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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 28, 1901.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, April 5, at 10 a. m.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

THE VOTING MACHINE.

The Hewlett bill, introduced in the House to pave the way for the use of voting machines in Utah elections, is a step in the right direction. The Deseret News has explained their use and their benefits. We believe they would do away with many difficulties attending the proper recording and return of election results, and eventually save much expense. Of course the cost in the beginning would be a feature to be considered by the county commissioners, when the matter of adopting the machine is discussed.

The bill does not require the machine to be used. It simply provides for it when a county board considers it necessary. The Constitution of the State permits the voting machine to be adopted, but the bill is necessary to formulate provisions for its purchase and use, under circumstances therein specified. It ought to pass.

There is one phrase in the bill, however, that we think should be eliminated. We believe the author of the measure will see the point when it is indicated. It is in section two: "Any such machine so purchased shall be the latest and most approved pattern," etc. The words "the latest" may be found an obstruction to the purchase of a better machine than the latest introduced. "Of the most approved pattern" is sufficient, without the addition of "the latest." We want the best when we want the machine at all, whether it is the latest or not.

Alleged improvements which do not improve, not infrequently obtain a new patent, and the change, even if not costly may be of no advantage but possibly a detriment. If we get the best and most approved machine, we will have what we want and not be compelled to take the latest when it is not as good as one with an older patent. Give us the law, and as soon as practicable give us the machine.

CAUTION NECESSARY.

We are pleased to note that the bill amending the law on eminent domain has been killed. Also that it was executed by permission of the member who introduced it. We presume he "didn't know it was loaded." It had an innocent look, and might have deceived the Senate as it certainly did most of the members of the House.

Private and public law rights need to be carefully guarded, and must not be exposed to invasion. They are absolutely essential to farming and gardening life, to say nothing of domestic convenience and utility. Corporate uses are to be considered, of course, and very often private rights must give way to public needs. But the proposition made in the bill we notice, laid the matter so wide open, that we feared the consequences if the measure became a law.

It is necessary that every bill introduced in either house, no matter who or what committee may recommend its passage, shall be subjected to close scrutiny, that its purpose and purpose may be thoroughly understood. This will be of still greater moment during the later days of the session. In the hurry that then ensues, dangerous legislation may be enacted, not by the intent of the members, but through the endeavors of interested parties who urge the passage of measures in their own favor, or that of the others whom they represent.

The welfare of the State is the great desideratum, and the people of Utah look to their elected representatives to guard well and carefully their individual and public rights.

THE PASS QUESTION.

The bill to make the acceptance of a free railroad pass by judges a felony, has stirred up a good deal of feeling. Inquiries have been instituted at the railroad offices here in regard to the matter, and of course without avail. The paper instituting the "investigation" might have known that the passes were not issued from the local offices, but from the headquarters of the companies. A little thought might have saved "much ado about" that "nothing."

To hear the hue and cry one would think that judges were singled out by railroad officials, as special objects of special favors. Also that only when a railroad company was engaged in litigation, a pass was issued to the judge before whom it was to be tried. The question is asked by one editor what would

be thought, if a litigant was to send a check to the judge who was to try his case; as though there was any parallel between the two propositions. There is nothing in common between them. Passes are issued to public officials as a usual courtesy, entirely dissociated from anything that relates to the query suggested. A check sent from a litigant to the judge engaged in his case, would be an attempt at bribery patent on its face.

We have been asked what is the motive in giving free passes to judges, if the railroads leasing them do not expect something in return. Is it a fact that nobody ever offers a courtesy without a mercenary motive? Do people always look for quid pro quo when they extend a favor? It is customary for transportation companies, and other quasi public concerns, to give free passes to State officials. Why should the judges be excepted when members of the Legislature and also executive officers, even to sheriffs, are complimented? It would give the appearance of suspicion that a pass was in the nature of a bribe, or a bid for something in return, and would thus reflect on the other officials.

Now, observe, we are not standing up for the pass system. There may be objections to it on general principles. It is a matter entirely in the hands of the different companies and corporations that extend the courtesy, which has become common in this country. What we oppose is the proposition to make it a felony for a judge to accept a pass, as though the judiciary were notoriously venal and especially susceptible of cheap purchase. It is a slur on the bench, and we regard it as a marked slander upon a class of officials that ought to be above suspicion, and that should be regarded as incorrupt and impartial, until stubborn facts can be cited in absolute proof of the contrary.

PROTEST AGAINST LOOTING.

European soldiers have been destroying much property in China, and looted valuable stores without compunction. But now it is said that this vandalism has found a victim in a no less distinguished British subject than Sir Robert Hart, and this gentleman promptly rises in protest and demands redress. And he will obtain it, too. It always depends on whose ox it is that is gored. Probably the Chinese will be asked to pay for what loss Sir Robert has suffered on account of the looting of European soldiers.

The story goes that when the powers commenced to seize ground for the enlargement of the foreign legation premises, the officers in charge simply appropriated whatever they thought was needed, without asking any questions as to who the owners of the property might be. During this process of giving the Chinese a practical illustration of the workings of western civilization, a piece of real estate belonging to the British gentleman was also appropriated, and he claims redress, which he clearly is entitled to, not being a Chinaman.

In all probability this incident will cause an investigation as to who did it, and what the damage may amount to. If so, other claims will undoubtedly be presented, and the powers will have to lay down some rule as to which property holders are entitled to damages, and which not. It is pretty safe, though, from the outset, to consider this as a self-evident proposition: "No Chinaman need apply."

KING EDWARD'S OATH.

Cardinal Vaughan demands, on behalf of the Catholic subjects of the new British ruler, that certain offensive declarations in the royal oath be eliminated from the coronation ceremonies. Those declarations were agreed upon at a time when there was more hostility between Protestantism and Romanism than there is at present, and now, even Protestants regard them as unnecessarily harsh.

It seems that the British king, according to an old custom, will be required to state that he believes, "that in the sacrament of the Lord's supper there is not any transubstantiation, and that the invocation and adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saint, and the sacrifice of the mass as they are now used in the church of Rome, are superstitions and idolatrous." And this is not all. He is further required to say that in making this declaration, he does so "in the plain and ordinary sense of the words read unto me, as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatever." By which it is clearly implied that a Catholic might take the oath with mental reservation.

There are at present, in the United Kingdom, about five million and a half Catholic subjects of the king. Some of them hold influential positions, both in the legislature and the judiciary, and they certainly are entitled to some consideration. They can at least expect that their sovereign shall not be required, at his coronation, to officially stamp them all as idolaters and hypocrites. The British people generally can hardly fail to see the incongruity of the royal oath with present conditions.

But there is another reason why the demands of the Catholics in this matter should be acceded to. It cannot be supposed that King Edward himself believes in the truth of the recited oath. The time is past when enlightened men and women regard superstition, idolatry, or hypocrisy, then Catholicism. The king has frequently expressed his views, and he knows that there is as much light, integrity and purity in one division as in another. How can he declare that millions of his subjects, in his opinion, are superstitious idolaters, without some kind of mental reservation, to the effect that they are not more so than millions of others? In the light of modern conditions, the entire declaration is a farce, as, indeed, are many other oaths and affirmations, which might be relegated to the past, where they belong. It is proper enough, as long as the Church of England is Protestant, that the ruler of the realm should be identified with that church, but he can certainly maintain that

position without insulting other churches, not "established."

The elimination of the declaration objected to from the royal oath, would no doubt be regarded as a signal victory for Romanism, and it may be resisted on that ground; but it may also be looked upon as a victory for religious tolerance, and that is an issue around which all who love human liberty can rally. In every civilized country each citizen should have the right to believe as he chooses, and that implies freedom from all words or acts on the part of the government, that reflect upon his sincerity or morality on account of his religious views and practices, as long as these do not interfere with the rights of other citizens.

HAS BOTH SURRENDERED?

There is joy in London, it is said, on account of the favorable turn of affairs in South Africa, and if the latest dispatches from that region are to be relied upon, there is foundation for that feeling. The British are reported to have captured several hundred Boers, besides large quantities of stores, ammunition, and guns. General Botha himself is said to have surrendered. If so, Dewet is about the only prominent leader in the field, and his surrender cannot be long delayed. Some days ago it was reported that about 20,000 Boers still were in the field, but they were scattered in widely separated bodies, each one being harassed by a superior strength of British. The attempted invasion of Cape Colony having failed, it is difficult to see what plan is left for the fighting patriots, but unconditional surrender.

The Boer war has had three different stages, each one furnishing its own surprises. In the first the British forces under the direction of Buller were stubbornly resisted and suffered heavy losses. In the second the burghers were routed by the advancing hosts of Roberts, and driven back like sheep. Strongholds were given up without battle, and a general panic seemed to prevail. In the third, the Boers again rallied and even sent their columns into British territory, as far south, almost, as Cape Town. But although in this stage of the war, there were many brilliant maneuvers, the Boers fought no important battles. The surrender of Botha, if true, must mark one of the last stages of the unequal conflict.

Naturally, the news is hailed with satisfaction in London. If it is confirmed, it means that there will be no further requests for troops and money for the warfare. The work of reconstruction can then be continued without fear of interruption. It cannot but be hoped that the war is at an end, practically, and that the world will never again have to witness a similar struggle between "Christian" nations. That arbitration has not already become the rule, instead of the exception, is a disgrace to our civilization.

It was very springlike today. What will it be tomorrow when calendar spring comes?

When Mrs. Carrie Nation visited the biggest distillery in Peoria she asked the trust manager to smash it. Evidently she had her "gall" with her if she did not have her hatchet.

As Mrs. Nation refuses to give bond or promise not to smash any more whiskey saloons, it might be well to confine her in a bonded warehouse instead of in jail.

Dr. Anderson's new star, in the constellation Perseus, is the brightest seen in centuries; but it is fast losing its brightness. That is the matter with so many bright new stars in the political firmament.

An unusual thing happened at West Point this year. Ten of the graduating class were assigned to the engineer corps, a thing almost if not quite without precedent. The usual assignment is five.

In the commons a few days since Mr. O'Donnell, an Irish member, attempted to make an address in Erse. Yesterday in the Austrian reichsrath a member insisted on speaking in his native Czech. How long will it be before some irate Tagalog or Visayan will be denouncing the wrongs of his race in his native tongue in the halls of Congress?

If Commandant Botha has surrendered to Gen. Kitchener it means that the end of the Boer struggle is not very far off, though it could not be said that it is all over. When Cronje was taken and others killed it was predicted that the Boers would make no further resistance; but the predictions were falsified. The Boers certainly die hard, and like the Old Guard, they never surrender.

In the case of the destruction of the Pacific Mail steamer Rio de Janeiro the coroner's jury found that Capt. Ward and Pilot Jordan were guilty of criminal carelessness. It is a grave charge to fix upon men, especially when one of them is dead, but responsibility for so terrible an accident should be placed that its repetition in future may be avoided if possible. The verdict of the coroner's jury will generally meet the approval of the public.

"Promises do not settle the policies of nations, and that applies to Cuba as well as to the Philippines," said President Jacob G. Schurman of Cornell university and recently head of the late Philippine commission. If promises are not to settle a nation's policies, then most assuredly they should never be given. The distinguished educator appears to have undergone a moral change since his connection with the Philippines. If nations are not to be controlled in their policies by their promises, is there any reason why individuals should be so controlled? Promises are sacred things and should be sacredly observed.

Mr. Edward Cuddey had the sympathy of the whole country when his son was kidnapped. When he was restored to the father the whole country rejoiced. Now the kid's abductors have offered to return twenty thousand dollars of their ill gotten gain if the de-

fectives are taken off their track and a promise of no prosecution is given. Mr. Cuddey refuses to compromise with crime and so has the admiration of the whole country. His refusal shows a deep sense of the duty of citizenship and is a public service of the highest order. Success to him in his pursuit of the villains who stole his son away and outraged the majesty of the law.

CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES.

New York Evening Post.

A crisis in the Cuban situation is reached with the signing of the constitution by the delegates recently, and the circumstances under which the action took place. Senor Cisneros, one of the most prominent members of the body, refused to sign the copy of the document which will be sent to Washington, and declared that "the United States government has no right to pass upon it." Growing more indignant and less restrained, he shook his fist at the American newspaper men, as the delegates retired, and said: "The Americans are like the monkey. When the monkey close its paw on a thing, it never wants to let go." To the remark of a fellow delegate that "we are all Cubans," he replied: "Yes, when the time comes to fight the Americans, we will fight them together."

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

It seems to be acknowledged that the Cubans shall grant to the United States, through their constitutional convention, a protectorate over the island of Cuba which shall imply a supervision over its foreign affairs and a right to intervene in cases of internal disorder, for the purpose of securing stability and tranquility to its inhabitants, and that the United States must have two ports, one on the north and one on the south shore, for the uses of its navy. Congress may be convened in the spring and insist upon these concessions before the United States will release its military government over the island. Many think that the Cubans will sturdily resist the demands of our country. If so they are very foolish.

New York Mail and Express.

It was a hopeful, rather than an inauspicious, circumstance that ex-President Cisneros should have refused to sign the Cuban constitution on the ground that the document was to be submitted to Washington, for his refusal elicited the opinion of the majority of the constitutional convention was not disposed to subscribe to the extreme views which he represents. His act set him apart from his colleagues, and while it is called a difference of opinion which prevails in the island, it demonstrated that the contention that the mere agreement by the Cubans on what shall constitute their fundamental law "establishes the republic" is no more the prevailing opinion of the Cubans than it is of the Americans. Sentiment in the island is in a state of flux. It discloses confusion and hesitation, rather than a spirit deliberately inimical.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The wisdom that is likely to be displayed by independent Cuba in the conduct of its foreign relations is foreshadowed in its practical rejection of our proffers of protection, and in the gratuitous insults that it has heaped upon the only genuine friend with power to help it in the whole world. It is not a pleasing prospect either for the well-wishers of the new republic or for those who realize that the United States must guard itself from the consequences of Cuba's acts. The United States cannot and will not allow any nation to permanently occupy a foot of Cuban soil, no matter how righteous the punishment might be. If it sees in the occupation of any portion of South America, much of which is more distant than Europe, a menace to its peace and safety it is bound to resist any alien occupation or control of an island lying within a few hours of its coast line and practically commanding the Caribbean sea, the proposed canal and the entrances to the Gulf of Mexico.

Springfield Republican.

Senor Cisneros, who refused to sign the copy of the Cuban constitution that was forwarded to the American authorities, and who shows deep irritation, even passion, over the recent course of opinion toward Cuba, was the president of the revolutionary republic that fought Spain. The report of his outbreak at the constitutional convention in Havana yesterday ought not to be taken by the United States as a threat, but as a fair warning. America should scrupulously fulfill her pledge.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The word protectorate is entirely misleading. It means simply the beginning of successive encroachments, of the strange practice of "colonialism" under the Stars and Stripes. Better leave the Cubans to themselves or invite annexation upon terms which would be much more satisfactory to both countries ultimately. A protectorate is responsibility without authority.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The March 1st number of the Juvenile Instructor is to hand bright and crisp as usual. Prof. J. M. Tanner contributes an able article on the "Industry of the Chinese." A paper in the Church school department on "The Memorial System," by the late Dr. Karl G. Maeser, (said to be his last). Mr. D. P. Collett furnishes a most interesting article on the Prince of Orange, called "William the Silent," a continuation of the History of the Early Christian Church and the late Sunday School Convention follow these. The Editor writes eulogistically on the late Dr. Karl G. Maeser and embellishes the same with a half-tone engraving. Topics of the Times is devoted to President Seward's New Century Greeting and Queen Louise's poem, "Light Ahead," a memorial to Dr. Maeser by Mrs. L. L. Green Richards, written in her own touching style.

The March number of the New Lippincott has a new novel by Maurice Thompson. This is a love-story in Mr. Thompson's sweetest vein. As in "Alice of Old Vincennes," he selects his native State, Indiana, for a background, though some of the most significant incidents occur in New Orleans. General Charles King's West Point story (third in the series of College Tales now running through the "New Lippincott") is entitled "The Code of the Corporeal King," a tale of prehistoric love.

"Lisa," a Sketch of Spanish California, by Eleanor G. Walton, is the pathetic picture of an old father seeking his little "Lisa," only to find her a low-eyed and hardened woman. Mrs. E. D. Gilbert's autobiography, "A Book of Remembrance," is soon to appear in book form. The "New Lippincott" now has secured a couple of advance chapters which contain some anecdotes and experiences of her eventful life. The artist-author, Mrs. Anna Lea Merritt, contributes a paper on "Making a Garden," in which there are many valuable suggestions. The Native Race of Mexico, by Henry S. Brooks, is a paper of timely interest.

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