

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-seventh Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m. Sunday, April 4th, 1897. All officers and members of the Church are invited to be present.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
First Presidency.

### Special Notices.

Relief Society conference Saturday, April 3, at 2 and 7.30 p. m. Relief Society meeting in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, April 5.

Sunday School Union meeting, Sunday evening, April 4th.

The Scandinavian Saints will meet in the Assembly Hall at 4:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, April 4th.

General Priesthood meeting, Monday evening, April 5th.

### HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS.

The NEWS has been requested to call attention to the work of the National Household Economic association, presided over by Mary E. Green, M. D. This organization has been in operation a little over three years, and has done much in the way of disseminating information concerning woman's duty in the household. The NEWS believes in its work, and in line therewith has added a department on domestic science, to make its initial appearance on Saturday next. In covering this very broad field, there will be, naturally, very much that will apply to home life in one grade of circumstances but not in others, yet that is necessary in general treatment of the subject. This department has no connection with the work of the National association, though in line therewith.

A special feature which the National association now aims at is the establishment by Congress of a national health bureau, to be a distributing center of information in regard to the development and proper care of the family. Such information, disseminated in American homes, would be of incalculable benefit to the nation. As the association claims, the American people have been accused of wastefulness for a long time past, and of extravagance and a general disregard of sanitary laws and of home hygiene; as a people they are given over to dyspepsia and nervous disorders, with the logical result of increasing vice, intem-

perance and insanity. Too much of this, it is claimed, may be traced to an unstable, unscientific home life, in which the mistress is generally unfitted for her work while the maid is often both incompetent and unwilling to become otherwise; young women, ignorant of the value of home training, persist in fitting themselves for business rather than for household life, in spite of the fact that they look upon a home of their own as their destination, to which their business experience is simply an avenue, but which their incapacity, because of lack of instruction on home duties, makes less suitable than it should be.

The aim of the association is to effect a change in this state of affairs by having household science taught in schools, societies, etc., to give to the girls the necessary training to fit them for the special duties of their sex, that the family residences of the nation may be more thoroughly homes than they now are, or have prospect of becoming under the conditions which have prevailed in the recent past. The object thus sought is of a most commendable character, and ought to appeal to societies for women and girls outside of those connected with the National Household Economic association. A brief summary of what the study of household economics includes, as outlined by the National association, will suggest its great value to mothers and to all interested in the proper training of girls and women:

1. The home; its proper construction and location, its sanitation and hygiene, which includes the best methods of heating, ventilating, lighting, plumbing and sewerage, also how to furnish the home artistically as well as economically and hygienically.
2. The structure and functions of the body; with reference to personal hygiene, particularly that of children; the proper care of the body with regard to clothing, diet, rest, exercise, etc.
3. Textile materials and their use in the clothing of our bodies as well as the furnishing of our homes.
4. The foods we use, their relative dietetic, nutritive and economic values; the most healthful and economic methods of cooking; the proper dietaries for different members of the family, particularly the proper foods for invalids, infants and growing children.
5. The best mental and moral, as well as physical, development of the child within the home.

### CALLING OF THE SEVENTY.

The third general quorum in the Church, as sustained at each General Conference, is denominated the First Seven Presidents of Seventies; and under the immediate presidency of there is a vast body of the Elders of Israel whose special calling is to preach the Gospel in all the nations, and who are known in the Priesthood as belonging to the order of the Seventy. There are now organized in the Church one hundred and eleven quorums of Seventy, comprising a total of nearly 8,000 adult male mem-

bers of the Church who are or should be active ministers of the Gospel for general work in proclaiming the message of salvation revealed by the Lord in this dispensation. This large body of the Seventy is counted in addition to the great number of High Priests, Elders, Priests, etc., that engage in special callings in the ministry in the organized Stakes and branches of the Church.

Of the body of Seventy as at present constituted there are between twelve and thirteen hundred now on foreign missions. Under the conditions which prevail these are changed about every two years; so that if the present number were not increased, and all were to alternate in turns upon foreign missions, each one would be called upon to spend about one-sixth of his time abroad in the ministry. But as the brethren who hold this calling advance in years beyond the time when they can meet with a reasonable degree of comfort the hardships pertaining to missionary life, the ranks are augmented by the youth of Israel as they reach manhood and become qualified to minister among the nations. Hence the body of Seventy is steadily on the increase.

Those who receive this Priesthood today are under precisely the same obligation as were the quorums of Seventy called and sent out by the Lord Jesus when He was in the flesh, and who continued their activity after His resurrection; they of today are called and sent by the same authority—that of the Divine Master and Savior of the world. Hence the Seventy may comprehend the responsible nature of their calling, and in the necessity which is seen for laborers in the vineyard may measure the urgency resting upon them to discharge their sacred duty before the Almighty to their fellowmen.

This body of Priesthood acts in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Twelve, in building up the Church; and the Lord says, concerning their ministry in laboring among the people:

The Seventy are also called to preach the Gospel and to be especial witnesses unto the Gentiles and in all the world.

In the fulfilling of foreign missions this body of Priesthood, in connection with others, has performed a mighty labor, and has been a mighty instrument in the hands of the Lord in reaching the honest in heart and building up the Church so far as required in operations away from where the body of the Church is assembled. If the number of missionaries that have been sent out since the Church was organized in 1830 were computed, it would figure up to a vastly greater number proportionately than has been sent out by any organization since the days of the primitive Church. And the work of this body of preachers, taken as a whole, has been a marvel in the earth, for the reason that the power of God has made it so. They have not been preachers trained in colleges for the ministry, as are many people who assume to teach the Gospel; but they have been trained to a comprehension of the divinity of the Gospel, of the fundamental principles it presents, and have received the divine commission and authority to