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THE CONFERENCE.

One of the best conferences ever held by the Church was brought to a close on Sunday. It is the general experience of the Latter-day Saints that each gathering of this kind is better than the preceding ones. That is one proof that the interest of the Saints in the great and wonderful work which the Church was established to do, is growing.

All the meetings of the conference attracted larger crowds than ever before. Even the sessions on the opening day filled the great Tabernacle. The spirit of unity and harmony, faith and love, was manifested in a marked degree. The weather, except for a shower on Sunday morning, was ideal. The Saints have confidence in their spiritual leaders, and these are devoting all their energy to the welfare of the Church. That was evident in the teachings imparted, and the manner in which the members were listened to by the vast throngs.

There was considerable interest among the Saints regarding the vacancy in the Council of the Twelve. When the name of Elder Anthony W. Ivins was presented and it was proposed to sustain him in the high and holy calling of an Apostle of Jesus Christ, he was by unanimous vote accepted for that position. We congratulate the Saints on the selection of Elder Ivins for that office. We feel certain that his services will be of great value to the Church. We congratulate Brother Ivins. We know that he will be sustained by the Saints.

It is one of the beauties of the spiritual government of the Almighty, as established in His Church, that provision has been made for the filling of vacancies in the service without the heart burnings, the corruption and scandals that too often accompany campaigns for candidates in other organizations, religious or political. Such causes of ill-feelings, strife, and contention are unheard of in the Church of God. And yet perfect liberty is preserved. For every member has a perfect right to express his views on those presented for acceptance or rejection. And the history of the Church proves that the prerogative of voting is no empty ceremony. The divine wisdom is plainly visible in the government of the Church, where unity and liberty are safeguarded against adverse influences.

It was a magnificent Conference. The vast attendance and the spirit that prevailed, should be a testimony to all the world of the faithfulness of the warfare that is being waged against the Church. The Church is ever progressing. It is increasing in membership. Its doctrines are permeating the world. And it is no menace to anyone. If not to those who are determined to graft upon this beautiful tree of American liberty, their bigotry, their narrow-mindedness, their reactionary ideas. To all such, "Mormonism" will be the firm rock against which their many efforts will break in vain.

PROBLEMS OF TODAY.

The fact that public sentiment with regard to individuals and corporations that have amassed big fortunes, has undergone a radical change is one of the significant signs of our time. Formerly the men who came from a humble station in life to the ranks of millionaires, were held up for admiration. They were pointed to as examples to emulate. They were said to exemplify in their respective careers the results of honesty, integrity, industry and many other virtues. Today they are generally pointed out as criminals. They are no longer "Napoleons of finance," they are simply "thieves." They are caricatured in the newspapers and laughed at on the stage. A complete revolution of sentiment has taken place. It is now accepted as an axiom that no one can amass a vast fortune honestly.

We do not deny the truth that great "captains of industry" might have been satisfied with a smaller share of profits and accorded to the public the benefits of their moderation. But, when the assaults are made by agitators and for no other purpose than creating strife among the various classes of citizens—a condition from which the Latter-day Saints on certain issues have to derive benefits for themselves—there is danger ahead. According to an article in *Leah's Week*, "the assaults of an unprincipled press upon the railways and industries of the land have caused a shrinkage in the price of American securities aggregating the frightful total of more than three billion dollars. The closing and partial closing of mines, factories and public and private works, shows that the blow has fallen not only upon the wealthy, but also upon the laboring masses. Worse than all, a spirit of unrest and discord has been aroused that is rapidly dividing the people into classes, and that is more dangerous than the sectional bias drawn by our civil war, for it is putting a premium on a revengeful outbreak, which, whether in earnest or as a sinister joke, has been indicated by the placards recently posted in Pittsburgh, and reading: 'murder the rich and burn their homes.' The incendiary's torch may do its fearful work, but the conflagration which destroys the rich man's palace will ultimately sweep the homes of all." This is nearing the danger line.

Such agitation cannot be permitted to go on without protest.

The question of a just distribution of the resources of the country is one of the problems before the people today. It should be solved without revolution, without bloodshed. And it will be if the people are but let alone by the agitators who are the worst enemies of the people.

There is really less cause for complaint against the accumulation of enormous fortunes by individuals than against the manner in which the money of the people is squandered on profitless undertakings. For instance, five great nations spend \$100,000,000 a year on their navies. That is \$500,000,000 a year. This money is mostly expended on the laboring classes through a system of taxation that falls most heavily on the consumers. That is really money thrown away. Civilization ought to be far enough advanced by this time to enable nations to do without navies and armies.

It is argued, however, that all this money goes back to the people for labor, lumber, iron, food, &c. but would it not go back to the people just as well, if it were spent for education, irrigation, roads and such work? This ship that is built becomes obsolete in a few years and have to be relegated to the junk-heap. The money is simply wasted. How much better would it not be to spend money on that which elevates humanity and brings joy and hope, and lifts life rather than death into the foreground of human endeavor? Think what that \$500,000,000 would do for education, invention, art, ground growth, home joys. Think what \$5,000,000,000 would do in ten years! It would raise our social life up from the ruts, and make the tables of the poor smile in plenty. Here is a problem before the nation. Who is there to grapple with it successfully?

THE ARGUMENT OF "HIS."

The evening echo of the anti-Mormon morning calamity asks:

"Now if a man steals a horse or dynamites a safe and the sheriff takes him in it is fair to say that the sheriff is the enemy of that man's religion."

That all depends on circumstances. The evening echo is particularly strong on questions. It is an easy way in which to poison the minds of the people with falsehoods, in the form of insinuations and innuendoes, when the writer is too much of a coward to come out with direct statements, and yet determined to follow his natural propensities.

Now, if a man steals a horse, or dynamites a safe, and the sheriff takes him in, it is NOT fair, under ordinary circumstances, to say the sheriff is the enemy of that man's religion; but, if the sheriff hires unprincipled rogues to go up and down the country and accuse a man of having stolen a horse, or dynamited a safe; or if the horse thieves and safe-crackers are employed by one or their own captains to attack a man's church, in order that they may get away with somebody's horse, or crack somebody's safe, in the confusion; and if the sheriff happens to be in league with them, then it is fair to say that he is an enemy of that man's religion. Again, if the sheriff should evince a peculiar tendency to fraternize with all kinds of horse thieves and safe-crackers who belong to all churches but one, it would be fair to give him all kinds of epithets.

And that is very much the situation the anti-Mormon hiring defense. It is not true that the "Mormons" are law-breakers more than any other class of citizens. The contrary is the fact. It is true that some of the older members of the Church are still maintaining, in an unoffensive way, marriage relations that were entered into long before there was any law against them. This circumstance has been made use of by various agitators as a pretense for assaults upon the Church and upon individuals, with the ultimate purpose in view of looting the public treasury. Talk about horse-thieves and safe-crackers! Look at the City's funds, with a deficiency of not so very far from half a million dollars!

We do not enter into any discussion with the moral pervers in the service of anti-Mormon fanatics, but we submit to conservative citizens whether in their opinion the "Mormons" as a rule could have done any different from what they have done, considering the fact that with them the marriage covenants were entered into for both time and eternity. How could they sever the connection with their families, which for ever and ever, worlds without end? Would not wisdom suggest that the "problem" that antedates the laws against polygamy, be left for time to work out quietly, without the disturbances of which anti-Mormon agitators make a living? The element that lingers, if not supportive, commercial street, is certainly not qualified for the championship of social purity in any community.

NOT IN POLITICS.

Elder William A. Hyde, president of the Pontiac Stake of the Church, has made a clear and concise statement concerning the attitude of the Latter-day Saints on certain issues that have been given prominence in the political contests in Idaho. The statement appears in the *Postoffice Tribune* of Oct. 1. In as much as the subjects considered concern the people of this State, too, the article in our *Postoffice* contemporary is of interest to our readers.

President Hyde points out that from the public and private expressions of our opponents we may ascertain that the issue upon which the coming battle is to be waged, are "polygamy," "the interference of the Church in politics," and "commercialism." He denies emphatically that there is any foundation for the first charge. He says:

As to the attitude of the Church, it is sufficient to say, that polygamy is under its ban as thoroughly as the law of the Church can pronounce it, and all members who violate its regulations, in addition to being liable to the civil law, will be subject to the severest penalties that the Church can inflict. This, then, is a matter that should concern only those whose consciences or worldly duty it is to enforce the law, and should no more be

an issue for political discussion than should the infraction of any other law in the category. The effort by politicians to bring to life this issue, necessitates the resort to falsehoods the most inexcusable in character, against which the public is warned. But if what they assert is true, the only remedy is the rigid application of the law, to which we, in common with other lovers of our institutions stand committed. The Mormon people are not law-breakers by inclination or training. Outside of this particular offense charged against them in the past, which came into their history as the result of an honest, conscientious belief in a doctrinal principle, their offense against the law are few and far between. The court records of the country will reveal the fact that they have been singularly free from offense against the law.

As to the charge that the Church interferes in politics, President Hyde refers to the Address to the World in which the Church declares against such interference in the affairs of the state. He then continues:

"The reaffirmation of this doctrine and policy, however, is predicated upon the express understanding that politics in the states where our people reside, shall be conducted as in other parts of the Union, that there shall be no interference by the state with the Church, nor with the free exercise of religion. Should political parties make war upon the Church, or menace the civil, political or religious rights of its members as such—against a policy of that kind, by any political party or set of men whatsoever, the Church in her inherent right of self-preservation for the Church, and her right and duty to call upon all her children, and upon all who love justice and desire the perpetuation of religious liberty, to come to her aid, to stand with her until the danger shall have passed. And this, openly, submitting the justice of our cause to an enlightened judgment of our fellow-men; should such an issue unhappily arise."

"So long as we affirm and maintain that the Church shall not interfere with the functions of the state, no reasonable man will object if we reaffirm a cardinal principle of our Constitution that there shall be no interference with the Church or with the free exercise of religion. While granting the one as necessary for the peace of the state, we hold the other as necessary for the peace of the Church, and what denomination is there that would feel safe without this guaranteed protection. We maintain the right of sacredness in our laws and exorable in any extremity. Who could have respected the great Catholic church, when the threats and intimidations of the so-called American Protective Association were the most violent and the agitation was directed toward the crippling of that institution, and the destruction of its most sacred and its most spokenmen, priests and laymen alike, had not risen in the defense of her rights and liberties. She would have been unworthy her power and place among the churches of the world."

"So far as political principles are concerned, the Mormon people have been Democrat, and Republican, and Socialist, but those distinctions in opinion have for good and sufficient reasons, been obliterated to a great extent, and they have stood on common ground in the defense of their political rights. There is no doubt but that under normal conditions, the Mormon people will resume their normal positions in politics. They are subject to the same political influences as are other people; popular men and popular and able administration of affairs will win them as other people are won; they will be elected and become a part of a wave of political reform, as are other thoughtful and earnest citizens; and generally speaking will be found consistent and true to convictions in this as in other matters of business or religion."

We heartily endorse this position. No church should, as an organization, interfere in political affairs, but if a church is made the object of an assault by a political party, its loyal members, naturally, will rally to its defense, and this is all the more justifiable since the political assault upon any church is a violation of the God-inspired Constitution and of every principle upon the American form of government is founded. All citizens who are capable of thinking, and all statesmen will admit the truth of this. They will admit that the assailants are in the wrong and the defendants in the right. In the language of President Hyde: "Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Mormon alike, should be terms unknown in politics, either in the promotion of policies or in the division of rewards—we are all alike, American citizens."

Like bridges, that is the best balloon that carries one over safely.

If parents will take care of their children, the curfew law will take care of itself.

Cumberland county, Maryland, has just disgorged itself by a lynching, but its peach crop is unharmed.

The Real Estate association is bestirring itself. That's right. Its members are men of deeds.

The Hague Peace conference has voted in favor of obligatory arbitration. At best it is but morally obligatory.

Caid Y. Lean is to be released to Great Britain and will claim for a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Wall street doesn't care how much the President goes after the bears so long as he goes after them in Louisiana.

On her second westward passage the Lusitania intends to break the record or bust her boilers. Will it be a Pike's Peak story?

Schmitt is said to be but a shadow of his former self. What else is to be expected of one whose course has been so shady?

Members of the Pittsburgh delegation who were aboard the *President Hartweg* say there was no collision with the Mississippi or any danger of one at any time. Ananias.

Even if the *First Hartweg* did not bump into the Mississippi, the pilot of the former got bumped good and hard for ninety days.

Maxin Gorky continues to ask all the mean things he can think of about the American people. You doesn't he say the moon for a while?

Mr. Hearst says that he cannot conceive of any conditions under which he would be a candidate for the presidency. Thereby he finds himself in harmony with the great American people.

Five thousand residents, seized by the New York police within the year, were dumped into the sea off Sandy Hook the other day, by order of the

police commissioner. Used in submarine warfare, they will do no harm.

If the company that furnished the postoffice department with stamped envelopes and wrappers made half a million dollars by substituting inferior material, how much has the concern that furnished blotting paper postal cards in place of the ones contracted for made?

A French traveler, the Abbe Kline, who has been in the United States and Canada studying social and other conditions, says that the anti-Japanese feeling is much more intense in British Columbia than on the Pacific coast of this country. This should be an eye opener to the London Times, and other English papers that always see as it does, which said that the Vancouver riots were instigated and led by Americans. Japan also might read with profit what the Abbe says.

AS TO THE BEDROOM.

New York World.
A bedroom should have neither carpet, rug, upholstered furniture, pictures, mirrors nor handkerchiefs to catch and hold dust. The "den" bedroom affected by young people, with photographs and all sorts of trash tacked to the wall, is an unsanitary abomination. The philosopher Herbert Spencer had ear-muffs which he wore whenever in society the conversation failed to interest him. Some such device to deaden the murderous noises of a city would be a blessing to many light sleepers. Some have used with advantage a very small square light pillow placed over the upper ear so as not to interfere with breathing. This does not shut out but deadens the din of the streets. Only by abundant sleep in favorable conditions of the fortunate outdoor man, whose life approaches the natural conditions in which the race was planned to thrive.

WARM ARCTIC REGIONS.

London Globe.
The interesting fact that it may be warmer in the Arctic regions than in certain parts of the world, is illustrated by a telegram received recently from Tromsø, more than 200 miles within the Arctic circle. It was therein stated that the temperature was 70 degrees in the shade in London about the same time it was 26 degrees, and in the earlier part of the year there were occasions when the temperature of Iceland was higher than that of London. It is still more remarkable state of affairs occurs when that strange warm wind known as the Föhn blows down from the ice and snow in Greenland. Then in mid-winter, during the long Arctic night, extensive thaws may occur, and for several consecutive days it may be warmer in Northern Greenland than in Southern France.

JUST FOR FUN.

Her Chance.
Mildred—They say young Higgins wants to marry every girl he meets.
Clotilda—Then why don't you get some one to introduce you, dear?—Ex.

Lightning as She Saw It.
While little Gertrude was looking out of a window during a thunderstorm she saw a flash of lightning play along a telegraph wire.
"Oh, mamma," she exclaimed, "I just saw a piece of the sun fall down from the sky!"—New York Press.

Who Wouldn't?
"Tom—Mary Prettyman says Jack Hanson went right up to her yesterday and kissed her."
Jones—Did you ever?
Tom—No, but I would if I got a chance.—Philadelphia Press.

His Quandary.
A young man appeared unduly depressed after the death of his rich aunt. "Why are you so sad?" an acquaintance said to the young man. "You never appeared to care much for your aunt."
"I didn't," said the youth, dolefully, "but I was the means of keeping her in an insane asylum the last five years of her life, and now that she has left me all her money I've got to go to court and prove that she was of sound mind."—Illustrated Bits.

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Nice line in Novelty Cloths and Plain Kerseys, 45 and 50 inches long, from 15 to 20 years of age, ranging in price from—
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