

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 20, 1900.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The seventieth semi-annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence on Friday, October 6, at 10 a. m. in the Tabernacle in this city.

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

FAST DAY.

Inasmuch as one of the sessions of our forthcoming General Conference will be held on Sunday, the 7th prox., which is our general fast day, the next fast day services will be held on the last Sunday of the present month instead of the first Sunday of next month.

LORENZO SNOW.

THE MEETING TONIGHT.

The meeting called for tonight by the Mayor, to be held in the City Council chamber in the joint building, will be of great importance to the whole State. The representative business men who have been invited to attend should all be there if possible. The contemplated railroad to connect this city with Los Angeles direct, is evidently a bona fide proposition, which is supported by sufficient capital to put it through.

Certain concessions are requested which will be explained by gentlemen prominently associated with the enterprise, and which it is expected will be freely and fairly discussed. It is already known that among these concessions are grounds for depot purposes and franchises to secure rights of way. The interests of the people of Salt Lake City will necessarily figure in the conference as well as those of the company of capitalists. It is to be hoped that they will prove to be mutual.

Our citizens will, doubtless, desire to promote the speedy construction of a road that promises so many benefits to the city and the State, and the gentlemen representing the project will not, surely, desire to obtain anything from the city which would be shadowed by the least cloud of illegality. Whatever may be asked should be kindly considered, and whatever can be granted should be given with hearty good will.

The proceedings, it is needless to say, will be harmonious and that courtesy will be shown, to all who participate, which should prevail among gentlemen interested in the public welfare. The meeting is timely, and should result in measures favorable to the undertaking that will materialize the hopes and wishes of active minds in both the cities that are to be united with iron bands and mutual interests. The meeting is to commence at 7:30 tonight.

A WONDER OF WONDERS.

Among the marvels of the century about to expire, none is more wonderful than the new familiar telephone. A prediction at the beginning of the century, that people would converse at a distance from each other of scores of miles, and that the tones of their voices would be as clearly distinguished and their individuality recognized as though spoken in each other's presence, would have been spurned with as much incredulity as the theory of the philosopher's stone, or the elixir of life, or perpetual motion. But today the crude thought that then flitted through the brains of so-called "cranks," has become a practical fact, a widespread reality, and distance is gradually being annihilated as regards the communion of mankind.

Think of Salt Lake talking freely with Denver, Chicago with Boston, and the Old World with the New, and the peculiarities of voice and expression being maintained, without instantaneousness it is truly marvelous and suggests possibilities, as the ages advance, that almost make the soul tremble with anticipation and thrill with delight.

If such things can be wrought by mortals in their undeveloped state and with the imperfect means at their command, what possibilities may be attained by immortals to whom the secrets of the universe, the hidden forces of nature, the spiritual powers behind matter are clearly unveiled? And even in man's earthly condition, what may be done in the centuries to come, judging by the progress of the past ten decades, opens up a vista so broad and magnificent that the words we may frame fail to begin to describe it.

Coming down to the present and to existing facts, the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company is to be congratulated on its splendid service and great success, which may fairly be termed a public benefaction. Of course the work has been done for financial profit. But the enterprise displayed and the effects produced are worthy of

commendation, and are to be admired by just people who, to any extent, sense the good that accrues from such undertakings as serve to bring people and nations into closer communion, smoothing the rugged ways of life, and aiding in the progress of humanity towards that unity of interests that will result in universal brotherhood.

This intermountain region, once a solitary desert, is now a grand congeries of thrifty States and peoples by live, vigorous citizens working together in great degree for the common good. The railroad and the telegraph have aided materially in the work that has been accomplished, and the telephone has become almost a necessity to the demands of the accelerated times. We are thankful for its benefits and proud of its achievements in these mountain valleys, and we hope for its continued advancement, improvement and success.

NO SAFETY ON EARTH.

All the reports from flood-swept Galveston indicate that its citizens have set about rebuilding their beautiful city, and repairing the damage done by the elements. That is the true American spirit. In this country cities and towns visited by floods, fire, or earthquakes are not abandoned. They generally rise out of the ruins, like the Phoenix of fabulous fame, with renewed youth and vigor. In all probability Galveston will be resurrected and once more take its place among the business centers of the country, improved and beautified.

Some advice has been given the grief-stricken citizens of Galveston that they abandon the site of the city, with its costly wharves and deep water harbor. It has been urged that such a calamity may come any day and in a few hours obliterate the results of the labor of generations. But it appears the people are willing to take chances as to that. They have dwelt so many years in comparative safety in that locality, that they feel justified in trusting to the future.

And this is, after all, a rational view. Were cities to be built only where there is no danger of their destruction, they could not be placed anywhere on this earth. The entire Atlantic sea board is sinking, scientists tell us, at the rate of two feet a century. Is there any guarantee that this sinking may not at some time become a sudden drop into the abyss below? And if so, what would be the fate of New York, for instance? The coasts of southern Sweden, Denmark, and Holland are also said to gradually go down beneath the waves, while the islands of the Pacific, and the west coast of South America are rising. The entire earth is in convulsions, the contours of its oceans and continents gradually changing. And there is ample evidence that at certain times floods and glaciers, and earthquakes have interrupted the generally slow development, and rendered vast areas of the earth uninhabitable. What has happened before may happen again.

In vain would it be to argue that there is safety far away from the coasts. For in the valleys the mighty rivers sometimes swell and carry death and destruction to the cities on their banks. On the vast plains cyclones may arise at any moment and sweep away the handwork of man, as if it were but dust. And in the mountain regions snowslides may occur, or earthquakes may bring desolation; or volcanoes may burst forth and bury human habitations under ashes and glowing lava. Where on earth is man safe from destruction by the mighty forces of nature?

There was a time in the history of mankind, when the philosophy prevailed, which ascribed such visitations to the divine wrath incurred on account of sin. In our day there is a lamentable tendency to regard that view as childish and superstitious. It is quite certain, however, that the mind which can in nature see nothing but chance, now propitious and now adverse, has a much less solid foundation for happiness than the man or woman who "acknowledges the hand of God in all things." There is more intimate connection between the moral status of a people and outbursts of the destructive natural forces, than most people in modern times are willing to admit. When righteousness prevails, even nature rests in peace. The prince who has "power in the air," cannot harm those who dwell under the protection of the Almighty.

HUMANE EFFORTS.

The efforts of the American Humane society to extend its usefulness, deserve, it seems to us, the generous support of the public. Its aim is to extend protection to neglected children and to helpless animals, the victims of abuse. That the existence of such an organization should be one of the needs of the time, may be a reflection on its moral status, but the facts must nevertheless be met.

At the annual meeting of the Utah branch of the society, one of the speakers cited cases of cruelty both to children and to domestic animals, that had come to his notice, or to which his attention had been called. And no doubt any intelligent observer would be able to supplement his report with similar cases.

There is a great deal of ignorance and thoughtlessness on this subject. Many parents do not have the ability, nor do they care, to analyze the motives and sentiments of the children. They judge them from their own level instead of from the standpoint of a radically wrong treatment, by which they are morally and intellectually, and often physically, injured for life. There is much need of education on this line.

No less necessary is it that people should have correct information on their duties towards the animal creation. The animals, too, have their rights. They are the handiwork of the Creator, and he, who has any regard for the Supreme Being will treat them much as he would a beautiful piece of art—a painting or a statue—in which the poetic ideas of his own beloved father had been embodied. With the Latter-day Saints, the ideas which the Humane society advocate have always been of religious importance. But their public speakers have

not infrequently been ridiculed by preachers of patented theology for urging their audiences to take proper care of their horses and cows, and so on. But that does not matter. They have been the pioneers in humanity as in so many other things that mark an advanced civilization, and their labors have not been without result. Much remains to be done, however, and the Humane society deserves support both in its efforts to spread information, and to secure proper legislation for the furtherance of its interests.

GERMANY'S NOTE.

The proceedings of the combined powers in China, after the occupation of Peking, appear to be calculated to delay the final settlement rather than to hasten it. The hesitation to accept the credentials of Li Hung Chang can be best accounted for, on the supposition that the present muddle serves the interests of some of the governments concerned, better than the clear situation would do. And now the suggestion of Germany that the parties responsible for the Peking outrages be brought to justice, before peace negotiations are commenced, seems to have no further aim than to postpone the final settlement.

With the peculiar ideas entertained in China of responsibility, there would be no end of trouble in finding the "guilty persons." The Imperial government would be sure to shield its own protectors, who perhaps are more responsible for the outrages committed than are any of their tools. It would substitute for the real criminals, wretches that might be induced to take their places, by promises of rewards both to their ancestors and their descendants. And it would be a waste of time to try to sift testimony in each case in order to find out the truth. It is safe to say that if diplomatic relations with China are not to be resumed until the matter of responsibility shall have been decided by an international court of inquiry, in full accord with truth and justice, China will for a long time to come be without an officially recognized government.

Besides, such an inquiry might establish the fact, that the accusation against the queen regent, is but too well founded. It has been alleged that the Imperial family are in the last instance responsible for the tragic death of the German minister and the siege of the British legation. What could the avengers do, were this grave charge proven? Would they mete out the same measure of punishment to the emperor and the emperor as to their creatures? Or would they crush the tools while caressing the hands that wielded them? The dilemma is a most unpleasant one, and it would most likely, as the Chinese minister in Washington points out, bring the negotiations to a standstill. But perhaps that is the very point aimed at by German diplomacy.

The only point the powers must ascertain with absolute certainty, as a preliminary step to further negotiations, is to what extent the Imperial government is responsible. If the charges are true, justice would demand that the dynasty be dethroned and its place given to a house worthy of confidence. Then the further proceedings could be safely left with the new government. If, on the other hand, the reigning potentates are found innocent, they can be depended on, when reinstated, to undertake the punishment of those who have brought all this misery upon them, and to make such further reparations as may be reasonably demanded of them. The proposition is simple. It is not to make a hunt for a number of "notoriously guilty" servants in the employ of assassins, but to ascertain the part played in the tragedy by the government itself, and then act accordingly. In no other way can the Chinese trouble, be settled satisfactorily, if the aim is to remove the possibility of new outbreaks at times when least expected.

RECLAIMING THE DESERT.

A citizen of Phoenix, Ariz., in an interview with a representative of the New Orleans Times-Democrat, expresses his firm belief that the government experiments to reclaim what is called the American desert will prove very successful. He says in part:

"The desert district is horrible to look at, and at first blush the idea of making anything grow there seems laughable. For hundreds of miles the country is as flat as a pancake, without a scrap of vegetation or a rock, stone, hill, butte or anything whatever to break the monotony of the view. The surface is covered ankle deep with gray alkali dust, and if you turn around on your heel, following the horizon line with your eye, you get a curious impression of being at the center of an immense disk. It seems as if you could go to the edge and jump off into space, and if ever a region had death and desolation written all over it in big letters you will find it right there. That's why irrigation seemed so preposterous when first proposed."

About ten years ago, however, a Frenchman named Lemoine tried the effect of water on a piece of desert land near the Little Gila river. He ran a line of ditches for several miles, and the country they traverse is today one of the finest farms in the whole West. The same thing has been done on a limited scale at several other points on the edge of the desert, and now the government proposes to build a big dam on the Gila and try the experiment at the worst and most desolate parts of the entire region. If it proves a success it will open up an enormous domain to settlers."

As to the work performed by the Latter-day Saints in Utah, the Arizona gentleman says:

"Before the 'Mormons' came to Utah, the Salt Lake valley was a second death valley—simply an arid stretch of sand from one end to the other. Brigham Young designed a simple system of irrigation ditches and turned the sand dunes into a marvellous garden. The people of the Southwest are deeply interested in the problem and are convinced that they will ultimately wipe the American desert off the map."

cheek is one of the strongest symptoms of it.

There is an eternal fitness of things, and this fitness flows down on horseplay in the executive department of the State.

The culprit who confessed to the stealing of five sacks of sugar should have his sweet tooth drawn; this merely as a preventive.

Judging by his instructions to the Philippine commission to report on the condition of the islands, the secretary of war is anxious to get to the Root of the whole business.

The United States took up Germany's loan. And now Emperor William sends Uncle Sam his note; this, probably, on the theory that "one good turn deserves another."

The story that Lieutenant Hobson has said that Admiral Dewey did not sink the Spanish ships in Manila bay, but that they were sunk by the Spaniards themselves, will generally be discredited. The lieutenant is surely too gallant a man and too loyal an officer to make such a criticism. Professional pride alone would forbid him to make the remarks credited to him.

Unmistakable symptoms show that the Cæsen Standard is still under the influence of the fever it has complained of lately, and it now threatens to have "another chill." Lest our c.e.'s release should become dangerous, we will refrain from further "safety," and thus comply with its earnest request. The Standard likes to poke fun of a grim and ghastly sort—but has the shakes when the joke is turned upon it, self.

In its report to Secretary Root the Philippine commission says that in the not distant future the English language will be the medium of communication in the courts, public offices and between the different tribes. This is probably so, for of all the foreign languages in the Orient English is by far the most prevalent. Pigeon English is almost universal throughout the East, there being no such thing as pigeon French or pigeon German or pigeon Russian. The tongue of the modern Anglo-Saxon bids fair to become the most universal of all the languages.

The people of Utah will regret to learn of the death of General John A. McClernand. In the days of the Utah commission they learned to know and respect him. He was pre-eminently honest and upright, and a defender of the constitutional rights of the people without pretending any sympathy for the religious views or practices of the "Mormon" people. He had a long and honorable career, having been for several terms a member of Congress and a gallant soldier in the civil war. He died full of years and honors and he goes down to the grave to be held in tender memory by all who knew him.

It is very evident that the Filipino insurgents still have hope of achieving success in one form or another. The recent engagement at Sinaloa, in which the Americans lost two officers and ten men killed, twenty-six wounded, and five missing, shows how unsafe and unsettled matters in the islands are. With or without a presidential campaign on in the United States there will in all probability continue, for a considerable time, to be encounters between the insurgents and small bodies of our soldiers. Better acquaintance on the part of the Filipinos with American aims and methods will be the surest guarantee of a complete and permanent peace.

THE GALVESTON CALAMITY.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Therefore any predictions that its present site will be abandoned, in consequence of the calamity under which it now mourns, are puerile. The Galvestonians will stick to their island just as the Chicagoans stuck to the site of their old homes after the great fire. Very likely they may imitate Chicago and raise, by artificial means, the building level of their city. For some readers of the Pioneer Press will recall that some forty years ago Chicago lifted herself bodily about eight feet above her former street level—even the heaviest brick blocks being raised to the new street level by means of jack screws. What Chicago did Galveston may much more easily accomplish. Then, with additional sea walls and her water supply brought through a subterranean conduit from the mainland, she may defy the storm king of the Gulf.

Baltimore Sun.

The horrors of a storm of which a city of 40,000 people was assailed at once by a wind with a velocity of 80 miles and by waves of the sea that flooded the highest parts to a depth of four feet have been imagined. Houses collapsed, ships were wrecked and bridges were carried away. Citizens rushing to the streets to escape the effects of the wind were drowned in the rising waters. The air was full of flying debris, which caused the death of many. So sudden was the calamity that it was impossible to provide against it.

New York Evening Sun.

To be wise after the fact is not edifying. The disaster at Galveston was no more foreseen than was the earthquake at Charleston, which astounded men of science. It came without warning, destroyed life and leveled buildings; yet an earthquake never been dreamed of in the lowlands of South Carolina. There is just as much reason for just as little for such a visitation at New York, with its streets a few feet above the water and its rack of buildings towering skyward. From a storm such as that at Galveston we are probably safe, for our great structures are anchored deep and the harbor's conformation precludes the idea of a flood by sea. But in putting the hand in the pocket for Galveston's relief it is just as well to reflect that New York is just under the special protection of Providence. We may need sympathy and a helping hand ourselves some day, though the manner of the affliction is beyond conception at present.

Chicago Record.

At no time within recent years has any city in this country witnessed such calamities as are now taking place in the Gulf-coast city, where the authorities have been obliged to establish martial law and at the point of the bayonet continue the work before them. The presence of a villainous criminal element, which sees in the disaster only an occasion for looting, has made this necessary. There is no time for the formalities of civil law, and men who will not assist, or who pretend to assist only to rob, are shot down without parley. The methods are harsh, but they are apparently obligatory upon the men who in this reign of terror still preserve enough sanity and courage to do their duty. The presence of the

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Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

ghouls in Galveston adds a touch of medieval barbarism to the situation, and their outrages evidently can be met only by medieval methods of justice.

Kansas City Star.

Galveston, bleeding and torn, stripped in one fateful night of all its glory, lifts a fearful voice, like one anointed to a bold mission, to deny all that has been said in impeachment of the American people, and to affirm their magnificent humanity. Out of the wreck and havoc which has laid low the fated Texan city let this truth appear, and let it find judgment in every American heart—that a people who can rise to the sublime benevolence which is sweeping like a wave over the track of the murderous and sinister floods, who can be quickened by the neighborly instinct which is sending succor to Galveston from the remotest parts of the Union, can be relied upon to maintain a government which shall rule in mercy and righteousness, and which will not prey upon the weak and the helpless. The lesson of Galveston is that America—for it is the people who make the nation—has fulfilled all of the high hopes of its brave and patriotic founders.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The only catastrophe on the American coast which may be regarded as a rival in extent to the present was the great storm of the last week in August, seven years ago. The coasts of Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were ravaged in turn and nearly 1,000 lives were lost, principally on the South Carolina sea islands. The survivors of that catastrophe lost everything they had and only prompt succor by the federal government and the general public, working through the Red Cross association saved thousands from dying of starvation and exposure.

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TYPEWRITING, Scotch method of finger-peg, which sees in the disaster only an occasion for looting, has made this necessary. There is no time for the formalities of civil law, and men who will not assist, or who pretend to assist only to rob, are shot down without parley. The methods are harsh, but they are apparently obligatory upon the men who in this reign of terror still preserve enough sanity and courage to do their duty. The presence of the

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