DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (SUNDAY EXCEPTED)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, ... Editor
Benjamin G. Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

One Year,	in advance	$6.00
Six Months,	"	3.00
Three Months,	"	1.50
One Week,	"	12c
One Month,	"	50c
Sunday edition, per year,	"	2.00
Semi-Weekly,	"	3.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 10, 1899.

NOTICE.

The Sixty-ninth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Thursday, April 6th, 1899.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

During the early part of April there will be issued by the Deseret News a Church work, entitled "The Articles of Faith," the same being a series of lectures on the principal doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Dr. James E. Talmage. The lectures were prepared by appointment of the First Presidency, and the book will be published by the Church. It is intended for use as a text book in Church schools, Sunday schools, Improvement associations, quorums of the Priesthood, and other Church organizations in which the study of Theology is pursued, and also for individual use among the members of the Church. The work has been approved by the First Presidency, and I heartily commend it to the members of the Church.

LORENZO SNOW.

THE GREAT FAILURE.

The senatorial struggle, which closed at midnight on Thursday, has occasioned more disturbance than any other political event in the history of Utah. Public sentiment is very strong against the failure to elect a Senator, after two months' bickering and balloting. For two years that State will be represented by but one member in the upper House of Congress. Granting his ability and his fidelity to the interests of the people for whom he speaks, they lose one vote in that most important legislative body on earth.

The responsibility for this loss will rest upon the members who formed the majority of the assembly. They had it in their power to elect, and they declared as decided that they would not come together and perform the duty that devolved upon them. Their political opponents will, no doubt, make the most that is possible out of this failure and this will have to be met in the next State campaign.

The failure to elect a Senator, will provoke comment on the failure to act on the reports of the committee of investigation into the alleged bribery cases. The general opinion is that one of those reports should have been adopted. It is true, no doubt, that much debate would have arisen on the question, and that the time was dangerously short in which to discuss it, but to leave in doubt the views of the Legislature as to the grave charge preferred, was unfair to the accused and to the members who supported him to the end of the fight.

The party which has left Utah with but one United States Senator, when it had full power by virtue of numbers to elect the second, will have to settle within itself the dispute as to where the fault lies. Popular sentiment will say, the majority should rule in parties as well as in elections, and blame will naturally fall upon the minority, notwithstanding what they consider good reasons for their course.

Some censure will doubtless fall upon those Democrats who, believing it impossible to elect either their party candidates, determined at the last to support a prominent citizen of Republican proclivities. Their position ought to be fairly considered.

They had voted consistently for nearly two months for the majority candidate. They had reached the conclusion that he could not be elected, because of the persistent hostility of members of their own party. They thought it would be a wrong to the people of Utah to let the election go by default. The candidate proposed was a gentleman who represented the whole population, regardless of party considerations, for several terms in the lower house with exceptional ability and with such fidelity as won for him laurels that will never fade. They believed he would be acceptable to the great body of the people of the State, although he might be obnoxious to a portion of their own party. They thought it would be better to risk him than to lose a Senator altogether, and so they cast their ballots in his favor. But they demonstrated their willingness, even at the last moment, to support the majority candidate of their own party, if but three others would join them in settling the dispute on a party basis.

These are the facts in the case. Public sentiment will for awhile be at boiling point. But it will cool down gradually and quickly, and the evil motives and wrong intent now attributed to some men will disappear in the light of truth and reason.

The opinions of the masses of citizens on the corruption dispute are numerically represented by the ratio in the connection of investigation. The general sentiment is that the charges against the senatorial candidate were not sustained by the evidence; that in the language of one of the committee it was "not enough to convict a dog." And the great body of the people do not believe in the guilt of the accused or a bribe-giver, or of members of the Legislature as bribe-takers. Others are not clear on the question and as the matter is open, unfortunately, and left subject to gossip and scandal.

Utah can do very well with but one United States senator, as will perhaps as other States that may be left in the same condition. But it is a matter of regret that such a body of representative men as composed the Legislature just about to expire, should have such a record as the future will make in the annals of the State of Utah.

TOLSTOI AND PEACE.

Tolstoi has lately paid the projected peace conference some attention, but in a spirit of antagonism rather than friendliness. He does not hesitate to characterize the promoters of the plan as hypocrites.

The Russian count finds a text for his pronouncements in a statement made by certain Swedish gentlemen, of their intention to lay before the congress for consideration a proposition to abolish compulsory military service, and substitute some kind of public labor, in all cases where found such have considerations scruples against carrying arms. This thoughtful moralist finds fault with the Swedes, who are Tolstoi considers absolutely sincere.

He argues that the coming international peace conference will not and cannot be anything else than a hypocritical institution, the real aim of which is to hide from the people the evils of militarism by suggesting false means of deliverance. The powers, he says, cannot agree to leave their armies, because they are needed to defend the possessions each has taken. Besides, they are never sure that a new Napoleon or another Bismarck may not arise, who will disregard treaties and lay hold of whatever he can. Therefore, if governments are to have armies, these must be as large and strong as possible.

He further argues that the international peace conference cannot undertake to decide the question of the refusal to perform military service on the part of private persons whose convictions forbid them to carry arms against their fellow men, because such a reasoning of armies against the will of the governments will undermine the fundamental force of every government.

Then he takes occasion to point out what he considers an erroneous impression of the present age, that governments can be influenced by any kind of popular agitation. Tolstoi, being an individualist, has no use for socialistic efforts. On this point he argues:

"Deceived by their own verbosity, liberals, socialists and other so-called progressive and leaders may imagine that their speeches in Parliament, their meetings, their leagues and alliances, their statistics, classes and brochures are very important to the progress of humanity, while the refusal of individuals to take part in military service is a phenomenon without any importance whatever, which does not deserve any attention. But the governments know very well what is important to them and what is not. Therefore they gladly allow crackling speeches in reichstags and socialistic demonstrations, knowing that all these are very useful phenomena, because they draw the attention of people from what is really dangerous to the business of government—namely, the question of liberation. But more than everything else in the world do they fear the awakening in individual persons of the sense of human worth, and, as an immediate consequence of this, the refusal to take part in military service or to pay taxes designed for military purposes. They will never openly tolerate such refusals, and secretly they will punish the people who offer them, and banish them from society."

He concludes that arsenals will be diminished and abolished when people, individually, are aroused to a consciousness of human worth and allow themselves no longer to be the slaves of others; and this result he believes will be accomplished as true enlightenment spreads among men.

Tolstoi has long appeared before the world as a riddle. In his latest public utterance he goes far towards furnishing the key to his position. And as his words are clearly meaned, they reveal the fact that he has carried his individualism very close to anarchism. He pronounces not only against the old European forms of government, but also against the methods of democracy and the efforts at realizing desirable reforms through assemblies for the purpose of deliberation. He does not seem to understand that, in our complex society, success can be secured only by the majority, to some extent, of individual views and preferences for the common cause.

It is only through organized society, ever advancing, ever striving towards a higher plane that individual "worth" has come to be recognized and has obtained its rights. Individual "worth" unrestrained led to the terrors of the French revolution, and would perhaps set in the Lorlands and others been upon society and again justify the militarism which Tolstoi thinks must be abolished, only through individual protests against carrying arms and paying war taxes.

Tolstoi's reasons for opposing the congress will not, after this declaration, appeal very strongly to the friends of peace.

GENERAL GOMEZ.

General Gomez is one of the Cubans who has already figured prominently in the events of the immediate past, and of whom the American people are likely to hear much in the near future. During the efforts of our government to establish free and orderly conditions in Cuba, Gomez is likely to be concerned at every stage of the proceedings, especially if, as he claims, he is entitled to be to become president of a Cuban republic. His conduct since his arrival in Havana is already said to have caused some concern.

General Gomez is a native of San Domingo, and commenced his military career under the flag of that country. But when a conspiracy was formed to annex the island to Spain, he fought against the rebellion and became a captain in a regiment of which Weyler was colonel.

Upon the failure of the conspiracy, Gomez went to Cuba under the protection of the Spanish flag. In 1868, when the ten-years' war broke out, he first offered his services to Spain, but this being declined, he joined the insurgents. After the close of that war, he could no longer obtain Spanish protection and so went to San Domingo. Afterwards he fought at different times with the insurgents of Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia.

When the late Cuban rebellion commenced, Gomez was induced to join the insurgents, and was given the highest command on account of his long experience and skill. But there was always a feeling between him and some native Cuban leaders, and it is a question whether at all times he was entirely loyal to the cause. He openly criticised American interference in the affairs of the island, and if his wishes had prevailed, Spain might yet have ruled with iron and blood.

It is quite probable that the remaining Cubans will not be led by Gomez, and that his ambition will find little support among the better class of the natives. It is also probable that they will look to our government for the protection of their interests in the future. And, it is safe to say, the United States are in no way bound by the phrase or wishes of a non-Cuban, who has the reputation on that island of fighting mainly for what there is in it for himself. However, Gomez is a man of mark and influence and will be a conspicuous figure for some time in Cuban affairs.

THE SUN'S HEAT.

The question of the nature and origin of the heat of the sun is one upon which different theories have been formed. Some hold that the enigmatic luminary is an immense ball of fire, fed by colossal volcanoes that are drawn into the fiery furnace, to serve as fuel for the benefit of the orbs in the solar system. It is presumed that some day our little globe may follow its predecessors and share their fate, being drawn into the consuming flames with irresistible force.

Others hold that the sun, although the bearer of light and heat, is itself a dark body. They argue that the fact, as scientists declare, that the space intervening between the sun and the earth is extremely cold, is incompatible with the idea of that orb being a fiery globe.

Among those who speak against the light and fire theory is Dr. Henry Raymond Rogers of Dunkirk, N. Y. According to the Boston Transcript, he maintains that the sun is to be considered as a huge planet, like the earth but immensely larger, perhaps fit for habitation, surrounded by darkness except for the light received from other heavenly bodies.

He considers the sun a vast celestial dynamo producing currents of electricity which pass, invisible and free, through all the ninety-odd millions of miles of cold and darkness, until they meet their resistance at the earth and its atmosphere. Such resistance is all that is needed, in the mind of this twentieth century scientist, to develop the so-called caloric and sunlight, just as light and heat are produced in the electric circuit by the resistance offered by carbon or other material. Arc lights, such as stud our streets, are in effect the planets led by the sun. After exciting our atmosphere to these and other activities, the electric emanations pass into the earth, awaking in it gravitation and other electrical effects, thence completing the circuit by returning to the sun and arousing in it electricity the same functions as on its humble satellite.

The question is largely one of mere theory. It is nevertheless of interest when considered in connection with the inspired history of creation, in which light is mentioned as being developed before the sun appeared to govern the day, a view not supported by any of the ancient heathen philosophies. The Rogers explanation appears to be rational and in accordance with many known phenomena.

Utah newspapers are now compelled to "table" their prepared biographies and portraits of would-be U. S. Senators.

The essential choicers proposed in the educational bill were smothered under the mass of its non-essential provisions.

Senator Joseph L. Rawlins is not only the senior U. S. Senator from Utah, but the sole Senator for the next two years.

The new fire and police law went through in satisfactory shape, thanks to the wisdom of Governor Wells in his use of the veto power.

Advocates of peace and non-sectarianism in our city schools will have to wait a couple of years for the issues to come what is needed.

The big export trust has been incorporated in New Jersey. With so much material as is claimed in the articles of incorporation, the scheme ought to stick hard and fast.

Dewey in the Caroline and Philippine islands believes that scum has floated from those groups to Germany. No wonder the Germans are now specially friendly to Americans.

C. P. Huntington is credited with planning a railroad monopoly for himself in Guatemala. That should be an indictment accomplishment for the man who has manipulated the Southern Pacific for so many years.

Now that the Nicaraguan canal bill has failed for this session of Congress, the Panama route may have a chance, since the President will require the American commission to examine closely both routes, whereas only the Nicaraguan line was examined before.

Greater New York is only so in name when measured by the volume of foreign traffic in 1898. This traffic has fallen off nearly forty million dollars during the year, and has gone to more southerly American ports, overcoming the fallaways being the alleged cause.

The dispatches today give warning that another sudden death would be no surprise, the victim being the distinguished chairman of the Democratic national committee. Senator Jones is so afflicted with heart disease as to make future events in his life extremely uncertain.

It is stated in the New Alaska news that there is imminent peril of an armed conflict near the boundary line, owing to the trespassing of Canadians on American territory. There is one satisfactory feature in connection with Alaska-American affairs, and that is that in the present situation, England will promptly tolerate any hostile action of British subjects in the north.

A West-coast African railway, from the Cape of Good Hope to Cairo, Egypt, is now the dream of Cecil Rhodes who is seeking to get the Kaiser's consent to pass through German territory. The completion of the road, which now reaches to Buluwayo, should be at once the greatest civilizer and pacificator the dark continent has known.

General M. C. Butler of the American Cuban commission says it is useless for American capital to invest freely on the island, till the people determine first the form of government they will have, and whether legal titles will be firmly established thereunder. This statement emphasizes the fact that the financial proposition is one of the chief questions for Cubans to come to terms.

Gen. Otis seems to have taken a second thought about crushing the insurgent Filipinos before the arrival of Gen. Lawton. The fort named officer and his forces are due at Manila today, and it has been proved he is to be taken as a guide, the Filipinos will not be slow in learning what Indian fighting means, as carried on in the brush and mountains by sharpshooters.

The mayor of Griffin, Ga., called out the Griffin Rifles to protect the residents of the town from overt acts by the Tenth Immunes. He was taken to task for "darting" to oppose men who were the American uniform, but it now upheld in his prompt declaration that, as an American citizen and official, it was his place to see that that uniform was not dishonored by its wearers stealing the lives and property of the people of his town.

A Boston machinist's engineer came near causing as terrible a disaster as the wrecking of the Maine. A defective coupling was put on the pipes of the monitor Amphitrite, and on the vessel's trip from Boston to Hampton Roads, yesterday, the wrong was discovered, less than half an hour before the leakage that occasioned would have resulted in blowing the big war vessel to pieces. It is safe to assume that that machinist will be given no more job on a warship.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

New York Sun.

We are disposed to think that, unless M. Loubet shall turn out to be a much weaker man than he is supposed to be, the campaign of defamation and such violence already organized against him will fail, signally. Therefore, that the countrymen of the police or of the Paris garrison is not secured. Let us assume, however, for the sake of argument, that M. Dupuy can be overthrown, and that an anti-revisionist majority in the chamber of deputies will continue to refuse their confidence to every person nominated by M. Loubet for the post of premier. Does it follow that the present administration, like M. Dupuy, is to be forced forthwith to resign? We answer no, because M. Loubet, unlike M. Grevy, commands the trust, and even the affection, of a great majority of the senate.

New York Tribune.

But the highest tribute has come to him (M. Loubet) since his election. There has been a general expression of approval of him from the serious press and from the sober-minded people of France, in Paris and the provinces. That is gratifying. But the best of all and the most convincing testimony to his worth and to the wisdom of the national assembly's choice is found in the unparalleled outburst of scorn, revilling and execration from the foes of France. "Never before," calls our Paris correspondent, "has a president of France been confronted from the very hour of his election with such bitter denunciation." And M. Cassagnac, in the Pays, terms the political scum of France today to "a den of hyenas, tigers and jackals." It is well. To use again a hackneyed saying, France may well take his new president, and the world may well trust and admire him and congratulate France, for the choice by his made. The foes of M. Loubet are the foes of France. Conversely, every friend of France should be M. Loubet's friend.

Chicago Journal.

There can be only keen joy among Americans over the proceedings in Paris by which, at present moment, for, however much the relations of the two peoples have been disturbed of late, we must realize that the United States is bound to side by the strongest ties of fraternal friendship, and by political sympathy for a government that, with complete justice, is still a proof of the ability of the people to govern themselves. The fall of the republic would be a great calamity to civilization. Every friend of popular government will hope that out of this trial the French people will emerge with fearless determination to restore the civil rights and judicial authority that have been so sadly disregarded in the last five years.

Springfield Republican.

The practical result of the French action, crude and undemocratic as it may be, is at least the occupation of the presidential chair by statesmen who have made some mark in public affairs, and are not unknown to the great body of their countrymen. The national assembly is apt to elect some one who has been conspicuous in parliamentary life and who has gained administrative experience as a member of some cabinet or one of the numerous French ministries. No "dark horses" seem to reach the Elysee.

Chicago Times.

We Germans must meanwhile look to our defenses, for should fire break out in our neighbor's house, we are the best that will be threatened.

Berlin Post.

While the warmth of expressions show that more satisfactory and amicable feelings have sprung up between the two nations, it would be a mistake to be too optimistic.

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