DESERET EVENING NEWS: TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1904.

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

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PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING. (Sundays excepted).

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah. Charles W. Penrose - - - - Editor.

Horace G. Whitney - - Business Manager. SUBSCRIPTION PRICES. (In Advance):

NEW YORK OFFICE. In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager Foreign Advertising, from our Home Of-fice, 1127 Park Row Building, New York.

CHICAGO OFFICE. In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager forcign advertising from our clome Office, 57 Washington St. Represented by F. S. Webb. Room 515.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE. In charge of F. J. Cooper, 78 Geary St.

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

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

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 importance. They hold these gatherings only every fourth year, and the delegates represent no less than three million 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 is said 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.

shother 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 conference. Finally a small representation was agreed to. Four years ago, however, the proposition was adopted that gives the two classes equal representa-

Among the important duties devolving upon the conference is the election of bishops. This position is one of the highest honor and responsibility in the Methodist church, the bishops being the executive council of that body. There are at present only seventeen active bishops, but there are some vacancies to fill, and it seems that the church members are asking

as follows: After asking if the witness knew Abraham H. Cannon during his lifetime, Mr. Tayler inquired if he knew Lillian Hamlin; Mr. Smith-I know her by sight; yes. Mr. Tayler-Do you know her now? Mr. Smith-Yes; I know her now, Mr. Tayler-Was she his wife? Mr. Smith—That is my understand-ing, that she was his wife. Mr. Tayler—Do you know when he married her? Smith-No. slr: I do not. Mr. Tayler-How long did you know Mr.Smith-My first acquaintance with her was in June. The first time I ever saw her was in June, 1896, I believe, as hear as I can recall. Mr. Tayler-What year, Mr. Smith? Mr. Smith-In 1896. Some time in June, 1896. Mr. Tayler-Where was she living then Mr. Smlth-I am not aware of where she was living. I think her home was in Salt Lake City. Mr. Tayler-Is that where she was Mr. Smith-That is where I first saw her, in Sait Lake City. Mr. Tayler-Did you see her after Smith--Yes, sir. Tayler-Where? Smith-I have seen her a number of times since then, in Provo, in Salt Lake City, and elsewherfs. Mr. Tayler-You did not see her in California about that time? Mr. Smith-I did, most distinctly. Tayler-Where? Smith-In Los Angeles. Tayler-With whom was she Mr. Mr there Mr. Smith-She was with Abraham Mr. Tayler-Was she married to him . Smith-That is my understanding, sir Mr. Tayler-Was she married to him Mr. Snith-That is my belief. That is, I do not know anything about it, but that is my belief, that she was his Mr. Tayler-Your belief is that she Mr. Tayler-Your belief, is that she was then his wife, when? When you first met her and knew her? Mr. Smith-When I first saw her. The first time I ever saw her, if the chairman will permit me to tell the facts, was some time in June-I do not remember the date-1896. I was at that remember the date-1896. I was at that remember the date-1896. I was at that time president of the Sterling Mining & Milling company. At that time I was not the president of so many institu-tions as 1 am now. Abraham Cannon was the manager of those mines. We had a gentleman employed by the name of Gillospie as foreman of the mines of Gillespie as foreman of the mines for a number of months, but we were

losing money and matters did not move atlisfactorily, and Mr. Gillespie made a proposition to Mr. Cannon to lease the mines and the mills. There were two 10-stamp mills established at the mines. I was asked by the board of directors to accompany Abraham H. Cannon to Los Angeles, where we met Mr. Gilles-ple and entered into a contract with him to lease the mines to him, and there, as the president of the company, I had to sign a number of notes and to sign a contract, he being the man-ager. I accompanied Abraham H. Can-

non and his wife on that trip, and had one of my wives with me on that trip. Mr. Tayler-How intimately had you known Abraham H.Cannon before this? For years you had known him well, had Mr. Smith-I had known him a great many years.

Mr. Tayler-Prior to June, 1896, you had never heard of Lillian Hamlin being his wife?

Mr. Smith-No, sir. Mr. Tayler-Nor had you seen them at Los Angeles?

Mr. Smith-No, sir. Mr. Tayler-Did you see them at Los Angeles Mr. Smith-Yes, sir. Mr. Tayler-Were you out in a boat

even they will scarcely pit the contradictory rumors set affoat by unreliable persons concerning the alleged marriage under dispute, against the sworn evidence of the gentleman charged with having performed the ceremony. Prurient 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 authorized such unions since the "Manifesto" of President Wilford Woodruff, adopted by the Church, in General Conference Oct. 6, 1890, Reports, guesses, inferences 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" flasco, which is now the laugh of the town, would feel exceedingly 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 solidify the "hot air" offered by way of evidence 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 Critchlow's notion of what is evidence does not seem to run on lines usually recogaized 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 extracts from a paper engaged in misrepresenting 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:

(Telepathic Message.) (Telepathic Message.) Washington, May 2.-Judge O. W. Powers, who has been testifying before the Smoot investigation committee during the past two weeks, was quite 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 978 affidavits, 620 cerclear sky. Judge Powers only had time enough to throw 978 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 "Tuscaroras" into his trunk ond eatch a train. By a peculiar 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 nonunion hat? A.-Yes, sir. Q.-How do you know this?

Q.-

Smoot.

hurch (Applause.)

of miraculous

must feel!

navy.

from Japan.

It will take at least ten days to see

the St. Louis fair. Bridal couples will

do it in nine days, halcyon days,

tem and the men that they detest. But It draws his fire and leaves him entirely without ammunition.

> The court of inquiry into the accident on the battleship Missouri says it was caused by a flare back. War is usually caused by a flare-up.

"An English book just published bears the title "How to Arrange with One's Creditors." Probably nothing more than a new way to pay old debts,

The Misses De Votion of White Plains, N. Y., are society leaders in their town. Their name suggests that they are leaders in church circles as well.

Professor · Hugo Munsterberg says that the Monroe doctrine is all fudge, but says that Europe will have to wait until the Americans also think so. It was a wise precaution to atttach a string to the fudge.

In some letters of the late Herbert Spencer, just published, he says "With war come all the vices, and with peace come all the virtues." Admitting this to be so, where does the strenuous life come in, that life that has become the ideal one par excellence?

Murderer Shockley told the court, when sentenced that Gleason was killed by an accidental shot. Why didn't he complete his tale and say that he accidentally went into the car with his face masked, accidentally had a pistol in his hand and accidentally ordered the men to throw up their hands?

> Persistent rumors are circulating to the effect that the health of the German emperor causes great anxiety. It is assorted that the operation performed half a year ago was not entirely successful, and that the danger of recrudescence is still feared. These rumors are contradicted officially, but they seem to revive as often as they are put to rest.

VALE ALEXIEFF

New York Evening Mail. New York Evening Mail. Just as in South Africa, it is appar-ent, on the Russian side at least, that the war in the far East is to be con-ducted by other men than those under whom it was beguh. Viceroy Alexieff, leader of the "forward" party in Man-churia, whose representations the Czar is supposed to hold accountable for the precipitation of hostilities, has resigned bis nost, after enduring what were in his post, after enduring what were in effect official slights, in the prefer-ment of his personal enemy, Vice-Ad-miral Skrydloff, and in the practically independent command given to Kuro patkin.

Cleveland Plain Dealer,

Alexieff has had a long and honorable career in the czar's service, but has lost prestige through his diplomatic dealings with Japan and his strategical dealings with Japan and his strategreat errors. Russian public opinion, in the face of a long series of reverses, may be clamoring for a scapegoat, and Alexieff may be sacrificed whether guilty or not. Only the inner councils of the St. Petersburg government know how the responsibility for Russia's dis-pressed should be apportioned. The grace should be apportioned. The bureauracy is not likely to shift too much of the blame on to its own shoulders.

Philadelphia Ledger.

Matinee Wednesday at 3 p. m.



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 deliberations 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 follow 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 peril. Unity in faith is the great religious problem of the age. There is strength in unlay, 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 between the church and the world. Then the outcome will not be uncertain.

THAT "HOT AIR" STORY.

The wretched force that was played on Monday in the committee room of the committee on privileges and elections of the United States Senate was placed on that stage by E. B. Critchlow et al. The star performer tried to shirk his part, informing the managers that it was only "hot air," but they were determined that it should go "for what it was worth," and that turned out to be nothing. Still it answered one purpose which seems to be the chief object of the chief "protester," and that is to promote agitation and make a false impression on the public mind about the "Mormon' Church and its leaders.

The testimony of Angus M. Cannon Jr., differed in kind from that of E B. Critchlow and some others, in this one particular; that is, the frank confession that his story was only "hot air," and told by way of a joke and to pander to the anti-"Mormon" appetite of E. B. Critchlow and E. W. Wilson and Perry Heath. It had about as much foundation and amounted to as much real evidence as the gossinhearsay and balderdash to which the committee listened from Critchlow, Powers, Cobb and Hiles, and miscalled "history.

Now as to the tale told originally in the Salt Lake Tribune and repeated by Angus M. Cannon, Jr., while "on a spree," and greedily seized and reported to Washington by E. B. Critchlow. Our readers know the story which has been "in the nir" with numerous variations for several years. It is to the effect that President Joseph F. Smith married Lilian Hamin to Abraham H. Cannon while on I vessel some miles out to sea from California, or, as one version is, on the way to Catalina island. On this President Smith was questioned when inder oath before the committee. We wpy from the official printed record appears to be antagonistic to the sys-

from there? Mr. Smith-Yes, sir. The Chairman-I did not understand the Mr. Tayler-June, 1896? The Chairman-1896? Mr. Tayler--Yes. The Chairman-Proceed. Mr. Tayler--Where did you go with the boat? Mr. Smith-We went to Catalina Isl-Mr. Tayler-Did you go from there inywhere out in the water? Mr. Smith-No, sir, Mr. Tayler-Your journey through the was merely from the mainland to "ataling Island" Smith-That is correct. Mr. Tayler-Was there any talk, or did anything occur while you were aboard that boat, respecting the marriage relations of Abraham H. Can-Smith--No. sir. Tayler-And his wife? Smith-No, sir. Tayler-No reference was made o the subject at all? Mr. Smith-Not to me. Mr. Tayler-Not to you? Smith-No, sir Mr. Tayler-To whom was any refernce made? Mr. Smith-I do not know. Mr. Tayler-Nothing was said in your resence or to your knowledge about hat subject? Mr. Smith-No, sir. The first I heard f it was years afterwards, through the sublic prints Tayler-Through the public prints? Mr. Smith-Yes, sir. Mr. Tayler-That is, that you had married them aboard that vessel? Mr. Smith-That is what I heard in the reddle public the public prints. Tayler-That is what you heard? Mr. Tayler-That is what you heard? Mr. Smith-Yes, sir. Mr. Tayler-Did you have any talk on that fourney or after you left Salt Lake-after you first heard or learned that Lillian Hamlin was the wife of Abraham Cannon-as to when they ere married? Mr. Smith-No, sir. Mr. Tayler-Did you have any talk vith either of them?

Mr. Smith-Not in the least. Mr. Taylor-Not in the least? Mr. Smith-Not in the least, sir; and o one ever mentioned to me that they were or were not married. I simply judged they were married because they were living together as husband

Mr. Tayler-Exactly. Mr. Smith-That is all I know about

Mr. Tayler-And your knowledge of inv status which may have existed beween them was not due to anything hey told you? Mr. Smith-No. sir; not at all,

Senator Foraker-Before he gets away rom that subject, is there any objeceton key. on to stating what he read in the ewspapers-the story to which you

referred? Tayler-I did 'put that in. time-Nation. sked him if he had married them

board the steamer. Senator Foraker—That is what you aw in the newspaper? Mr. Smith—That is what I read in the

newspape. Mr. Foraker-And there was no truth

Mr.

n that! Mr. Smith-No, sir.

Mr. Tayler-Was it a regular passen-ger steamer that you went over on? Mr. Smith-Yes, sir; a regular pasenger excursion steame

Mr. Tayler-Did you take any other rip down there with them? Mr. Smith-No. sir

We do not believe that anyone who The new Russian battleship Orel knows President Joseph F. Smith will went on a sandbar in the Neva. This doubt the truth of his testimony. We was probably practice preliminary to are aware of the disposition of some going to the bottom.



