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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 30, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will be held in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday,
April 3, Monday, April 4, and Wednesday,
April 5, commencing each day at
10 a. m. A general attendance of
the officers and members is requested
and expected.A general Priesthood meeting will be
held in the Tabernacle on Monday evening,
April 4, at 7 o'clock.A special Priesthood meeting will be
held in the Assembly Hall, Tuesday,
April 5, at 10 o'clock a. m.A religion class convention will be
held in the Barratt hall on Tuesday,
April 5, at 2 o'clock p. m.JOSEPH P. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.The general conference of the Deseret
Sunday School Union will be held at the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday
evening, April 3, at 7 o'clock, and
the attendance of all officers and
teachers is desired. A general invitation
is extended to all Sunday school
workers and Saints to be present.A special meeting of Sunday school
stake officers will be held in Barratt
Hall, Tuesday afternoon, April 5, at
4:30 o'clock and a full attendance is
desired.JOSEPH P. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

THE REDEMPTION OF UTAH.

Attention is specially directed to the
interview with Hon. F. S. Richards in
this issue of the "News." Two or three
very important and salient points in
his remarks we desire to emphasize.
One is that the preliminary surveys to
test the feasibility of the great plan
presented, will be undertaken by the
government without the expense of a
dollar to the people of Utah. If they
desire the work to be done. Another is
that they will not be compelled to en-
gage in the furtherance of the project,
even if it is pronounced practicable
and beneficial. And still further, the
people interested must co-operate with
the reclamation service so as to ensure
the performance of his preliminary work.In view of all this, what are the people
of middle and northern Utah going
to do in the matter? Sit down in the
dry and wait for the wet to come of its
own accord? Or get up and get together
and petition for this gratuitous
service. We do not hear of
anything practical on their part
towards the furtherance of the
movement. Meetings should be
held in the counties named, and
unity of action effected. To lose this
chance is to throw away work worth
from \$30,000 to \$40,000, through apathy
and folly.While we are waiting, dumbly, other
states are astir and voicing their
desires. There is only a certain amount
of money available for the purposes
of the reclamation act, and if we lose
our opportunity we will be crying out
against our own folly in a very short
time. The Utah Arid Land commis-
sion will probably take some further
steps in the desired direction. Every-
body interested in the welfare and
growth of the State should cooperate
with that body, and help in obtaining
the aid that is necessary for the be-
ginning of the work which promises to
recompense so much for Utah.

THE SOUTH JORDAN DISPUTE.

A communication from South Jordan,
on the dispute as to the number of sec-
ond feet of water to be claimed as prior
rights by the several canal companies
in this county, appears in our columns
today. It has been crowded out by
other matter for a day or two, and it
was necessary, also, that some explana-
tions should accompany its publica-
tion. We desire it should be read in con-
nection with our remarks in this col-
umn.It will be seen from the resolutions
adopted, as set forth in the letter from
Mr. Rundquist, that the South Jordan
people base their objection to the propo-
sition to accept 50 second feet for each
canal, on the alleged decree of the
courts of 500 second feet to the canals,
supplemented by 400 second feet by the
installation of the pumping plant, ag-
gregating 900 feet as "primary rights" of
the canals in the county, and that the
average daily flow of the proportion be-
longing to the South Jordan canalshowed 80 second feet. This, that com-
pany claims as the just equivalent of its
primary rights. In reply, it is argued
that the courts did not and could not
guarantee any such quantity of water,
but only to each canal its just propor-
tion when there is any water to share.
When there is none, as was the case
much of the time before the pumping
plant went into operation, there was
not 800 feet for the companies in the
aggregate, or 80 feet for the South Jordan
folks. But the record will show
that our correspondent is also mistaken
in his figures.The court decreed that in the aggre-
gate the capacity of the five canals was
828 feet, not 500 as stated. Yet in op-
erating under the decree the first year
(1901) the canals got only 44 second feet
on June 27, and only 4 second feet in
September, and most of this, under the
decree really belonged to the primary
claimants.At no time within the history of the
lake has 900 second feet been developed.
Since the decree went into effect, the
greater amount ever developed has been
400 second feet and this for no length of
time at once, and to do this the lake
has been so exhausted that if it con-
tinues to decline, the lake will soon be
unable to furnish even 400 second feet
at the suction of the pumps.There is another very important point
to consider. Unless something is done
to supply the lake, the canals in this
county will not be able to obtain even
the quantity of water that is claimed
"by decree," for it will not be there to
draw from. The sources of supply to
the lake are being gradually diminished.
Every year old canals are being
enlarged, new ones are being construct-
ed, additional acres are being cultivated
and the old acres are demanding more
water throughout Utah and Provo val-
leys, and these are all being supplied
out of water which should pass through
Utah lake into this valley. So that
it becomes more a question of how
to protect 400 second feet for the farm-
ers, than a scheme for "speculators" in
Salt Lake City.If the flow into the lake continues to
be checked in the manner described, of
what use will be a decree for shares of
water that is not available? Supposing
suits are instituted against the appropri-
ators of water claimed by canals in
this county, will it not take much time
and entail much expense to bring them
to an issue? The cost of a thousand
second feet will prove less in the long
run, under the government plan, than
will be the cost of litigation for enough
to keep the pumps running, and such
litigation is inevitable unless some such
plan as that under discussion is adopt-
ed.The question is asked, "Why should
the South Jordan company accept 50
second feet?" The answer is, from ex-
perts and others who know the facts:
Because during 182 days of the season
of 1903 you developed on an average no
more than that quantity of water. It is
affirmed that South Jordan received 72.7
second feet on an average for 182 days
last year, but this year that amount
will be cut down to about 57 second feet,
with the pumps doing the same work as
they did last year. This will result from
giving the South Jordan an equal share
with the other canals, and also from
giving to this city its full share. Last
year the three canals got one-
half of the city's supply and all
of what will go to the North Jordan
this year. The commissioners' figures
show that when the situation is prop-
erly understood, 17 second feet is all that
was developed last year for each of
the five canals.Now as to the talk about giving some-
thing to the government, and relin-
quishing rights to receive half in re-
turn, and the rest of it. Do these
people who use such arguments (?)
know what they are talking about?
Does the government want anything of
them or of Utah? Are they asked to
give away any rights or assumed
rights? Not at all. It is Utah that is
asking for governmental aid under the
Act of Congress. This State wants
her share in the funds to be used for
the reclamation of arid and semi-arid
lands. Other States are urging their
claims. They will get what they want
if we do not, and we will be left out
in the dry. Before anything practical
can be done, the people here must be
agreed upon what they want and what
they claim, and nobody is asked to
give anything away or relinquish any
rights, but to come to a unity as to
the best course to pursue for the ac-
quisition of more water in a permanent
supply.The very best minds in the county,
and experts who understand the whole
matter from a to z, are positive that
it is better to unite on a basis of 50 sec-
ond feet for each of the companies than
any other figure. It is thought
that a compromise may be effected on
a basis of 60 second feet, but even then
the final results will be less beneficial
to all concerned than if the 50 second
feet agreement shall have been made.Now, what is the use of throwing
out suspicions of ulterior motives, when
the representatives of the Utah Arid
Land commission have no personal
ends or motives in what they are
doing? They are not speaking for the
government, in any sense. They are
working for the public and especially in
the interest of the very men who cast
slurs upon them? It is wrong and
shameful to thus misrepresent them.
We believe the great body of the farm-
ers in this county appreciate their labors
and understand the position that
confronts the community.Come together, friends, and fix upon
some basis on which the necessary ap-
plications can be made, and do not ob-
struct one of the most magnificent
movements for the permanent benefit of
this whole section of the country, that
has ever been conceived. On the agree-
ment now pending, hangs the success
of the lake scheme and on the success
of this Utah lake project turns the en-
tire plan for the welfare of this great
State!

USEFULNESS OF THE OLD.

Under the title given above, Leslie's
Weekly has the editorial given below,
which is worthy of consideration every-
where. There are young old men as
there are old young men. A man is
not to be measured always by hisyears, nor estimated by the greyness
or absence of his hair. Vigor of mind
and activity of body are sometimes su-
perior in the veteran to those of the
youth. Experience is worth something
in human affairs, and the old man's
counsel is often of greater worth than
the young man's ardor. That is the les-
son, briefly presented, in this article
from Leslie's:"America is the young man's coun-
try, we are told, because so many of
the conspicuous figures amongst us are
young men. The thing is said conven-
tionally, as if there were some moral
virtue in being young; as if, too, the
greatest tragedy in American history
was not the death some forty years
ago of half a million men in the prime
of life, which deprived our generation
of its wisest counselors. Experience
is the only school which gives a degree
honored of all men, and a man of
three-score, with the vigor of life still
in him, should be the most useful citi-
zen of a community."The awful catastrophe at Baltimore
furnished a splendid instance. The con-
flagration had been raging for twelve
hours. Chief Horton, of the Fire De-
partment, had been disabled by a live
wire. The fighters were without a
head. Then William C. McAfee, veter-
an fire chief, retired for many years
and accounted an old man, offered his services
to the Mayor. They were accepted.
Donning his oldskin and grabbing his
trumpet the old chief went into action.
At once the men knew they had a
leader. They needed one. The fire was
roaring down to the river bank where
were some great rosin works filled with
turpentine. And as they went so must
go East Baltimore."There will be a-l to pay if the fire
gets into that rosin, yelled McAfee
through his trumpet. If enough of you
men will follow me, we'll go in there
and dump the whole outfit into the
bay.""They followed the leader and they
saved East Baltimore."

WAR ON DIVORCE.

A conference was held in New York
a few days ago on the divorce evil.
Twelve Protestant denominations were
represented, and it was unanimously
agreed that each church represented in
the conference, should advise its min-
isters, not to unite in marriage persons
who, according to the rules of the re-
spective churches of which the parties
are members, are not entitled to enter
into the marriage relation. That is a
rather peculiar agreement. It means
that ministers may unite one couple and
refuse another, according to the rules
of the church to which, not the minis-
ter but the applicants for matrimony
belong. One church may consider di-
vorce as a bar to re-marriage, and an-
other may not. The minister would
duly consider this, and in one case he
would tie the knot; in another he would
not. And yet, this is about as far as
uniformity can be attained in the midst
of the diversity of opinions. If the
churches could agree on anything, ex-
cept persecuting the "Mormons," if
they had a standard, and a leader, they
might hope to accomplish something
against the evils of the present time.
But as soon as they endeavor to mar-
shal their forces against any one sin
of the age, they feel the weakness of
scattered forces operating separately
and without a head.A Catholic movement for a similar
purpose has also been commenced, by
"The Daughters of the Faith." The
aim of that organization is "to unite
Catholic women, more particularly
those of position, culture and influence,
in shunning those usages which lead
to moral evils, and to assist them in
promoting a higher spiritual standard."
Social drinking and gambling are to be
discountenanced, greater modesty in
fashionable dress is to be favored, and
divorces are to be ostracized. This
movement promises better success. The
"Daughters of the Faith" have a united
church to back them up; they have
a well defined doctrine to defend.
They know exactly what their
aims and purposes are. It is absolute-
ly necessary to influence public opin-
ion in the right direction first. When
that is done, the needed legislation will
come. The efforts of pulpit and press
will be in vain, as long as those who
disregard the teachings of the moralists
retain their social standing and influ-
ence.The weather is getting worse and
more of it.Congressmen regard the report on
postal matters as lese majeste.The beef trust seems to be such big
game that no one dare tackle it.Even in politics those who want true
harmony must study counterpoint.The transition from March storms to
April showers will be very easy.To his creditors Sully's forty per cent
proposition looks like thirty cents.New York's idle bricklayers might
be likened unto bricks without straw.When a man refuses to be read out
of a party it's because he can read his
title clear."You pay your money and take your
choice," describes the weather we are
now having.The Japs seem to be quite as handy
on the land as on the sea. The Rus-
sians can testify to this.In Indiana they are beginning to
sing: "I know a Fairbanks whereon the
wild thyme grows."Why doesn't Governor Peabody try
heaping coals of fire on the heads of
the striking coal miners?Rouben A. Britton has sued Patti for
seventy-eight hundred dollars. That's
right. Brittons never shall be slaves.At Chong Ju the Japanese have taken
the offensive, causing the Russians to
retreat. They may yet take Port Ar-
thur.Boston prides itself on being a bil-
lion and a half dollars town. Let theHub remember that pride goes before a
fall.It is proposed to supply the Russian
soldiers with cork helmets. The Jap-
anese might use them to advantage in
bottling up the Russian fleet.Again much is being heard about the
"white man's burden." And each white
man is just vain enough to think that
he carries a little more than his neigh-
bor.A scrubber who doesn't know what
an "usher" is, may be able to dish up
inconsiderable trifles on the side for a
petty, snide publication, but is
not to be counted as a fit contributor
to a journal having any pretensions to
a front place. And when he adds to his
inefficiency the inability to keep to the
truth, he becomes unworthy of notice
and foreshadows his own doom. Nur
sed.

WESTERN WHISPERS.

Tacoma Ledger.

Some of those Mormon Apostles must
be accomplished diplomats to have kept
the peace of their numerous families.

Washington Standard.

It is now proposed to expel Senator
Smoot because Apostle Smith has five
wives and Apostle Somebody else has
45 children.

Lund (Wash.) Leader.

The Smoot investigation has become
an investigation of the Mormon Church.
It has been established that the patri-
archal practice of polygamy did not
go out of fashion with the conferring
of statehood upon Utah, and the evi-
dence adduced also shows that the au-
thorities of that state have been
strangely blind as to what was going on
about them. Mr. Smoot, however, still
appears to have a right to a seat in the
Senate.

Caldwell, Ida., Tribune.

As a matter of fact, there is not, in
Idaho, a fairly intelligent man, who
has given any attention to public af-
fairs, who did not know before Presi-
dent Smith said it, as well as he now
knows, that practically all the Mormons
who took plural wives prior to the
manifesto continued to cohabit with
them, and that the virtually no nomina-
tion in the bond. And if those polygamous
Mormons are chargeable with violat-
ing the letter of a public pledge, those
who are now seeking to disturb them
may with equal justice be charged and
condemned for treachery to the spirit of
a covenant just as binding and little
less formal and notorious.

Ashland (Or.) Tidings.

The opponents of Mr. Smoot have
been attempting to show that, as an
apostle of the Mormon Church, his vote
is controlled by that organization and
that, consequently, he ought not to sit
in the Senate. They are relying even
more upon an outburst of popular feel-
ing against the Utah Senator as an of-
ficial representative of a church whose
practices have been revealed in the
testimony of its head, President Joseph
F. Smith, the seer, revelator and prop-
phet. There is no need to prove any
charge. If two-thirds of the Senators
should decide to expel Mr. Smoot they
can do so without more ado. While
some of the testimony in the case has
had the effect of alienating some of Sen-
ator Smoot's colleagues from his sup-
port it is doubtful if two-thirds of the
members will go against him. The at-
tempt of Senator Dubois and others to
work political advantage through the
proceedings is not injuring Smoot's
chances of retaining his seat.

Seattle Mail and Herald.

It seems that there is a tendency
to lose the point involved in the Smoot
case, namely, while pursuing the
testimony of the various "Mormon"
witnesses. The Kallispell Bee thinks
that some of the eastern newspapers
are having mild convulsions over the
testimony of President Smith of the
"Mormon" Church in which he admits
that he is still a polygamist with five
separate families. Some of these pa-
pers maintain that Senator Smoot
should be expelled because he is an of-
ficer in an organization which permits
its officers and members to live in open
violation of the law, and defends them
in such law-breaking. This, however,
is a narrow view of the question, and
as the state of the case is President
Smith, there are extenuating circum-
stances.After plural marriage had been de-
clared illegal by the court of last resort
the "Mormon" Church, in 1890, issued
an official manifesto forbidding such
marriages, and according to the testi-
mony of President Smith, no such
marriages have since been performed
with the consent or knowledge of the
church. There were, however, many
"Mormons" with plural wives who
found they must either violate the law
or abandon the families they had al-
ways regarded as legitimate and legal.
Under such circumstances it is not
strange that many of them preferred to
face the law rather than discard their
own children and abandon mothers
whom they had always considered leg-
al partners.According to the testimony the number
of polygamists has been reduced
through natural causes from several
thousand to only a few hundred, and
the only ones remaining are those who
look plural wives prior to 1890. All of
this testimony, however, seems to have
but little bearing upon the case at is-
sue, for Senator Smoot can hardly be
held responsible for the acts of other
members of his church. If it can be
shown that he is a violator of the law
against polygamy he should be expelled
from the senate, but his mere position
in the church which countenances po-
lygamy is not sufficient to warrant his
expulsion. He has even the right to
believe in polygamy as a divine insti-
tution, for he is not amenable to the law
if he refrains from teaching or practic-
ing it.Under the charges filed against Mr.
Smoot there are just two grounds upon
which he could be justly expelled.
First, if it can be shown that he prac-
tices polygamy. Second, if it can be
shown that his position in the church is
such as to interfere with the free exer-
cise of his duties as a senator.
So far the proceedings of the senate
committee seems to have little or noth-
ing to do with the charges filed against
Mr. Smoot.

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