

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 23, 1906.

## NOTICE.

The Seventeenth 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 Friday, April 6th, 1906.

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

## AS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The report comes from Ogden of a death from the contagious disorder that has been prevalent in several parts of the State. It has been pronounced smallpox by a number of the medical faculty, although others have dissented from their opinion. But granting that the former diagnosis is correct, it is evident that the disease has been manifest in a very "mild form." The Ogden case is the only fatal one that has been recorded.

It is true there was an announcement of a fatal case at a distant sheep camp, in the extreme southeastern part of the State, but the particulars were not sufficiently definite to constitute evidence that would establish the conjecture.

While there have been but these two reported instances of death from smallpox, during the entire period of the excitement that was raised over the appearance of the disorder, there have been numerous fatalities from other infectious diseases. Scarlet fever, for instance, has numbered a great many victims, chiefly among children. Official returns from health officers establish this fact beyond question.

It is clear from experience, then, that there has been more need of precautions, especially as to the public schools, for the prevention of the spread of scarlet fever, than of all the fuss that was raised over the smallpox scare. And yet schools were not closed for the former cause, notwithstanding the greater danger.

These occurrences and the figures that show results, afford food for reflection. The occurrences of the past few months as to the public health, suggest that while undue excitement over any expected epidemic is unwise and unprofitable, yet that precautions are necessary against other disorders than that which is said to be smallpox.

Scarlet fever, diphtheria and other fatal diseases, may be checked in their spread by isolation of the diseased and infected, and by sanitary regulations strictly enforced. The evidence is convincing that zymotic diseases can be more effectively "stamped out" by such measures than by any other means. The decline in their fatal effects can be traced to those precautions, but are sometimes attributed to nostrums and pretended prophylactics which have been demonstrated to be of fanciful effect.

The general health in Utah is cause for congratulation. While there are still cases of the contagious disorder which, if it is really smallpox, is peculiarly free from the worst symptoms of the disease, it is not spreading to any extent, but is gradually dying out. Ogden seems to have become infected and has a larger number of cases than Salt Lake or other large cities in the State, and therefore cannot make the boast or indulge in the jeers, which some of its citizens and its principal newspaper uttered a short time ago, in reference to conditions in this city. We sympathize with our neighbor in the north, however, and hope it will soon be free from contagion.

Fresh air, pure water, general cleanliness of person, of homes, of business houses and public premises, temperance in diet, regular habits and avoidance of all excess, will promote the general health and preserve public order and peace. Sanitation and quarantine will operate against infection. And a cheerful spirit with the absence of fear, will be found a sovereign aid against fleshly ills as well as mental disorders.

## AN EXHIBITION OF "CHIEK."

The custom of using the names of prominent persons to give interest or value to movements of various kinds, without the consent of the individuals thus thrust before the public, is one that should be put a stop to at once. It is a piece of impudence on the part of those who adopt it, and calls for vigorous protest.

When committees are formed for political, social or charitable purposes, it is advisable, of course, to secure the aid of ladies or gentlemen or both to make the lists as strong and striking as possible. But who has the right to dictate the selection of such persons, and why does anyone presume to publish their names without obtaining permission?

No political party is justified in taking such a liberty. It is bad enough to announce the names of known members of a party, on partisan committees, without asking their consent. But when persons not connected with party organizations are thus put in a false

light, it is annoying to them and misleading to the public. And when the purpose is to thus deceive people for party ends, it is shameful and dastardly in the extreme.

There is no excuse for the custom in support of a scheme to raise funds, no matter how worthy the cause may be. It is not right to place the names of ladies or gentlemen on committees for a ball or other entertainment, unless they have been consulted and have permitted the use of their names in such connection.

Common politeness would suggest that the people whose names are wanted, to give tone or attraction to any plan or movement whatever, should be requested to signify their willingness or unwillingness to give countenance to it in this manner. We consider it grossly impertinent to presume to do otherwise. A hint on this matter should be enough to everybody but the vulgarly egotistical and insufferably presumptuous, whose gall is only excited by their ignorance of ordinary etiquette.

## APPEAL FROM PUERTO RICO.

What the Puerto Ricans themselves have to say in the controversy about the status of their island should at least be of as much interest as the arguments of the politicians of this country. For this reason the "Appeal of the People of Puerto Rico to the People of the United States" calls for more than a passing notice.

This "Appeal" is signed by J. Julio Henna, Azel Ames, T. Larrinaga, J. R. Latimer, L. Sanchez Morales and Arturo Bravo, "Puerto Rico's delegates to Washington."

As a motto they refer the American people to the Golden rule: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise," evidently supposing that this rule obtains in politics. Then they set forth their grievances and their desires.

They claim that General Miles, after his bloodless conquest of the island, promised the people protection of their property and "to promote prosperity, and bestow upon them the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of the American government." But Congress, they say, instead of redeeming these promises, is considering a measure of oppression, odious to the liberty loving inhabitants of this country and identical with those "which drove the American patriots of '76 to resist and destroy by force of arms the tyrant that imposed them."

The Puerto Ricans are indignant at the proposition to give them a reduced tariff and \$2,000,000, as a palliative for relegating the island to another year of military rule. This they regard as an outrage which strikes down at a blow every hope, promise and possibility of redemption. "What have we done?" they ask. "What do we lack, that this last, cold-blooded refinement of oppression should be decreed against us by the voices that pledged us, only so little ago, every good thing under the folds of the American flag?" Then they continue:

"It arouses the utmost indignation that a million intelligent Christian people, nearly eighty per cent of Caucasian birth, long in the enjoyment of the highest rights of representation in the national cortes of Spain; who have had universal suffrage, municipal autonomy, and (substantially) free commerce with their sovereign country for years; a community where thrift, freedom from debt, virtue, and achievements bespeak its character, which freed its slaves on its own motion, and paid for them without a murmur; whose steadfastness gave it the name, even in Spain, of 'The Ever Faithful Isle,' must now plead for those fundamental civil rights which the Fathers of the great Republic declared to be 'the inalienable rights of every man.'"

They then point out the evil consequences of a military government, and ask the reason for its existence. They ask to know why, for instance, the Hawaii delegate representing 100,000 people should have the floor of Congress, while 1,000,000 Puerto Ricans, who for years have had representation in the Spanish cortes should be permitted only a "resident commissioner," whom they hang about the corridors of the House and Senate, "send in his card" to his dark-skinned Kanaka friend, and beseech his influence with his associates of either chamber, to ameliorate the woes of his people." Platitudes will not do as replies to these queries. They are directed to the American people, and demand attention.

The Puerto Rican matter is not a party question. By the way it is treated, the honor and integrity of the American nation is brought to the test. Those who shouted that our government had violated the Constitution by entering into negotiations with a Philippine sultan, cannot now urge that the Constitution does not apply to the islands ceded by Spain. Such juggling is unworthy of statesmanship, and when the welfare of a million people is involved, it is criminal to indulge in it. What response will the American people give to the "Appeal of the People of Puerto Rico?"

## THE AFRICAN WAR.

The news from South Africa, barring some unconfirmed rumors, have been rather scanty the last few days, but that does not mean that both sides are not actively preparing for the stroke that is to decide finally the contest between the two races.

Lord Roberts is now master over a greater part of the Free State Republic, but his objective point is the capital of the Transvaal, and there can be no doubt that he is preparing for an advance, perhaps along a route least expected by the enemy. The British general is known not to take any steps without thorough preparations, and it may be expected that when he moves north he will be able to hold every inch of ground over which he may spread his vast army.

The indications at present are that the Transvaal Boers are determined to continue their resistance. But the question is whether they would not, after a serious reverse, follow the example of the Free Staters. They are not a warlike people. They are farmers, handy with a gun, but they are not, strictly speaking, soldiers. Their tastes are not in a military direction, but rather the opposite. In a moment of enthusiasm inspired by the oratory of their leaders, they would naturally rise, seize their guns and meet an invading army. They would remain in the field

as long as victory followed their flag. But would they, as President Kruger seems to think, be willing to fight to the death, knowing that even the greatest sacrifice a man can make would avail nothing for the cause? In the case of the Free Staters, it seems that disorganization came as a consequence of one defeat. Will not the same occur in the Transvaal? Ordinarily it does not take much to induce an agricultural people to leave the warpath and return to their peaceful homes. Did not even Israel in the desert lovingly remember their life in Egypt, though they were in servitude?

The Boers are believed to have quite a force watching General Buller. But Lord Roberts is sending out his forces east of Bloemfontein, ostensibly for the purpose of receiving the arms of those that are willing to surrender. Before long the Boers in the Biggarsberg mountains may find themselves between two fires—General Buller on one side, and the troops of Lord Roberts on the other, and the tragedy of Paardeburg may be repeated in the eastern part of the republic. That would probably mean the end of Transvaal independence.

News may be expected at any time of a battle between General Olivier and General French. The former is marching north from Bethulle with a considerable force, evidently with the intention of joining the main body somewhere north of Bloemfontein. Gen. French has been sent east to head him off, and from the record this officer has established, it may be inferred that Olivier and his Boers will have to execute some very skillful maneuvers not to fall into his hands.

Gen. Olivier was at last accounts heard from at Maseru, not far from Ladybrand, where, it seems, Gen. French expected to intercept him. The mobility of the Boer army is very great, but Gen. French has proved himself able to move with equal rapidity.

## IMMIGRATION.

The question of whether this country is enjoying a period of prosperity may be answered by a reference to the immigration statistics. They generally show the business status of the country, falling and rising with the depression or expansion of trade and industry.

The figures furnished by the commissioner of immigration for the port of New York show a considerable increase in the first nine weeks of this year over the same period in 1899. The totals for the two periods mentioned are as follows:

	Jan. Feb. March-15. Total.
1899	8,444 11,512 9,599 29,455
1900	12,470 17,501 18,829 48,001

The nationalities that go to make up the numbers is an interesting feature of the statistics. From the southern parts of Italy no less than 8,518 have arrived this year. Hungarians, Polish, Lithuanians, etc., number 5,908, while the Hebrews reach the figure of 6,242. With the expected immigration on a large scale of Finlanders, and the possible influx of Transvaal Boers after the war, this country has a prospect of receiving a larger addition to its population this year than it has had for many years past.

But here is plenty of room for industrious and frugal citizens. As long as there are millions of acres of land to reclaim, legitimate immigration cannot be other than a benefit to the country.

It is certain that the gallant Baden-Powell and his men must hold on a little longer, for the relief of Mafeking is yet unaccomplished.

The railroads want the Boers to come to Wyoming. According to a remark credited lately to Oom Paul, they would make good rustlers.

Those who are predicting the immediate collapse of the Boers will do well to study carefully Dutch characteristic persistence before venturing to prophesy.

Aside from politics, Hon. Thomas Fitch will be welcomed to Utah as an old and staunch friend to the people of this State, and one of the most gifted orators of the period.

A hundred people have been poisoned at a dinner at Lima, O. It is said the poison has been traced to chicken salad, but the play is that it cannot be traced to the party who placed it in the dish.

It is said that Great Britain wants a slice of Alaska in return for allowing the proposed amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. The probability is that the Americans would rather slice the treaty.

The rumor of the capture of Gen. Gatacre and staff is not believed in London. The disbeliever is justified in the fact that notwithstanding the blunder Gen. Gatacre made at Stormberg he is a wary and efficient commander who is not likely to be caught, after his former experience.

Two horrible stories of burning to death come from North Carolina. In one instance the perpetrator was a negro and in the other white men. All the accused have been arrested, yet there is no statement of attempted lynching. This incident should serve as an illustration that in that Southern State all the people are not inclined to mob law at each opportunity that may be given to excite public passion.

Over 50,000 men, in the various building trades, have been idle for many days in Chicago. They quit work, not to compel their employers to raise their wages, but to force them to recognize the unions. That seems to be a far-fetched cause bell, particularly when it is known that the employers are willing to recognize the local unions, but not the central union or building trades council, whose exactions, it is declared, have become unbearable.

In two States the federal courts have been declared as unconstitutional special taxes on abutting property not particularly benefited by street improvements. The question, coming under the national Constitution, affects the method for collecting improvement taxes prevailing in Utah, and assessments in that line should be ordered in full view of prospective litigation that might have the Ohio and Indiana cases referred to as precedents directly in line.

There is little news from South Africa.

as, but it does seem silly to occupy the cable with the transit of such rumors as that which comes from Bloemfontein, saying Pres. Kruger had announced that the Russians had occupied London. There is not even the remotest possibility that Kruger believed or said anything of the kind; and the expense of cabling such a message removes all point there might have been in it as a joke.

It has been well remarked that the wanton use of the name of the divine personage in connection with secular enterprises is bordering on sacrilege. The example is contagious. Now a speaker of the Social Progress League proposes to lecture on "What Christ Would Do If He Were Elected to the Legislature." The fad should be frowned down, if possible. Sheldon is not alone to blame for it. Was it not W. T. Stead who started it, by writing about "If Christ Should Come to Chicago?"

Somebody has discovered that soda water is an excellent palliative for hunger, especially the abnormal sensation caused by some kinds of sickness. It is explained that the seat of hunger is found in the solar plexus. By the use of water charged by carbonic acid gas, the branches of the solar plexus distributed through the mucous membrane of the stomach are influenced in such a way that the abnormal irritation of the plexus, which is the foundation for the ravenous hunger often present in diabetes and certain forms of indigestion, may be greatly mitigated, if not wholly appeased.

Some of the yellow journals criticize Mr. Sheldon because he did not in his paper give the people the "news." But what is "news?" One of the saffron colored journals some days ago published a report that ex-President Cleveland was in an alarming state of health. It was telegraphed all over as "news." The report was later denied, but the paper that originated it did not utter a word of apology. Another instance. A few days ago the yellows had flaming headlines that would indicate that our entire navy had been ordered to Chinese waters. Sifted down it amounted to this that one of our light-draught gunboats, now at Shanghai, had been ordered to Taku for patrol duty. Is that the kind of "news" people like to have every day in the week?

## SPEAKING OF PUERTO RICO.

Chicago Record.

President Schurman of Cornell university, \* \* \* regards the pledges of Gen. Miles to the Puerto Ricans as binding upon Congress, and in his opinion the tariff bill now pending in the Senate is in violation of those pledges. He himself, as head of the Philippine commission, has given assurances to the Filipinos which the government at Washington is in its honor bound to respect. He is only doing his duty, therefore, when he protests against the passage of the Puerto Rican tariff bill. "The present issue," he says, "is simply this: Shall we repudiate or shall we fulfill the national engagements? Shall this great republic break faith with the little island of Puerto Rico? Having secured the fruits of Gen. Miles' promise, shall we now renounce the promise?"

New York Mail and Express.

There is a vigorous and widespread objection among our people to the retention of the 15 per cent duties, and the Mail and Express has been among those who have insisted that every barrier should be removed, even the slender one, more imaginary than real, raised by the House bill. That would be the best possible solution of the question.

New York Evening Post.

The President of the Philippine commission admits that our legislation about Puerto Rico must be a test, and a test before the eyes of the Filipinos, but he will be in their eyes a test of our national good faith. Spain made such promises to the Filipinos as we have made to the Puerto Ricans. Dr. Schurman says that the Filipinos keep well informed of all our doings, and if we break our word to the Puerto Ricans they will believe that the Americans are no more trustworthy than the Spaniards. The senators who are standing out for a Puerto Rican tariff are thus, to quote President Schurman, "strengthening the hands of Aguinaldo and the insurgents."

Boston Transcript.

The Philadelphia Manufacturer, the main purpose of whose existence has been advocacy of a high tariff, says on this question: "The situation seems to be something like this: We say to Puerto Rico: 'You can buy anything you want in the United States; in fact, you must buy of us. But if you have anything to sell we don't want it. We have got enough stuff at home. Go and peddle out to England, Germany, France or Spain.' We seem to be cutting a great figure as an empire. We have heard of mother countries like France and Spain, which force their colonies to buy everything in the motherland. We never heard of any mother country which forced the colonies to sell all their goods outside the motherland." If we insist upon exacting tribute from the suffering island we shall be acting the motherland very strangely. It will be more like the step-motherland, of the conventional type."

Boston Herald.

While on the subject of Puerto Rico, we may say, in reply to the request of a correspondent, that the reduction of the tariff which it is now proposed to apply to this island would mean a bonus of about \$1,500,000 per annum to the Puerto Rican planters on their sugar crop, reckoning it at the current average as regards quantity. For the past three years, taking them together, the crop has averaged a little over 64, 600 tons and the saving by the reduction of duty would be between \$25 and \$28 per ton.

Baltimore Sun.

Senator Allen's amendment to the Puerto Rican appropriation bill declaring that the Constitution of the United States extends to the island was defeated in the Senate yesterday. Among those who voted against the amendment was Senator Davis, of Minnesota. Mr. Davis recently introduced an amendment to the Puerto Rican tariff bill, passed by the House, declaring that the provision of the Constitution relating to uniformity of duties and excise taxes throughout the United States should be applied to Puerto Rico. The vote against Mr. Allen's amendment was, in effect, a denial by Republican senators that the Constitution extends by its own force to territory acquired by the United States.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The profound political pettifoggery need not waste any time discussing the constitutional aspects of the case of Guam. Governor Leary has already extended the Constitution to Guam. Like Admiral Dewey at Manila, he cut the cable and gave Congress an object lesson in "plain duty." The man who tries to tear away the Constitution from Guam or build a tariff wall around the tiny little island will be handed a few whacks by Captain Leary, "U. S. Navy, Governor."

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