

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m. Wednesday, April 6th, 1898. All officers and members of the Church are invited to be present.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

Seventies' Conference, in Assembly Hall, Friday evening, April 8th.

General Priesthood meeting, in Tabernacle, Saturday, April 9th, at 10 a. m.

Deseret Sunday School Union meeting, in Tabernacle, Sunday, April 10th, at 7 p. m.

LET HAWAII COME.

The report made by Mr. Cluff upon his investigations in Hawaii, previously spoken of in these columns, is a matter of the utmost importance. There has been a quiet but steadily growing desire among the people of this country, especially those of the western part of it, for the annexation of the islands. This has been met by a hostile sentiment which, while it has hardly grown, has not fallen off much by reason of constant cultivation. The arguments on either side have presented many good and some bad features, and as a result the proposition has remained all this time in abeyance, awaiting some development of a decisive character one way or another, and it seems now as if the thing wanted had arrived.

Recently Senator Frank J. Cannon paid a somewhat comprehensive visit to the orient, and gave a portion of his attention, while absent to the Sandwich Islands. Necessarily within the brief time at his disposal, having completed his journey proper, he was unable to reach conclusions altogether satisfactory to himself or presenting such phases as would justify him in placing them before the public. His impressions were understood to be somewhat against the annexation scheme because of the apparently non-assimilating characteristics of the natives and a consequent belief that they would of themselves not incline largely to American institutions. This, however, as previously suggested, had not been fully shown, and to set the matter entirely at rest the Senator decided upon the thoroughly practical plan formerly published, which was to send some one who knew the language and peculiarities of the natives as well as having a personal acquaintance with many of them, and to that end he secured the services of Benjamin Cluff Jr., principal of the B. Y. Academy, all of which together with the nature of his report are now familiar subjects with most of the readers of the "News."

It would be the height of perverseness for any of those who have arrayed themselves against annexation to continue in that attitude, after a careful consideration of Mr. Cluff's findings. Unquestionably his inquiries were carried on principally among

that class which more readily than the others could comprehend the nature and full meaning of his mission; and the fact—which must be a startling and an awakening one to many of such opponents—that half of that class favor a union with this country and a still larger proportion are against the continuance of the present rule—ought to be a quietus to the policy of exclusion. The argument upon which these have largely relied, that the movement was chiefly in the interest of sugar producers, never did have much force, since the difference as to their status could not be changed very much because of the islands becoming a territorial dependency of the United States; while the other and greater objection, that there was an adverse sentiment on the part of the overwhelming majority of the native population, who were not at all consulted in the formation of the provisional government and its successor, has been fairly set aside by the work accomplished by Mr. Cluff. It is now the policy of good statesmanship and in the line of our national interest and prestige to open wide the door of the Republic and bid Hawaii enter and be cordially welcomed.

BISHOP ELIAS MORRIS.

Upon the whole commonwealth of Utah, and especially upon this city, the death of Bishop Elias Morris falls as a grievous calamity. In the circle of our financiers and philanthropists it makes a great break which must long remain unsupplied, for where is the man who can fill the place of Elias Morris? He was a man of great ability and resource, while his philanthropy was a proverb. Was there a scheme on foot to benefit the people? He was one of the leaders in it. Was there a struggling enterprise that promised to develop a home resource, or furnish employment for home labor? "Go to Elias Morris, he will take stock in it and give it the benefit of his advice and influence," was the encouraging assurance. Was there a poor man out of work, with a large and suffering family? "Go to Elias Morris, he will give you something to do," is what the poor man heard.

Aside from large corporate enterprises, probably not a man has operated in this State during the past two decades who has furnished more employment to poor men than has Elias Morris. Probably not another could be named who has been more prominently identified with the development of home resources and the establishment of home enterprises than has he. He was a man of tireless energy, unceasing industry, unbounded sympathy and incorruptible integrity, and he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all classes of the community. Men who differed with him in respect to religion and politics did not hesitate to acknowledge his high merits as a man and a citizen. To any community such a member as he is ever worth a thousand of those who by their "wits" or their wealth seek profit out of other people's distresses, ignorance or cupidity.

As a Latter-day Saint, the life of Elias Morris was the practical application and living elucidation of the principles he professed. The members of the Fifteenth ward, over which he presided as Bishop, weep at the news of his death as they would at being told that their own father was dead; and like brethren of the flesh will his associates in the Priesthood mourn his departure. He lived by a standard

of righteousness that was revealed from heaven, and he died with the absolute assurance that his works were pleasing unto God, and entitled him to a resurrection with the just.

THE LABOR EXCHANGE.

In another column appears an article contributed to the "News" by Mr. E. Peterson of Independence, Mo., under the heading, "How to Build Canals." We commend it to the thoughtful consideration of such of our readers as may be interested, now or prospectively, in such an enterprise. There is a good deal of horse sense in the article. That the plan it suggests for building a canal is thoroughly practicable has been demonstrated many a time in Utah, where there are hundreds of miles of canals that were originally built substantially by Mr. Peterson's method, though there have been variations from its details.

Recent years have developed a number of instances in which canals, built with borrowed money, or by investment companies, which is pretty much the same thing, illustrate the evil of depending upon the money power instead of utilizing the labor of the land owners, in providing water for irrigation; and such cases are object lessons which abundantly prove the points so well stated by Mr. Peterson relating to this phase of the subject. The community of farmers who depend upon capital instead of their own labor and resources, to furnish water for their farms, generally have to endure an onerous bondage. Accompanying Mr. Peterson's article is a letter to the editor of the "News" which reads as follows:

"I enclose an article for the 'News,' if appropriate. It is in line with the article in your paper of the 8th inst. headed, 'Home Enterprises Wanted.' The labor exchange plan solves the problem, and restores a system so wonderfully successful in Utah before the bond-fiend had invaded your fair State. I am in no way financially interested in the Labor Exchange, and the founder is laboring solely in the interests of humanity, so you need not fear I am seeking any free advertising by asking you to present the exchange checks. There are hundreds of exchanges all over the country, and they are flourishing, and prosperity is smiling upon them. And they absolutely do business without a cent of legal tender money.

"Nowhere on earth could this system be of so much value as in a place like your State, where there is some degree of union and harmony, so scarce in the other parts of the world. You are in a position to do your State more good by introducing this system there, than if you succeeded in opening the most valuable gold mines, or secured millions of eastern capital at 2 per cent interest. I understand that persons advocating this method of prosperity will call down upon themselves the hatred of capital, but the end of the rule of capital is evidently approaching, and all the powers of man cannot prevent its utter destruction. Then why not begin now the plan of industrial emancipation, so much desired by the producers of wealth all over the world? Hoping you will do something towards the introduction of this great reform, I remain
Yours truly,

"E. PETERSON."

Also accompanying the article are two samples of the "checks" or currency issued for circulation by the branches of the Labor Exchange. One is a sort of certificate of deposit, neatly lithographed and bearing the following wording, artistically arranged: "The Capitalization of Labor—The Labor Ex-