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

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Charles W. Peterson, Editor
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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 1, 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.

MONTHLY FAST.

As the general conference of the Church will be in session on the first Sunday in April, the monthly fast which would otherwise be held on that day, will be observed on the last Sunday in March and the fast meetings be held on that day, March 31, 1901.

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

DON'T MUDDLE OR MEDDLE.

It is to be hoped that the legislature will not pass any measure that will disturb the existing laws in relation to water rights in this State. There has been enough litigation, extending over a period of many years, in relation to this vital matter, without any renewal of the conflict. It has nearly come to an end. In most of the counties adverse claims have been settled. Peace has been proclaimed. The titles have been established and affairs concerning them will probably flow on, as quietly as the water runs. Where this has not been fully effected, adjudication is in process that will soon bring about a final settlement. Don't stir up the mud any more.

It has been proposed to introduce, here, the system established in Wyoming, and place our water affairs under a State board of control. Don't do it. The Wyoming Constitution requires or permits this, on the theory that all the waters of Wyoming belong to the State. Our Constitution does not take that ground, but recognizes and confirms all individual and public water rights existing at the organization of the State. Article seventeen of the Constitution says:

"All existing rights to the use of the waters in this State for any useful or beneficial purpose, are hereby recognized and confirmed."

Legislation based on the Wyoming theory of State ownership of the water, or that would in any way conflict with the provision of our own Constitution, cited above, would be absolutely void ab initio. There is no present need of a change in the method of acquiring and maintaining water rights. The Revised Statutes of Utah make ample provision therefor. Title thirty-three contains clear definitions and specific requirements, which have been found to be adequate for the desired purpose.

The courts have shown their ability to adjudicate adverse claims as to those rights. They may not always decide in accordance with people's views of equity, but that is another matter. The system works well and does not need a change—certainly not a revolution which would start litigation anew, and upset that which has taken so long to place on a firm foundation. Let the people's water rights alone.

LET WELL ALONE.

When the sober second thought of our lawmakers led to the beheading of the bill to abolish the office of district attorney, created at the last session of the legislature, we hoped that would end the attempt to undo the work of the session of 1899 before it could have an opportunity of exhibiting its utility or otherwise.

But it seems another measure, akin to that which has been just killed, has been introduced for consideration. It proposes to change the amount of salaries fixed in the law. What for? Why not let well enough alone? None of them are too high considering the work to be done and the legal ability required for it. None of them are too low when the relative sizes and responsibilities of the districts are compared.

The same reasons for not repealing a law that has not been tested as to its merits, obtain in this matter of compensation. If it is wise to defer action until the next session of the legislature in one case, it is just the same in the other. Indeed the whole matter is included in the proposition to let the law alone, until it has had time to exhibit its benefits or defects.

The third judicial district is of such importance and requires so much legal labor and ability, that not only is the salary fixed but a fair remuneration for the services to be rendered, but one man will find it beyond his powers to attend to all the details and responsibilities of the office, and he should have an assistant on whom some of the less important labor can devolve.

We hope our legislators who have an

eye to economy, will not spoil the work of the last session, in this particular, by a parsimony that will be injurious to the State. But we trust they will see the inadvisability of tinkering with a measure that should be given a little time to operate, when, if it proves to be inexpedient or inadequate, it can be repealed or amended as experience shall show to be necessary.

DILIGENCE WITHOUT HASTE.

We observe with pleasure that another bill, the defects in which were pointed out by the Deseret News, has been decapitated. It is that requiring judges to clear their dockets and render decisions in a given time, or be prevented from drawing their salaries. It was a vicious measure and we are glad it is no more.

At the same time we respectfully suggest that litigants are often put to great inconvenience and expense, by delays in the settlement of cases in which they are interested. And if this little ripple on the judicial waters shall have the effect of expediting judicial work, the apparent evil of the dead bill may be productive of vital good.

Too great haste in reaching a decision is not to be desired. But procrastination is also a wrong, both to the parties immediately interested and to the general public. Festina lente is a good motto for judges, and we hope the shaking up the bill now defunct has occasioned, will cause a little more alacrity on the part of the officials who occupy and adorn the bench. Diligence without hurry is the thing that is needed.

AN APPRECIATIVE LETTER.

The Deseret News of Feb. 16 contained an original review of the entertaining book, written by Major J. B. Pond, the noted manager of celebrated lectures. In response the author sends us a very appreciative letter, in which he refers to a number of prominent men and women in Utah, and of whom he speaks in very complimentary terms. Among them are President Brigham Young and his daughter, Mrs. Susa Y. Gates. Of our notice of his book he says:

"I have read some fine reviews of the book both in this country and England, and received some excellent letters from some of the most distinguished men of the land, but nothing that gave me the great delight that your notice has done, because I think I know your paper well. It is a fact that wherever it is known and read it is looked upon as reliable. Not much show about it. And its great client, the Mormon people, I love and respect very much, and when I get an expression from them I know that it is reliable too. The Mormons never had a more appreciative or truer friend than I have always been. The Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon, he may not know or think well of me, but I know and respect him very highly. He is one of the few great men of his kind that is now spared to us, and many other dear friends among the Latter-day Saints, than whom there can be no better."

Major Pond expects to revisit Utah soon, and will have in charge the lecturing tour of Ernest Seton-Thompson, the famous writer and speaker on wild animals, who has delighted many thousands of children, their parents and teachers in the leading cities of the land. He expects to be here some time in April.

SUCCESSOR TO THE G. A. R.

The current number of the United States Volunteer states that the Grand Army of the Republic is now passing away at the rate of a 1,000 a month. Only ten years ago the Army had 400,000 men on its rolls. Now there are only 276,662 names, and the death rate is said to be rapidly increasing, while thousands of those still living are helpless old men who have attended their last camp meeting and marched in their last parade.

The Volunteer also calls attention to the fact that pension frauds are numerous, through the efforts of pension lawyers who sometimes succeed in having pension bills passed in batches. Unworthy ex-soldiers, in the paper says, fall into the hands of sharks. "Facts" are manufactured, witnesses suborned and the Pension Bureau is being stormed, only by the unscrupulous. "With shame we recall," it is said, "the District of Columbia battalion which after a brief three weeks outing, has applied, in a body, for pensions. Not twenty honest cases existed in that organization. The editor can point to favored attorneys, the co-operation of powerful schemes, and it all means robbery of the treasury and final injustice to the really deserving."

It has sometimes been denied that any pension frauds existed, but the editor of the Volunteer apparently bases his assertions on known facts.

The mistakes of the past should not be repeated in the future. The famous Grand Army must naturally, in the course of a few more years belong to the past, but another organization is to take its place. This is the Spanish American War Veterans' association, to which it is proposed to admit soldiers, sailors, and marines who saw service during the Spanish war and Philippine insurrection. The familiar features of military burial for deceased comrades, Memorial Day exercises, camp fires, etc., will be perpetuated, and the pension business will continue. It is right that those who have faithfully served their country in the time of danger, and suffered injuries by which they are rendered incapable of providing for themselves and their families, should be taken care of liberally by the country, but a practice, by which the people are simply robbed, should not be continued.

Among the members of the new organization are Generals Miles, Lee, Shafter, Wheeler, King, Gobin, Admirals Schley, Sampson and many others. The association is already scattered over thirty-six States in the Union.

DUST AND CONSUMPTION.

No disease, perhaps, has been more diligently studied by scientists, than consumption. Various cures and treatments have been the outcome of this research, but as yet no sure "remedy" has been found. Still, the disease is less dreaded than it was once. A professor at the university of New Mexico recommends the change of residence, from low altitudes to high, or from high to low, as the case of the patient may demand, in order that na-

ture may effect a cure, and the result of the deliberations of a medical convention in Canada, recently held, was thus expressed by a delegate: "All doctors know how curable the disease is. The fresh air and God's sun are the great curative agents, and those 'can be had anywhere.'"

Medical writers point out that there is a racial susceptibility to pulmonary troubles. In illustration of this, it is stated that from 1884 to 1890, it is estimated that among every 100,000 of the population there occurred annually in New York 238 deaths of pulmonary troubles among the white natives, 483 among white foreigners, and 774 among the colored people. But the Jews were remarkably exempt from this disease, only 36 of every 1,000 deaths being from that cause.

This is also the case among Jews elsewhere. According to a communication in a recent number of the Revue d'Hygiene et de Sanitaire, by Tostivint and Rehlinger, only 34 of the entire number of 2,744 deaths among the Jews of Tunis in the five years from 1895 to 1899 were due to tuberculosis—1.24 per cent. It is further estimated that the average annual mortality from tuberculosis among the Mussulman Arabs between the years 1894 and 1900 was 11.20 per 1,000, among Europeans 5.13 per 1,000, and among Jews 0.75 per 1,000.

What is particularly interesting in this account is the fact that the comparative immunity of the Hebrew race from this deadly affliction is ascribed to the abhorrence of the Jewish ladies of the use of the dusting brush, damp cloths being preferred for wiping off floors and furniture. The information should contain a valuable hint in hygiene to the managers of both domestic and municipal affairs, as far as the cleaning departments are concerned. The dust question is apparently as important as the pure food question.

When Lord Kitchener visits Botha's surrender there will be no further doubt or questions.

Aguinaldo has issued another proclamation. Why does not he himself issue forth?

What's the matter with Kansas? There has been no saloon smashing there for a whole week.

There is a vast difference between legislators' motions and the legislature getting a move on itself.

March came in like a little lamb whose face is as mild as milk and its fleece is as white as snow.

Regarding the promotion of warrant officers Admiral Sampson's position seems to be that the man behind the gun should remain there.

Tammany's committee of five has ended its war on vice. It will still be necessary to have several wars before all vice in New York is wiped out.

The other night burglars entered Grace church, New York, and robbed it of silverware and valuables. And yet the adage says, "The nearer the church the further from grace."

Three Illinois banks have collapsed because their president dabbled in liquid air. Liquid or other air is not a good thing in which to invest bank funds. Hard cash and government bonds are much to be preferred.

An Atchison girl of sixteen summers has written an essay on "How to Grow Old Gracefully." The most prominent woman in the Sunflower State doesn't seem to have had the benefit of a perusal of this philosophic effort.

Roslyn Ferrell, who murdered Express Messenger Lane, went to his death with a stoicism that almost challenged admiration. Had he met death in the same unflinching way in a worthy cause it would have been heroism. It proves that a man may be a lost and wicked soul and yet die without fear.

In the death of William M. Everts the country loses a good man though for some years past he has been in retirement and has taken no part in public affairs. A great lawyer and a fair general, his chief claim to fame is his connection with the celebrated Alabama claims award. At Geneva he stood a giant among giants and to his learning and acumen was in large part due the triumph of the United States. He was not a great man, but he came near being one and his example is worthy the emulation of the young men of the country.

All English officers have been ordered to wear their uniforms on the street and in all public places, and it is said they do not take kindly to the order. It is no doubt the result of King Edward's determination to aspiate his capital to the military capitals of the continent. It is an easy matter to have officers wear their uniforms in all public places but this will never make London a military capital like Berlin and Paris are. The genius of the English people and of their institutions is against it. London is the great metropolis of the world, and that fact should content the ambition of any monarch.

In a political sense the substitution of Special Commissioner Rockhill for Minister Conger means nothing. The minister has served his country well and now wishes to come home. In all the United States and its insular possessions a fitter man to represent the government at Peking at this time could not be found than Mr. Rockhill. He is perfectly familiar with the Chinese tongue and has traveled most extensively in Asia. He recently edited for the Hakuyt Society the Journey of Filar Jordanus, and so high a literary authority as the Nation ranks it along side of Col. Yule's edition of Marco Polo for erudition and extensive research. The work fairly bristles with notes. Mr. Rockhill is also the author of several works dealing with Asia. The government made no mistake in appointing him special commissioner to China and he is pre-eminently the person to succeed Minister Conger.

THE STEEL TRUST.

Chicago News.

The only question is as to how many hundred weight of shares the Moore properties shall receive in exchange for their present capitalization. It would be the height of folly to let a question of this sort interfere with so important a deal. If the Moore properties are not satisfied with 1900 pounds of stock Mr. Morgan should instantly start up the printing press and offer them 2,200 pounds. What paper is not so cheap as formerly. Still, it can hardly be called an expensive commodity. The plan is understood to have involved the creation of eleven thousand millions of capitalization, but if anybody would be better satisfied to have it twelve or thirteen thousand millions his taste and fancy ought to be consulted.

San Francisco Chronicle.

There may be no "United Steel company" after all. Carnegie has sold out and the chances are that the uncanny Scotchman has been too much for the "great financiers" whom he sold out to. At any rate, it is probable that most men would rather have what he got than what he gave. But there the thing seems to stop. The time does not seem to be ripe for a billion-dollar trust. It scares people—even the very engineers who contrived the monster. They seem to fear that it may lie down on them. And there is ground for such fear. The proposed United Steel company would be greatly overcapitalized, and the pressure from investors for dividends would be dreadful. But dividends are uncertain. The German steel industry is in the dumps. So is that of Great Britain. Both are suffering from over-production, with too costly coal.

Springfield Republican.

The American billion-dollar steel scheme naturally causes much alarm in Great Britain, whose long-maintained supremacy in this industry is now recognized as having passed to the United States. What the British manufacturers especially fear is the operation of the combination in connection with the high American tariff and the absence of all tariff on these products in England. As the heart of large concerns in the Midlands district points out, the combination, under the protective tariff will be able to realize such large profits on the home business that it can afford to dump its surplus productions upon the English market at an actual loss, compelling the closing of the English mills. And the American tariff would prevent the British manufacturers from retailing in kind.

RIO DE JANEIRO DISASTER.

Kansas City World.

The City of Rio de Janeiro had among its passengers some scores of Americans who were returning to their native land after years of exile, and most notable among these was Consul General Wildman, whose activity during the early stages of the Philippine trouble made him one of the most conspicuous figures in the Orient. At the very gate of the country in which honors and rewards awaited him he was swallowed by the merciless sea only to be dashed and beaten on the inhospitable rocks of a coast which bordered the country of his hopes and desires. There is infinite pathos in the manner of his taking off.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Perhaps the disaster is not without its reasonable lessons. If, for example, in passenger life drill, like that which is in vogue in our public schools, had been in force on the Rio ships might have turned out better. If the passengers had been taught how to handle the falls of the boats at their davits, how to get at rafts and the use of life belts, more lives might have been saved. Panic possibly seized everybody on board at the last moment, but the discipline which training begets in children, and which enables them to march in an orderly manner out of a burning schoolhouse, if acquired by mature passengers through life drills on passenger ships might produce correspondingly good results in the case of disaster at sea. Such drill would reduce the monotony of the voyage and thus serve a useful purpose, if they served no other. The suggestion is worth considering.

Kansas City Star.

The speedy disappearance beneath the waves of the City of Rio de Janeiro after it struck a rock outside of San Francisco harbor emphasizes the tremendous value of vessels with watertight compartments. Had the ill-starred steamer been constructed on the modern plan, it is doubtful whether its injury would have caused the loss of a single life. The end came so soon that it was impossible to man the lifeboats and get the passengers into them. No cargo vessel without watertight compartments should think of carrying a large cargo of human souls. The admonition set forth in the wreck of the Rio de Janeiro is the necessity of every possible means of safety that can diminish the perils of the deep.

Chicago Record.

It is of little consequence whether a captain or pilot must bear the responsibility for the haste that proved fatal; of little consequence at what point the authority of one ends and the other begins. The fact remains that a delay of a few hours for the fog to disperse would have saved the ship itself and the scores who were drowned. Some one was in too great haste and the vessel went down hardly a stone's throw from the houses of the city and the parade ground of the Presidio, the military post facing San Francisco bay. Technically, however, it would appear that the responsibility lay with the captain for deciding to enter the harbor in such a thick fog and with the pilot for the loss of the vessel once it was placed under his direction for the purpose of making the entrance.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The March number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly has a striking article, "Partner North Than Nansen," in which an account is given of the dash for the pole which has placed the name of Abruzzi at the head of the list of Arctic explorers. For many months past an elaborate series of mental and physical experiments have been made under government guidance, with some 7,000 of the public school children in Chicago. The result shows, apparently, conclusively, that the development of a child's mind is in the direct corollary of the development of its body. An article upon this subject, written for Leslie by Edward Marshall, embodies the results of careful investigation. "The Road to Progress," the serial story for 1901, begins in the March number. Other features are "The Wrecking Train," that finished product of modern railway organization; "The History of Matthew Stanley Quay," and "Bird Haunts of Norway," illustrated with photographs.—Fifth Avenue, New York.

In the Review of Reviews for March, Mrs. Nation's saloon-wrecking crusade is occasion of some pertinent paragraphs. The editor takes the ground that lawlessness, at the present time in this country, is "a greater danger than drunkenness." On the question of Cuba's future relations with the United States the Review holds that much more time is required than its advocates of an extra session of Congress have allowed for. Mr. W. T. Stead contributes a character sketch of King Edward VII. There is a most interesting series of "Scenes of Country and Town in Australia," from recent photographs. The Hon. Le Grande Powers, chief statistician in charge of agriculture in

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS.

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