DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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Charles W. Penrose, - - - Editor
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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 20, 1899.

NOTICE.

The Sixty-ninth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m., on Thursday, April 6th, 1899.

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

SPIRITUAL DECEPTIONS.

We publish in this issue of the Deseret News a letter from President Lorenzo Snow to a non-"Mormon" relative in the East, who with her friends has been worshiping at the shrine of Pinchotite. We commend the letter to the attention of all who take interest in the phenomena of so-called spiritualism.

So little has lately been heard of the little board and pencil, called Pinchotite, which some years ago amused and sensationally frightened those who used it and obtained what they thought were communications from the spirit world, that we supposed it had been discarded entirely, having been shown to be misleading and unreliable as a guide to anything other practical or theoretical. It seems, however, to have been revived in some quarters and adopted as a supernatural monitor.

Without entering into any argument of a scientific nature as to the cause of the alleged manifestations through that medium, we will very briefly consider its claims as a means of communication from the departed. Suppose we admit for argument's sake that the writings through the board are produced by a supernatural force. That is no proof that the communications thus received come from the spirits of the dead. Even if they convey information supposed to be known only to the individuals from whom they claim to come, that is not by any means conclusive on that point. Those "familiar spirits," spoken of in the Bible, may be quite familiar with the lives and acts of people whom they personate by means of spiritualism, and are thus able to deceive and lead away the unwary.

As long ago as the days of Moses, Israel was warned against necromancy—pretended revelations from the dead—familiar spirits, wizards, etc.

"There shall not be found among you any one * * that useth divination, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all these things are an abomination to the Lord."—Deut. xviii, 10, 11. See also Lev. xix, 31.

In the time of Isaiah similar devices to those now in vogue were adopted, and here is the word of God on the subject:

"And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and mutter, should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah viii, 19, 20.

It will be found that the actions of modern spiritualism, and the communications from the spirits that manifest, are hostile to the doctrines and teachings of the Old and New Testaments, and those on scripture include the "there is no light in them." They are spirits of darkness, of the class that Christ cast out of persons influenced by them in His earthly time. They can personate the dead and thus deceive the living.

It is quite possible that they may tell some things that prove to be true. That is the only way by which Satan can succeed. A little truth will often open the way for a mass of error. But close investigation of the stuff that is passed on the credulous for revelation from the spirit sphere, exposes its nonsense and manifests its falsehood. Compare the poetry of celebrities while living with the doggerel alleged to come from them after death. "Oh! what a falling off is there!"

The lady who writes to President Snow sends some lines alleged to have come from the shade of Eliot's poetess, Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Mrs. Eliot, who is well known to us, died in the spirit land, she has lately declined in poetic fervor and literary ability since shuffling off this mortal coil. To accept it as less would be to believe that spirits returnedto instead of adv vance when they are relieved from mortality. It would be a denial of the principle of eternal progress. The extracts sent are a libel on Poetess Eliot and of themselves refute the falsehood that she gave those provided representations. It is the same with all the theosophic and comic and jeering things which "spiritualism" seeks to impose upon the living as communications from the illustrious dead.

The idea that good people who have been relieved from the trials and sufferings of mortal life, are subject in their spirit home to the cold and whims and beliefs of every curious or fanatical person in the flesh, and have no better occupation than to supply answers to inquisitive questions, and rap out on tables or write through boards or on slates, dubious messages and fulsome sentiments to astonish the unwary and make the astonishment is enough to cause one who entertains it, to wish for that eternal sleep which infinite effort to believe in, or to be stamped in the united zeal of utter Decepticons and oblivion.

As long as the spirit of man is immortal and that the Great Creator relevations, so sure is it that the capacity of modern spiritualism are delusive and unworthy the confidence of intelligent and progressive beings. The Latter-day Saints expecting the "sure word of prophecy" are the light of revelation from the dim of darkness, "all look back to the realms of darkness for guidance, nor be led away by influences which if possible would "deceive the very elect."

A WOMAN DIES IN THE CHAIR.

Mrs. Martha Place, the women condemned in New York for murder, paid the (Sunday) morning the penalty prescribed in that state, for was put to death in the electric chair.

Strenuous efforts were previously made to save her life, principally by persons opposed to capital punishment in any case, but Governor Roosevelt refused to consider his prerogative and interfere in her behalf.

The governor took the view that since the law of the state not an provision in favor of a deferment sentence who is a woman, the executive has no right to make any distinction on the ground of sex.

Mrs. Place's crime was a revolting deed. According to the testimony the deliberately planned and accomplished the murder of a step-daughter, whom life for years she had made miserable. The intense hatred of offender of the same class may also have influenced the governor of New York in his decision regarding this case.

While it is repugnant to our finer feelings to think of inflicting capital punishment on a woman, there is no sound reason why a sitting northern should be treated differently from a male assassin. Retribution was right from the standpoint of executive duty under the laws of the State and his oath of office.

LOOKS BAD FOR THE BEEF.

The question whether the meat supplied our soldiers during the late war was fit to eat, or not, appears to be settled. When considered in connection with the official records of deaths in the army and navy, in the army 5,277 petitions died of disease, while in the navy no casualties of that kind were reported.

A great many of the victims of disease, if not most of them, died in camps within the limits of the United States, chiefly in Florida, so the death rate is not to be charged wholly to the sickly climate of Cuba. Were sanitary regulations and healthy food, for soldiers should have been as safe from the ravages of disease as were the men on our ships.

The matter is still in the hands of the investigating commission. The people demand a thorough and impartial sifting of the entire business. It is revolting to think of even the suggestion that some of the patriotic boys who so promptly went to the front, in response to the call of their country were killed, not by the enemy, but by unscrupulous purveyors or incompetent managers. What would the result have been, had our army been called upon to face, in a debilitated condition, a foe stronger than that defending Cuba?

The "unfinished beef" question is one that concerns the future as well as the past. It should be thoroughly sifted and analyzed. If it is really true as the evidence strongly indicates, that bad meat was sent for food, steps should be taken to prevent a repetition of such villainy, and a vigorous prosecution of the guilty parties no matter who they are or what position they occupy would be the most satisfactory means of effecting that desirable end.

GENERAL MILES VINDICATED.

The commission charged with the duty of inquiring into the beef scandal has been the object of ridicule because its members went to the packing establishments to view the methods there employed. The question, in the view of the critics, was not how meat intended for the general market is canned in 1899, but how the product delivered to the army in 1898 was treated.

But the investigation has nevertheless brought to light a few facts not previously known. It has been ascertained that "canned beef" is not nothing but an article from which the best juice has been extracted; that 2-pound cans of this stuff was delivered to the boys in blue as food, and that some of it had been sent to Lyons, France, and refused by the country because it could not be sold abroad. It has also been shown that meat was cooked to remain fresh for twenty-four hours if "dressed with care," was kept for days in transport and should be cooked in a spoiled condition.

Where the blame rests for these disclosures has not as yet been definitely ascertained, but there is a disposition to place the responsibility chiefly on Uncle Sam's Eagle. How far this is fair to a bird is not to injure an "important indivvy," is not clear.

There is no longer any doubt that General Miles has been vindicated. Bad meat was sent to the soldiers, whose health was actually delivered to the army, at a time when the country was at war. The demand now is pretty general that the matter be further followed up and that the guilty parties be brought to justice. President McKinley, it is hoped, will take such action as the importance of the case demands.

APPOINTMENT OF SENATORS.

The question of the power of Governors in the respective States to appoint United States Senators on the failure of the Legislatures to elect, has been raised to have been settled by the adverse action of the Senate several years ago. Oregon, Washington, Montana and Wyoming failed to elect, and the Governors made appointments in accordance with the provisions of the national Constitution, which says:

"And if vacancies happen, by resignation or otherwise, during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies."

But the majority of the Senate held that the vacancies did not "happen during the recess of the Legislature," and refused to seat the appointees. A change has come, however, in the personal complexion of the Senate, and a change may possibly be made in the rule on this question. Our Washington correspondent sends us the following on the subject:

Washington, March 15th, 1899.—An evening paper is authority for the statement that certain leading Senators are considering the advisability of reopening the question raised several years ago as to the right of Governors to appoint Senators where the State Legislature failed to elect.

The Senators from Montana, Delaware and Utah, have appeared without an election, and here in Washington it is believed that Senators from Pennsylvania will likewise fill. The Republicans will have a clear majority over all, so far as the Senate is concerned, in respect to the four vacancies before mentioned. Nevertheless, in view of the important measures which will occupy the attention of Congress at next session it is believed that the democratic minority would be glad of the assurance that they would have a comfortable majority in the Senate.

It is said that certain Senators have talked with Mr. Hanna and have expressed the opinion that it would be wrong to reopen the question of seating the appointees.

Several years ago, when the Governors of Montana, Wyoming and Washington appointed Senators, after the respective Legislatures had failed to elect, the Senate, after a lengthy discussion of the subject, denied the appointees seats in that body. It was held by a majority of the Senate that after the Legislatures had met and adjourned without electing a Senator, no vacancy existed within the meaning of the law which the Governor could fill by appointment. This precedent was further strengthened in the case of Mr. Corbett of Oregon.

However, there were precedents on the other side, also, and the Senate was not unanimous in its decision in the four cases cited. There was a strong minority maintaining that each State in the Union had a right to full representation in the Senate but should not be deprived of it for any reason whatsoever. The latter even claimed that the denial would be in violation of clause one of section three of the Constitution, which says, "The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State."

In the convention that framed the Constitution there was a great diversity of opinion as to the mode of electing Senators. Some were in favor of a direct vote of the people, others, appointment by the Legislatures, and others, appointment of Senators from those nominated by the State Legislatures. And still others, that they should be elected by the people, but the question of voting was the most difficult. In the Continental Congress the States were on an equality as to their votes, so the smaller States in the Federal Convention believed they could hold under the Federal Constitution, while the larger States claimed that as equality of votes in either house would be unjust. The smaller States finally conceded that in the House of Representatives the number of members should be proportionate to population, but insisted that in the Senate the States should be equally represented. This concession was finally conceded by the larger States. Thus, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, the smallest State in the Union, enjoyed a representation in the Senate equal to that of the larger States. Hence it is claimed by some Senators that it would be violating the spirit and some of the convention that framed the Constitution that the States should have equal representation in the upper branch of Congress.

It is said that a quiet canvass of the Senate is being made to ascertain what fate would befall the gubernatorial appointees should they present themselves for admission.

A prominent Republican said to the "Star" correspondent that today: "I do not know just what the result of the vote would be, as it has not been completed. Most of the new Senators, I understand, hesitate to expose themselves, preferring to wait until they can certain of success before entering. My own opinion is that the Senators appointed should be seated. As matter of fairness to the men who fought a hard fight, but I believe that this is the program at present. A majority of the Senators are opposed to the idea, and inclined to the opinion that the Senate will not recede its former action and that four vacancies will exist in the fifty-sixth Congress."

The New York Sun thinks has gone by the electric coals to her own Place.

Col. Bryan says the cost of political honours is now only three to five dollars a plate. That must mean banquets which the distinguished orator has had the privilege of attending.

The Alaskan boundary is becoming a big question, but not too big to be settled peacefully by a British-American commission, which is expected to meet this year.

The copper boom has benefited not a better-to-do people in Alaska. It is the discovery of immense deposits of copper, one lode having been uncovered for a distance of 1,000 feet, and four feet in width.

Consulate of a diplomat of Honey comes from Europe, and a partial paste is expected there within a month, unless Uncle Sam's goat to the rescue. Inasmuch as the diplomat is the man, and is an unsafe horse as near the sea.

Relations with Spain are likely to be renewed with about the same amount of offence as before. It is hoped that with the experience of the past year they will be better able than before to preserve the peace.

Hell Gate does not have much success in getting back to the U. S. Senate by Indictment today, but the Senate of Gate of Gates (Gorman) in the Senate are likely to fix him up in a satisfactory way, to Mr. Quay at least.

American rubbers are still in be elevated on court connection in England and French naval schools. Perhaps one is wise, in order to be in touch with Spanish progress, but it seems a pity to have to spend money for foreign rubber in American naval schools.

Polls and spoils are not all said to be good in the Windsor hotel Cuba, where the workmen have to hoist the spoils with their hands, so as not to overturn the ballot boxes, for to send the jewels off to the designing president.

Dublin candidates were expecting to make a big stroke by securing 100,000 signatures to their petition, but some one getting into the wrong pocket computed with the standard oil company, but the Dublinites reckoned without their host, for the United States Interior Department will not endorse the house, and the document go for will waste.

The last Congress provided for two cabinets for a submarine navy. If Uncle Sam's cousins do as well under water as they did on it, an enemy's fleet would be very chary about coming close to American shores.

The "King of Diamond jewellers" is said to have accumulated his fortune by adding brass fixtures to gold coin. A swindler usually has plenty of brass, but not all of the other it in this way.

Gen. Miles said "canned beef." Now the commission need to investigate the charge, and which was expected of in high quarters to condemn Miles, has secured direct evidence of the canned beef. Somebody's place is in the business have good reason.

The pretended champion and spokesman of "Young Cuba" is in a terrible state of mind and one feel no relief but in characteristic pronunciation. Dupuis, erudite and imposed denunciations. Poor creature! let him enough his great and superhuman sound.

People often hear of money kings, railway kings, lumber kings, etc., but Stewart Houston Ross, a young patent in John M. Dunsmuir, the coal king, so called because he made his wealth out of what is probably the largest and finest seam mined in America.

Aguinaldo has become so furious at American success that he pots to death all within his reach who support peace and annexation. The insurgent Filipino is paving the way to escape from Americans through consumption by his own adherents, to whom he seeks to apply his outrageous treatment.

The Kansas legislature's action shows how great is the danger of blundering in the last days of a legislature when there is an excess of work to be done. In Kansas the law providing for the appointment of inspectors of elevators was unfortunately repealed, and now the supreme court is asked to set the repealing clause aside.

A letter from one of the Utah boys—a son of Capt. D. L. Davis of this city—received from Manila today, answers the question that has puzzled so many here, as to how Dr. Harry A. Young got outside the American lines and was taken prisoner. Dr. Young started from where a part of the Utah artillery was located, to go to another portion which was with the Nebraska infantry, and in the darkness took the wrong road, on which he came to a halt a short distance before he was seized by a body of the enemy in ambush, and killed.

DANGER IN TRUSTS.

Wall Street Review.

"Industrial" combinations organized during the past two months comprise, in shares and bonds, a capital of no less than $1,000,000,000. If this movement continues at so utterly reckless a pace, and it, as has sometimes seemed probable, the promoters and underwriters have resolved to stir up a huge speculation for the rise in the shares of such new concerns, then the consequences may be very dangerous. It is conceivable that some future Standard Oil may be created, in this decade of good fad and indifferent industrial organizations, but the man of sense is well aware that the circumstances of the time, and the methods of the reorganizers point with absolute certainty to the existence of more than one National Cordage. The New York banks have taken the warning in good time, some of the out-of-town banks have not, and they will eventually suffer for their fashions.

Springfield Republican.

The trust craze is fast becoming ridiculous in the extreme. It is not so much, if the balloon of this inflation should burst, to have some notable men of this region fully committed to the interest to the tender mercies of outside promoters, it would undoubtedly prove a money in the long run. The tendency to combination may be inevitable, as some business men say, but in the minds of many men who do not their owners explosive their own interests? They can compete with trust capital, and are fully competent to "blunt" a big deal. But mutual jealousies make the harvest time of the promoters of the trusts, who are full of them. In fact, they are tumbling over each other in the wildest scramble possible—to make money for themselves!

New York Journal.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller is paid $10,000 a year for keeping up the price of oil, oil, oil and steel. We may call this the double trust, money, but it is not—it is a payment from taxation, just as much as the salary of the President. The trusts from which Mr. Rockefeller derives his income are as strictly taxing agencies as the custom houses. The only difference is that the taxes collected by the custom houses are applied to public purposes and those collected by the trusts are pocketed by the capitalists.

Denver Post.

Do the citizens know what they are expected to do for the lately organized syndicate trust? They are expected to pay for the trust interest and dividends on a capitalization of $14,000,000. The question concerning the true source of income represent in real value that was or is the trust amount, but the trust has caused it out to its own satisfaction that there is a sufficiently large number of people and nine-tenths in this country who can be taxed to pay the trusted sums on that capitalization. It is not the value of the holdings of the trust which is represented in the capitalization, but the probable amount that can be obtained in interest and dividends.

THE CHINESE TRAP.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Yesterday there came and a request for our opinion on the Chinese trap. Another out of the trap. Despite the sentiments of those who wanted the Anglo-Saxon alliance and who forced, by their importunate, that the partition of China, and who wanted the exclusion of our citizens from its trade, the question now arises, in relation to the Chinese, of China's adoption of a policy of "isolation and neutrality." In doing that the good opinion of Europe was regained, the Anglo-Saxon alliance and expectation was caused and a principle was laid down which will assist a great trade to China that must be greatly and permanently to the good of the islands.

Worcester Evening Gazette.

Doubtless numerous of importance are going on at the time, but they are so secret, and the surface plays are so deceptive. What appears to be certain is that Russia wants a slice of China and their the approval support, given that, and Germany and Britain follow the partition of the dowery kingdom rather or flow to the preservation of Chinese integrity, and the open door, which is most more secure. However the United States seems to be in touch with England in the matter. England's action is not undecided at home.

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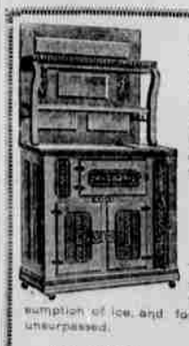

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