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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 25, 1902.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, in this city, Friday, April 4, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. The general authorities of the church, presidents of stakes and also all engaged in the ministry, who can make it convenient to attend, are cordially invited to be present.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

A conference of the Sunday schools of the Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 6th, at 7 o'clock. Stake and ward officers and teachers are requested to attend and an invitation to be present is cordially extended to the public.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency,
GEO. D. PYPER,
Secretary.

CHANGE OF FAST DAY.

To the Presidents of Stakes:
As our General Conference will be held on the first Sunday in April, the general fast day, the Presidents of Stakes are hereby authorized to appoint the fast day on the last Sunday of this month, where such a change will accommodate conference visitors.

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

THE COUNCIL SHOULD ACT.

It is to be hoped that the City Council will take immediate action on the request of many citizens and tax-payers, to open and improve the head of State street, so as to make direct connection with City Creek canyon. If the committee on streets and other members of the Council would make a tour of inspection on the route through Canyon Road, and then look at the proposition to cover over the creek and make the improvements suggested, we think there would be no hesitation in regard to the project. The people residing in the neighborhood are willing to extend financial aid, the board of education is also interested in the matter, and the cost to the city would be trifling compared with the great advantages that would accrue, both in the facilities it would afford for entering the canyon and the beautifying and adorning of the spot, which would add greatly to the city's attractions. The benefits would not be merely local, although the residents near by are willing to meet a considerable portion of the expense, but the advantages would be extended to everybody traveling to and from the canyon. The narrow, crooked, muddy pathway denominated Canyon Road, ought not to be the main thoroughfare to that pleasant drive in the summer time, and it is almost impossible for vehicles in the winter and spring. The City Council will confer a boon to all who visit that pretty outlet for business or for pleasure, as well as to the inhabitants of the locality mentioned, by acceding to the petition and proceeding to make the needed improvements without unnecessary delay.

COME WITHIN THE LAW!

The arrests of liquor dealers who violated the law on Sunday last, indicates the manner in which the city ordinance and state statute on this subject are flagrantly defied. That there are other saloonkeepers who sell intoxicants on Sundays is known to a large number of our citizens, most of whom do not patronize those resorts. Men and boys are seen going in and coming out of those places, in some instances without apparent attempt at concealment, either on the part of the dealers or the purchasers of intoxicating drinks.

We believe that, with their limited number, the police are doing what they can to execute the law in this particular. They should not be expected to work impossibilities. However, the public require that they will continue their efforts to suppress the evil. It is gratifying to see that Judge Diehl is backing up the police department, and that the violators of the law gain no sympathy from him. He is justified and will be sustained by the public in the infliction of suitable fines, even if he has to raise the present limit to a much higher figure. There is no need of excuse for the saloonkeepers who thus persist in their lawless conduct, in direct opposition to the sentiment of the great majority of

our citizens and also to long established statutory provisions.

Notwithstanding the pledges that were made by both political parties just previous to the last municipal election, it is evident that the saloonkeepers expect the sympathy of officials, who ought to be diligent and determined in the execution of the city ordinances. The tacit encouragement they claim to receive, or the wink at the law which seems to be indulged in, is noted by the law-abiding lookers on, and does not reflect much credit on the responsible parties. There is no mistaking the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants of Salt Lake City. They want the Sunday liquor traffic stopped. It can be put down if proper diligence is exercised, and the Deseret News, in making this statement, only voices the opinion of the great body of the people.

It was argued before the expression of the public mind was made in such unmistakable terms, that the closing of saloons on Sundays would mean more drunkenness and disturbance of the peace than if those places were permitted to remain open. The absurdity of such reasoning made food for laughter, and the spectacle of drunken men reeling from those resorts last Sunday, was a sufficient answer to the nonsense uttered by the supporters of the Sunday saloon.

We are glad to see that the Ogden city authorities are active in the suppression of the evil complained of. They are doing good work, and will be supported in it by the best people of the Junction city of all creeds and parties.

Why cannot the liquor-dealers and beer-sellers of this city get together, and by mutual agreement stop the Sunday traffic which is obnoxious to the greater portion of the people of Salt Lake? There is no attempt to prohibit their business altogether. They are licensed to carry it on, and thus it is made as legitimate as any other traffic protected by the law. Why should they not come within the lines, like other merchants and store-keepers who close their premises on Sunday, and give their employees a day of rest? We strongly advise them to take this step, and thus remove the stigma that now rests upon them as law defiers and public enemies? They have six days out of the seven in which to ply their trade. Let them be satisfied with that, and they will save themselves from much trouble and from probable prohibitive measures, that may be undertaken by extremists unless they conform to law and public sentiment.

JAMES S. BROWN.

Many thousands of the people of this State will feel sad at heart when they learn of the demise of Patriarch James S. Brown, particulars of which will be found in this issue of the News. He has figured so prominently in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that his name is known wherever this work has been carried forward. As one of the ever famous Mormon Battalion; among the first discoverers of gold in California; as a missionary to the South Sea Islands, where he passed through numerous hardships and hairbreadth escapes; as a worker among the Indians; as a traveling Elder abroad and a preacher at home; as an active laborer in the latter-day dispensation, he has filled up a useful life and has gone to his rest with honor. The principal incidents in his remarkable career are graphically narrated in the book of his life which he published a few years ago, and which is of thrilling and intense interest. He has finished his work and left behind him a numerous posterity who will cherish his memory, and we hope will emulate his virtues.

A WAR ABOUT MEAT.

The announcement that the German government has, practically, prohibited the importation of American meat comes rather unexpectedly, so close upon the demonstrations of mutual goodwill that have been witnessed lately. The decree was issued shortly after Prince Henry left Germany for this country and will take effect on the first day of October. It takes the form of a prohibition to meat packers against borax and boric acid for the preservation of meat, and the importation of meat so treated.

Col. John F. Hobbs, an authority on the provision trade, says in the New York Evening Post, that the prohibition will mean a loss to this country of millions of dollars annually. The substances mentioned, he declares, have been proved harmless. The government might therefore just as well have said that no meat shipped in refrigerators shall be admitted, but only such as is shipped uncovered on the open upper deck. The result would, of course, be that it would arrive in an unmarketable condition. Germany, Col. Hobbs thinks, is in mortal fear of the domination of America in the world's commerce, and the step has been taken to protect German agrarians against American competition in this line.

Germany's position on the meat question explains the order of Secretary Wilson, by which the chemist of the department of agriculture has been instructed to prepare a list of all imported articles of food supposed to be prepared with an admixture of boric acid or other preservative acids, in order that they may be excluded. It is believed this will hit certain kinds of sausage. The secretary explains that boric acid has not been considered injurious, but if European governments declare articles of food treated by such acid to be injurious, and bar them from importation, this government will have to follow with similar action.

And thus Prince Henry has no sooner reached home than a commercial war between the two countries that were to clasp hands in friendship across the deep, breaks out—a war in which meat and sausages are the issue.

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ALASKA.

Mr. C. C. Georgeson, special agent of the United States department of agriculture in charge of Alaska investigations, in an interesting article in the National Geographic Magazine for March deals with the possibilities of Alaska. He says that country is very much misunderstood, and that it

will yet become a great and powerful state. This will be when the agricultural resources of the country are developed, as they can be.

He illustrates the possibilities of Alaska, by reminding his readers of what has been accomplished in Finland. This country is situated at about the same latitude. It is only one-fourth of the size of Alaska, and its agricultural area is but about 50,000 square miles. Yet it has a population of over 2,000,000 souls, and agriculture is the main industry. They export dairy products, live stock, flax and grain.

The conditions in Alaska, he says, are more favorable to agriculture than those of Finland. The agricultural area is much larger, and the summers are warmer. Mining and fishing will engage thousands of laborers who will need the agricultural products and furnish a home market for the farmers. There are thousands of square miles of cool banks and enormous shallow grounds, while myriads of shoals of herring go by unheeded.

With such, and other resources, why is not Alaska settled? Mr. Georgeson points out that at present settlers cannot obtain titles to land without difficulty. Under the present regulations the land will cost settlers as much per acre as improved land can be bought for in almost any state. He advocates that land in large tracts be given absolutely free to bona fide settlers, to commence with. He thinks that pioneers there are entitled to special considerations, on account of the expenses connected with going there with sufficient equipment for farming work.

The idea should be worth while considering. Investments made for the purpose of building up the country are well placed. In the east it has recently been argued that a detriment to the agricultural interests of the Atlantic coast states. But perhaps Alaska is so far west as not to injure eastern interests, even if its vast arable lands were placed within the reach of home builders. Why would it not be well to act on the suggestion once made, and open that country to the thousands of Finlanders who are dissatisfied with the paternal government, under which they are now chafing at a requiem at the grave of the last vestige of national independence? The right class of Finlanders would be as desirable a class of settlers in the northern territory as could be obtained anywhere. They are strong, moral, patriotic and well educated. The only trouble is that Russia would not be willing to let them go. Otherwise, the eternal fitness of things would be illustrated again, if a former Russian possession were set apart by the United States as an asylum for subjects of Russia, driven away from the old domain by unbearable oppression. They would in Alaska find some recompense for what they have lost in Finland.

THE ARMY OF TRAMPS.

A writer in the Independent estimates that there are at present about fifty thousand tramps roving the country, subsisting on what they can obtain by begging or stealing. Some years ago it was a common argument that the "hard times" drove honest workmen into the ranks of the tramps, but it appears that the tramps are increasing in number regardless of the opportunities of earning an honest living.

It is not easy to understand how reliable statistics on such a subject can be obtained, but it is explained that they are based partly upon information from lodging houses, and partly upon figures furnished by the tramps themselves. In 1870, there were at a rough guess, 641 tramps in Massachusetts, and 26.5 times as many, or 16,991, in the United States. In 1870, it is said the number increased to 1,650 in Massachusetts and 46,376 in the United States—an increase of 172.94 per cent, while the increase in population was only 30.68 per cent, or not much more than a sixth as great.

Since 1880 the number is said to have fluctuated, reaching in 1889 the total of 16,896, which is a gain of 253.4, nearly four times the gain of the total population. If this increase is going to keep up, it cannot be long before the tramp question will become one of moment to this country. For not only is it an anomaly that the industrious people should support an able bodied army of idlers, but it is evident that much of the crime that is rampant is bred and fostered within the ranks of that element. An army of tramps is a menace to the public.

RUSSIAN DISTURBANCES.

It looks as if those who hold Russian government in their hands, would be brought to the necessity of making some concessions to the public demand for liberty, or risk a revolution. Shouts of "Free Russia" and "Down with autocracy" are being raised even in the streets of St. Petersburg, and that shows a great deal of determination in a country where the discussion of politics is generally carried on in dark corners and in whispers.

The demand of the agitators now is that the administration be in some measure subjected to popular control by means of a legislature. The spirit of freedom has taken possession of the people. They are not satisfied with the autocracy of which Russia still furnishes a singular example in the midst of constitutional monarchies and republics.

The university students seem to be the leaders of the movement. This is natural. Demands for civil liberty come from the educated classes, who know the history of the world and are capable of following the development of events around them. It was from the universities that the agitation sprang which resulted in the emancipation of the serfs, and whatever progress there is to be, will come from the centers of education. Knowledge and autocracy do not go together. As the former expands, the latter must give way. The probability is that the present agitation will continue, until it breaks out in open rebellion, unless it is dealt with in the spirit of liberality.

The present czar should be willing to

listen to the reasonable demands of his best subjects. A ruler who is in record in favor of disarmament and arbitration among nations, should be willing to trust the people with some share in the government of which he is the head. Russia can never be truly great until the people are free.

It is a favorable symptom of the present agitation, that the demand for religious freedom is heard as perhaps never before. Over a year ago a prominent Russian, at a congress at Orei, boldly spoke in favor of liberty of conscience, and an orthodox clergyman spoke in the same vein. He said:

"Is it not depressing for our entire country, and for our orthodoxy, that we who enjoy the immense conquests of science, participate in the cultured life of the entire world, and form one family with the nations of Europe, up to now can not desert from the custom of persecuting those people who do not think, believe, and confess their faith as we do? . . . Man is a free, rational being, created after the image of God." Thus the first declaration made in any of our catechisms of the elementary instruction in the orthodox doctrine. But if this be so, if a man is indeed a free, intellectual being, then give him the possibility to choose his belief."

A free government can be built safely on religious freedom as a foundation.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has an eye single to his own interests. At least he wears a monocle.

"The man on horseback in the White House" seems to be Henry Watterson's hobby horse.

Whenever Napoleon wanted to bring the Directory around he threatened to resign, and it always worked. But times have changed since Napoleon's days and America isn't France.

The great Louisville editor describes Mr. Roosevelt as a dictator. The country is full of them. Every man who employs a stenographer and typewriter is a dictator.

General Miles has received his testimony before the Senate military committee, and is engaged in revising it. Revisions, like second thoughts, are best.

President Roosevelt has retained a sparring partner to give him lessons in the many art. He is preparing to solve the problem, "What shall we do with our ex-presidents?"

An armistice has been declared between the Boers and British. It should lead to definite peace proposals, but if England insists upon "unconditional surrender" there will be no peace yet a while.

Hon. W. J. Bryan has just celebrated his forty-second birthday by moving to his farm. There he will reside in his barn until his house is finished. Though he live in a barn yet does he not consider himself out in the cold.

A New York man recently sold his daughter for fifty dollars and was sentenced to prison for fifteen years and to pay a thousand dollars. Had he bought a European nobleman for his daughter society would have received him with open arms.

Henry Watterson has constituted himself a national danger signal post to warn Americans against themselves. There is no need of any such signal, but as it pleases Henry, and doesn't worry the people, no one objects to the indulgence of so harmless a mania.

The three Cuban postal thieves—Neely, Reeves and Rathbone—were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment each in addition to the imposition of very heavy fines. Their punishment will meet with the hearty approval of the people, for they not only betrayed their trust in a most shameful manner, but they also brought reproach and dishonor upon the American government. It is to be hoped that they will not have their terms shortened through pardon.

According to a special from Denver to the Boston Transcript, a movement is on foot among the Colorado politicians to secure a constitutional amendment abolishing equal suffrage. When politicians of all parties unite to accomplish any object they can do much and very often succeed. Every believer in equal suffrage is interested in its maintenance wherever it is established. An assault upon it in one place is a threat against it in every other. Let the friends of equal suffrage everywhere watch this Colorado movement and see to it that it comes to naught.

Says Gamaliel Bradford: "The first guns have been fired in the debate in the United States senate upon a change of the constitution providing for the election of members of that body by popular vote. On this question I shall have to stand in line with Senator Hoar in opposition. I believe it would be a long step—none the less dangerous because insidious, even though perhaps unconscious—towards the overthrow of this republic and the establishment of a centralized empire." All right. Let the distinguished gentlemen stand aside and watch the procession go by.

CUBAN TARIFF QUESTION.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The Cuban reciprocity scheme which received the approval of the Republican caucus is so conservative, that the most timorous of beet raisers and the most jealous guardians of American labor should look upon it with equanimity. It would protect American producers who come into competition with the Cubans by a tariff equal to 50 per cent of the Dingley rates, which are high enough on all things to leave a margin for reductions. It proposes, moreover, that the reciprocity treaty shall be operative until Dec. 1, 1903, only, and that it shall contain a provision for the adoption of our tariff laws by the Cubans with the special object of excluding the Chinese.

New York World.

The proposition may not be carried out—the Senate has yet to pass upon it. If enacted there are some things it will do and some it will not do. It will enable "statesmen" to boast of their "magnanimity" but it will not save the Cuban planter. Gen. Wood and President Palma say that a 10 per cent cut, promptly made, is the least that will avert his ruin.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

If the minority persevere in opposition to the bill and maintain their present strength the balance of power

will rest with the Democrats. But they are not likely to defeat its passage after a fruitless effort to increase the percentage of tariff reduction. The question of importance is what the Republican dissenters will do with regard to a rule shutting off amendments. The Democrats will oppose such a rule, and with the aid of the Republican dissenters might be able to defeat it. That would open the door to all sorts of tariff amendment proposals, including the always threatening flabcock steel schedule amendment, and the Republican opponents of the Cuban reciprocity bill have as much to fear from such an opening of the doors as from the other faction.

Springfield Republican.

At least 52 Republican members of the House are in an agreement to resist all measures of reducing the tariff on Cuban products. They will agree to a plan of rebating duties back to Cuban planters, but to no other plan presented. The House majority accordingly falls into a deadlock over this matter, which at present gives no sign of dissolution. No satisfactory measure of Cuban reciprocity can now pass the House without Democratic aid. So much seems to be evident from the situation at Washington, as left the other day by the Republican conference. These men are quite ready to put a rope around the neck of independent Cuba, as in the Platt amendments and contrary to the national pledge, but they are not ready to carry out the promises made to induce Cuba to accept the rope. It is shameful.

Boston Herald.

The Cuban tariff issue has hardly assumed the form of a practical measure of relief to Cuban industry as it appears in the House bill. As a matter of principle and of the nominal vindication of our national honor in the support of the United States to that article. We base this opinion on the testimony of Gov. Gen. Wood and others who have investigated this subject on the spot of the sugar production. The entering wedge of tariff reduction is inserted when any percentage is taken off of Cuban duties. The outside of prejudice is penetrated, and the way is opened for further changes in a liberal direction.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The exact amount of protection which was necessary for our sugar and tobacco interests, and equitable as between them and other American industries, was determined in the open upon the floor of Congress and duly enacted into law. In 1886 and again in 1890 the Republican party explicitly declared that the "reciprocity" favored by it was that which granted concessions on products which we do not ourselves produce. If, now, a majority of the party in Congress, whether at the dictation of the President or of the sugar trust, shall repudiate these pledges and attempt to break up the compromise embodied in the tariff of 1887, responsibility for the inevitable disaster will rest upon the heads of the persons who shall prove recreant to their duty and false to their promises.

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