

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 25, 1909.

## CHANGE OF FAST DAY.

Owing to the fact that the conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations will be in session in this city on the first Sunday of June, the Fast day will be observed on the last Sunday of this month, May 30, in the Salt Lake, Ensign, Pioneer and Liberty stakes, in order to give all in those stakes interested in Mutual Improvement work an opportunity to attend the conference.

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

## ANNUAL Y. M. AND Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The Fourteenth General Annual Conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City, on Saturday and Sunday, June 5th and 6th, 1909.

All officers and members of the association are requested to be present at all of the meetings of the conference, and a cordial invitation is hereby extended to the Saints generally to attend the meetings to be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, June 6th, at 10 a. m. and at 2 and 7 p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
HEBER J. GRANT,  
B. H. ROBERTS,  
General Sup'ty, Y. M. M. I. A.  
MARTHA H. TINGEY,  
RUTH M. FOX,  
MAY T. NYSTROM,  
Presidency Y. L. M. I. A.

## ANNUAL PRIMARY CONFERENCE.

The seventh annual general conference of the officers of the Primary Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City, June 4th, 5th and 6th, 1909. All officers, stake and local, are requested to be present at all the sessions of this conference.

LOUIE B. FELT,  
MAY ANDERSON,  
CLARA W. BEEBE,  
Presidency Primary Associations.

## BY THE RESULTS.

Colorado Springs has just adopted the commission form of government. Its charter eliminates party politics, provides for recall, initiative, and referendum, and places certain restrictions on the granting of franchises. Colorado Springs is the first city in the state to adopt the commission form of government, but Grand Junction and Pueblo are about to take steps in the same direction.

According to the Colorado Springs charter, the mayor and four councilmen are the executive officers. There are five departments: Water and water-works at the head of which is the mayor; finance, public health and sanitation, public works and property, and public safety, each of which is headed by a councilman. Provision is made to put the water system on a self-sustaining basis, and an effort is made to obtain a uniform system of public accounting. The mayor receives a salary of \$2,600, the councilmen \$2,000.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune, describing the Colorado Springs form of municipal government, says the most radical measures, perhaps, are in regard to elections, the idea being to eliminate all factional control. Nominations are made by the filing of twenty-five individual certificates, the signer of each of which, as well as the nominee, must make affidavit to the fact that the candidate is not the representative of any political party. The charter further provides:

"Nothing on the ballot shall be indicative of the source of the candidacy or of the support of a candidate. No ballot shall have printed thereon any party or political designation or mark, and there shall not be appended to the name of any candidate any such party or political designation or mark, or anything indicating his views or opinions."

A majority of all votes cast is required; in case no one receives a majority, a second election is held. Except for invalids, no carriages are allowed on election day.

Through the recall an elective officer may be removed from office. A civil service commission is authorized to provide for placing the fire, police, and public works employees under civil service. Other employees are appointed by the mayor upon recommendation of the councilmen. The bonded indebtedness is limited to 3 per cent of the total valuation, excepting for the purchase of profit-yielding utilities. One section makes it obligatory on all physicians to report infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases, and the department of public health is authorized to require such means as it deems wise for protection.

There is quite a general revolt all over the country against the spoils system and party domination of municipal affairs. City after city is trying to eliminate the obnoxious features.

What has been achieved in the City of Des Moines, by the new form of government is described in an article in the World's Work. From this we gather the following:

"The system has been in operation in Des Moines but one year. Although

some of the members of the council were not in full sympathy with the plan, nevertheless it has so far worked well. In the previous years, the city council had exceeded its income by \$80,000. The new administration closed its first year with \$20,000 in the treasury, by strict watchfulness and close checking of accounts. In short, there was a saving of \$100,000 under the new system. There has been a great elimination of small wastes. In fact, this more than covered the salaries of the commissioners. \$15,000. Under the old aldermanic system, no interest was received on city funds. They now draw 4 per cent on time and 2 per cent on daily balances.

"There has been a wonderful improvement in the street-cleaning service. With only \$35,000 in the fund, the streets have been kept in good condition and the alleys clean for the first time in the history of the city. Without litigation the city lowered the rates for electric street lamps in July from ninety to seventy-five dollars, and a few months ago from seventy-five to sixty-five dollars under an all-night schedule instead of a moonlight schedule. The system has reduced the rates from thirty cents to twenty cents per thousand gallons. Whether this decision will be effective depends on the result of litigation. Gas rates, which were arbitrarily raised by a former city council from seventeen to twenty-two dollars, have been dropped back to the old rate. Steps have been taken toward the establishment of the Chicago model-sharing plan for the settlement of all litigation between the city and the street railway company, by which the city will have an interest in the railway company's business. The disreputable district has been wiped out. While it could not be truthfully said that the reform in this respect is complete, the evils have been greatly reduced. Coincident with the suppression of disreputable houses, the bond-shark business has been abolished. Bondsmen are no longer allowed to operate in the police court. An agreement between the railroads and the city for the construction of a viaduct over the railway tracks has now been reached without litigation. It can be safely said that the city hall is free from political and political influences, and that the old political machine has been sent to the junk heap."

"These facts are worthy of consideration. If through the elimination of corrupt politics from municipal elections tax rates can be reduced and improvements yet go on; if morals can be improved and harmony established between the city and the corporations, an object lesson is presented that should not be lost. In this City a municipal election will be held next fall. Voters should think the matter over. They cannot elect a commission this time, but they can elect an honest and capable business administration that has no ante-election debts to pay to grafters. And on that proposition all good citizens should be united."

## THE TARIFF PROBLEM.

Just now the representatives of the American nation are earnestly trying to solve the tariff problem, which is the problem of how to raise money with which to meet the ever increasing expenses of the government. Hon. Thomas Watson does not believe that the new law will be much of an improvement on the old. He says it will tax about 4,000 articles that the consumers are compelled to buy and the tax will be paid by them in the price of the goods. This is, of course, true, and as the people generally awaken to a realization of the fact dissatisfaction with any kind of a tariff that does not distribute the tax burden with regard to perfect equality and justice will prevail.

Perhaps it would be just as well to remember that when the nations federate and submit their differences to a supreme court of the world, there will be no tariff problem to solve. It is, chiefly, the taxation needed for military exploits, past and future, that makes a tariff necessary. The real problem before the world today is how to get relief from the taxation created by the necessity of maintaining military armaments and building battle-ships at a cost of \$10,000,000 per unit. This taxation is impoverishing England, Germany and Japan, and now Austria goes into the struggle of building a great navy at a cost of \$100,000,000, and Russia will soon follow the example. That is the problem. When nations do not have vast armies and navies to maintain, and no enormous war debts to pay interest on, there will be no tariff problem, and the cost of living will be reduced without any reduction in the wages.

And that time will come. The difficulties will be removed. An international militia under the command of a world government will stand ready to restrain national violence. We will have an international court and a police to enforce, if necessary, its decisions. That will mean not only universal peace but an end of the struggles in the industrial world which are generally caused by the inability of the laboring classes to bear the tax-burdens necessarily imposed under the present system.

## WITCHCRAFT.

In the American colonies, in the early days, as in the rest of the world, the belief was current that human beings could become "witches" and could make a compact with the evil one which would enable them to change their shape, to travel in the air, and to bring harm to their enemies. There were some cases of execution of witches in this country, though the superstition was very far from as common here as in other parts of the world. In 1692 the children of a minister in Salem, Mass., accused an Indian woman of having bewitched them, and, as if the fear that had caused these children, was contagious, in a few weeks scores of people were accusing their neighbors of foul crimes and orgies.

The general testimony was to the effect that the accused people were sticking pins into the accusing parties, and otherwise "hurting" them. On such testimony nineteen "witches" were hanged, and one was tortured to death for refusing to plead either guilty or not guilty.

Sometimes the accused witches, to save themselves, accused others, and the craze went on until more than half a hundred persons "confessed" that they had been flying through the air on broomsticks; that they had celebrated the devil's sabbath, and tormented their neighbors. But when, finally, the wife of the Governor was under suspicion, the prosecution broke down, and the superstition subsided, although in Europe the persecution con-

tinued and thousands were unmercifully killed for crimes no one could commit.

Prof. Summer, in an article in the Forum, takes the view that belief in witchcraft is not dead, and that it may burst forth again at any moment. He argues that the difference of human nature does not vary materially from age to age. Formerly credulity was centered around supernatural phenomena. Today it is politics. Struggles for political power, he says, cause even intenser rage than for dogmas. It is political factions which in the future may return in violent repression of dissent. In the history of city after city we meet with the intensest rancor between classes and factions, and we find this rancor producing extremes of beastly cruelty, when interest seems to call for. Anarchists who are fanatical enough to throw bombs into theaters or restaurants, or to murder kings and presidents just because they are such, are capable of anything which witch-judges or inquisitors have done, if they should think that party success called for it. If bad times, he concludes, should come again upon the civilized world through overpopulation and an unfavorable economic conjuncture, popular education would decline, and classes would be more widely separated. It must then be expected that the old demonism would burst forth again, and would reproduce the old phenomena.

A musician is the slave of time.

The uplift movement in wheat continues.

Cold snaps and real estate snaps seem to alternate.

How is it that a blinding storm never blinds anybody?

In the Thaw case the hush money is beginning to talk.

The new tariff bill should fill the bill and the national coffers.

Will the Martians flash their message in reformed spelling?

Handle with "care"—all accounts of Colonel Roosevelt's killings.

The "tenderfoot" cannot always tell just where the shoe pinches.

In the matter of naval programs England leads and others follow.

Wayfarers on life's highway should not place their trust in automobiles.

Atlantic City is to have a church where men can smoke. Holy smoke!

The flowers that bloom in the spring have but one more week in which to bloom.

The cement workers have formed a union. Something after the reinforced concrete order doubtless.

The only consolation the ultimate consumer has is that he has to consume less and so cannot be taxed more.

There is no record that the Cretan bull was first wounded, made his way into the marshes and was dispatched the following morning.

The situation at Adana is reported as being improved. There must be plenty of room considering the number of people who were removed by the Turks.

The Kaiser is said to have been in Austria making a match. So long as he does not drop a match in the European powder magazine there will be no objection.

The push of Californians is proverbial, but those people of Oakland and Napa who are preparing to contest the will of Mrs. Hetty Green so soon as that lady is dead, show so much push that one wonders whether they are not ghouls.

The postal authorities have taken prompt steps to run down and capture the bandits who held up the Overland Limited and robbed the United States mail. But their steps do not seem to have been so rapid nor so long as those of the fleeing robbers.

Undoubtedly Colonel Roosevelt's reply, if one he makes, to the Rev. Dr. Judson Swift, who said in the Presbyterian general assembly at Denver, "The board of foreign missions wants more arithmetics. These books are wanted by the natives of Uganda who wish to be able to compute the number of lions and tigers and giraffes slain by our beloved former President," will be, "Nature fakes! There are no tigers in Africa."

The railroads are doing splendid service in advertising the territory through which they run, with a view to attracting the tourist business. One of the latest pamphlets issued by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad describes a thousand-mile trip "Around the Circle," in the Rocky mountains. It is a beautifully illustrated pamphlet and cannot but attract attention to the wonderful scenery in our own Alps. "Every mile is a picture."

Somebody has calculated that New York City with close to 4,000,000 people has only 100,000 landowners. But one of each seven registered voters has an inch of earth he can call his own. Of every nine families with the average membership of five, only one own land. The rest are renters, contributing to the opulence of landlords, migrating from place to place. The conditions prevailing in New York are not general, but the tendency is toward abandoning home life for flattery.

## H. H. ROGERS.

Next to John D. Rockefeller, H. H. Rogers was the most important figure among the Standard Oil group of millionaires—the ablest of the captains of industry, the organizer of the oil monopoly gathered about him and personally the most picturesque of them all, ruthless and cold-blooded in his business relations, yet in private life the most companionable of men; a man warm sympathies, philanthropist, sportsman, and manifesting an unusual capacity for friendship—altogether a singular blend of opposite characters. Robert Louis Stevenson would have been attracted by the exhibition of dual personality made by the benefactor of Fairhaven, the genial host of yachting cruises and the irascible and contemptuous witness mocking the efforts of a sovereign State to investigate his business methods. Like the rest of Mr. Rockefeller's lieutenants, like this chief himself, Rogers came from the ranks. His career is another of the familiar stories of the poor boy's rise to great riches. His novel feat was to be found in the unique monument to his ambition, the Tidewater Railroad, a one-man enterprise, constructed at the cost of his builder's fortune and in all likelihood at the cost of his life. In H. H. Rogers Standard Oil loses its chief executive officer, the man most in his creator's confidence and most competent to carry out his policy of commercial aggression. With him the oil regime passes, and now remains in the active management of the company not one of the master minds who devoted their genius to its development and who leave to their successors the most perfect example of a business organization in the world. They bequeath to them also the harder task of keeping it intact.

## Omaha Bee.

The sudden taking off of a man occupying such a pivotal position in the world of finance and connected with so many enterprises might reasonably have been expected to precipitate costly confusion in the securities of those corporations in which he was largely interested. That its effect on the market was inconsiderable is a tribute both to the perfection of these industrial organizations and also a demonstration of the oft-repeated remark that no man is indispensable, no matter how great his power or how many can wreck them. An incompetent can wreck them, as has been demonstrated often, but as a rule the dropping out of a leader simply lets others who have helped to set out the scheme step to the front and carry on the work.

## PINCHING A PAPER TRUST.

Springfield Republican.  
The latest paper combination to suffer from federal prosecution under the Sherman act is the association of fiber and manila paper makers. If they had incorporated as a single legal entity they might have saved better, as it is they must exactly the same judgment passed upon that price and selling association of western papermakers two or three years ago. The Sherman law has proved pretty effective against these informal industrial combinations, as witness also the early Addystone pipe case; but against incorporated combinations, which are too numerous to be mentioned, it continues to amount to nothing, nor can it be made to now without a tremendous industrial upsetting.

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50 PEOPLE. 10 HORSES.  
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