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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 3, 1904.

METHODISTS IN CONFERENCE.

The Methodist conference that opens
at Los Angeles, Cal., tomorrow, May 4,
is considered of more than common im-
portance. They held these gatherings
only every fourth year, and the dele-
gates represent no less than three mil-
lion souls, in this country alone. But
apart from these general facts, the
present gathering is the first of the
kind, at which women are admitted as
delegates. Several years ago women
were elected, but it was decided that
it was necessary to amend the rules of
the denomination before they could
be admitted. This was accordingly
done, and the present conference in-
sisted to be the first in which the fair
sex is given a voice. From fifteen to
twenty women are elected, and their
advent is hailed with enthusiasm.Another feature is that the conference
is composed of an equal number of
ministers and so-called lay members.
For a great many years the lay element
of the Methodist church fought in vain
for lay representation at the confer-
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was agreed to. Four years ago, how-
ever, the proposition was adopted that
gives the two classes equal representa-
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body. There are at present only seven-
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some vacancies to fill, and it seems
that the church members are asking
for a larger episcopate.Among topics to be discussed and
acted upon are: The liquor question,
race problems, lynchings, and worldly
pleasures. There will be work enough
for the delegates, and the gathering, it
is thought, will last over a month.There is one question, however, which
ought to be made foremost in the delib-
erations of such gatherings of religious
bodies, and that is how unity can again
be established among the scattered
children of God. The purpose of the
death of the Redeemer was to bring
about that unity, and in furtherance
of that purpose, divine gifts were given
to and divine authority conferred upon,
apostles, prophets, teachers, etc. And
yet, today, so far from there being
unity among those who profess to fol-
low the Crucified One, there are in the
neighborhood of 1,000 different sects
and churches, all claiming to hold some
truth which others reject, to their per-
il. Unity in faith is the great religious
problem of the age. There is strength
in unity, and until the churches have
solved the great problem of obtaining
strength, their war against the evils of
the world will be desultory and of but
little avail. Let there be unity in the
church, and a sharp dividing line be-
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THAT "HOT AIR" STORY.

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air," and told by way of a joke and to
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The first time I ever saw her, if the
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tem and the man that they detect. But
even they will scarcely pit the con-
tradictory rumors set afloat by unreliable
persons concerning the alleged mar-
riage under dispute, against the sworn
evidence of the gentleman charged with
having performed the ceremony. Prur-
ient curiosity may not be satisfied
with the result of the latest phase of
this investigation, but just and thought-
ful men and women will have no doubt
left as to the falsehood of the story
as it affects President Smith.There has been no evidence adduced
yet that any plural marriages have
been solemnized since Utah entered the
Union as a State, and, rightly, the
committee of investigation have no
business with anything relating to
Utah before statehood. But nothing
has been brought forward to show that
the Church has performed or author-
ized such unions since the "Manifesto"
of President Wilford Woodruff, adopted
by the Church in General Conference
Oct. 6, 1890. Reports, guesses, infer-
ences and opinions to the contrary are
many, but proof is absolutely absent.We should think that protestant
Critchlow and his associates in the
"hot air" fiasco, which is now the
laugh of the town, would feel exceed-
ingly cheap over their desperate effort
to impeach the testimony of President
Smith. Also that they will recognize
the fact that it does not tend to solli-
cify the "hot air" offered by way of evi-
dence by Mr. Critchlow himself, which
Senator Beveridge summed up in this
way: "So that you say, that a man
said to you, that somebody else said to
him, that" so and so. Attorney Critch-
low's notion of what is evidence does
not seem to run on lines usually rec-
ognized by lawyers.

CONVINCING EVIDENCE.

The kind of testimony given by the
"lawyers" who have appeared before
the Senate committee and admitted as
evidence altogether it was little else
than "gossip," and much of it related
as history when it was nothing but ex-
tracts from a paper engaged in mis-
representing and distorting everything
relating to "Mormon" affairs, is
shrewdly and caustically satirized by
the daily dealer in "Breakfast Food"
in the Salt Lake Herald as follows in
this morning's issue:

(Telegraphic Message.)

Washington, May 2.—Judge O. W.
Powers, who has been testifying before
the Smoot investigation committee
during the past two weeks, was quick-
ly taken aback by the service of a sub-
poena on him at his home in Salt Lake.
It came like a thunderbolt out of a
clear sky. Judge Powers only had time
enough to throw 50 affidavits, 620 cer-
tified abstracts of court records, 1,752
newspaper clippings, 98 public speeches,
reports of all political conventions held
in Utah, minutes of Mormon Church
meetings for fifty years back and the
history of the "Pascoraras" into his
trunk and catch a train. By a peculiar
coincidence Judge Powers happened to
have these documents in his office when
the subpoena came.Nothing will better show the unpre-
paredness of Judge Powers than the
following brief extract from his testi-
mony:Q.—Judge Powers, did I understand
you to say this apostle wore a non-
union hat?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How do you know this?

A.—He was seen coming out of a
non-union hat store.

Q.—Have you proof of this?

A.—Yes, sir, I have the affidavit right
here in my hand.

Q.—What do you deduce from that?

A.—That the Church is in politics.
(Profound sensation.)Q.—Judge Powers, do you believe the
Smoot campaign was conducted from
the Church headquarters?

A.—I do.

Q.—Why?

A.—Because Smoot did not open any
headquarters for himself.Q.—Were there no other headquarters
in Salt Lake at that time?

A.—Only in one other place.

Q.—Could not Smoot's instructions
have been issued there?

A.—No.

Q.—Why not?

A.—Because the other place was head-
quarters for sports and Smoot is no
sport.

Q.—What? Smoot no sport?

A.—No, sir; he's no sport.

Q.—Why do you say that?

A.—Because he played a cinch.

Q.—Can you prove that?

A.—Yes, sir; I have an affidavit in
my hand to show that Smoot told a
friend there was nothing to it but
Smoot.

(Great interest.)

Q.—You had that affidavit here?

A.—Yes, sir; right here.

Q.—What do you deduce from that?

A.—It clearly shows that Smoot was
elected solely by the influence of the
Church.

(Applause.)

By the chairman—I am sure, Mr.
Powers, the committee is much obliged
to you for making this so clear for us.
The committee appreciates that you
were but fully prepared to testify before
this committee and with that fact taken
into consideration the evidence you
have placed before us is nothing short
of miraculous.

The fair rates are only fair.

No campaign fund is a hero fund.

How proud Critchlow and Wilson
must feel!Mr. Cockran is an issue. True he has
issued from obscurity.April smiled through her tears, but
why is May weeping?It would pay the Czar to hire the
Japanese to reorganize his army and
navy.The Russians have lost the key to the
Yalu. It may turn out to be a skel-
eton key.Carrie Nation is now exhibiting in a
dime museum. For the museum it is
dime-Nation.Having declined mediation from Eu-
rope, Russia may have to accept terms
from Japan.Miss Alice Roosevelt has broken out
with the measles. That's a bad break
for a young lady in her position.It will take at least ten days to see
the St. Louis fair. Bridal couples will
do it in nine days, halcyon days.The new Russian battleship Orei
went on a sandbar in the Neva. This
was probably practice preliminary to
going to the bottom.Nothing so surprising an intending
striker as to find himself locked out.It draws his fire and leaves him op-
tically without ammunition.