

DESERT EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 3, 1905

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints will convene on Thurs-
day, the 6th of April, and adjourn Fri-
day afternoon until Sunday morning,
and close Sunday afternoon.

A general Priesthood meeting will
be held on Friday night, commencing
at 7:30.

The special Priesthood meeting for the
General and Presiding Authorities of
the Church will be held in the Assem-
bly Hall on Saturday morning, at 10
o'clock.

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

The general semi-annual conference
of the Deseret Sunday School Union
will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt
Lake City, Sunday, April 9, 1905, at 7
o'clock, p. m. Officers and Sunday
school workers are requested to attend
and all are cordially invited.

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

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

The efforts of the local press to mis-
lead and mystify the people of this city
over the pending franchise question,
would be very funny if they were not
so outrageously mendacious. Not a day
passes without the publication of some
absolute untruths in relation to the
company from which the city desires
to obtain valuable properties, and mis-
statements of the most pertinent facts
in the case.

One of the latest of these falsehoods
is, that if the company should have its
affairs placed on such a solid basis as
to be able to issue additional bonds, a
tax would thereby be foisted upon the
Salt Lake public to pay the interest on
the bonds. That is so absolutely ab-
surd and grotesque as to be idiotic. Every
business and thinking individual
will at once perceive its silliness and
falseness. But there are thousands of
people who do not understand the sub-
ject at all, and it is to deceive them and
excite their opposition that the non-
sense is printed.

That the company which issues bonds
must pay the interest thereon needs no
explanation. That this expense will not
fall, even indirectly or remotely, upon
the public, in the way of high rates for
light or car-fares will be seen at once,
when the fact is made clear
that the city by ordinance, fixes
the maximum of those rates, and that
they will be lower than ever under the
new ordinance which is to be passed by
the city council.

In order to confuse the public still
further on this matter, a morning pa-
per published on Sunday what is
claimed to be the full text of the fran-
chise, as revised and to be presented
to the council. Instead of being
what it purports to be, it is a hotch-
potch and mixture of the old franchise
with some of the new propositions that
have been suggested by different indi-
viduals. The text of the new ordinance
had not then been prepared and to-
day was not in sufficient completeness
to furnish its text to the press. Com-
ment upon it is therefore out of place.
But when it is given to the public, com-
parison of its contents with the mis-
leading-up document published on Sunday
will show the mischievous and shame-
ful deception of the latter.

The citizens of Salt Lake who desire
to be guided by principles of justice
and equity, ought not to be led astray
by papers or persons that are com-
pelled to resort to misrepresentation
and the distortion of truth, in order to
give their malicious efforts the ap-
pearance of plausibility. Their desire
to injure and if possible ruin a com-
pany which has been the means of in-
troducing and maintaining great busi-
ness interests, for the benefit of the pub-
lic and employing many hundreds of
working people, without reaping any
financial profit in return, is patent in
their very denunciations and heated
harangues, which have no other effect
than to stir up anger and arouse the
animosity of the unthinking and easi-
ly excited populace.

They commenced with the assertion
that the company was trying to make
a "grab" and work a "trick" to ob-
tain something worth at least \$5,000,000
without any equivalent. When it was
established beyond dispute that it was
the city which needed certain prop-
erties belonging to the company, valued
at the least at \$100,000, and that the
company simply asked for a consolida-
tion and extension of franchises which
it already possessed, then the opponents
voiced around and declared that there
was a secret bargain entered into be-
tween certain city officials and the com-
pany, and that this was mixed up

with the bonds issue to be voted upon
by the taxpayers.

The last named allegation is
as untrue as the other. Nothing
of the kind occurred, nor has the fran-
chise proposition anything to do with
the bonding measure. Some of the most
potent facts in the case have been care-
fully kept from the public, by the op-
ponents of the company, or so ob-
scured by mists and fogs of falsehood
that they were not apparent. Among
them are these:

That the city needed valuable prop-
erties belonging to the company which
were not for sale at any price, and for
which the sum of \$100,000 spot cash has
been offered and refused.

That the city was unable to furnish
that amount of money if the company
had been willing to part with the prop-
erties for the sum mentioned.

That the consolidation and extension
of the company's franchises were after-
wards proposed as an equivalent for
what the city wanted.

That in consideration of this con-
solidation and extension, the company
is to furnish power and lighting to
the city to the value of \$12,000 a year,
and also to pay the city \$25 a year for
each street car in operation.

All this is in addition to the deed-
ing of the properties named to the city,
valued at \$100,000, and which the com-
pany would not sell to any other cor-
poration.

All the talk that has been raised
about the company's attempting to gain
control of all the streets, highways, al-
leys, etc., exclusively, is nothing but
"hot air." The company already has
rights under its present franchises to
operate its lighting and its street car
services. It simply asked for an ex-
tension of time on them and their con-
solidation into one.

Under the ordinance yet to be passed
upon there is to be a considerable re-
duction of the rates for lighting, and
also a new arrangement for street car
fares, the maximum price within city
limits to be five cents and a special de-
duction for ticket books. All this to be
fixed by the city council.

The extension for 50 years having
been so strenuously opposed, the com-
pany has signified its willingness to
modify its request in that particular,
and a considerable reduction of that
time will doubtless be amicably arrang-
ed.

As a kind of "Will-o-the-Wisp" to
dazzle the eyes of the public and lead
them still further astray, what is popu-
larly known as a "bluff" proposition
has been held forth. It is a pretended
offer to establish a lighting plant
which will make reduced rates from
the present figures if a franchise for
fifty years is given to it by the coun-
cil. Observe, the city is to get no com-
pensation for this grant; not a dollar
is offered as a bonus; nothing by way
of public lighting; just a bald and
glimmering bait for the public to bite
at and a hook wherewith to catch
gudgeons.

The very people who are declaiming
against a grant of fifty years to an ex-
isting company in full operation in
every part of the city, which guaran-
tees property worth \$100,000, free ser-
vices to the city to the value of \$12-
000 yearly, with full restrictions by the
city on prices, regulations and all that
should be exercised in the public in-
terest, actually advocate and demand
that a gaseous request shall be granted
for an ineffectual concern for a fifty
years franchise for nothing, which is
to operate, if at all, in the central part
of town, with no guarantee for its ex-
tension, or any valuable consideration
of any kind.

And, further, some of the very men
who have joined in the outcry against
the Utah Light and Power company
for asking an extension of its fran-
chise for fifty years, have been the
champions of other corporations for a
franchise of one hundred years!

What is all the noise and furor
about? There are schemes behind it
which will be uncovered shortly, and
the public will see how a portion of it
has been fooled by uproar. Just now
that does not matter very much. What
is needed is an ordinance that will be
fair in its provisions, both to the city
and to the company. It is not true
that their interests are discordant. They
are mutually beneficial. They are to a
large extent interdependent. There
should be no conflict between them.
They should work together in harmony.

The members of the city council
should have the manhood to stand up
for what is just and right to all con-
cerned, and pay no attention to the
threats, denunciations or abuse of the
wily schemers who want to cripple one
of the most valuable institutions in this
State. If they cannot stand up firmly
against the outrages raised to intimidate
them and which have no basis in truth,
they are unfit to occupy the positions
to which they have been elected by the
people. They will make nothing by
trickling to clamor.

Truth and right remain when tumult
and vociferation pass away into noth-
ingness. The facts we have presented
cannot be overturned. The falsehoods
that have been heralded and echoed will
not bear the light. Let this controversy
be ended as speedily as possible, and let
something of more real moment and
value to the community take its place
and be considered rationally and with-
out passion.

A PROFESSOR'S PROTEST.

Some time ago a Chicago professor
was quoted as having predicted that
the human race would become extinct,
and give room for the birds. These
would then be the highest type of animal
life on earth, as man is now. The
change would take place, it was said,
in a million years, or so.

Many absurdities are credited to the
learned men of Chicago, but in this
instance, at least, the professor is in-
nocent. He now vigorously protests
against being "written down an ass." He
denies having given expression to the
views attributed to him by reporters.

This denial is gratifying. It helps the
reputation of a great institute of learn-
ing. But the probability is that the
falsehood first published will reach
much farther than the denial, and that

many a fool will retain the first im-
pression, as a scientific dictum.

Mistakes of this kind are generally
due to the reporter, who too often
makes up a "readable story" with a
few facts for nucleus, instead of giv-
ing a straight account of something
actually said or done. That an injus-
tice, by this means, is perpetrated on
the public, as well as on the person
whose words, or actions, are misrep-
resented, is hardly ever considered.

Very often there is some excuse for
the inaccuracies by which prominent
persons are misrepresented, and the
public deceived. Reporters do not al-
ways deliberately invent stories. Many
of their shortcomings are really due to
haste, or to ignorance. Sometimes,
however, the journalists of our day,
knowing the power falsehood tempo-
rarily exerts upon the unthinking mas-
ses, deliberately avail themselves of that
despicable means to gain their own
selfish ends. They falsify knowingly
and methodically; perhaps to inflame
public sentiment against persons whom
they in no other way can reach; per-
haps to injure public interests, to fur-
ther their own. There is no excuse for
this kind of journalism. Those who
engage in it are public enemies.

An encouraging sign of our time is
the sincere protests made lately against
the abuse of the press, for pur-
poses of sensationalism, as well as
deception. Such protests indicate an
awakening of the public conscience, to
a realization of the dangers threaten-
ing, and gives promise of some way of
escape.

We have noticed the series of articles
on "yellow journalism," which ap-
peared in Public Opinion, exposing the
unscrupulous methods of those who
deal in that kind of literary fraud. The
St. Paul Globe of recent date calls at-
tention to the saffron colored features
of the magazines. The magazines, says
the Globe, have gone "mad." In proof
of this proposition our contemporary
points out that one magazine is de-
voted to the denunciation of the "system"
in finance; another clamors about the
evils of wealth and demands that the
rich give over buying \$40,000 sable coats
and spend the money for coal for the
poor. One writer shrieks about the
iniquities of the trust; another shows
how the country is being debauched by
the importation of foreign criminals;
the shame of some city is exploited
by one space writer; and when all other
subjects fail, there always is some un-
happy individual, momentarily in the
public eye, who can be dissected in
public, to the infinite satisfaction of a
rabble. The Globe observes:

"And the truculent rot written in
the name of studies in social conditions
is varied in spots by fiction that deals
with the doings of some modern crim-
inal whose evolution has gone beyond
the mask, the dark lantern and the
bludgeon, or going to the other ex-
treme, drives through rapid sentences
to an unconvincing impressionistic pic-
ture. There are some partly sane pub-
lications, of course, but the conserva-
tive magazines, having suffered tempo-
rarily by the competition of the
cheap ones, are not much better just
now than those to whose levels they
have been brought down."

These observations are but too true,
but the awakening of the public is a
promising sign of a return to morally
healthier conditions. A few strong
leaders in the right direction would
have a powerful influence for good.

Togo will be glad to meet Rojestven-
sky half way, or any other way.

The open door in Morocco would be
a feather in the Sultan's Fcz cap.

The hearts of the prudential commit-
tee refuse to be gladdened.

The Isthmian canal commission has
been reorganized but the canal itself is
in statu quo ante.

The Czar is determined to continue
the war. Did he ever hear about pride
going before a fall?

Battle hymn of the San Domingo re-
public—Uncle Sam and the Monroe
doctrine.

Having visited Morocco, the Kaiser
will be a better critic than ever of
"Othello."

A Wisconsin professor of oratory has
been drowned. Probably he was swept
away in a flood of eloquence.

A Missouri man offered to let a mule
kick him for five dollars. The man
being an ass, the mule refrained.

Has the Venezuelan invasion of the
Mississippi valley expedition been lost
in the formation?

Hard as it is the task, Castro will find
it easier to wipe out his debts than to
wipe out Uncle Sam.

So meager is the news from the Far
East that announcement of another
Japanese victory will surprise none, not
even the Russians.

Henry James says that American
girls are attractive but lack elusiveness.
He mustn't think them all by "Daisy
Miller" and "The Portrait of a Lady."

The German armed cruiser Prinz
Friedrich Karl and the British battle-
ship Prince George have been in col-
lision, and the British ship had to go
into dock for repairs. Is this ominous
of the future?

Mr. H. H. Rogers, vice president of
the Standard Oil company, vigorously
defends its conduct against the charges
of Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden. That's
right; for conduct, as Matthew Arnold
says, is three-fourths of life.

Cassie Chadwick got ten years for
forging documents on which she se-
cured hundreds of thousands of dollars.
In one of the courts of this state a man
was sentenced, a few weeks ago, to
twenty years in the penitentiary for
forging and collecting two checks for
ten dollars each. At the same rate
Cassie would have got life imprison-
ment for eternity.

Prof. T. J. Wilson announces the dis-
covery of the existence of "taste buds"
in the larynx. He declares that the
man with a long neck gets a greater
enjoyment from the good tasting things,

through his possession of more "buds"
that are brought into exercise. And it
is these same "taste buds" that have
such an affinity for the "bouquet" of
liquors.

CLEAN MONEY.

Rochester Herald.
Syracuse was not as particular as
the Congressional preachers. It con-
cluded that the Carnegie library money
was clean.

THEY ARE WELL BROKEN, ANYWAY.

Baltimore American.
Gotham is in no humor to listen to
lectures about the stability of the home
until they can get the flat buildings
there to stand without hitching.

A READY-MADE MERCHANT MARINE.

Haverhill Gazette.
Japan will not need to worry about a
merchant marine when this war is
over. She has got quite a handsome
nucleus in the forty blockade runners
flying the flag of various nations and
carrying Russian supplies which she
has captured and now anchored with-
in her harbors.

CHADWICKISM OUTCHADWICKED.

Providence Journal.
Further testimony to the business
ability of the so-called gentler sex is
offered by Miss Sophia Beck, a stenog-
rapher in the employ of a recently
wrecked "get-rich-quick" concern.
While the police authorities were inves-
tigating its proceedings and trying to
lay hands upon the criminal the lady
quietly got together about a million
dollars in money and negotiable securi-
ties and slipped out of the country. Al-
together it was quite as neat a piece of
work as anything attributed to Mrs.
Chadwick. The world of high finance
is obviously no longer a field for mas-
culine performances merely.

THE MARKET VALUE OF VICTORY.

Washington Post.
Russia's new war loan bonds are to
be floated at 96 at 5 per cent interest.
Japan's loan will be floated at par at
4 1/2 per cent. The loan broker is a non-
partisan, recognizing neither prejudice
nor patriotism.

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happiness?

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sion, 10c.

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