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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 25, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, Monday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 6, commencing each day at 10 a. m. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested and expected.

As the General Conference will commence on April 3, the first Sunday in the month, which is the regular Fast Day, the Saints in the Salt Lake and adjacent Stakes of Zion will observe the monthly fast on Sunday, March 27, 1904. The stake and ward authorities in distant places will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday evening, April 4, at 7 o'clock.

A special Priesthood meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall, Tuesday, April 5, at 10 o'clock a. m.

A religion class convention will be held in the Barratt hall on Tuesday, April 5, at 2 o'clock p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

The general conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 3, at 7 o'clock, and the attendance of all officers and teachers is desired. A general invitation is extended to all Sunday school workers and Saints to be present.

A special meeting of Sunday school stake officers will be held in Barratt Hall, Tuesday afternoon, April 5, at 4:30 o'clock and a full attendance is desired.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

THE TURNING POINT.

It is most unfortunate that just as it appeared that the conflicting elements in this country on the water question were about to be harmonized, so that the provisions of the national irrigation law could be made operative here, one company stands in the way of the success of the entire project for securing an ample water supply for all northern Utah.

We think that Col. E. F. Holmes, Engineer A. F. Doremus and President Angus M. Cannon have exhibited remarkable patience, perseverance and fidelity to the public interest, in their laudable endeavors to bring about unity and harmony. They have no private purposes in view, but have worked solely in the public interest. It is to be hoped that the opponents in the South Jordan company will get their eyes fully opened to the advantages of the plans submitted, and to the consequences that may follow if they remain hostile to the general proposition. The following letter, just received, is very pertinent to this important subject.

"Subject: Utilization of Water Supply of Cache, Salt Lake and Utah Lake Valleys, Utah.

"Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., March 21, 1904.

"Mr. A. F. Doremus, Chairman Arid Land Reclamation Commission, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sir: Your communication, dated January 27th, and addressed to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, has been, on March 17th, referred to me for consideration.

"In it you call attention to the fact that it appears plain to the Commission that 'no more worthy place or people can be found than here afforded for the successful application and operation of the reclamation law; and it is earnestly requested that immediate steps be taken to that end.'

"It is proposed to undertake field work on the project referred to and ascertain all of the physical features. At the same time it is understood that the people interested are getting together in order to co-operate with the Reclamation Service in making the undertaking a great success.

"I hope to hear from you from time to time regarding the progress made and have every reason to believe that the results will be favorable.

"Very respectfully,
"CHAS. D. WALCOTT,
"Director."

It is gratifying to see the recognition of the fact urged upon the national authorities, that "no more worthy place or people can be found" than ours, for the "operation of the reclamation law."

And the necessity of the "getting together" suggested must be obvious to every rational observer. It should be borne in mind that the success of the entire scheme, grand and permanent in its scope and purpose, for supplying an abundance of water for this whole

region is now depending on the action of one canal company in Salt Lake county. Gentlemen, reflect and be both wise and neighborly, while you also look to your own interest as involved in that of others!

CONGRESS AND THE MORMONS

During the discussion of the questions raised by the opposition against Senator Smoot, which have been more particularly in relation to the "Mormon" Church, its doctrines and government, there have been many extreme and foolish views entertained and expressed. One of the most absurd has been the notion that, because it is suspected and alleged that some plural marriages have been entered into by a few "Mormons," although that would be in violation of a rule of their Church, the whole State of Utah may be excluded from the Union. Another just as foolish is, that if proof of such marriages can be substantiated, the "Mormon" people may be all disfranchised.

The power to admit new States into the Union is vested in Congress by the Constitution, from which the national government derives all its powers. As to the expulsion of a State from the Union the Constitution is silent. Some of the foremost lawyers in the United States declare that Congress has no such authority. Among them is Senator George F. Edmunds, who discussed this matter before Utah became a State.

Nor has Congress any right to prescribe the qualifications of voters in a sovereign State. That prerogative belongs to each State for itself. The power to disfranchise citizens of a State is not vested in the Congress of the United States. There are some rash and bigoted preachers who do not understand these simple matters, and also a number of women belonging to religious societies, who have been clamoring for members of both houses to expel Senator Smoot and disfranchise the "Mormons," and who cannot wait for the gentleman's defence or for the case before the committee to be finished. Commenting on the course of some of those uninformed and intolerant persons, the New Orleans States has the following editorial:

It seems that the Detroit Pastors' union have decided to petition Congress to rescind the act admitting Utah to statehood because of the exposure made of the practices of the Mormon Church. The action of the Pastors' Union was inspired by a zealous but not judicious expounder of the gospel who rejoices in the name of Crafts, but both he and his associates appear to be ignorant of the fact that a state cannot be put out of the Union by an act of Congress, and before they mail their petition to Washington they should read up the speeches of ex-Senator Edmunds who was the father of the anti-polygamy act. When the Brigham Roberts case was pending in Congress Mr. Edmunds said:

"The instant the State was admitted, every act of Congress relating to its internal policy ceased to have any force whatever. The consequence is that in point of law the State of Utah has the same sovereign rights that any other State has. She may punish polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, or she may authorize it. She may declare, as Congress has done, that illegitimate children shall not inherit, or she may declare, as she appears to have done since her admission, that illegitimate children shall inherit on an equal footing with legitimate. The constitution of Utah only prohibits the ceremony of making a polygamous or plural marriage. It does not prohibit the carrying on of polygamous relations."

There are a great many things, as Mr. Edmunds indicated in his speech, that a State can do without coming in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, and it is well to call the attention of the pastors of Detroit to the fact that the Constitution points no way by which a State can be put out of the Union after it has once been admitted. Ex-Senator Edmunds has a much better knowledge of constitutional law than theology, and the law he has laid down respecting the sovereign rights of Utah as a State of the American Union is likely to be discouraging to the Detroit Pastors' Union and others, who have enthusiastically precipitated themselves into a crusade against Mormonism and everything connected with it.

It must be clear to every fair reasoner that the acts alleged against a very few individuals—none of them have as yet been proved—are not to be justly construed as offenses committed either by the State or by the Church. The State has forbidden them by law, the Church has prohibited them by a regularly adopted rule. Even if substantiated they would constitute merely "sporadic" cases, as they are called, for which the individuals concerned are alone responsible.

To talk of rescinding the act by which Utah became a State because there have been some violations of its laws is to utter the veriest nonsense. To clamor for the disfranchisement of many thousands of innocent members of a Church because of the alleged misdeeds of a few of their number is equally absurd, and both are at variance with the genius of American government and proceed from ignorance or intolerance or both combined.

THOSE "SILLY" FALSEHOODS.

The Utah State Journal expresses the opinion that it is "silly," on the part of the Deseret News, "to make any momentous controversy over the vaporings" of the woman Kompe, whose alleged story has been repeated with trimmings by the Salt Lake Tribune. And then the Journal adds to the silliness if not the "momentous" character of the contention, by devoting a lengthy double-column editorial to the same subject. Our Ogden contemporary makes a very fair statement of the case on both sides, and then sums it up as follows:

"There is enough real trouble for this State without the creation of any such absurdity and complication as this Kompe case presents. If the Tribune people know as much as they should know, after thirty years of publication in Salt Lake they would never endorse such a story as the Kompe woman is alleged to have told in her first affidavit, as it bears unmistakable signs of falsehood. Mormon missionaries do not teach that the streets of Salt Lake are quite or almost paved with gold; they do not teach that baptism in youth dissolves a marriage ceremony which is solemnized later in life. Nor do Mormon missionaries prefer women converts-in fact if only one of the family can migrate to Utah, instruction is usually for the husband to do so in order that he may make a home to which he can bring his wife. All

these are such patent facts that nothing but gross ignorance or malice would give out with any kind of endorsement such a palpable fraud as the Kompe woman's first affidavit."

The reason why the Deseret News has taken so much notice of the infamous story, is because the tale has been worked up by the man Zimmer, and sent to European papers to urge the banishment of our Elders and the proceedings against them in the German speaking countries and provinces. The persons libeled by the falsehoods published about them, too, are naturally much incensed, and they should be fully vindicated from the charges, which the woman declares she never made against them knowingly.

A creature who in the garb of a religious minister spends his time and energies in fabricating such attacks upon good men, and upon a faith of which he is evidently as ignorant as a rat, ought to be exposed and his course and character be made known wherever his falsehoods are circulated. The Journal does well to aid in refuting them, however "silly" they may appear.

FOR AFRICANS.

The secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society, with headquarters in London, is endeavoring to bring to the notice of the people of this country, the deplorable condition of the people of that portion of Africa, which is known as the Congo Free State. It seems that the European powers, interested in "the dark continent," in a solemn congress at Berlin pledged themselves to "watch over the preservation of the native populations and the improvement of their moral and material conditions of existence, and to work together for the suppression of slavery, and especially of the slave trade." A few years later the same powers solemnly declared themselves to be "equally animated by the firm intention of putting an end to the crimes and devastations engendered by the traffic in African slaves, of protecting effectually the aboriginal population of Africa, and of ensuring for that vast continent the benefits of peace and civilization."

The Berlin Conference entrusted to King Leopold, as head of the Congo International association, the custody of about two-thirds of the Conventional basin of the Congo and the general care of its inhabitants, as well as promotion of civilization and civilizing trade with them. By the Brussels Conference the same sovereign was entrusted with the principal part of the work to be done in putting an end to the Central Africa slave-trade. But it is now charged that the work of civilization has proved a farce. The guarantees are of as little value to the Africans as similar guarantees have proved to be to the Armenians and Macedonians.

From official reports it is made clear that the Congo government has so monopolized nearly all the soil of the country and imposed such heavy labor-taxes on the inhabitants that they have been in large measure deprived of the necessary means of subsistence and are reduced to a state of miserable bondage, and that the grinding tyranny thus set up, when not enforced by the direct action of the government, is enforced as ruthlessly by the several concessionaire companies to which—generally holding half the shares in them—it has assigned its territorial "rights" so-called, and in whose interests are largely employed the armed savages, mostly cannibals, composing the army, or force publique, of nearly 20,000 "regulars," augmented by 10,000 or more "auxiliaries." Consul Casement's report is a harrowing account of the sufferings of which he was an eyewitness in the part of the Congo interior visited by him, including regions administered as "Crown domain" and other regions under concessionaire company rule. In both he saw the unhappy population—men, women and children alike—in a condition worse than that of ordinary slavery. In Congoland, it is charged, natives' lives are of no account, and they are mercilessly starved or worked or flogged to death. In addition to the minor persecutions and indignities that were constant and invariable, Mr. Casement tells of the mutilations and cold-blooded murders, the raping of women and the torturing of men, of which he had evidence as almost daily occurrences, as well as of more refined cruelties and more loathsome outrages freely indulged in by many of the Congo government's agents, both white and black.

It is not claimed that the United States is directly interested in the affairs of the Congo State, but it is hoped that the American people will feel its moral responsibility to aid in the work of mercy in behalf of the oppressed natives. And this is no vain hope. For we are great on "moral responsibilities"—in others. We would, no doubt, loudly protest against the outrages committed against the negroes in Africa, if only for the sake of showing, in the noise, the groans of black victims of mob violence on American soil. Certainly, our moral responsibility is great, as the secretary of the Aborigines Protection society assumes.

It is singular though, that wherever the white race goes, it brings with it vice, oppression, diseases, tears and blood. Is it not time to consider whether the special civilization that is offered benighted races, is what it ought to be? Is it any wonder if some savages regard their civilized brothers as "foreign devils?"

THE EARTH MOVES.

Two Belgian scientists, Pasquier and Flamache, are said to have made the assertion that there has never been absolute proof of Galileo's proposition that the earth "moves." The Sacramento Bee says that M. Polnaire, president of the Astronomical Society of France, sides with the Belgian scientists. This, we suppose, does not mean that astronomers are commencing to doubt the movement of the earth around the sun; only that the proofs are not "absolute," as, indeed, it may be doubted whether any scientific proposition, outside the various branches of mathematics, admits of absolute proof. "What is truth?" is as much of a puzzle today as in the day of Pilate, to those who are destitute of faith. The fact should be a reminder to all who reject the divine word, that science has

by no means spoken its last word regarding the origin of the universe, or its make-up. When that word is spoken, there will undoubtedly be perfect harmony between the teachings of science and of the inspired historians.

When the Japs bottle up Port Arthur they want to be sure to wire the cork well.

It is rather odd that these "pure inventions" that come from the seat of war are not patented.

Panama's standing army has been fixed at two hundred and fifty. They might be termed ornamental fixtures.

Poor Buffalo Bill! His complaint in his divorce suit shows him to have been a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Russia is very suspicious of China, as she is watching her as closely as a cat watches a mouse. And for the same purpose no doubt.

It grates on Americans to know that in a Colorado town there is a press censorship established by the military. The press of the whole country should rise up and cry out against it.

Queen Alexandra has eaten a nine-cent dinner among factory hands in the East End and enjoyed it. It is easily explained. Lamb was on the menu, and everybody enjoys Lamb.

Dr. Hall of Clark university is a great advocate of dancing, claiming for it many curative powers. But he seems to overlook the fact that those who dance must pay the fiddler.

London physicians declare that love is a disease. And it is most catching by young people, those that are healthiest and liveliest. It all goes to show that in the midst of life we are in death.

Dr. Parkin had a very hard time to get his Cecil Rhodes scholarship examination papers past the customs officers. Aspirants for the scholarships will have a harder time getting past the papers.

"Once more, once more—thank God! I hear the dull earth waking. I feel the green grass breaking The fragrant sod," says the poet. He must have his ear as close to the ground as a politician during a campaign.

It is likely that the Panama canal commission will be placed under control of the war department, the chief argument for this being that the Philippines and Porto Rico are attached to that department. Is the great American colonial empire to be a military empire?

The Troy Press, which is not noted for friendliness to anybody connected with the Church, asks this pertinent question:

"If all law-breakers among our lawmakers were promptly expelled, in how many legislative bodies in the United States would there be a quorum left for the transaction of business?"

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Woman's Home Companion for April has a bird's-eye view of the St. Louis Exposition, of interest to everybody. "Curious Easter Customs in Spanish Countries" is another unique pictorial feature. Arthur Hoyt, the young correspondent, writes intimately of "The Chicago Girl Who Rules India," and Martha Sanford gives us a glimpse of the pranks of college girls. Fiction by Opla Read, John Worne, Otho Senga and others gives the right brightness of tone to an Easter number. Miss Gould's fashion pages, Mrs. Saint-Maur's travel helps, Mrs. Low's cooking lessons, are all just what the women want at this season.—The Crowell Publishing Company, Springfield, Ohio.

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