

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Circulation of Salt Lake City, Utah.)Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Herbert C. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
For Year, \$4.00
For Six Months, \$2.50
For Three Months, \$1.50
For One Month, .75
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Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor, The Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 15, 1901.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, April 5, at 10 a. m.

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

MONTHLY FAST.

As the general conference of the Church will be in session on the first Sunday in April, the monthly fast which would otherwise be held on that day, will be observed on the last Sunday in March and the fast meetings be held on that day, March 31, 1901.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene Sunday, April 7th, 1901, at 7 p. m., in the Tabernacle. It is desired that each Stake of Zion be represented at this meeting, and that Stake superintendents, officers and teachers attending the General Conference of the Church be present.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
General Superintendency.
HORACE S. ENSIGN,
General Secretary.

THE EVANS BILL.

The Deseret News has refrained from taking part in the discussion over the bill introduced by Senator Abel John Evans, of Utah county. Now that the question is decided and it is likely that people who were agitated over the measure will listen to calm reason, we the evidence purpose of its presentation, the evident reason for its presentation. It is well known that this State has been much disturbed by attempted prosecutions in the courts, of respected citizens who, many years ago, contracted marriages which have been declared unlawful. The peculiar position in which they were placed when both the Church and the State forbade polygamy, is also well understood. They were in duty bound to care for and sustain the families depending upon them, but under the construction of the courts upon the statutes, men in this position were in constant jeopardy. Any common informer who would spy upon their actions could create trouble for them and their families, putting them to expense and threatening their liberty.

In order to remove this cause of agitation which was taken advantage of by the enemies of the "Mormon" people, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Hon. William Glassman, of Weber county, a non-"Mormon." His purpose was to remove the stigma resting upon plural wives and give them a legal status. His proposition was considered too drastic, and likely to create a wrong impression upon the public mind, affording real occasion for the belief that Utah was endeavoring to recognize polygamy, contrary to the spirit, if not the letter of her State Constitution; therefore it did not pass.

The necessity, however, of some step towards the suppression of the evils arising from spite prosecutions, and the disturbance of relations that should be permitted to gradually expire by the action of time and other influences, was recognized by persons of all parties and beliefs. The statutes of other States were examined, with a view to ascertaining their provisions in reference to sexual offenses. It was discovered that in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oregon, the crime of adultery could only be prosecuted on the complaint of the husband or wife of the accused, also that the penalties in many other states for this offense were insignificant compared with those in Utah, and, further, that in several States there was no law at all against the crime.

It was thereupon determined to model an amendment to the Utah laws as to the filing of a complaint, somewhat after the pattern of the States first named. But the restriction confining the complaint in adultery cases to the husband or wife, was considered too stringent under the circumstances existing in Utah, therefore the bill as it passed the Legislature of Utah read as follows:

"An Act amending section 4611 of the Revised Statutes of Utah, 1898, in relation to the making of complaints and

commencing of prosecutions in criminal cases."

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Utah: That section 4611 of the Revised Statutes of Utah, 1898, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 4611. Every person who has reason to believe that a crime or public offense has been committed may make complaint against such person before some magistrate having authority to make the inquiry of the same; provided, that no prosecution for adultery shall be commenced except on complaint of the husband or wife or relative of the accused within the first degree of consanguinity or of the person with whom the unlawful act is alleged to have been committed, or of the father or mother of said person, and no prosecution for unlawful cohabitation shall be commenced except on complaint of the wife, or alleged plural wife of the accused; but this proviso shall not apply to prosecutions under section 4203 of the Revised Statutes of Utah, 1898, defining and punishing polygamous marriages."

The last clause in the foregoing was inserted so that no one could truthfully assert that the bill was designed to interfere in any way with the law against polygamy. Now, let all who desire to know the truth of this matter read the text of the bill which passed both houses of the Legislature, and find anything if they can, which is in itself objectionable or in violation of any agreement or understanding between Utah and the nation, or that is in the least degree in conflict with the Constitution of this State or that of the United States. Candid and unbiased minds will reach the conclusion, that the noise and excitement worked up against the measure was entirely unwarranted and without justification.

THE OPPOSITION.

The Evans bill from the first was opposed by anti-Mormon agitators. It was falsely called, "The Evans Polygamy Bill." Misrepresentation of its provisions was accompanied by abuse of its author and threats of dire consequences if it became a law. Dispatches were sent over the wires, east and west, announcing that "The Mormons of Utah are preparing to resume the practice of polygamy in defiance of the public sentiment of the whole people." And further that "The Utah Legislature has practically passed a law permitting polygamy." The morning papers in this city, every day, called the measure "The Polygamy Bill" in staring headlines. The most notorious Mormon-haters in the State were the bitterest denouncers of the bill, and the preachers of the various religious sects who have combined at different times to promote excitement throughout the country against the Mormon people, united in efforts to defeat this measure.

In all the debates in the Legislature, the newspaper articles and reports, the declamations of politicians, the street-corner clamors, the predictions of calamity-howlers and the threats of excited disturbers, there has not been brought forward one solitary argument against the measure itself or any of its provisions. It stands on its merits, unimpeached.

The whole tenor of the uproar against it is that it may bring a storm of public indignation, that will culminate in the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, forbidding polygamy and polygamous practices. Why this tempest should be aroused from so slight a cause has not been made clear. It is gratifying to know that neither the author of the bill nor its supporters in either house, have been frightened by the phantom evoked by the prophets of evil.

It should be particularly noticed that the very individuals and papers that have labored so hard, but as yet in vain, to obtain an amendment to the Constitution of the United States specifically aimed against Utah, have been the most vehement opponents of the bill, on the ground that it would bring about the very thing which they most ardently desired. This is a paradox that can only be understood by those who are not blinded by the sophistry and hypocrisy of clerical and press deceivers. If they really believed the passage of that bill would bring about the end they have had for some time in view, and which they are now secretly endeavoring to achieve, they would either have encouraged its passage or laid low and said nothing.

The Latter-day Saints are not the people who have occasion most to dread this bugaboo of a Constitutional amendment. By the time it could be made effective in this State, but very few of them would be in a position to be greatly affected by it. However, "there are others" who might be in a condition to be terrified by the establishment of federal courts and officers, charged with the discovery and prosecution of certain offenses. Utah, it is true, does not wish to be put under a needless stigma, but the "Mormons" have no need to dread either the tumult aroused against them, every now and again, or the actual adoption of the threatened amendment which their enemies propose but which it is very unlikely they will obtain. The opponents of the Evans bill have had nothing to offer against it but a scare.

THE VETO.

The message of Governor Heber M. Wells to the Senate, returning without his approval "An act amending section 4611 of the revised statutes of Utah, 1898, in relation to the making of complaints and commencing of prosecutions in criminal cases," is a well written and dignified public document. It appears in full in another part of this issue of the Deseret News.

We have searched in vain through the well rounded sentences and expressions of sympathy with the people of this State which the message contains, for some adequate reason or cogent argument against the bill which he condemns. No provision in it is shown to be vicious, injurious, or wrong in any particular. Even the motive for its presentation and its adoption is acknowledged to be good. The people whom it is designed to protect from undeserved ignominy and suffering, are spoken of in the highest terms of affection and esteem. Not a syllable is pronounced against the letter or spirit of the bill or the purpose for which it was enacted.

On what ground, then, does the Governor destroy the measure designed for

a public good? Simply for fear of supposed consequences which may never be realized. He holds the opinion that, if passed, it would be the signal for a general demand upon the national Congress for a Constitutional amendment; that thing that is held out as a scarecrow to frighten the timid and make men afraid to do what they believe to be right. A mighty motive truly to sway freemen in this grand republic!

We credit the Governor with excellent intentions. We do not join in the feeling, very widely expressed, that he has been swayed by influences contrary to his own convictions of public policy. We have full confidence in his sincerity of feeling and his purpose to do what he thinks is for the best. He is not a coward. He has the courage to face public opinion. There is no doubt that this is divided. While we are sure that the vast preponderance of public sentiment is in favor of the bill that is now defeated, there are many strong minds that are with the Governor in the position he has taken. We acquit him of all blame as to his intent and his desires in issuing this veto. Those who do not agree with him should not misrepresent or misunderstand him.

There need be no agitation over the fate of the measure designed to bring relief to a small class of our citizens, whose peace is threatened by persons denounced in the strongest terms by both friends and foes of the Evans bill. The State is where it was before the introduction of that measure. It did not attempt to repeal any provision of the law imposing penalties for the offenses obnoxious to the nation. While no real harm could have come to the State or the country if it had been approved by the Governor, no great calamity will be occasioned by the veto. "Zion prospers, all is well."

THE GRIP AND FILTH.

In a recent number of Health-Culture, Dr. Felix L. Oswald writes about the grip, an epidemic which has had numerous victims throughout the country the past winter. He contends that that affliction is nothing but an aggravated cold, a severe and acute catarrh, due chiefly to atmospheric filth. He traces its origin to some parts of Russia, where the sanitary conditions are simply abominable. There, he says, the fire in the big stoves smolders night and day. When cold weather comes, the aperture serving as a window is stopped up with rags, or with muck and sod. Pigs and pups vie with children in sinning against cleanliness. Men hang their wet sheepskin cloaks near the fire and let them steam all night. Grease spots and wet linen add their odors. In such hovels the infection is bred, and with the advent of warm weather it spreads from village to village, and blows up in the slums of seaports and manufacturing towns.

The grip, the doctor further says, travels from east to west, from Muscovite hovels, to badly ventilated German school rooms and French factories. It can obtain no hold on the Siberian steppes, or among the natives of Persia and Afghanistan, because in these countries the windows admit air as well as light, and because the people, on account of the scarcity of fuel, are under the necessity of wearing warm clothing instead of using overheated stoves.

What is true of the grip holds good of other contagious diseases. They originate in filth and thrive in unsanitary conditions. And this suggests the imperative necessity of keeping homes and streets clean. When the laws of hygiene were very imperfectly understood, people wondered where cholera, the plague, smallpox and other epidemics came from, and generally they were looked upon as a divine scourge applied on account of the sins of the people. This popular impression was more nearly correct than some independent thinkers are willing to admit. Only the special transgression that carries those punishments with them is the violation of the laws of cleanliness, which also are divine laws, not to be broken with impunity.

One of the important questions in connection with municipal cleanliness is the disposal of garbage. Dumping grounds are now recognized as dangerous. A writer in "Municipal Engineering" advocates that the refuse be gathered up, prepared and used as fuel. This, he claims, is both practical and economic. It has been tried and found satisfactory. Refuse destroyers are said to be common in Europe and in use in several American cities, and the people are satisfied with them, even when located in populous districts. They do not prove offensive, because the gases generated are thoroughly oxidized before escaping into the air. Fuel obtained from such refuse is in some places used for heating public baths.

The importance of cleanliness is now generally understood, but in most large cities there is more or less neglect to act on the light that has been obtained. Everywhere complaints are made about the failure to clean up. Bustling streets are swept and sprinkled, while alleys and back lots are neglected. There is plenty of necessary work in this direction for health boards and municipal authorities, before it can be said that the stern demands of the laws of nature are fully complied with.

BADLY FITTED.

When Vice President Roosevelt first took the vice presidential chair to preside over the most august legislative body in the world, it was but natural that he should not be quite at home. The Washington correspondent of the Boston Herald relates the following truly humorous incident:

"When Roosevelt first presided over the Senate, he spoke with a still, small voice that was hardly audible across the chamber. It was as gentle as the whispering zephyr."

"Mr. President," remarked Senator Foraker, meeting Mr. Roosevelt in the corridor, "you talk just a little bit too low."

The next day there was a revolution, a transformation. The Vice President's voice resounded through the Senate chamber like the explosion of a 12-inch gun. It woke the echoes in the galleries and reverberated out through the corridors until it went rolling down the avenues of time.

"Mr. President," said Senator Lodge

to Mr. Roosevelt, as they passed each other in the corridor, "you talk just a little bit too loud."

"Roosevelt threw up both hands. Without saying a word, he disappeared in his private office."

Official promises ought not to be "like piecrusts."

When a public man gives his private word, it ought to be as good as his bond.

The European concert at Pekin has become a case of "Sweet Bells out of Tune."

Negotiations at Pekin have come to a standstill. What those negotiations need is an automobile.

Throughout the land Carnegie libraries have taken the place of the little red school houses.

A strange world is this. If Russia is in Manchuria "for good," the powers at Pekin regard it as a distinct evil.

It is a dull day in the Philippines when the American troops do not catch a few insurgent officers and soldiers.

The independence of Cuba is like faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Count Boni Castellani is going to fight a duel. He will find that much easier than fighting the Goulds in the courts.

And now it is said that Li Hung Chang's health is good. What a splendid example of "before and after talking" he would make.

An exchange remarks that "Jim Bludsoe has never been set to music." That is good, but better still is the fact that it has never been dramatized.

The Boers are said to be preparing to surrender. They take as much time to make their preparations as does a society belle dressing for the opera.

The professor of the institution and practice of irrigation at the University of California is to receive a salary of one thousand dollars a year. That salary could very easily stand some "watering."

President Hadley of Yale is getting lots of free advertising. And he is getting it by the same method that Debs and Corey did—too much talk. The result is fame, or notoriety, just as one looks at it.

Sir Edwin Arnold, author of the "Light of Asia," has lost his eyesight. It is one of the most terrible of afflictions and to him it can be no comfort to know that the divine Milton was also blind.

In his testimony before the Industrial commission, Mr. Thomas F. Clark, vice president of the W. U. T. Co., said there were only 67 people to each mile of wire in the United States, while there are 130 in Great Britain to the mile, 220 in Switzerland and 321 in Belgium. Notwithstanding these statistics it is an indisputable fact that there are more "wire pullers" to the mile in the United States than in any other country.

Mr. Carnegie gets many begging letters. He got one the other day that he will treasure forever, and that he can sell at any time for twice the amount asked. Here it is:

"My Dear Carnegie: I see by the papers that you are prosperous. I want to get a hymn book; it costs \$1.50. If you send me this hymn book I will bless you. God will bless you and it will do a great deal of good. Yours truly, MARK TWAIN."

"P. S.—Don't send me the hymn book, send me the \$1.50."

The London Times disclosed the English civil proposals before the government was prepared to announce them. The question has come up in the commons, and it is even proposed to bring the Times under the penal law against the disclosure of official documents. In this country such a proposal would be received with derision, and even in England where penal laws are much more stringently enforced than in this, it is scarcely probable that any serious steps to prosecute the Times will be taken. The true remedy is a stricter guarding of such documents.

ITALY'S CONDITIONS.

Milwaukee Wisconsin. The condition of Italy, bad as it is, is better than it was. A progressive spirit is abroad in the land. Education is more generally diffused than of yore. The sanitary condition of the cities has been vastly improved, and, despite the political unrest, social order is more efficiently maintained than in the times before Victor Emmanuel and Garibaldi made the dream of Italian unity a reality. The economic and social and political salvation of Italy lies in the direction of reduced taxation. By a reduction of her armament this might readily be brought about. She has no need of a large standing army and a costly fleet.

London Pall Mall Gazette.

The outlook is not, on the whole, promising. After a weak and watery exhibition of invertebrate incapacity for formulating a policy and stick to it, the Saraceni cabinet has fallen foul of the Italian labor leaders, having first hatched and then truckled to them; and now it goes the way of its numerous transient and embarrassed predecessors. The Saraceni cabinet, and the Zanardelli combination will be Radical; but things will go just in the old unsatisfactory way; the various groups at Montecitorio will quarrel and cabal, while "Caio and Tizio," the Italian equivalents for our man in the street, will regard all parties with impartial contempt, and the young king will not think royalty much of a trade. Life is not all beer and skittles in united Italy.

PEKIN EXECUTIONS.

Chicago Record.

Formal demands having been made upon the Chinese government for these executions it was, of course, necessary for the demands to be carried out in full or all their effect would have been lost. The spectacle, however, becomes no more pleasing on that account, and Americans will be glad when they learn that all such scenes of revenge are ended by the accomplishment of all which has been deemed necessary. If the effect upon the Chinese can be produced by any modification of the extreme demands it will be an occasion for general satisfaction. It is not a pretty thing to see the chosen military representatives of the great powers of the world conducting such an affair, even when it is a necessity. Let the Chinese be impressed as much as possible.

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sible, as rapidly as possible, in order that the miserable business may be brought to an end.

New York Times.

No man, civilized or savage, Chinese or "foreign devil," can gainsay the essential righteousness of the awful retribution that has been taken at Pekin. Both the legation and the mission arias were where they were under the shield of China. They were not slain in fair fight, but through foul perfidy. The two men who were beheaded at Pekin were officials who used their official positions to break the faith of their government and to oppress and persecute, even to the shedding of blood, those whom they were officially bound to protect. Whether we take the "punitive" or the merely exemplary view of punishment, this is, in the one case a deserved and in the other a necessary retribution that has been visited upon these Chinese officials.

MINISTER CONGER.

Burlington Hawk-eye.

Conger is too big and strong a man for Iowa to turn aside from. His name in public affairs accords most harmoniously with those of Allison, Shaw, Dolliver, and the like. He has many friendships and wide influence, and can command the support of all parts of the State. The First district glories in his record abroad and in his statesmanship on all occasions. As governor of Iowa he would carry the State on in the glorious course that its other great sons have marked out for it and guided it in so far. There is no positive assurance that he can be the nominee if he wants it, but it is unquestionably true that he would make the strongest kind of a candidate in the now troubled gubernatorial campaign in Iowa.

Kansas City Journal.

The reports circulated from time to time that the Administration was anxious to rid itself of Minister Conger have never been traced to any reliable source. Immediately after the suppression of the Boxer uprising Mr. Conger was in favor of taking extreme measures with the leaders of that movement, and it was necessary for Secretary Hay to caution him against too much zeal in that direction; but there is no substantial basis for the statements that the Administration desired to "unburden" itself of Conger. He has made a creditable representative and has presented the position and demands of the state department in a manner that in no way detracted from their force and effectiveness. It was through him that Mr. Hay did the diplomatic work that has received so much praise, and so far as anything is known to the contrary he stands well in Washington.

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CONFERENCE PAMPHLET

The verbatim report of the proceedings of the seventy-first semi-annual conference of the Church is now printed and for sale at the Deseret News office. The pamphlet also contains an account of the General Conference of the Deseret S. S. Union, held Oct. 7, 1900. Price per copy postpaid, 15 cents.

FIRST

Everybody wants to be first. That is, everybody who is anybody. You do, anyway. And we want you to get there, too. We want you to hold your head up and take a new interest in life. We want your chest to swell high with pride and your heart beat fast with pleasure. That's why we carry the

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