

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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).
One Year \$4.00
Six Months 2.50
Three Months 1.25
One Month75
Saturday Edition, Per Year 2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year 2.00NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager.
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,
112 Park Row Building, New York.SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 75 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City
as second class matter according to the
Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 21, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints will convene on Thursday,
the 6th of April, and adjourn Friday
afternoon until Sunday morning,
and close Sunday afternoon.A general Priesthood meeting will
be held on Friday night, commencing
at 7:30.The special Priesthood meeting for the
General and Presiding Authorities of the
Church will be held in the Assembly
Hall on Saturday morning, at 10
o'clock.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.The general semi-annual conference
of the Deseret Sunday School Union
will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt
Lake City, Sunday, April 9, 1905, at 7
o'clock, p. m. Officers and Sunday
school workers are requested to attend
and all are cordially invited.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

AS TO "COMMERCIALISM."

In his testimony before the committee
on privileges and elections at
Washington, President Joseph F. Smith
not only answered questions concerning
his personal family relations, which
he might reasonably and lawfully have
refused to disclose, but he also replied
to queries concerning his connection
with a number of enterprises in Utah.
He explained that in most of them his
investments were personal, that on his
decease the shares he owned would
pass to his heirs. In some other instances
he was a stockholder as Trustee-in-trust
for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that
they would pass to his successors in office.It did not appear and is not true
that in the institutions named, the
Church controls the stock or has in-
vested to the exclusion of other persons
who desired to invest capital. All the
stories that have been repeated, time
and again, that the Church dominated
these institutions, have been sheer in-
ventions, concocted to place the matter
in a false light before the American
public. Business people at home know
that those statements about the Church
and its attempts to hinder business on
the part of non-members are utterly
false, and large numbers of them have
expressed their disgust at the continual
repetition of such palpable untruths.To read the daily outpourings of vi-
cious mendacity with which the read-
ing public are regaled, an uninformed
person might be led to suppose that
the President of the "Mormon" Church
had taken some new departure in re-
ference to these temporal affairs, and
that he had diverged entirely from the
lines followed by his predecessors, and
was engaged in "commercialism,"
that he had no time for any Church
duties. The truth is, that as Trustee-
in-trust for the Church, he succeeded
officially to the positions he occupies
in that capacity in the companies that
have been named, and that he was as-
sociated with his predecessors in the
investments which he made on his own
account, they being also interested in
the establishment and maintenance of
those enterprises. So there is nothing
new in the course of the present Presi-
dent of the Church in these particulars,
and that is well known to his associates
and to his co-religionists generally.If it had not been for the industrial,
agricultural, irrigating, manufacturing,
financial, mercantile, milling, and other
temporal works inaugurated and en-
gaged in by the respective leaders of the
"Mormon" people, Utah could not
possibly have been built up upon a bar-
ren desert and made the prosperous
commonwealth which it is today. From
the very beginning, "Mormonism," as
the world calls our system, has been
proclaimed as a practical religion, em-
bracing everything that is for the wel-
fare of humanity.Brigham Young, on arriving in this
valley, went to work directing the lay-
ing out of towns and cities and the
conduct of temporal works, for the sus-
tenance and comfort of the people to
be brought in from the nations of the
world. Everyone of his successors has
followed along in the examples he set,
according to their means and their op-
portunities. They were not all en-
dowed to the same degree with the
peculiar gifts which he displayed in the
direction of affairs for the material ben-
efit of the people, but they each entered
into that which is now denounced as
"commercialism" as though it were a
sin for the President of the Church to
do anything but preach, and pray, and
sing, and exhort and administer
spiritual ordinances and consolations.President Joseph F. Smith is sus-
tained by the body of the Church as theTrustee-in-trust for all its properties
and investments. He does not own or
claim a solitary cent of any of its prop-
erty in any shape or form. He holds
it in trust for the Church, and the mem-
bers of that body of religious wor-
shippers have perfect confidence in his
integrity, ability and faithfulness and
are under no anxiety concerning these
temporal affairs. The Bishopric of the
Church, under his direction receive and
regulate the tithing affairs and their
accounts are perfectly kept, and are un-
derstood by the local Bishoprics
throughout the Church. These affairs
are of no proper concern to people that
do not belong to the Church. They
may talk about them as much as they
please, and it will make no difference
to the Latter-day Saints.Since the death of President Brigham
Young, not one of the Church leaders
was more anxious for the development
of the resources of Utah and the sur-
rounding regions occupied by Latter-
day Saints, than was the late Presi-
dent George Q. Cannon. He was not
only an Apostle and one of the First
Presidency of the Church, sustained
as a prophet, a seer, and a revelator,
but represented Utah in Congress for
several successive terms, and was a
stockholder in a number of companies
and corporations, a director in many
and also a president or vice-president
therein. He left considerable property
on his decease, although he spent so
much of his time in preaching, counsel-
ing, advising and helping to preside
over the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints.We have no fault to find with his so-
called "commercialism," but what is
the difference between it and that en-
gaged in by others among the Church
leaders? It comes with a very poor
grace from one of his sons, by a plural
wife, to raise a daily howl against
Joseph F. Smith for engaging in similar
pursuits to those of our lamented
brother and friend, his associate in the
Church Presidency, who was one of
the strongest advocates of this "com-
mercialism," and also of plural mar-
riage, that the Church has had from the
beginning. We honor his memory and
cast no reflection upon his character
or his works. We merely draw atten-
tion to the fact that every word spoken
against Joseph F. Smith in regard
to his business pursuits, reflects upon
the course of the late President George
Q. Cannon.We are led to touch on this subject
through reading an article in the
Morning Examiner of March 20, 1905, pub-
lished at Ogden. It is so pertinent to this
question that it is reproduced on an-
other page of this issue of the "News."
We dislike to publish anything of a
personal nature, but since individuals
who occupy a high place in the af-
fairs of the Latter-day Saints and in
the esteem of the general public,
are continually being assailed by be-
ings whose personal character would
not bear exhibition in print, it may
become necessary to expose their false-
hood and their doings in no unmeas-
ured terms.However, we now simply quote what
is said by a non-"Mormon" daily pa-
per, which sets forth facts that are well
enough for the public to understand,
and we therefore copy them, verbatim,
again affirming that to us they convey
nothing in the way of fault-finding,
either of President George Q. Cannon
or of President Joseph F. Smith, for
we concede the right of any man in the
Church to engage in such business pur-
suits as he chooses, and the right of
companies and corporations to choose
whom they will as their directors and
officers. At the same time we deny the
right of any person not connected with
them to interfere in their affairs, or to
hold up to public condemnation any
individual who engages in lawful un-
dertakings, because he is a member or
officer or President of the Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The
Church will attend to its own concerns,
and of all the great men who have con-
ducted them, none have been held in
greater deserved honor, respect, love
and confidence than the man who now
stands at the head of the Church as its
President and the Trustee-in-trust for
its business affairs.

BETTER BE RELIABLE.

Readers of the morning papers who
are not close investigators, might be
entirely led astray by the sensational
headlines placed over their reports of
the services in the Tabernacle on Sun-
day afternoon. It is made to appear
that President Joseph F. Smith gave "a
new revelation," and "contradicted" his
testimony concerning the subject of
modern revelation when he testified be-
fore the committee at Washington. The
Deseret News on Monday evening pub-
lished his remarks in full, as reported
verbatim by a court reporter who was
present. People who want to know
just what he did say can find it in the
"News." He gave no "new revelation,"
nor did he contradict his former testi-
mony. Preceding speakers explained
the different kinds of revelation from
God, and testified that the Church had
been led by the spirit of revelation from
the beginning, and that while none of
its leaders since the time of the Prophet
Joseph Smith had claimed to have
talked with God face to face, or re-
ceived those great manifestations given
to the earthly founder of the Church,
they had all been imbued with that
spirit that makes known the things of
God, and is the promised Comforter
that guides into all truth and shows
things to come. They also bore testi-
mony that President Joseph F. Smith
had been and was inspired by that
spirit, and he added his own testimony
concerning it and stated that no man
had ever heard him deny its inspira-
tion. It seems that our morning con-
temporaries have untidily entered upon
a career of decided misrepresentation.
This they may continue if they choose,
but they will find, in the long run, that
it will not add to their popularity any
more than it establishes their reliabil-
ity. Truth will conquer, never fear.

QUESTIONS, NO ARGUMENT.

A veteran "Mormon"-hater inquires:
"Did Peter ever start a bank? Did
John, the beloved, ever head a corpora-
tion to build a sugar factory? Did
James ever organize a light and powercompany in Jerusalem? Did Andrew
get a franchise to light Jerusalem and
Capernaum? Did Philip ever name any
candidate for office and insist upon his
election?"How cleverly thought out that is, and
what tremendous forceful logic! But
the argument is not carried out to-
wards its logical consequences. The
questioner should have continued, par-
ticularly since it is generally admitted
that fools can ask more questions than
a wise man can answer. He should
have persevered somewhat in this vein:
"Did Peter ever start a trust society or
a home mission? Did John, the beloved,
ever head a missionary society for the
conversion of Hottentots? Did James
ever use a match? Did Andrew ever
see an electric lamp or press an elec-
tric button? Did Philip ever cast a
vote for any civil officer? Did any of
the first Apostles build cathedrals,
send ambassadors to foreign courts,
create cardinals, archbishops, etc.?
Did they?"And this mode of argument might be
carried still further, if the intention is
to create the impression that only that
which Peter and his companions in the
Apostleship did, is right. Let us see:
"Did any of the Apostles ever wear a
collar and a necktie? Or a pair of
shoes? Or gloves? Did they ever take
a trip with a steamboat? Did they
ever visit a world's fair? Did they
ever use a telephone? Did they ever
write for a newspaper?"It is clearly seen, that to the asking
of questions there is, literally, no end.
Also, that an argument on such lines
is appropriate only among the unfor-
tunate inmates of a lunatic asylum.
The apostolic injunction to engage in
that which is true, honest, just, pure,
lovely, and of good report, holds good
in all ages.

PEACE OR TRUCE?

One of the Russian ministers, speak-
ing of the possibility of concluding the
war now, expresses fear that, unless
Japan is reasonable in her demands,
peace can be only a truce, to be fol-
lowed by the resumption of hostilities
on a larger scale than now.But that depends on circumstances.
France, too, when humiliated and com-
pelled to part with territory and an im-
mense sum of money, determined on re-
venge. But the opportune moment for
retaliation never came. And, in the
meantime, the old order of things was
abolished. A republic was estab-
lished, and with popular government
came a sentiment of peace and good
will. At present there is no country
in Europe where the people are more
in favor of peace, than in France. Her
influential statesmen are laboring for
the advancement of that movement, and
the French workmen, and women, are
ably aiding them. In fact, this
peaceful attitude of the French is a
strong barrier against a general Eu-
ropean imbroglio, at present.Something similar may take place in
Russia, provided the Russian people are
strong enough to take the reins in their
own hands. Japan's policy now would
be to cripple Russia financially to such
an extent that it would for many years
be out of the question to plan another
campaign in Asia. In the meantime,
the peace sentiment might grow, as it
has in France, and render another such
war impossible. The horrors and suf-
ferings of this barbarous conflict ought
to satisfy even an autocratic govern-
ment for many years. Under no popu-
lar government could they be repeated.The Flying Dutchman isn't in it with
the flying Russian.A big navy and a big army are not
anti-race-suicide arguments.General Linevitch being bald headed
will have no hairbreadth escapes.Vesuvius' eruption is nothing com-
pared with the upheaval in Russia.The next time the Czar summons a
war council it wants to be duces tecum.Russia will raise a new army. And
when it gets to the front Japan will
raise it.When Governor Cutler prunes the ap-
propriation bill somebody is deprived
of plans.Wichita home talent is going to give
"Parafal." Let Bayreuth tremble for
its prestige.The governor of Colorado should not
be spoken of as His Excellency but as
His Conspiracy.Governor Cutler has cut down the
appropriation bill \$52,750. Half a loaf
is better than none.That Idaho aeronaut who fell from
his balloon and was killed must have
taken knockout drops.Is the Russian army seeking the
northern lights in its retreat? None
other seems to break in upon it.France has ordered two warships to
Caracas. Will this induce Uncle Sam
to act as her fiscal agent in Venezuela?"How does the robin know when
spring is coming?" asks an exchange.
He consults the government weather
bureau reports.Dr. Wiley, he of the "poison squad"
fame, is writing poetry on the food
question. His digestion must be very
greatly impaired.Courts in this country are opened
with the cry: Oyez, oyez, oyez. In
the Far East Manchuria is opened with
the cry: Oyama, Oyama, Oyama."Our greatest glory is not in never
failing, but in rising every time we
fall," says Confucius. Here is a hint
for the boys learning to walk high
stilts.Mr. James H. Eckles says that the
railroads are operated for the benefit
of the people. On this subject the
people, like the Scotchman, are open to
conviction, but they would like to
see any one convince them.

"Owing to the extremely violent atti-

tude of the Salt Lake Tribune against
any thing or person bearing the Mor-
mon brand, this newspaper has laid in
a stock of firearms and ammunition
against any trouble that may break
out," say telegrams from this city to
eastern papers. It has also laid in a large
stock of yarns about Utah and her peo-
ple for distribution among the credu-
lous and gullible.

KUROPATKIN CRITICISMS.

Louisville Herald.
Military critics do not fall, however,
to condemn Kuropatkin. Col. Gadke,
a German officer sent by his govern-
ment to follow the Russian move-
ments, was with the Muscovite com-
mander till last December. He writes
that with Kuropatkin at the head of the
army Russian success was always out
of the question. The commander who
won't "dare" has not the instinct of
success. Col. Gadke contrasts the ex-
cessive caution of Kuropatkin with the
fearful risk-taking fecklessly run by
Oyama, Kuroki and Oku. These Japa-
nese officers have, he maintains, the
genius of success.Los Angeles Express.
Dispatches announce that Russian
military annals contain no more bit-
ter imperial rebuke than that admin-
istered to Kuropatkin, following the
route at Mukden. The order appoint-
ing General Linevitch as his suc-
cessor makes no mention of his prede-
cessor's former good record; all is wiped
out, forgotten, in the presence of the
great disaster that has overtaken the
army in Manchuria.Chicago Record-Herald.
Kuropatkin, now superseded, is mak-
ing his way back to St. Petersburg, full
of bitterness for what he cannot help
but consider the wreck of his military
career. History may find much to criti-
cize in his deeds, but he may console
himself somewhat with the reflection
that it is already sufficiently clear that
the really grievous mistakes which
have brought Russia to her present
pass have not been his.

COLORED APPOINTMENT.

New York Evening Post.
President Roosevelt's appointment of
a colored man to an important office in
this city will put an end to the old
southern complaint that negroes are
given Federal positions only in the
former slave States. This has never
really been a valid criticism, particu-
larly since Mr. Roosevelt made Mr. W.
H. Lewis, the old Harvard football
player, an assistant United States dis-
trict attorney in Boston. Mr. Ander-
son, whose appointment as collector of
internal revenue in this city is now an-
nounced, has been a loyal Republican
worker and a trusty follower of the
machine bosses. To that extent the ap-
pointment is open to criticism. But he
is more than a man, he is a man of
ability, of excellent education, with con-
siderable reputation as an orator.

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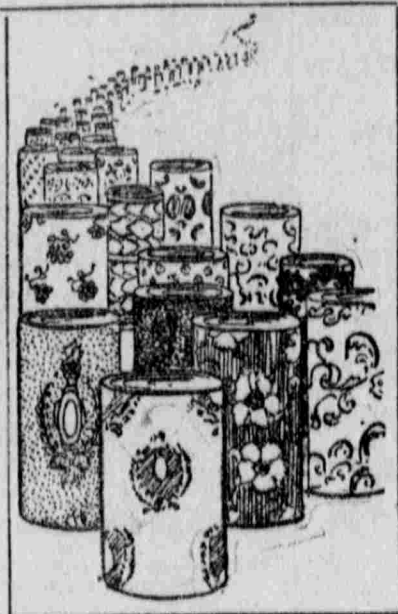
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