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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 7, 1903.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which closed on Monday afternoon, was one of the most interesting, profitable and largely attended gatherings of these latter times. From the opening to the finish the great Tabernacle was densely filled, and on Sunday both the Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall were packed to their utmost limits of seating and standing room, while great crowds were unable to gain admittance.

President Joseph F. Smith gave the key notes to the instructions imparted. In his opening address, which was published in full in the Deseret News of Saturday evening. The necessity of manual training and domestic science as parts of the education of our young people, and the duty of getting and keeping out of debt were salient points presented. The speaker did not desire to belittle in any way the scholastic attainments generally comprehended in the term education, but desired to impress upon the minds of the people the benefits arising from ability to produce something for the general welfare, over and above those which accrue to the community from what are called the learned professions. The cultivation of the soil in the best possible manner, the manufacture of articles necessary to the comfort and convenience of mankind, the conduct and management of home affairs and the practical side of youthful training were emphasized upon the assembly, and were emphasized and enlarged upon by most of the speakers.

The reports which were made by the representatives of the different stakes of Zion, from Arizona in the South to Idaho and Wyoming in the North, were very encouraging, showing the growth of population, the increase of faith, the prevalence of good works and, in most places, the absence of saloons and their concomitant evils, forming subjects of interest and congratulation. The energy and zeal of the speakers and their evident sincerity and desire for the benefit of the Saints and the extension of the work of the Lord in all the earth, were marked by their hearers, both Saints and non-Mormons.

In reference to the prosperity now attending the people of Utah as well as the entire nation, and the well-known fact that seasons of prosperity are usually followed by times of financial depression, President Smith and others uttered a warning to the Latter-day Saints so that they might be prepared for events which are sure to come. To do so, one of the best steps to be taken was to extricate themselves from the bondage of debt. The evil results of mortgaging homes and farms were graphically depicted, and the tenor of the advice given was for the purpose of placing the people on a solid financial basis. The danger of speculating with borrowed capital was plainly pointed out and the wrong of placing in jeopardy other people's money was vigorously denounced.

In the testimonies borne to the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the divine origin of the doctrines, ordinances, organization and gifts employed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the power of God was greatly manifested, and the spirit attending them visibly impressed the great assembly that listened with the most intense interest.

In his closing remarks, President Joseph F. Smith bore a most eloquent and forceful testimony to the patriotism and love of the institutions of their country felt by the true Latter-day Saints, while he denounced with withering scorn the hypocrites who, in sheep's clothing acted as raving wolves, maligning and misrepresenting the Saints and their faith. He paid tribute to the worth of the honorable men of the nation and of this city and state, who attended to their own business and, while not agreeing with us on religious matters, refrained from attempting to do us any willful injury. He declared the opinion of the "Mormon" people was to stand up for the liberties and rights of all people, both good and bad, and even of those who persecuted, lied about and despoiled us.

President Smith announced the intention of our people to support this government in its righteous work of carrying liberty abroad to other nations and the islands of the sea, and exhorted his people to maintain good government, to live lives of truth, honor, sobriety, chastity and faith, as Saints of God and good citizens of the nation in which they lived. He denounced the liquor traffic; declared that no Latter-day Saint in good standing could engage in such a business; that the persons that existed in the various parts of the state were not run by our people, and expressed his opinion that any one professing to be a "Mormon" who followed such a way of making a living ought to be cut off from the Church. He invoked the spirit and blessing of the Lord upon all the good and upright of the earth.

The tendency of the teachings of this

conference were to promote integrity, honor, cleanliness of person, of home, of speech and of spirit, practical living of the rules of righteousness, mercy and peace, and the spread of enlightenment, intelligence and the spirit of the Gospel. They cannot fail to have a good effect, which will be felt in every part of the Church, as there were representatives from the various stakes of Zion and the mission fields in many parts of the world.

The musical exercises were of a pleasing character, the Tabernacle choir maintaining its usual excellence, and the mixture of congregational singing adding much to the enjoyment of the occasion. That Zion is growing, and not only expanding her borders and increasing the number of her children, but that they are increasing in faith, in earnestness, in devotion to the principles of life and salvation, was evident in the great conference which assembled in this city from April 4 to April 6, 1903, and in which all the authorities of the Church were voted upon and sustained with a unanimity of action and spirit, characteristic only of the Church and kingdom of God set up on the earth in these latter days, for the last time and for the final dispensation.

DEAN FARRAR.

The demise of Dean Farrar, the eminent English divine, has been noted in these columns. We have now received a letter from Elder Robert L. Anderson, who is performing missionary labors in the Kent district, with headquarters at Canterbury. Brother Anderson was acquainted with the late Dean, and he says the deanery was always open to Latter-day Saints missionaries, and their cards were usually recognized when they called. Brother Anderson further says, that Dean Farrar was very much in advance of his associates in the Church of England, and that his honest interpretations of the Scriptures made him unpopular with the clergy of the old school. Most of the Elders have his works, and they find that he in many instances teaches doctrines in accord with principles revealed through the Prophet Joseph.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGES.

Once in a while the question of an international language comes up for discussion. There seems to be a need for some such medium of communication. Otherwise the matter would not constantly be brought to public attention.

Volapuk was at one time thought a great deal of, but it never became popular. Its successor, Esperanto, is said to have a great many friends, including Count Tolstoy. It is based chiefly on Latin and has therefore obtained great popularity in southern Europe. Count Tolstoy is quoted as having said that he received a grammar, a dictionary, and several articles in that idiom and after two hours' study he was able to read it, and even write some. Whether less accomplished students would find it equally easy is another question.

A number of other languages have been constructed on the same principle as these two. A writer quoted in the Literary Digest considers the so-called Idiom Neutral the best of these. Its author is a Russian, M. Voldemar Rosenberger. It preserves the good features of Volapuk and simplifies the construction.

One would think that with the school facilities and means of communication now offered to most of the nations of the world, it should be an easy matter for nearly all to learn two or three living languages besides their native tongue. English, French and German should within a few years become so "universal" that international communication, whether for literary, social or business purposes should meet with no serious obstacle. It should not be necessary to add another language to those already existing.

The attention paid to the subject of a universal language proves, however, that the necessity is recognized of bringing the various groups of the human family into closer union with one another. It is one of the indications of the direction of the current of human thought, human hope and aspirations. Some day the unification will take place, through the means appointed for that purpose by the divine Leader of mankind. There will, no doubt, be a universal language, too, when the unification is complete.

THE BALKAN TROUBLE.

The Balkan situation does not appear encouraging. From Sofia, the news came not long ago that the inhabitants of a certain village were massacred by Bash-Bazouks. The account says that after ten hours' fighting the village was razed and burned, and all the inhabitants, without distinction, killed.

Dispatches from Russian sources indicate that the Macedonians are the aggressors, and that such massacres are part of the Turkish plan of "pacification." The consular reports from Uskup and Monastir place the blame entirely upon the Macedonian communities. Whether these reports are based on facts or not, does not really matter. They represent the official Russian view, and until they are changed, the Turks will have free hands in dealing with the trouble. And what that means is known from the history of the Armenians.

The plot of the play that is being staged in the Balkans is very obscure as yet, to the great multitude of spectators. A Russian consul has been wounded, perhaps fatally, by Albanians, and yet Russia is to all appearance tranquil, addressing warning messages to the Bulgarians and urging the Sultan to suppress the riots. At the same time the Czar is reported to have made large presents of arms and ammunition to some Balkan states. He is said to have given 50,000,000 cartridges to Serbia and eight batteries of quick-firing guns to Montenegro. The revolutionists are freely circulating the report that their movement is aided by Russia. This may not be true, but it is certain that the policy of Russia is not entirely clear.

That the trouble in the Balkans started, as long ago predicted by the revolutionary leaders, about April 1st, seems clear. But what is the exact nature of

the disturbances, and what they will eventually lead to, the future alone can tell. If the Turks succeed in suppressing the riots, that will be the end of it for the time being, but if not, the little spark may yet cause a big conflagration. And that this will be the outcome is the view of some close observers who have had opportunities of viewing the situation at the very center of disturbances. "Europe is nearer war over the Balkan question today than at any previous moment for years." That is the opinion of a member of the executive committee of the Armenian Relief association as stated to a representative of the Chicago News. "To be sure," he continued, "the cloud may pass, but the situation is extraordinarily dangerous. One of our representatives who has just returned from the scene of trouble reports that Macedonia is a regular arsenal. He says that the caves, cellars and churches are filled with rifles and ammunition imported throughout a long period of years. . . . When the Russo-Austrian reform scheme breaks down then look out. The powers, in the name of civilization, must act. The only effective action possible can scarcely fail to entail the movement of fleets and armies on a huge scale. Russia's motives are a matter of deepest suspicion in England. What she will dare we cannot predict, but Great Britain purposes playing an important role when the curtain rises on the final act in the Balkan drama."

The present policy of the revolutionists seems to be to spread anarchy and terror everywhere. Their supposition is that if they can render life and property unsafe in the Balkans, Europe will agree on a plan of settlement.

One form of race suicide is fast living.

It's an ill wind that blows a new hat off.

There's many a slip between Ogden and the Lucin cut-off.

Contrary to general expectation, Mrs. Nation is not hatchet-faced.

Who will be appointed judge is a sort of e pluribus unum problem.

So backward is spring that it might easily turn a back hand spring.

Carrie Nation has come and gone and the city government still lives.

Look before you leap, especially where the streets are being repaired.

To bring a child up in the way he should go, go that way yourself.

Ebenezer Butterick, who recently died, was more of a pattern for women than for men.

The President's tour teaches this: He who runs may read, and he who rides may speak.

Judge Lurton at least does not believe in government by injunction, as Keene & Co. can testify.

If agreeable to the weather man will he please have the sun shine in front of, instead of behind the clouds?

Having failed to have the Harriman interests restrained the Keene interests will feel their disappointment keenly.

Again has Tom Johnson been elected mayor of Cleveland. His opponents say this is entirely too much Johnson.

One would think that that stone planter would smooth things for the stonecutters. All they get out of it is friction.

All winter people have been eating the Pasteurized butter. It will soon give way to pastured butter, which is better.

And now it is said that Pennell was a defaulter. If so he settled with the bank when he went over that embankment.

Carrie Nation's visit to Salt Lake City is unique in her rather remarkable career. She came, she saw, but did not smash any windows.

Mr. Roosevelt's address and advice to the young men of Sioux City seems to have been based on Colossians III, 23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily," etc. Good text, good sermon.

It would be well if the police authorities would admonish those bicyclists who still persist in riding on the paved walks within the restricted districts that they are violating the city ordinances and should desist.

The Board of Education might apply to Mr. Carnegie to help them out of their difficulty. He has "begged" (so reads the dispatch) to be allowed to defray the expenses of the Cornell students who have been ill with typhoid fever.

Poulney Bigelow's wife has secured a divorce from him, and she didn't have to go to South Dakota to get it, either. Mr. Bigelow's distinguishing feature in life is the fact that he went to the same school that Emperor William did.

According to the Kansas City Star, a St. Louis man who travels through Western Missouri says that unless the World's fair people "get a move on" they won't be ready for an exposition before 1906. Where they could work 600 men at the grounds, he says, they have put six, and those who are at work seem to display an air of "don't care" and laziness. This will be pleasant news to the good people of Chicago.

ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION.

Kansas City Star.

The discovery by Captain Scott of a chain of Antarctic mountains and his exploration of the continent about the south pole are events of decided interest to geographers, Douglas, too, his work has been of much scientific importance in its investigation into the flora and fauna and the meteorological and magnetic conditions of the remote south. Nor has there been lacking the element of human interest which must always attach to adventures into the unknown and to feats requiring a combination of the highest qualities of courage, perseverance and resourcefulness.

New York Mail and Express.

For men of science much depends, no doubt, on Antarctic exploration. Yet the world at large can do little else than wonder that men should still be willing to offer up as sacrifices, for the solution of the mystery, years of their best time, and very likely their lives. To get "fastest south" is something, perhaps, to the scientists engaged in this work.

With ordinary men it is merely so much "record making," not essentially different from the endeavor of the man who devotes his time to bettering the record in putting weights or lifting pig iron.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The object of the four expeditions in the Antarctic is not to reach the pole, but chiefly to gather magnetic and meteorological data for the correction of known errors in the mariner's compass and the benefit of navigation. In this respect, they are all co-operating. The British station has been located on Victoria land, near Mount Erebus, in longitude 160 east; the German, in longitude 80 east; the Scottish, in longitude 20 west, and the Swedish base of operation has been established at the Falkland Islands, in 60 west longitude. The south pole is thus being attacked from the four points of the compass. The latter two expeditions did not reach the ground until last year, however.

Boston Post.

The scientific work of the expedition includes a rich collection of marine fauna, a large proportion being new species. Sea and magnetic observations were taken, as well as seismographic records and pendulum observations. A large collection of skins and skeletons of southern seals and sea birds was made. A number of excellent photographs were secured and meteorological observations made. Extensive quartz and grit accumulations were found horizontally imbedded in volcanic rocks. Lava flows were found in frequently recurring plutonic rocks, which form the base of the mountains. In comparison with such work, the mere location of the pole sinks into insignificance.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It will be surprising if the success of this British expedition does not result in other attempts to pierce the gloom of these southern polar regions. The zeal of those who have struggled to reach the extreme north is beginning to flag. The Antarctic problem is no less interesting and perhaps more difficult. In that vast area there are no friendly Eskimos and little or no animal life. It has often been asserted that somewhere in the Antarctic animal remains will be found which will show that region's former connection with Australasia. This is only one of many attractive possibilities. Whether they are worth the inevitable sacrifice of life is another story.

Baltimore Sun.

Ships are stopped in approaching the south pole by the "barrier," a precipitous wall of ice rising from the water. Explorers hitherto have been baffled by this "barrier" but Captain Scott discovered an inlet in the "barrier" in longitude 174, and sledges explored the interior to latitude 78° 50'. It is concluded from a study of the "barrier" that it is a floating mass, being fed by the land ice and pushed seaward.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

An exceptional showing of pictures of current events is made in Collier's Weekly for the issue of April 4. The western floods occupy the leading space. Other notable features include an important article on "The Insecurity of Labor," by Hon. Carroll D. Wright. Marion Crawford's new story is in the vein for which he is most popular—sea life and mystery. Another feature of the number is a bird's-eye view of the new plans for the reconstruction of the city of Washington, D. C.—New York.

The leading article in the April-June Forum is a review of "American Politics" by Henry Litchfield West. He deals particularly with the legislation of the last Congress, the fight on the statehood bill, the suggested nominations for the next presidency, and the appointment of colored men to federal offices. A. Maurice Low discusses "Foreign Affairs," with special reference to the revival of the eastern question. Alexander D. Noyes treats of the events and tendencies in the world of "Finance." Recent progress in "Applied Science," is described by Henry Harrison Spulce. Literature is represented by a review of Sidney Lee's "Life of Queen Victoria," contributed by Prof. W. P. Trent. Under the heading "Music," Joseph Sohn sets forth the "Lessons of the Operatic Season." A paper on "The Educational Outlook" is contributed by Osborn H. Lange. Dr. J. M. Rice's "Educational Research" for the current quarter takes the form of a discussion, based on his investigations in public schools of the respective importance of talent and training in teaching. The special articles concluding the present number are "The Present Estimates of the Value of Human Life," by Prof. Rudolf Eucken, of Jena, "The Scope of a Permanent Tariff Commission," by Albert H. Washburn, and "A Rambling Discourse on Submarine Navigation," by Commander F. M. Barber, U. S. N., retired.—New York.

The April number of Country Life in America has a beautiful cover, suggestive of the season, and it is, as usually filled with choice reading and artistic illustrations.—Doubleday, Page & Co., N. Y.

The cover design of the April Pearson's is a sketch by J. N. Marchand of Sir Henry Morgan, buccaneer—the chief character of the new serial by Cyrus Townsend Brady which begins in this number. Dr. Brady paints with a master's hand the character of this buccaneer, and draws fine pictures of the manners and customs of those times. The story of Adm. Drake in the April instalment of The Pearsone will be appreciated by the reader. A. V. continues his explanations of hitherto unfathomed political secrets, by unveiling the real motive behind the remarkable peace receipt of the Czar which so astonished the world a few years ago. There are two short stories—The Goodness of Grandfather, and The Firmness of Phoebe Meek. An interesting account of How Women Vote in Colorado and an able sketch of Some Representative and Progressive Women of Spanish America in the Women's Department sustain the interest which this lecture of the magazine has excited.

The character sketch of Joseph G. Cannon will be found of interest in view of Mr. Cannon's selection as our next Speaker. The perils and excitements in the life of a life-saving crew are described in A Hero of the Life Saving Service. Of much interest also are the special articles describing the routine work of "A Day in a Modern Gold Mine," the fearful power of Avalanches, and a short sketch of a wild horse newly discovered in Central Asia, a pair of which may be seen at the Dr. Z. Zoological Park in New York.—New York.

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