

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(Sunday Excepted.)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah
Horace G. Whitcomb, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
(In Advance.)
One Year \$3.00
Six Months \$1.80
Three Months \$1.00
One Month .35
Single Copies 10c
Semi-Weekly per year \$2.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Address all business communications and all remittances to
THE DESERET NEWS
Salt Lake City, Utah

Entered at the postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 15, 1909.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-ninth annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 4, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

The first Sunday of April being Conference it is suggested that Sunday, March 25, be observed as fastday in Salt Lake, Ensign, Pioneer, Liberty, Granite, and Jordan stakes.

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

THE EXTRA SESSION.

The Sixty-first Congress has met in extraordinary session for the purpose of revising the tariff. It is supposed that it will take three or four weeks to consider the subject thoroughly.

Congress has a difficult task on hand. Lower duties on many commodities are demanded by the people, while the necessity for raising sufficient revenue to meet the growing expenditures is ever present. How to meet the popular will and at the same time to provide sufficient revenue is the problem.

Higher duty on coffee has been proposed. Another suggestion is to revive the old war-time act requiring a stamp on bank checks, deeds, mortgages and such instruments. Another proposed remedy is a tax on inheritances, and still another a tax on incomes.

Neither suggestion seems to be very popular. The income tax has become a fixture in Great Britain. There, earned incomes of \$300 or more pay 2 1/2 per cent, up to \$10,000 a year. Above that they are taxed 5 per cent. Unearned income above \$3,500 a year pay the full 6 per cent tax. The machinery for collecting the income tax in Great Britain has been perfected to a very high degree. The law recognizes the fact that a man, professional or otherwise, earning anywhere from \$2,000 to \$30,000 a year, should not be taxed so heavily as the idle person whose income comes to him through inheritance.

There are various suggestions and schemes for the increase of the revenue, but so far nothing definite has been heard in favor of retrenchment in the expenditures, and yet that is generally one of the first considerations with a business concern, managed on business principles, when the problem is to make both ends meet.

The deliberations of this extra session on Congress will be followed with intense interest all over the country.

IT DOES PROHIBIT.

Governor Hoch, of Kansas, in his thanksgiving proclamation, last fall, said: "One-third of our counties are without prisoners in their jails or paupers in their poorhouses; one-half of our counties contributed no convicts to our prison population the last year, and one-half of our prison inmates never lived in Kansas long enough to gain a residence here. Our educational institutions were never so flourishing. Our churches were never so strong, nor the spiritual outlook more hopeful. The saloon has been practically banished from our state and its baneful influence almost entirely eliminated."

The opponents of the closing of the saloons in Utah should accept the testimony of those who speak from experience, and not permit themselves to be influenced by the arguments of the saloon-keepers. They may not be fully aware of the consequences of their activity, but in opposing the closing of the saloons they throw their influence in favor of crime and pauperism. They are laboring in the interest of a traffic that is responsible for the filling up of our prisons, poorhouses, and insane asylums.

And not only does prohibition prohibit it, says David H. Shields, Mayor of Kansas, Kans. from April, 1905, to April, 1907, says that for years that city labored until the decision that liquor selling was a financial benefit to the community. When Mr. Shields became Mayor—this is his testimony—there were only \$4,418.00 in the current expense fund, though into this fund had come for years thousands of dollars collected from the joints. When his term expired, two years later, there were in the same fund \$24,484.00, and the "tax" rate for this fund was reduced a half mill lower than for last year. This, too, in spite of the fact that the millage paid less than a thousand dollars into this fund, while before his term was closed it had been paying ten and fifteen thousand into it every year. Further, all the casual incidental expenses of the first paying, and of large sewer contracts had been paid out of this fund. During this time contracts for paving and sewerage amounting to \$121,488.27 were let, bonds amounting to \$4,000 were paid off, sixteen thousand dollars of bonds bearing 4 per cent interest were refunded for only 4 1/2 per cent. Men had said that if they closed the joints the credit of the city would not be worth ten cents on the dollar.

Question for Education and Legislation

By A. T. Bond, Principal of Mount Pleasant High School.

Much has been said and done to make good schools and vast sums are being spent every year to make them better, but enough has not yet been done to make them perfect.

If the purpose of life is joy through efficient service, then should not a school be a co-operative community practicing "the way of life"? If "the ideal school is the ideal community," or if "school is life," then why should its chief products be paper and blackboard work and vocal expressions? How much longer is the school to continue principally a talking and writing machine? Why should an immortal child, the center of a universe, be forced to spend so many precious years writing words and talking text books?

If the main business of life consists in sitting in desks and standing up to recite then the schools are answering the purpose for which they were created. How much of the work is abstract, unpractical, and artificial? Instead of practice in the everyday duties of real life—invention and construction? Will 55 per cent in grammar and algebra or 100 per cent in Latin and German be of greater service to the state than ability to turn deserts and sagebrush plains into fruitful fields and happy homes? Will proficiency in the use of words and paper bring greater prosperity and happiness to the state than knowledge and skill in the use of industrial materials, physical forces, and modern inventions? To save the child must we force abstract technicalities upon him and pay him with false rewards in the way of per cents and punishments? Is the ideal boy or girl to be measured by a few per cents on the summary side of the present school register? Have we not stuck too closely to the information put in education and trained most of the children of grammar and high school grades away from the love and habit of manual work? Is there not some close relation between our schools and idle boys in devil's workshops? Have discipline helped greatly in producing a larger percentage of disobedient snappers and professional work shirkers? If we forcibly suppress whistlings of destruction? Should not a school be a happy, self-governing, co-operative community of voluntary, progressive workers and not principally a paper-consuming, ornamental, mental mill that runs so long for the future with so much force and friction and gets so sadly out of gear the moment the stern boss leaves the free American drive-wheels to themselves? Why not give children more practical work adapted to their daily needs and tastes and thus rob discipline, peace officers, juvenile courts, and the devil of many important jobs? If nature has given every child structure, ability and desires to work—to invent and construct things—why not let him put forth every effort to help

the community in which he lives and thereby work out his own salvation? Can he not do this best by doing well the things that need to be done every day? Small communities have spent large sums on still larger school buildings and the rooms, subjects, teachers, and text books were constantly increasing but the work actually done just the kind most needed for this wonderful western state—a rich store-room of dormant natural resources. Do not our schools still contain too many of the rudimentary tasks of ancient Europe? Are they not too Greek-Alexandrian for modern American requirements? Which is of greater social value: the school that turns out "business men" trained to go out of work by scheming and talking in an office, or one that produces engineers who plan and construct railroads, canals, reservoirs, power plants, ocean liners, telephones, etc.? What could the "culture" and "philosophy" schools have done toward modern civilization if laboratories and technical schools had not been invented? Why not spend a little money for benches, tables, tools, apparatus, utensils, implements, chemicals and physical apparatus, and other every-day-used things instead of putting it all into books, paper, desks and larger buildings for mostly paper work and talk?

If it is sound political economy for the state to contribute liberally for so much paper and talk education in elementary schools and universities what possible argument is there in favor of omitting industrial high schools from its pay rolls even if the big colleges have to fall a little short on football and other things more ancient, abstract or fancy? Why not put a provision in the law stating that no school shall receive state aid unless it shall make provision in its daily program for at least one hour of industrial training?

Why is it that after so many years maintenance of kindergarten, domestic science and manual training departments for teachers that we have so little of this work in our country schools? Is there not some belt off in the educational machine, or some great fault in the system, the course of study, or the methods?

Can a really successful teacher of an up-to-date school be a mere memorizer of facts, laws, and educational theories, and automatic repeater of borrowed pedagogical rules and methods, a rambling talking theorist, a fearful disciplinarian of children and critic of subordinates, or must he not be an original student and researcher, an expert industrial trainer, a real useful producer, an exact, intelligent manual worker, and a skillful exemplifier of an ideal life? When teachers' certificates are based more on high standard of social usefulness and quality of the training they give than on their number of degrees, papers, and cents collected from contractors, books and doubtful authorities then will not the school come nearer filling the requirements of a happy and progressive Christian community?

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CATHOLIC CLERGY AND THE SALOON.

Archbishop Ireland, "The Catholic church is absolutely and irrevocably opposed to drunkenness and to drunkard making. In vain we profess to work for souls if we do not labor to drive out an evil which is daily besetting by ten thousand and peopling hell. In vain we boast of civilization and liberty if we do not labor to exterminate intemperance. Education, elevation, the masses, liberty—all that the age admires—is set at naught by this dreadful evil. The individual conscience is the first arm in opposing it, but the individual conscience has to be strengthened and supplemented by law. The claim of saloonkeepers to freedom in their traffic is the claim to spread disease, sin, pauperism."

Father McGuire, "The modern American saloon, with its gambling den, wine room, and back parlors, is nothing more or less than a living part of hell. It is the 'hang out' for all loafers, toughs, saps, and would-be sports in town. The police in every town will tell you that murders, suicides, robberies, thefts, and all crimes, originate at the saloon bar, and any lawyer can tell you that the bought perjurors who ordain courts and make justice impossible, can be secured from any nearby saloon. The up-to-date bar room, whether we like to admit it or not, saps the vitality of our national ideals, steals money from the laboring man, starves the innocent, drives women to despair, makes beasts out of men, and sends countless souls to eternal perdition."

Rev. C. P. Baron, "What about good saloons? I never heard of one. My honest opinion on that subject, and I don't think I miss the truth very much, is that the good saloon is the bad saloon, and the better saloon the worse saloon, and the best saloon, the least saloon. The good saloon sows the seed, the bad saloon cultivates the crop, and the devil reaps the harvest."

Justice Cannon says that the organization will win. It is organization that does most of the winning in this world.

The "News" has no crawfish of any kind on any matter, but a certain temporary has an inexhaustible supply of devilfish.

"When the gods would destroy their first made man." The nations seem to have gone mad in their rivalry to create big navies.

The new tariff bill is bound to have its ups and downs, seeing that President Taft will insist that some schedules shall be put up and some down.

If the United States and Mexico jointly intervene in Central America, the various republics there will get a much-needed and very salutary lesson in the art of good government.

It is said that if President Taft carries out his present desire his cabinet will do a great deal of traveling. And why not? If traveling libraries are proper why should not traveling cabinets be?

The real horror of the "unwritten law" is brought home to the whole American people by the assassination, presumably by the Black Hand, of Lieutenant Perrotto in Palermo. The strength of civilization is the law and obedience to it.

Three Chicago boys, armed and equipped as the law directs and with forty rounds of ammunition, turning their backs upon the wild and woolly west and setting their faces towards the east and Oyster Bay in the hope of inducing Colonel Roosevelt to take them along on his African trip, shows that is Young America's ideal today and who its hero.

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The above illustration represents one of the Hats and Suits shown in Z. C. M. I. Spring Opening today. If you did not have the privilege of visiting the formal showing of the new styles for spring and summer wear today we invite you to come tomorrow.



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