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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 24, 1908.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-ninth semi-annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1908, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members of the Church is hereby requested.

On account of the general conference being held on the first Sunday of October, it is suggested that the last Sunday in September be observed as fast day in the Salt Lake, Ensign, Liberty, Pioneer, Granite and Jordan stakes.

The general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday, Oct. 5, at 7 o'clock p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held at the Tabernacle Sunday evening, Oct. 4, at 7 o'clock. Sunday school officers and teachers are especially requested to attend and the public cordially invited.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
DAVID O. MCKAY,
General Superintendency.

A FALSE DOCTRINE.

The doctrine that it is contrary to the spirit of the American government for a man who holds an ecclesiastical office to serve the state in a responsible official position, cannot be defended successfully. If there is any characteristic feature of the American government, more prominent than all others, it is this: that it recognizes the perfect equality before the law of all its citizens. There is nothing in the Constitution of the United States, nor of any State constitution, that can be construed as aiming at the disfranchisement of any American citizen because of any ecclesiastical position he may hold. The effort at reading into the Constitution a spirit that is not there, and was never intended to be there, is un-American. Were it successful, it would be dangerous. For the reasoning by which it is sought to be justified would lead, logically, to the complete disfranchisement of an entire class of the best citizens. Those who would deny their right to serve the people in a public office would also deny their right to vote, or to exercise any influence whatever upon public affairs. The doctrine of disfranchisement cannot be defended.

We venture the assertion without fear of successful contradiction, that the spirit and genius of the American government demands that all good citizens take an interest in public affairs and that they serve the people to the best of their ability, in any position for which they are qualified and to which they are elected. Who shall be responsible for the government of the state, if not the God-fearing, educated, unselfish citizens? And these are very generally found engaged in ecclesiastical work of one nature or another. Must they therefore be excluded from the responsibilities of citizenship? Far from it. Rather let the men of great ability, the men to whom much has been given of wealth and learning and opportunity, devote to the public affairs the same earnestness, the same devotion, the same intelligence which characterizes them in other fields, and the results will be good. Were the men and women who are filled with a desire to serve God more frequently entrusted with the administration of public affairs, there would be less opportunity for the forces of evil to enthrone corruption, graft, and immorality. To achieve that end is, we take it, the spirit and genius of American government.

The evident present-day effort at excluding God from the affairs of the state is not to be passed over with indifference. It resulted in the reign of terror in France, though Reason was professedly everywhere in the sanctuary. And that, we fear, will be the consequence everywhere where such an effort is crowned with success. Governments are instituted by God for the benefit of man. The State is an institution existing by divine sanction, just as is the family, or the church. Each has its own sphere, its own mission, for the education of man and his preparation for eternal exaltation. A Godless state is a deplorable institution just as a Godless family, or a Godless church would be. We claim that in the ideal state the chief executive, the legislator, the judge, and all other officers recognize their responsibility to God for the manner in which they perform their duties, and that government will never be what it ought to be until those who govern acknowledge their duty to serve God.

A NON PARTISAN JUDICIARY.

The suggestion made in certain local circles for a non-partisan judiciary, seems to be a good one.

It is not unusual in State elections elsewhere for political parties to bury

party questions when the election of judges to the superior courts is an issue.

In such cases we have had several successful examples, notably in New York State, which is famed for the excellence of its court decisions, of all parties uniting on candidates for the bench when the latter possess the necessary qualifications.

It is far better for the community, and for the candidate himself, in any case, but especially in the case of high judicial office, for the person elected to feel that he has been the choice of the entire electorate rather than that he has been the winner in a contest between parties. For judicial office is not partisan. The administration of the law, as such, is not an issue upon which parties differ. Such an issue does sometimes arise, but it is rare, and is not now in evidence. All parties and all good citizens favor the impartial administration of justice. The judge chosen to preside at the bench is not elected to that position in order to carry out party policies. The latter duty devolves upon legislators. It is upon the choice of law-makers that the political parties actually differ. On their election parties differ. As to the judiciary, it is "good politics" for all electors to vote for good, capable men, that can be trusted in one of the most responsible positions in the State.

CHILDREN AND FLOWERS.

The pretty floral parade witnessed on Tuesday in this city not only reflects credit on the management and participants, but has a meaning far beyond the outward expression of bright flowers and happy faces that constituted the main features of the line of march.

It was a dainty spectacle of beauty and innocence—of children and flowers, of humanity and nature in their sweetest aspect and most artless form of expression. Such a parade, inspiring only smiles and unselfish interest on the part of the beholder, and tending to cultivate endurance, steadiness, and self-possession on the part of its youthful participants—where shall we find anything more attractive, more simply beautiful, than the radiant faces and the artistic floral wreaths that greeted our eyes during this charming demonstration?

The ardor of the children was a noticeable feature. They forgot how hard their task really was, and gave themselves wholly to the enjoyment of the supreme hour of carrying their bright-hued blossoms and of representing before their parents and friends some of the results of their past training for this week's festivals. The workers, who had spent so many hours of careful labor in preparing the children and the flowers for this display, must have experienced a sense of the reality of compensation for work done, as they witnessed how much satisfaction was given to others as a result of their own arduous toil.

As for the beholders, as they looked upon the manifold representation of the spontaneous tendencies of youth, "When every maid, with native art, Wears on her breast, like her own heart, A bud whose depths are all perfume," they must have noted that here was a procession devoid of commercialism and due primarily to the necessity for giving direction to the free wishes and the resistless energies of children.

The good accomplished by the training of a thousand boys and girls to sing, walk, dance, and carry in their hands these significant emblems of beauty, is beyond estimation. Civilization is at bottom, simply the love of the good, the beautiful and the true; and whoever contributes in a broad way to the cultivation of these sentiments among the people, is a public benefactor. Though fine names are not usually applied to the qualifications of a people who thus strive for the refinement of development of their children, yet the creators of such displays are to be congratulated upon having accomplished much that cannot be weighed and estimated, much less computed in terms of money value.

A TRIBUNE ECHO.

The Boston Traveler of Sept. 15 has an unusually vicious attack upon the Latter-day Saints, showing, however, so much ignorance as to elicit pity, almost, for the creature who penned it. The sheet says that a hundred "assisted" "Mormons" are expected to arrive in Boston, though the theory of "assisted" immigration was only recently exploded after a most searching investigation. The fact that they are "assisted," the Traveler says, was acknowledged by Senator Smoot, which, all know, is a falsehood pure and simple. And then the paper quoted turns loose:

"The claim made by the Mormon authorities that they have abandoned polygamy is farcical. Polygamy is not only practiced openly, but the Mormon Church protects these violators of the law and helps them to cover up their transgressions."

"The danger of Mormonism is that the Church claims absolutely to be the Kingdom of God set up on earth. All governments except its own being illegal and spurious, any law passed by the United States can properly be evaded by any subterfuge. This makes the problem not a religious but a civil one, dealing with an oath-bound despotic organization which gives its priesthood the right to make the laws, appoint kings and presidents, governors and judges, and declares all other governments illegal and unauthorized, and therefore the laws of the United States of no effect or consequence."

"The government at Washington is responsible for Mormon polygamy since the time of President Fillmore, who appointed Brigham Young governor of the territory. This protection of these law-breakers has been continued ever since."

We quote these fragments of the article, just to give our readers an idea of the almost inconceivable malice that seems to take possession of some writers as soon as they seize the pen to wield it against the people here.

There is not a charge made in the above that is not without foundation in fact. And the libelous attack upon the government at Washington is of such a nature that it ought to receive the attention of the courts.

Our contention is that the kind of

advertising contained in the editorial quoted is doing Utah infinite harm. It represents the State as suffering in the grasp of a law-defying, disloyal majority. It represents Utah as a black spot on the map, a place to be shunned as a plague spot.

But the Boston Traveler is less to blame than the Salt Lake Tribune that sends out such unspeakable falsehoods every day for the benefit of the ignorant press in the east. There is where the responsibility rests, and the sooner the conservative business men of Utah learn to appreciate the fact that the falsehoods of that sheet are costing the State millions of dollars through the loss of settlers and investment, the better for all concerned. The Salt Lake Call the other day said:

"The commercial organizations of Salt Lake are justly up in arms over the reported bitter attack made on Utah by Rev. Short while speaking in an eastern pulpit. Very well. If he said what is credited to him he deserves the loudest condemnation. But look here. Why don't these commercial organizations have the courage to call down the rattlesnake that hisses right around them? If all the organizations would take one manly stand against the meanest gang that ever operated in a civilized country, . . . the old Tribune would be down and out. But they haven't the courage just yet."

We fully agree with the Call. And so do a great number of citizens of all parties.

"Come into the garden, Maud," not into the University halls.

Sometimes, not often, it is in vain that the office seeks the man.

The political pot boils and the plot thickens. On with the dance!

"Hot air" is generally the chief product of a "whirlwind campaign."

Here is an anomaly. Beef is cheaper than pork yet the Beef trust is a bog.

Orville Wright will soon be all right. Then may the flight of the eagle be his.

Mr. Taft is not "standing pat." He is moving around the country at a very lively rate.

And this is the forecast that the weather bureau made for today: "Thursday, fair!"

Not only is the love of money the root of all evil but the root is that of a perennial plant.

There is an accounting for tastes in high priced restaurants. And the account is always large.

It will take an Ignatius Donnelly with the key to a Baconian cipher to tell who the real Haskell is.

"Men do not choose their part in life," says Woodrow Wilson of Princeton university. No; only their partners.

As a stirrer-up of hornets' nests William Randolph Hearst must be acknowledged to be a most pronounced success.

The rest from campaign oratory is due largely to lack of funds by all parties. Herein the managers' loss is the people's gain.

About the only way a man can profit by dearly-bought experience is to dole it out in small parcels as wise saws and modern instances.

"Criticism is the friend of success," says a Chicago philosopher. Not always. Sometimes it is the gratification of a grudge.

Ex-Attorney-General Monnett says that all the evidence he has against Governor Haskell is hearsay. That is about the only kind used in a political campaign.

Lord Alfred Douglas, in the London Academy, thus characterizes the American people: "We always knew of the insolent aggressiveness, the insufferable vulgarity of the ill-bred and underbred citizens of that mixed medley of races—white, black, yellow and red—inhabiting what they call 'the States.' The ancient nations of Europe, suffering under the cruel infliction of annual 'invasions' of these unspeakable persons, have become by now quite used to their frightful outrages upon the established decencies of civilization, their brutal bumptiousness, their everlasting loud-tongued parade of their precious selves, their bragging complacency, their effusive effrontery." That is a false, libelous characterization of Americans, and is no true representation of them; nor do we believe that Lord Douglas represents either the sentiments of the English people or of the English aristocracy.

UNASSAILABLE PROSPERITY.

New York Tribune.
The harvests of 1908 will be well up to the average of the last ten years, and the high prices prevailing will give the farmer a fuller return than usual. The prosperity of the agricultural classes, scarcely affected by last fall's panic, continues unabated and unassailable.

TRY THE BETTER WAY.

Washington Herald.
The next time you find yourself inclined to abuse the telephone girl, just pull down the little lever to the left of the transmitter, and hold it down until you have finished. It will relieve your mind quite as well, and won't hurt anybody's feelings.

THE OLD SPIRIT.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
At the Playgrounds congress Gov. Hughes said: "The successful worker must have the spirit of play in his heart, and the successful man is only a boy with a man's experience." The governor has lately shown a range of expression that makes him one of the most interesting speakers of the year.

A FEARFUL WASTE.

St. Louis Times.
The scourge of forest fires is making its annual visitation in Maine. The wooded regions on the Northern Pacific slope have been swept by fire. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have suffered enormous losses. Forest fires have crossed the entire northern tier of states. Actual losses cannot be stated, but a conservative estimate of the destruction, without figuring the loss of future development prevented, reaches a sum that would provide the nation with a navy of first class battleships. Absolute prevention of forest fires is impossible. But some measures could

be taken to lessen the possibility of fire. There is no reason why a railroad should be allowed to run a spark-spouting locomotive through a forest, when equipment is available which will practically eliminate the danger. There is no reason why persons enjoying the privileges of camping, fishing or hunting should be permitted to build fires at will or throw matches about with no regard or responsibility for the consequences of their act. There is also the preventive agency of the fire patrol. This branch of the federal forest service costs approximately \$30,000 a year. But it protects 165,000 acres of forests and every year prevents damage many times the amount of its salary roll. Similar preventive effort by the states and the enactment and enforcement of competent forestry laws are demanded to check the annual waste.

JUST FOR FUN.

Rufon Wratz—I dreamt last night I wuz John D. Rockefeller.
Raymold Storey—I told yu I could smell kerosene on that cheese you wuz eatin' yist-day—Chicago Tribune.

"I wonder why Indians, who are so notoriously treacherous, choose a pipe as a sign of peace?"
"Possibly because they know their pledges are apt to go up in smoke."—Baltimore American.

Popleigh—Our baby is cutting teeth. Singleton—So? Is the little fellow having much trouble?
Popleigh—Oh, no; his mother and myself are having all the trouble.—Chicago News.

"Some of the greatest minds in the country are now at work on the problem of improving farm conditions."
"Yes," answered Farmer Corbessell; "that's one trouble 'bout farmin'. Too many of us want to be workin' our minds 'stid of workin' our land."—Washington Star.

Collector—This bill has been running twenty-five years.
Scrages—What bill?
Collector—The one in my hand, of course.
Scrages—Thanks. I thought maybe you meant the one on your coat. I see that you are wearing a campaign button.—Puck.

"My dear," said he, "it's almost impossible to lease a house for a shorter term than one year nowadays, so to protect myself I must ask you"—
"Ask what, George?" inquired the bride-to-be.
"To agree not to seek a divorce until the expiration of the first year's lease."—Catholic Standard and Times.

"So you have determined upon a public career," said Senator Sorghum.
"Yes," answered the confident youth. "Which shall I seek, riches or fame?"
"Be thankful. If you're rich you can hire people to write articles about you, and if you're famous you can write 'em yourself and sell 'em."—Washington Star.

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The play of the century.
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Matinee—10c, 25c, 50c; Box Seats 75c.

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Bargain Matinees, Wed. & Sat.
A new Dramatization of the Military Drama.
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Also some entirely new vaudeville features.
Afternoon, 2:30 to 4:30—10c; Evening, 7:30 to 11—10c and 20c. Children half price.

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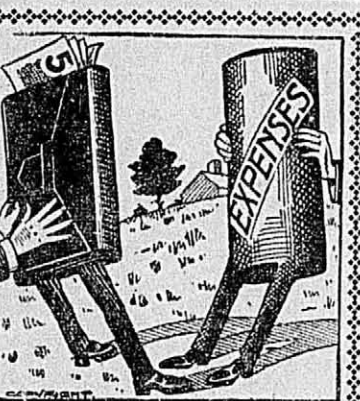
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