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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 8, 1909.

ANNUAL Y. M. AND Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The Fourteenth General Annual Conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City, on Saturday and Sunday, June 5th and 6th, 1909.

All officers and members of the association are requested to be present at all of the meetings of the conference, and a cordial invitation is hereby extended to the Saints generally to attend the meetings to be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, June 6th, at 10 a. m. and at 2 and 7 p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
HEBER J. GRANT,
B. H. ROBERTS,
General Supty. Y. M. M. I. A.
MARTHA H. TINGEY,
RUTH M. FOX,
MAY T. NYSTROM,
Presidency Y. L. M. I. A.

ANNUAL PRIMARY CONFERENCE.

The seventh annual general conference of the officers of the Primary Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City, June 4th, 5th and 6th, 1909. All officers, stake and local, are requested to be present at all the sessions of this conference.

LOUIE B. FELT,
MAY ANDERSON,
CLARA W. BEEBE,
Presidency Primary Associations.

MUSIC HATH CHARMS.

The musical festival that begins on the 10th inst. under the auspices of the Tabernacle choir is an event in the local musical world. The full program is given elsewhere in today's "Evening News." Read it. It is a wonderful me-ram. And when you had looked in the array of talent engaged and of musical means prepared, you will of want to miss the exceptional opportunity offered in this festival.

There is, perhaps, no place on earth where music is more generally cultivated and appreciated than here in Utah. Salt Lake City has had to contend with obstacles unknown to other American communities, but its sweet singers and musicians have made it famous within their music and song at home and abroad. Our organ recitals, our Tabernacle choir, our singers in foreign lands, all have done their part to give our City and State a fair name and fame, and to silence slander and defamation.

From the very beginning of history music appears as an important factor in civilization. Jubal, "the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ" is mentioned in Gen. 4: 21, in a class with the inventors of stock raising and the discoverer of the usefulness of metals, showing the immense importance attached to music as the handmaid of civilization.

One of the early Greek writers, Polybius, expresses the view that the Cynaeans were distinguished from the other Arcadians by savage manners, wickedness and cruelty, because of their neglect of music. The Arcadians generally, he says, were rigid and austere, but they made it of the greatest importance to incorporate the art of music into the very essence of their government. In Arcadia the children were taught very early to sing hymns and songs composed in honor of the gods and heroes. They were taught to dance "to the sound of flutes," and to "act in games" adopted to their tender years. In their private feasts each participant was expected to sing for entertainment. They were also "taught all the military steps and motions to the sounds of instruments."

"To me," the writer quoted says, "it is evident, that these solemnities were introduced, not for idle pleasure, but to soften the rough and stubborn temper of the Arcadians, occasioned by the coldness of the high country. But the Cynaeans, neglecting these arts, have become so fierce and savage, that there is not another city in Greece so remarkable for frequent and great enormities. This consideration ought to engage the Arcadians never to relax in any degree, their musical discipline."

This is how the divine art was regarded by a Greek writer at a time when the Greeks were the leaders in civilization. Shakespeare had the same view when he said: "The man that hath not music in himself, is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds. Is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils—Let no man trust him."

Music is indeed a divine art. And those who have the gift, and devote themselves to its cultivation are indeed performing a great service. And are they not, in their inspiring melodies conveying to us an echo of the melodious harmonies from the eternal mansions? They say that when two stringed instruments are attuned to the same key and placed near each other, if one of them is sounded the other responds. May not the spirit of some of our great composers have been so attuned to the key of those who compose the choir beyond, that their songs are, as it were, the vibrations from the celestial music? At all events: "There is in souls a sympathy with sounds, And as the mind is pitched, the ear is pleased."

With melting airs or martial, brisk or grave.
Some chord in unison with what we
Is touched within us, and the heart replies."

RAILROAD INVESTIGATION.

As the "News" surmised would be done with the complaint against the Western railroads, it was referred to the Interstate Commerce commission, by the Attorney General. No other course seemed consistent. The Commission has been created for the very purpose of investigating such cases, and it has been given power and authority to render decisions in accordance with the evidence. There was no apparent reason why the Government should ignore the existence of the Commission.

The Commission will now go into the subject of the complaint and hear all the testimony on both sides. The hearing will be thorough and impartial, but it is quite possible that the final ruling will not be all that the public has been led to hope for. Either party, however, can, if dissatisfied, appeal from the Commission to the courts.

In the meantime, the railroads themselves are revising their freight rates with a view of meeting the demands of the public, which are by no means uniform but which vary, as the interests of one locality are different from that of another. It cannot but be to the interests of the roads to obviate the necessity of the interference of commissions and courts, by meeting the reasonable demands of their patrons voluntarily and in a liberal spirit.

Utah is entitled to fair treatment by the railroads. There should be hearty co-operation between the roads and the public, in the building up of the State. By such co-operation all will be benefited, while contention and strife must result in injury to both parties. The public and the transportation lines are mutually dependent upon each other. They are not separate and independent any more than the limbs of the body are separate from the body they serve. The mutual relationship should be recognized in the adjustment of all questions concerning which the opinions differ.

THE WARNING FLOODS.

We may and must work and spend our money to control or direct the raging flood when the water bursts from its appointed channels; but it would be far better to labor to remedy and remove the flood conditions.

The real cause of the floods is the removal of the mountain trees, shrubs, and undergrowth; reckless cutting, forest fires, and the too close cropping by sheep are the main causes. Systematic reforestation is the only adequate remedy.

The flooding of the waters of Parley's canyon, with the washing out of the city conduit, and the consequent possibility of great disaster to public and private property from the rushing waters, should be sufficient to turn public attention to the urgent necessity for prompt action in preventing the recurrence of such conditions.

For years this paper has urged upon the legislatures and city councils the planting of forest trees by the state and the municipalities or counties. As yet nothing worth recording has been accomplished in the matter, and each year the floods grow worse, the flood conditions and possibilities more menacing.

We must admit that comparatively little attention has been paid to our continued attempts to enlighten and arouse the public and to induce lawmakers to act in this important matter. A few disasters like that in Parley's Creek may argue more strongly and may result in some sort of concerted action to save our property from the destruction implied in the flooding of canyon streams.

President Roosevelt said, in his letter appointing the national conservation commission, that judicious development of forests will not only supply fuel and structural material, but increase the navigability of streams, and so promote water transportation; and the control of streams will reduce soil erosion, and permit American farms to increase in fertility and productivity and so continue to feed the country and maintain a healthy and beneficial foreign commerce. "The proper co-ordination of the use of our resources is a prime requisite for continued national prosperity."

We intend, said the ex-president, to use these resources; but to so use them as to conserve them. No effort should be made to limit the wise and proper development and application of these resources; every effort should be made to prevent destruction, to reduce waste, and to distribute the enjoyment of our natural wealth in such a way as to promote the great good of the greatest number for the longest time.

In the "Primer of Conservation," recently issued by the government Forest Service bureau, Mr. Cleveland says: "Suppose a huge conflagration should sweep our forests from the hillsides? Suppose sudden floods should lay waste our fertile farm lands, scouring them with gullies, or heaping them with sand? Would not any single one of these calamities bring upon us incalculable loss and suffering? And yet these suppositions are not imaginary. We need to look only a very little way ahead, as things are going now, in order to see them realized, in effect."

They have already begun. The canyon floods increase every year. They are now striking Salt Lake City. Great property interests are involved. Life, in some cases, is in immediate danger. The beauty of the canyons and the security of the valleys, are alike ready to disappear. Is it not possible that legislators and officials can be made to sense the gravity of the situation and to do something about it? Living as we do today in the midst of conveniences which seem to render us somewhat independent of the natural, vast resources which supply our wants, and which we are rapidly destroying, it is somewhat difficult to realize just how dependent we are upon the forests and other natural wealth and how greatly we shall suffer by their more or less complete exhaustion.

Mr. Cleveland remarks that the savage knows and confesses his dependence upon the forces of nature. His whole life is circumscribed by the resources of forest, field, and stream. Indeed, he feels himself a part of nature and scarcely separates his fate from that of his surroundings. The game of the prairie, the forest, and the river, the berries and herbs in their season, and the living waters supply him with food and drink. With the changing seasons he moves from place to place, pursuing plenty. He winters in rude huts filled with smoke from fires of fallen wood, hardly less at the mercy of the cold than the hibernating animals. In the spring he wakes with nature, and his summers are prosperous and happy only as the wild crops of field and forest are plentiful. He rises and lies down with the sun. He survives only as he observes nature and fits himself to her ways.

With civilization, man no longer waits upon the seasons, but warms himself with coal in winter, while in summer he compels the soil to yield a multiplied harvest against the days of want. He seems to become the lord of nature simply by learning how to appropriate her resources. Yet if these resources should fail, his supposed mastery would be gone forever. "Of all the sinful wastes of man's inheritance on earth," said the late Prof. Shaler, "and all are in this regard sinners, the very worst are the people of America."

James J. Hill declared that Prof. Shaler's statement is not a popular phrase, but a scientific judgment borne out by facts. "Every nation," says Mr. Hill, "finds its hour of peril when there is no longer free access to the land or when the land will no longer support the people."

The hour of peril is really upon us. Have we sense enough to avert the consequences of the impending danger?

THE PEACE QUESTION.

The Second National Peace congress closed its session in Chicago last Wednesday, with a banquet which is described as the largest in point of number and the most unique ever held in that city. Great interest has been manifested in this gathering, and no one can doubt that good was accomplished in the cause of humanity.

Next Sunday, May 16, the subject of universal peace will be considered in many of the places of worship all over the world, commemorating the opening of the First Hague congress ten years ago. That gathering may well be regarded as the beginning of a parliament of man.

The international peace movement has gained ground during the past ten years, as never before. It has found friends among publicists, educators and leaders of public opinion. Leading jurists of the world are bent on providing judicial ways of settling international disputes. Business organizations have protested against belligerent policies. Labor organizations have officially registered their opposition to militarism.

On the other hand it is true that the nations spend more than ever on armaments. Never were governments more pressed for money to meet the demands for naval construction, for amply equipped navies and armies, and for pensions.

This is a necessary result of the existing system. As long as the independence of nations must rest on physical strength, competition necessitates ever increasing expenditures for the maintenance of fighting machines. As long as the question is mainly of "big sticks," the size of the clubs will grow until some nations can no longer lift them.

Great Britain realizes this today. British property holders are beginning to feel that the mad pace of naval expansion and armed neutrality means new forms of taxation, and that the expenditures for civic, aesthetic, religious and recreational ideals must diminish in a direct ratio with the burdens of taxation for war. The American propertyed man also begins to realize what an extraordinary proportion of our national output is for wars past or anticipated. Two-thirds of the present national revenue, according to Senator Hale, goes in this way.

All this is due to the system. Let there be a radical change in the system. Let the courts judge between nations, as between individuals, in accordance with international law, and justice. That is the ideal of the friends of peace—the ideal held up to the world by prophets, and apostles of all ages.

SANITARY CLEANLINESS.

Sanitary cleanliness is often a very different thing from the soap and water cleanliness that is the pride of many energetic housekeepers.

Soap, water, and scrubbing brushes are good as far as they go, but they do not usually reach the regions most dangerous to human health. Often these and similar agents of sanitation are used for the sake of mere show to scour and polish the surface of articles or furniture already clean in the scientific sense. Housekeepers who love cleanliness should be eager to learn in what it really consists; scrubbing and polishing have little to do with it.

The statement of the sanitary authorities that "the presence of flies is a direct evidence of careless housekeeping, and the existence of filth in some form about the premises," should become a watchword in every home.

Many a housekeeper whose antipathy to dirt amounts to a passion, nevertheless tolerates a few flies, whose presence is far more dangerous than muddy floors and soiled window panes.

Indeed, the scrubbing of floors is frequently carried to an absurd excess by some who regard lightly the need of fresh air and the danger from flies. The floors and woodwork of certain out-houses are often scrupulously scoured with soap and water, while an uncleanness that reeks with the germs of nameless plagues abounds nearby. It is in the reeking vaults that death and danger lurk. These are the places to keep clean. Floors, woodwork, door-knobs, and window panes are the articles that commonly receive the greatest, and that really require the least, amount of scrubbing and cleansing.

Such cleanliness is only a matter of

show. Real cleanliness is mostly a matter of fresh air, the absence of decaying substances, and the exclusion of all forms of insect life, especially the flies. But in the war upon insects, spiders should not be included among the list of enemies.

If the lions are not getting a rest the public is.

Are Mohammed's promises of the die-crust order?

To what extent will the water famine affect the milk supply?

A man shouldn't dabble in stocks if he doesn't wish to get "soaked."

A man may rise in his own estimation and fall in that of the public.

It is easier to make the desert blossom as the cactus than as the rose.

Quiet weddings are rarely so quiet that they are not noised in the newspapers.

The baseball season is always particularly fatal to the grandmothers of office boys.

Logan is fifty years old, but it is only in its youth and will yet be a giant. Logan is synonymous with push.

It is hard to tell whether Colonel Roosevelt has the greater admiration for a big navy or for the Japanese nation.

How easy it will be to climb the ladder of fame when it is provided with an elevator like the Washington monument is.

In the Senate the tariff bill is having more ups than downs. This is perfectly natural seeing that the Senate is the upper house.

Tim Campbell said the Constitution should not be allowed to stand between friends but nobody has ever said that of the tariff.

There is some solace in the thought that Mr. Harriman cannot bring any European railroads back with him without paying duty on them.

The streams are so swollen that the city's water supply is practically cut off. It seems to be a case of water, water everywhere but never a drop to drink.

"No woman is perfect," says George Bernard Shaw. How profound the remark, what depth of insight into human nature it shows! Had it been made about man it would have been entirely different.

It is to the credit of the foreigners who went on strike at the Murray smelter that they have conducted themselves in an orderly and lawful manner while there has been an entire absence of the riotous scenes that so often accompany such strikes.

Defending the duty placed on lead by the Senate amendment, Senator Heyburn, in the debate on the Aldrich bill, said that without a doubt the lead mines in this country would be abandoned until the cheaper lead deposits of Mexico should be exhausted, if the lead industry were not protected. If that is so, then why would not the admission duty free of Canadian lumber tend to the preservation of the American forests until those of Canada should be exhausted?

WORLD-PETITION FOR PEACE.

Miss A. B. Eckstein of Boston is circulating a petition addressed to the next Hague congress, which will, in all probability, meet in 1915. It asks that body to agree upon a convention by virtue of which each nation shall obligate itself to adjust its international interests by conventions and treaties, thus obviating the necessity of war between civilized powers.

The petition is circulated by thousands in different countries, and millions of signatures have already been obtained.

Miss Eckstein delivered the following address at the Peace Congress in Chicago, May 3:

The world-petition is the outcome of a pressing need, a democratic duty, a practical experiment and an idea concerning national integrity and honor. The pressing need is the abolition of war and substitution of pacific means for the settlement of international difficulties. It is the most pressing of all needs today for two reasons: First, because preparation for war has grown so expensive that it is driving the nations with alarming rapidity toward the abyss of bankruptcy; and second, because war itself has become ineffective as a means of deciding international controversies, since a war between two of the leading powers, today, would mean mutual economic ruin before a decisive victory and defeat could be reached.

The democratic duty is the duty evolving from the democratic right now enjoyed by most peoples, to have a voice in the shaping of their national and international affairs. It is the duty to exercise this right.

The practical experiment is the arbitration petition presented to his excellency, President Neldow of the second Hague conference by the president of the American Peace society, Hon. Robert T. Paine and myself on the Fourth of July, year before last. In the short time of about five months that petition had around 2,000,000 signatures from the United States, and in about five weeks it had several hundred thousand from Great Britain and Germany, and many other nations.

Collecting these signatures proved that even the indifferent and skeptics will see that the wish for the abolition of war is no longer futile, and once seeing, they will do their duty, which is to manifest that wish. In other words, collecting these signatures proved that most everybody was in favor of the abolition of war, and that to obtain a united expression of this universal wish is a thing which can be done.

But after all it is not the people alone who shape their national and international laws, and therefore another question is: are the responsible leaders of the governments in earnest about the abolition of war, when every-where every year new millions upon millions of dollars are demanded for continued preparation for war? Will a petition, even if it represents a majority vote, do any good?

When I was at the Hague to present the arbitration petition of which I spoke, Dr. Hill, now our United States ambassador at Berlin, said to me: "Your petition is in the right direction."

Mr. Neldow, during the generous audience he granted Mr. Paine and me, said the same thing and further, among many other interesting things, he said this: "We are not for one moment losing sight of the original and ultimate object—the reduction of armaments—for which my sovereign, His Majesty the Czar of Russia, first initiated the movement, and in joint consultation. But, as in any disease it is of no use to treat the symptoms, so the attempts have shown that it is futile to spend our energies on plans for a simultaneous reduction of armaments, because armaments are only the symptoms of the disease of civilization. We must go deeper. We must concentrate force on the removal of the cause of the disease, which is war. This is what we are doing now. And I wish to say to you, and wish to say it with the strongest emphasis, that every new day of the

conference I see more proofs of the deep and devoted earnestness and sincerity with which all the plenipotentiaries of the nations gathered here, are working on the solution of this great and difficult problem."

All of us here, I am sure, also remember the magnificent address, in which Baron Marschall von Bieberstein announced at the Hague that the German government will promote by all possible means, international arbitration. And we all remember that the plenipotentiaries of the forty-four governments of the world signed, before leaving the Hague, a year ago last October, the article in favor of the principle of arbitration.

So, we see, the responsible leaders of the world's governments are with us.

And yet, as the result of their ardent and arduous work during the four months of the second Hague conference only very few points were considered suitable and safe for settlement by arbitration, but unsafe all points of national interest and honor. And were these statesmen not right? Did they not prove their wisdom and sense of responsibility, before which we ought to bow in gratitude? Indeed, we need not make a profound study of the international situation of today to perceive that the life of every nation, weak or strong, civilized or uncivilized, would be far from being securely protected by international arbitration in its present state of development; and we must concede that the life and honor of a nation are as sacred as the life and honor of the individual. Every nation has the individual to kill in self-defense. This applied to nations means the keeping up of armies and navies for emergency of national self-defense. But does this mean that armies and navies must be kept up and increased indefinitely? Does it mean that the abolition of war is an impossibility? No, surely not!

For, while it is not, as yet, within human power to prevent attack upon the life of every individual, it is a simple matter, today, to provide absolute immunity from danger by external forces for the life of the forty-four nations. All that is required is that the plenipotentiaries of the forty-four nations, when meeting at the Hague for the third conference, sign a convention establishing a universal emergency of national self-defense, or other pacific means, in the settlement of any international difficulty, shall endanger the self-preservation of the nation, in other words, the vital interests of the nation, nor its honor. The honor of a nation being distinctly defined as the protection by a nation of its own self-preservation, and that the responsibility for the self-preservation and development of other nations.

This single international law, which will be reasonable and as easy to make as the laws concerning the international arrangements for postal and telegraph service—this single law will, with one stroke, shift the responsibility for national life and honor from the shoulders of armies and navies and war to the shoulders of fair-play statesmen who work through pacific means. And with the responsibility must and will go what belongs to it, the financial and brain support which will strengthen and perfect the pacific institutions for the settlement of international controversies must be minimized, so that the declaration of the abolition of war will be a safe thing to do, and that each nation, as it sees fit in its own peculiar case, can safely begin to reduce armies and navies.

This is the sense and purport of the world-petition. It asks the governments of the third Hague conference to sign a convention to that effect.

1. That establishment of a universal law by which a decision by pacific means of any international difficulty shall, in no case, endanger the self-preservation and development, i. e., the vital interests and honor of any nation.

2. Removal of the causes of war by regulating in speedy succession all international interests by conventions and treaties, each with clause insuring pacific settlement of any difficulty that may arise from said arrangements.

3. Settlement by pacific means of all difficulties arising from any international interest not yet covered by convention or treaty with pacific clause.

Just give your imagination full rein for a minute or two and see what it will mean, when these three points shall have been placed upon the program of the third Hague conference, and when these three points shall have been signed by the plenipotentiaries of the forty-four nations. It will mean the solution and disappearance of that whole line of subtle questions as to which kinds of wholesale murder, cruelty and piracy shall be allowed during war and which shall be forbidden, for what sense would there be in any longer trying to regulate and mitigate war, after war is abolished; it will put an end to all the moral mischief done by duping people into the belief that a war is imminent every time a bill for building more warships or for increasing armaments is before a parliament, because then all people, not only some, will know better; it will mean that these bills will gradually grow fewer and smaller, and that in proportion with the reduction of the nameless waste involved by standing armies and navies, sums upon sums of money, and the steady increase of the sum-total of happiness and beauty. Did ever tournament of old, did ever struggle for national independence hold out the peer of such a prize?

But no prize of tournament or struggle for national liberty was ever won without noble and heroic effort and sacrifice. These are needed today. Nothing does without making a last desperate fight for existence. The War-Moloch, the mighty ruler of the past, is making this last desperate fight for existence, now, and every man's and woman's sacrifice of time, strength, and money is needed, every man and woman must make a noble and heroic effort if we would win the larger liberty of all mankind from the tyranny of war, if we would win the prize of the victory of the Prince of Peace.

JUST FOR FUN

"Every time the baby looks into my face he smiles," said Mr. Meekton. "Well," answered his wife, "it may not be exactly polite, but it shows he has a sense of humor."

"So you think Congress ought to economize?"

"I do," answered the statesman. "I don't see how we are going to cut all the expenditures I favor unless the other people draw the line more closely."—Washington Star.

Dollhoover—Was the operation successful?
Glidden—Tremendously. The doctor said it was the biggest appendix he ever removed.—Chicago Tribune.

"Strange that nobody has invented a girl's shoestring that won't come untied."
"I perfected one once; but, after thinking the matter over I threw the patents away."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

She—What is it you like best about a girl?
He—My arms.—Judge.

"I have brought to a successful conclusion experiments with a new cooking stove invention."
"I suppose, then, it is something of a grate scheme."—Baltimore American.

"Wh—what does a marriage license cost?" asked the embarrassed young man.

"Two dollars."
"Well, that's 50 cents more than I expected," he said, reluctantly taking out his pocketbook, "but I guess I'll have to stand it. I can't buck out now."—Chicago Tribune.

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