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DESERT NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
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GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints will convene on Thursday,
the 6th of April, and adjourn Friday
afternoon until Sunday morning,
and close Sunday afternoon.A general Priesthood meeting will
be held on Friday night, commencing
at 7:30.The special Priesthood meeting for the
General and Presiding Authorities of the
Church will be held in the Assembly
Hall on Saturday morning, at 10
o'clock.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.The general semi-annual conference
of the Deseret Sunday School Union
will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt
Lake City, Sunday, April 9, 1905, at 7
o'clock, p. m. Officers and Sunday
school workers are requested to attend
and all are cordially invited.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendence.

NO "CONTRADICTION."

From some newspaper sources we
have reason to expect nothing but mis-
representation and abuse when any
thing relating to the "Mormon" Church,
particularly concerning its leading au-
thorities, is in view. What they say,
especially when written by persons who
have become insane in their hatred and
recklessness, count for little or nothing.
But there are other papers from
which we might anticipate something
like fairness in their treatment of the
Church and of its President. It is a
disappointment, therefore, when we see
in a journal like the Salt Lake Herald
direct and positive falsehoods, proven
to be so by its own columns.The Herald asserts, editorially, that
President Smith, in his address in the
Tabernacle on Sunday, "controverted
without qualification his testimony re-
garding revelations before the Smoot
committee." Also that "President
Smith told the committee that he had
received no revelation himself." On
the basis of these two assertions the
Herald proceeds to build up a number
of arguments and deductions, which,
having no basis in fact, are of course
amount to worse than nothing.If the editor of the Herald will read
what appeared on the first page of that
paper on Monday, he will see that there
is no contradiction between President
Smith's explanation in the Tabernacle,
and the testimony given before the
committee at Washington as quoted in
the Herald. His utterances in the two
places put him in no "dilemma," as the
Herald endeavors to make out. It is
that paper, this time, that is trying to
get him into a "trap." The "trap"
to which President Smith alluded, as
laid for him by his "inquisitors," was
that which was poorly concealed in the
questions from Senator Dubois as quoted
by the Herald, and by Attorney
Tayler in the general examination.
They evidently wanted to get the wit-
ness to place himself on record as hav-
ing received, as they described it, a
"revelation from God which he had
submitted to the Apostles and the body
of the Church in their semi-annual
conference, which revelation had been
sustained by that conference by the
upholding of hands." President Smith
replied that he had received no revela-
tion of that kind and in that man-
ner.On further questioning by the same
"inquisitor," (and we use the term in
its full sense, with such implications as
may be drawn from it, whether with
reference to the dark ages or the present
time) President Smith said, as quoted
by the Herald: "If I may be per-
mitted, the word 'revelation' is used
very vaguely here all the time. No man
can get revelations at his will. If a
man is prayerful and earnest in his de-
sire, and lives a righteous life and he
desires information and intelligence, he
will inquire of the Lord, and the Lord
will manifest to him through the pres-
ence and influence of his spirit his mind
and his will. That would be a revela-
tion to that individual." When further
queries were put, and President Smith
stated he thought he had answered them,
Senator Foraker said, "I think it is
an intelligent answer and a very
satisfactory one." Senator McComas
also said, "It seems to me it is full."
Still pressed by his cunning and mali-
cious inquisitor F. T. Dubois, PresidentSmith answered "I say yes. I have had
impressions of the spirit upon my mind
very frequently;" all this appears in
the Herald's own references.In the Tabernacle on Sunday, Presi-
dent Smith remarked "they wanted me
to say that God had given to me a re-
velation upon some new doctrine, or
theory, or principle, or precept, or any-
thing to be written, to be observed or
handed down as a guide to the Church.
I could not have said that for he has
not done this. But has God revealed to
me His mind and His will? Has He
made manifest to me a knowledge of
His truth by and through the Spirit of
revelation? Did you ever hear of my
denying that? No; no man has ever
heard me deny that."It was clearly pointed out on Sun-
day that there are differences of mani-
festations and revelation from God to
man. Moses talked with God face to
face. Joseph Smith, the Prophet, be-
lieved the Father and Son, who conversed
with him. He and other prophets re-
ceived visitations from angels, and he
and they heard the voice of God speak-
ing to them. These were pointed out as
remarkable and exceptional revela-
tions from Deity. But it was also ex-
plained that the Holy Ghost manifested
the things of God to mankind and that
these were in one sense revelations,
though not of the same kind as those
mentioned previously. President Joseph
F. Smith testified to having re-
ceived that inspiration needed to guide
the Church in his capacity as its Presi-
dent, but stated that he had not de-
clared to have received that closer in-
tercourse with Deity vouchsafed to
Moses and to the Prophet Joseph Smith,
in revelations that were written and
delivered to the Church with a "Thus
saith the Lord."Every Latter-day Saint can under-
stand this distinction. President Smith
testified that he had not received such
revelations from God as were given by
open intercourse with the Most High,
nor any communication to be delivered
to the Church to be recorded as a writ-
ten revelation; but he did not deny that
he had received the revelations of the
Spirit of God, such as may be had by
every member of the Church for himself
and his own affairs, and by the man
who stands at the head of the Church
for the guidance and benefit of the
whole body.The trouble is that his critics and
accusers are among those persons de-
nounced in Holy Writ as "Making a
man and offender for a word." Now in
order to show clearly what President
Smith's "inquisitors" understand by the
term "revelation," about which they
quizzed him and pestered him and bad-
gered him, as may be seen in the re-
cord, we quote the following excerpts
from the argument of Robert W. Tay-
ler, attorney for the protestors, as given
in the official report:"I should like that every word I say
from now on should be considered in
view of the fact and in constant ap-
prehension of the fact that revelation
runs through the Mormon mind and is
the basis of the Mormon religion, and
of its hold on the Mormon people of to-
day—revelation by actual contact with
the Almighty.""Let us examine this subject of re-
velation, as applied to Senator Smoot
as a legislator, as explained by him and
made lucid by its manifest meaning
when interpreted by the admitted facts
of his Church's history and doctrines.
According to his own view he is cap-
able of holding immediate intercourse
with God.""Seven hundred thousand sincere men
and women have believed and now be-
lieve, as they believe in their own ex-
istence, that Joseph Smith, Jr., received
revelations direct from God, and if
anyone ever believed that, we must as-
sume that Senator Smoot believes it.""Any man who believes himself to be
in personal relation to Almighty God,
so that he is capable of receiving
through a conscious fellowship and in-
tercourse face to face with God, either
by hearing his voice or by seeing his
presence—the will and wish and com-
mand of a God of infinite goodness,
wisdom, and power is constitutionally
incapable of being a part of a man-
made government.""Assuming the possession by Senator
Smoot of the power of personal inter-
course with Almighty God, with the
certainty on his part that that will
be revealed to him, not as an in-
spiration, not as a general and elusive
and pervasive effluence of truth,
whereby he apprehends, as it were, by
some inner mental operation that the
truth is with him, but that by coming
face to face with God and receiving His
word, hearing His voice, he knows
what our Mormon friends would de-
scribe, that it is a thing that comes
thus saith the Lord, with the same
kind of a certainty that you now have
of my addressing you, then I do not
care whether a man is a Mormon or
what he is; he may be a good citizen,
or he should have no part in legisla-
tion."It is easy for anyone who has given
attention to the drift of the investiga-
tion before the committee, to see what
kind of a "trap" was being set for
President Smith, and this is not said
concerning that body in its entirety,
but in reference to such "inquisitors"
as Dubois and Tayler. They wished to
make it appear that President Joseph
F. Smith and Apostle Reed Smoot
claimed to receive revelations by "per-
sonal contact with God, face to face"
and "mouth to mouth," and that be-
cause of such claim, or even belief,
Reed Smoot could not properly be per-
mitted to occupy a seat in the United
States Senate.The logic, the doctrine, the declara-
tions of the casuist on this matter are
simply absurd, but that is the posi-
tion that was assumed. And the term
"revelation" as he interpreted it, and
which he wanted President Smith to
testify was received by him and by his
associates in the ministry, was claim-
ed by the attorney to be of such a
character as to render the object of
the protestors' attack ineligible to the
office to which he had been elected by
the Legislature of Utah.Now, let all people interested in this
subject understand that President
Smith, either at Washington or in Salt
Lake City or in any other place, never
denied that he had received revela-
tions by the manifestations of the Spirit
of God to him in his capacity as an
Elder in the Church or its presiding of-
ficer. But he did admit, in both places,
that he had not received revelations
by direct contact with Deity, as inter-
preted by the attorney engaged to work
for the expulsion of Senator Reed
Smoot. The distinction is clear, and the
endeavor to confuse the matteron the part of the press is unworthy
of any writer with the slightest claim
to honor, fairness or consistency.

FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL.

Free speech is one of the great bless-
ings enjoyed by a free people. As many
other boons of our marvelous civiliza-
tion, it can be used for the advance-
ment of truth and righteousness; or it
can be misused for the furtherance of
the most evil purposes. To oppose, de-
nounce and punish the improper use of
free speech is not to oppose free speech
itself.For instance, a knife is a useful in-
strument, without which civilization
would slowly have advanced from the
stone age. It is a necessary tool, in
use every day for the most varied
purposes. But in the hand of an assas-
sin, it becomes an instrument of mur-
der, and he who puts it to such a use
is properly dealt with according to law.
But, to punish an assassin who has
plunged his knife into the heart of his
victim, is not to curtail the freedom
to use a necessary tool for lawful pur-
poses. To hang a murderer, is not a
blow aimed at the manufacture of cutlery.Again, fire is a necessary power in the
service of sciences, industries, arts, and
the home. Without the proper mastery
of the "divine flame," there could be
no advancement beyond savagery. And
yet, fire in the hands of an incendiary
will cause immense loss, and the one
who puts to such a use, to gratify his
thirst for revenge, or in the hope of
being able to rob his fellow men in
the ensuing confusion, is justly pun-
ished severely by the law. But such
punishment does not mean opposition to
the proper use of fire, but to the im-
proper use of a dangerous agency, en-
dowed with the designs of man, either
for good or for evil.It is so with nearly every blessing of
civilization, and the liberty of speech, or
the freedom of the press, is not an ex-
ception. In the hands of good citizens
this liberty is a powerful agency for the
advancement of civilization; but, in
the hands of agitators and character
assassins it becomes an instrument of
destruction, and those who so misuse
it are justly and properly denounced
and punished as incendiaries and homi-
cides. But to oppose the evil deeds of
such persons is not to oppose free
speech.

FOOLISH TALK OF INVASION.

What the real grievance of President
Castro of Venezuela, against our coun-
try, is, is not perfectly clear. He is in
financial straits; evidently, for he re-
fuses to talk with the foreign repre-
sentatives on the subject of his country's
indebtedness. Possibly he has failed to
borrow money here, and get a big rake-
off. Nothing embitters certain individ-
uals against their fellow-beings as
quickly, as their failure to get the best
of them, and it is not impossible that
the acrimony of M. Castro against this
country is in proportion to the size of
the graft he saw slipping from him.Be this as it may; he is actually
contemplating a hostile attack upon, or
an invasion of, the United States, if
rumor has not misrepresented him. Ac-
cording to a dispatch from Willemstad,
Island of Curacao, President Castro's
attitude is reflected in a pamphlet is-
sued by one of his friends and advisers.
In this remarkable literary product the
Venezuelans are urged to "avenge the
insults offered to Venezuela by the
Americans." The author declares that
the invasion of the Mississippi valley
would be the most effective means of
curbing the power of the United States.
The following is given as an extract
from the pamphlet:"Perhaps 30,000 Venezuelans, bearing
the glorious national banner, that very
famous whooping shout illuminated the
waters of La Plata with the splendor
of the Venezuelan fatherland to the
echoes of the clarions of Carabobo, of
Bombara, and of Ayacucho, would to-
day be sufficient to wash away the in-
sult which our glorious flag has received
from North America, in the very wa-
ters of the Mississippi. Cunduncurea
is not more distant from Venezuela
than the hostile land, and the territories
which we have to cross in order to ar-
rive there are almost all of the same
fatherland. Colombia, the first of these,
will readily open its frontiers to give
passage to the sons of Bolivar, as well
as Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico,
the fatherland of Juarez, the feared by
France and by Europe for his formid-
able and terrible patriotism. There can
be no doubt that our Latin brothers
would willingly open the way for the
army of Venezuela, in order that the
sons of Washington should not be al-
lowed to believe themselves more val-
iant and warlike than the sons of Bolivar.
This may seem to many a Utopian
vision, but when we reflect that the
North American squadrons cannot op-
erate in the forests and that traders will
always be traders, inept and cowardly
in feats of heroism, our hearts swell
within us and we are willing to take
our stand in the vanguard, among the
distinguished heroes of the new world
who are called once more to prove that
Venezuela is immortal and is the first
to take up the glove which is thrown
down today to the whole of Spanish
America."The plan of "invasion" is said to be
worked out somewhat in detail. Swoop-
ing down with his avenging host upon
New Orleans, Castro intends to seize
that great artery of the country's life,
the Mississippi, and by marching tri-
umphantly up the valley to cut the
country in two. With the industrial
east cut off from the supplies of the
agricultural west he thinks he can
bring the arrogant power to its knees
and dictate terms of a treaty of peace.Was there a more foolish plan con-
ceived outside of a resort for lunatics?
It is very nearly as idiotic as the plots
laid by certain enemies of the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
to overcome the work of the Almighty,
by an army of 30,000 gigantic falsehoods,
each fearfully arrayed in malice. We
do not believe, however, that the Ven-
ezuelans are seriously contemplating an
invasion of this country. They may
amuse themselves by foolish talk, but
they will stop at talk. And in this they
display more wisdom than do the
enemies of the Church.

March is beginning to assert itself.

Venezuela is, as the boys say, "breed-
ing scabs."The name of Tie Pass should be
changed to Tight Pass.

The battle of Mukden furnished gore

enough to go round with Japanese and
Russians.There is talk of forming a lobster
trust. Never trust a "lobster."According to Dinkelspiel, "Ven some
peoples haf noddings to say, dey talk
like everyding."Linevitch is pursuing Kuropatkin's
tactics in retreating, and Oyama is
pursuing Linevitch.France has sent no warships to Ven-
ezuela. When she does, to her note will
be attached the letters R. S. V. P."The Higher Life of Chicago," is the
title of a recent book. A companion or
sequel to "The Cave Dwellers," likely.That Oakland ten thousand dollar rob-
bery not unlikely will be compensated for
by a little raise in the price of oil.Russia is willing to accept peace with
honor. She had better accept the peace
and not be too exacting about the honor.It is hard to convince the country
members of the Legislature that Gov-
ernor Cutler believes in the good roads
movement."Mr. Sully is still a bull in cotton,"
says an exchange. Judging from his
past record he may prove to be a bull
in a china shop.It seems that the hundred thousand
dollar man has not yet been found.
The salary of the new man is to be
only twenty-five thousand dollars."There is not much in dollars," at-
tirms Andrew Carnegie. "If you don't
become attractive to your fellows." But
having the dollars usually makes a
man unusually attractive.By selecting Mr. Horace G. Burt to
be the head of the Panama canal com-
mission, the President shows a deter-
mination to railroad the construction
of the canal through.Minneapolis claims that the "sole
survivor" of the Custer massacre lives
in that town. There seem to be more
"sole survivors" of that terrible bat-
tle than there were men engaged in it.When he goes hunting in Colorado,
will some ardent admirer of the Presi-
dent tie up a bear for him to shoot as
was done in Mississippi? That was a
kindness the President never appre-
ciated.Dr. H. Wiley talked some common
sense before the Mothers' congress,
where so much nonsense was displayed.
In effect he endeavored to teach that
gathering that people generally are too
easily influenced by the talk of danger
in bacteria and microbes; that in our
efforts to sterilize all food, we are mak-
ing digestion impossible; that cow's
milk, next to mother's milk, is the best
food for infants, but that when it is
pure it should not be sterilized or pas-
teurized. Such truths the American
mothers need to hear. They should
not be influenced by charlatans of any
description.SALT LAKE THEATRE
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