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A MEMORABLE CONFERENCE.

The General Conference, which opened on Friday and closed on Sunday afternoon, was an occasion of the most intense interest from the beginning. The great Tabernacle was crowded to overflowing. On Friday morning both the lower floor and the galleries were fully occupied, with the exception of a few seats in the northeastern part of the lower floor. On Saturday every part of the building was filled and many persons had to stand. On Sunday morning the Assembly Hall was thrown open and was soon crowded, while throngs were standing in the doorways and other parts of the Tabernacle. In the afternoon both edifices were jammed with eager listeners, the aisles and doorways and other available places for standing were fully occupied and thousands gathered in the grounds unable to find a seat or a spot whereon to stand within either building.

President Joseph F. Smith's opening address was listened to with rapt attention and was published in full in the Deseret News the same evening. All the speakers who addressed the conference were animated in their addresses and spoke under the influence of the Spirit of the Lord. There never was a conference at which closer attention was given or when the instructions were more adapted to the conditions and circumstances surrounding the Latter-day Saints. The narration of President Smith's extensive travels among the missions abroad and the great work he performed during the short absence from this city was highly interesting, and gave those who heard it an insight into the progress of the work abroad and the faithful labors of the devoted hands of missionaries—youth, noble and clean-lived men, who are engaged in preaching the Gospel to the nations of the world. The teachings imparted throughout the conference were of a practical character, for the regulation of the lives and conduct of the members of the Church, and were received with that devotion and determination to do right which is characteristic of the people of God.

The authorities of the Church in every department from first to last were unanimously sustained in their respective positions, with a heartiness that showed there was no opposition to any name that was presented. The musical exercises consisted largely of congregational singing, which was rendered in such a cordial and harmonious manner as to make the vast building resound with melody and the praises of the Most High. The set pieces by the choir, under Conductor Evan Stephens, the solos, and the grand organ, manipulated by Prof. John J. McClellan, were in their usual splendid style, and all the exercises of the great assembly ranked among the very best that have ever characterized a General Conference of the Church.

The "News" has presented daily a succinct synopsis of the proceedings and the remarks of all the speakers were stenographically reported and will appear in the usual Conference pamphlet, which will soon issue from the press of this paper. It was a grand occasion, giving joy and satisfaction to the hearts of the many thousands who were congregated in the Tabernacle, and those who filled the Assembly Hall at the overflow meeting and that held out of doors on the grounds because the two spacious edifices could not contain the throngs of eager people who assembled in General Conference.

It was a time of great rejoicing and much profit. The influence that prevailed there will be carried to all the States of Zion and the different mission fields, and will tend to accelerate the onward progress of the latter-day work and induce the members of the Church and their families to live righteously, to walk uprightly, to exercise a moral influence and to uphold the Constitution, laws and institutions of their country as well as those of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was a Conference never to be forgotten.

THE TEMPLE LOT.

The Evening and Morning Star, published at Independence, Mo., represents the body of religious worshippers commonly known as the Hedrickites, which is in legal possession of the land at that place known as "The Temple Lot." Readers of the "News" will remember that the "Reorganizers" endeavored to get the lot away from the owners and succeeded in obtaining a decision from an evidently biased judge in their favor. On appeal to the superior court, however, the decision was promptly reversed, and the land remains in control of the parties who acquired it by buying it in at different times at tax sales.

The Star has an article conveying the impression that some representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints lay claim to the Temple Lot, and, further, that the Hedrickites have made some kind of an agreement to sell it to the Church here, all of which is incorrect. We can say positively that the Saints here respect the rights of the present possessors of the Temple Lot. It was originally owned by the Church, and though the title was vested in an official of the Church, he held it simply in trust.

The lapse of time and the change of circumstances have brought about present conditions, and there is nobody that we have heard of who is authorized to speak for the Church in

Utah, who either has a right to say that the land is claimed by this Church or that the Hedrickites leaders have ever agreed to turn over the property for a money consideration. This is preliminary on our part to the publication of the following correspondence which appears in the Star of the latest date:

"Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 3, 1906.
"Elder John R. Haldeeman,
Independence, Mo."

"Dear Sir—I am informed by an adherent of the Utah Mormon Church that the organization you represent has expressed its willingness to turn over the temple lot to the Utah Church whenever they wish to build upon, and that your church is now only acting as guardian. Is this true? Any information you can give me upon this will be appreciated.
"Yours hopefully,
"E. K. EVANS."

"Independence, Mo., Sept. 4, 1906.
"Mr. E. K. Evans,
Grand Rapids, Mich."

"Dear Sir—Your letter of inquiry of Sept. 3, at hand. No, sir; the Church I represent has not expressed its willingness to 'turn over the Temple Lot to the Utah Church whenever they want it to build upon.'
"You may rest assured, the Church of Christ, now the legal owners of the Temple Lot, will not turn over the property to the Utah Church, nor any other Church unless God should give us to understand that He wishes us to do so. This He has not done.
"While we are the legal owners of the ground, nevertheless, we feel it really belongs to the Lord, and we as custodians, hope and expect to retain possession of the spot that it may be ready for the building of the Temple, let that structure be cared by whomsoever the Lord wills.
"Not the Temple Lot is not for sale, barter nor exchange.
"Fraternally,
"JOHN R. HALDEEMAN."

Some lands in close proximity to the Temple Lot at Independence are owned by the Church here and were, we believe, originally within the limits of the land purchased for the Latter-day Saints when they contemplated building up Zion in that locality. There are many precious promises in relation to their return to Zion and the purchase of the lands now referred to may have given rise to the rumors in circulation here. We hope this explanation will be satisfactory to the editor of the Evening and Morning Star and his associates, among whom are some very worthy people, whom we highly respect.

SECRETARY ROOT'S MISSION.

Secretary Root has performed a great mission to the Latin-American republics. It was a mission of peace. He was the bearer of a message of good-will from a great and mighty nation to the smaller neighbors in this hemisphere. If, formerly, the impression had prevailed that might was right, Secretary Root has certainly endeavored to bring about a better understanding of the policy of the United States. He has conveyed to them the message that their rights and privileges as members of the great family of nations, are as sacred to us and as inviolable as our own. He has assured them that our only aim is the conquests of peace, in which the smallest of nations can cover itself with glory as brilliant as that of the largest and strongest.

Mr. Root had not returned from his mission as a messenger of peace, before an opportunity of demonstrating the truth of his message presented itself in Cuba. And the President quickly sent another messenger, also with a message of peace, to that republic. For that is the mission of Secretary Taft. He was sent to Cuba, not to fan into furious flames the glowing embers of civil war for the purpose of creating an excuse for armed intervention and annexation, but to make peace between the warring factions and re-establish order. European powers often take advantage of the troubles of their neighbors, to enlarge their own territory at the expense of those rendered unable, by internal strife, to defend themselves. But this is not the policy of the United States. This country made sacrifices for the freedom of Cuba. It is prepared to make further sacrifices for the maintenance of that status, and it is evident that the Cubans will never lose their dearly bought independence, unless they themselves throw it away by internal strife and disorders detrimental to their own material interests, as well as those of their neighbors.

This great nation has been given a peculiar mission. The first advent of the Son of Man was accompanied by the proclamation from heaven that there was to be peace upon earth and good will among men. There are now many signs that this is about to be realized, and the position of influence to which this country has risen is one of the most significant. As long as we are true to the principles embodied in the great instrument of liberty the fathers were inspired to make use of in their day and then bequeathed to posterity, we will continue to rise, and the world will follow our lead, until all are prepared for the beginning of the Millennial reign, the coming of which has been heralded by the Prophet Joseph and other messengers in this dispensation, with a divine mission to their fellow men. Great responsibilities rest upon the shoulders of the citizens of this country. They cannot afford to suffer moral rotteness to pollute the government. They need intelligence, honesty, and purity in both high and low places. Only as they maintain a high moral standard, can they continue to be a blessing to the world.

FOR HONEST BUSINESS.

From time to time the newspapers throughout the country receive circulars calling their attention to the fact that the public are very often swindled by the dealers in the necessities of life, by the use of dishonest scales. An instance is given in which scales are advertised to perform the miracle of retelling a certain commodity at a profit though sold at the wholesale price. To quote:

"Can you do this on your scale? Buy twenty pounds pork loins at nine cents a pound, retail them to your trade at the same price and get your money back? We can on our scale and make you three percent profit besides. If your business amounts to \$10 a day sales we can earn you thirty cents in fractions you don't get now. Thirty cents a day means that you buy this scale every 180 days."

It is clear that if the scales work as here advertised, the customers are swindled to the extent of the illegitim-

ate profit of the retailer that uses them.

It is a sad fact that the consumer is often defrauded in purchases, even by less scientific methods than those employed in the construction of the scales alluded to. It is about the most mean and contemptible practice imaginable for a merchant to cheat his friends on whom he depends for a living. Even cannibals generally eat only their foes. It is often difficult for the wage earner to get what he needs at the prices forced up to the highest top notch by trusts and combinations. It is worse to have to pay the exorbitant prices for short weight and measures. But the public can remedy this, in many instances, at least, by weighing, or measuring, what is bought, before paying for it, and then deal only with those who are honest. There are many honest merchants, and they should have the patronage. Those who think nothing of lying, stealing, and cheating their customers by means of short weight should be left alone by the public.

DRINK AND SUICIDES.

According to a consular report sent out from Paris, France is suffering from a gradually increasing suicide mania. The French have for years had the reputation of being conspicuous among the nations addicted to what has been called "race suicide." If individual suicide is increasing too, they are certainly burning the candle at both ends. And that seems to be the fact.

Vice Consul General Ingram of Paris, in a recent report, shows that while the consumption of alcoholic drinks has decreased in Germany, Sweden, England, and Switzerland, it has increased in France from 1.12 liter per capita in 1890 to 3.80 liters in 1903. These figures represent pure alcohol, of which one liter, the Consul says, is equivalent to about 3 1/4 liters of brandy, so that each person in France, including women and children, consumes each year 8 1/2 liters of brandy, not counting wine, beer and cider. And the alarming feature of the increase in the consumption of alcohol is that alcohol has taken the place of wine. Among the alcoholic beverages that now have a hold upon the masses is absinthe, a liquor that has been expelled from Belgium, on account of its injurious effects upon the consumers.

The report goes on to say that, "In 1901 there were consumed in France 297,000 hectoliters of absinthe at 50 degrees alcohol and in 1904 it had increased to 359,000 hectoliters. In other words, each inhabitant consumed in 1904 on an average 1 liter of absinthe per annum; but as only one person in every hundred drinks absinthe, the fact is that each absinthe drinker consumed 1 liter of this beverage every three or four days."

There is an obvious connection between drunkenness and suicide. It has been established that cases of self-murder as a direct result of alcoholism increased from 854 in 1879 to 1,120 in 1903. The total number of suicides increased during the same period from 6,496 to 8,885, and it is certain that many of these were indirectly due to drunkenness, since poverty and crime, misery and despair in a great many instances originate in the haunts devoted to the worship of Bacchus.

The French are a great people, but they should earnestly endeavor to find a remedy for the evils that sap the vitality of the nation. And the effects of the sins from which they suffer should be a warning to others to avoid the pitfalls of fashionable vices.

To be "American" is to be un-American.

When lightning bolts a ticket it is done for.

It is hard, so hard, to give up the straw hat.

Does Mr. Hearst look upon Mr. Murphy as really small potatoes?

Too often the logical candidate is nothing but a mere sophist.

Talking of presidential possibilities, every American-born boy is one.

Eugene Debs says Philadelphia is a den of thieves. This is pretty tough on the denizens.

In the ten thousand dollar bunco game it is not impertinent to ask how the bunco men got it.

It may be more interesting, but the Platt divorce case can never be so important as the Platt amendment.

If people would but heed the admonition "Lead us not into temptation," they would not be led into bunco games.

A Chicago pastor claims to have found a remedy for swearing. He should patent it. There's big money in it.

If so inclined, people can call Taft names. Here are some: Judge, Secretary and Governor. Yet after all what's in a name?

Charles E. Hughes, Republican candidate for governor of New York, is a mountain climber. He also seems to be a political climber.

Members of the various boards of health throughout the state want the Legislature to make an appropriation to pay their fares to their meetings.

A physician says that the cigarette habit is the cause of lying. And yet Annals flourished over a thousand years before cigarettes were made.

The Postmasters' convention is opposed to the parcels post. The people are in favor of it. The wish of the people and not of the postmasters should rule in the matter.

In some of the Cuban provinces a question of pride as to which side shall lay down its arms first is causing some difficulty. Let both sides remember that pride goes before a fall.

Bishop Potter of New York says the church has civic duties, and that never before was the demand so insistent for religious bodies to interest themselves in public questions as now. If the bishop were to utter such sentiments in

Utah, he would be branded as a traitor and one who would rend the Constitution.

How long will it take before the Cubans are prepared for a second trial of self-government? At present they have been put back a class or two in the school for constitutional government. They must first learn that self-government is about the hardest task a people can undertake. This understood, there is no reason for discouragement.

An Alabama mob took two negroes from a sheriff and hanged them. Another mob, dissatisfied with the fate of the negroes, started for the scene of the lynching determined to burn the bodies. They simply wanted to glut their savage instincts for blood and the horrible. There was not even the poor excuse of avenging the "usual crime."

Regarding fake mining the San Francisco Bulletin says: "California has already adopted a law which has worked an almost complete riddance from that state of spurious mining stock and that lecherous parasite on the mining industry—the fake promoter. It is probable that the proposed legislation which will be submitted to the state legislatures this winter (by a committee of the American Mining congress) will be fashioned after the California law, which provides that any person who shall undertake to sell or assign to the publication, privately or publicly, of a fraudulently exaggerated report tending to give any person or the public generally the idea of a greater value than such stock may really possess, with the intention of defrauding any person or the public, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and on conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in state prison, or a county jail, not exceeding two years, or by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both." It is a good idea and deserves encouragement in the interest of one of the great industries in the Union.

HOW GALVESTON IS GOVERNED.

George K. Turner in McClure's. The Galveston Commission is a body of five men—a mayor or general manager, and four managers of particular departments. All power resides in the Commission. A majority vote of the body is final. The mayor is presiding officer and general director of the affairs of the city, but he has no power beyond his vote as commissioner, except some minor abilities to act in case of emergency. The commissioners must also come to the board for all power to act. The Commission, at its first meeting, divides its departments among its members by vote, under these four heads: Commissioner of finance and revenue, police and fire commissioner, commissioner of streets and public property, and water-works and sewerage commissioner. The mayor is elected specifically for his office, but the commissioners are not. But, though the division of departments is under the charge of the board, the public are practically certain, when they cast their votes, of the office each man will assume. In fact, the men who now serve were chosen because of special fitness for their work. The elections to the board are, of course, at large, and the whole body is elected together every two years—the election taking place in May, a time as far removed as possible from the time of other elections.

WHAT MAKES HEART WEAK.

The Outing Magazine. Two important causes of heart trouble are underwork and overwork, but chiefly underwork. Where due to overwork it has been physical, not mental. The hearts of long-distance runners and bicyclists sometimes become hypertrophied, while children sometimes succumb to too arduous play. With children, however, it is usually due to a predisposition in that direction from their parents, whose hearts have been weakened by prolonged underexercise, rather than to overexercise on their part. As the result of a recent examination of nearly 10,000 school children in the primary grades, by the Board of Health, it was found that 50 per cent were suffering from physical defects, among which predominated defective vision, insufficient nutrition, pulmonary and heart ailments—a startling condition of our boasted civilization.

RIGHTS OF UNIFORMED MAN.

New York Times. The uniform of the enlisted man, whether in the army or the navy, is the badge of the wearer's subordinate employment in an honorable and useful government service—one of many such and one of the least. It gives him certain special rights in his garrison or on his ship and deprives him of many individual freedoms there and elsewhere. It operates not at all to increase his civic privileges. On duty and outside his garrison he counts merely as a man. Least of all is his uniform a social passport.

JUST FOR FUN.

JUST FOR FUN

"Chief," said the Czar, calling his chief of detectives.

"Yes, your majesty," replied the chief.

"The evening paper says the revolutionists will throw no more bombs, but will poison officials hereafter."

"It is true, your majesty. The revolutionists have so decided."

"Then give orders for the seizure of all the canned beef and ice cream in Petersburg and have it brought to the palace. I propose to eat all of it and become immune.—Ex.

By Way of Correction?

Cherry brandy is the name of the new color which is to be the rage during the winter. A fashion writer describes it as "a rich rose pink." Should not this read, "a rich rose pink?"—Manchester Chronicle.

The Ruling Passion.

Laden and Pershing Stranger—Could you kindly tell me how far it is to the station?

Golfing Native—About a full drive, two brassies and a putt.—Punch.

Preliminaries Agreed Upon.

Some humor was interjected into a case in a magistrate's court in Germantown. Two local lawyers were representing an East Indian defendant, and became excited and somewhat personal in their argument. Matters proceeded to such a pitch that the lawyers began to call each other names. "You're an ass," said one to the other. "You're a liar," was the quick retort of the opposing attorney. Then the magistrate, in a very dignified manner,

said: "Now that the counsel have identified each other kindly proceed to the disputed points."—Philadelphia Record.

Hard to Collect.

"But don't you really think," asked the sentimental one, "that honesty pays in the end?"

"O," returned the man of affairs, "I've no doubt of it. But it wants shockingly long credit."—Smiles.

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