Hope's appreciation
of modern American novelists.—New
York.

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Tonight!

AND ALL WEEK.

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Return Engagement of Those Merry Mon-
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