

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 8, 1905

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints will convene on Thursday,
the 6th of April, and adjourn Friday
afternoon, at Sunday morning,
and close Sunday afternoon.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.The general semi-annual conference
of the Desert Sunday School Union
will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt
Lake City, Sunday, April 9, 1905, at 7
o'clock, p. m. Officers and Sunday
school workers are requested to attend
and all are cordially invited.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

THE LATEST FLURRY.

A great noise will doubtless be made
by the enemies of the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints, over the
action of two individuals against its
President, who is its Trustee-in-trust,
for the purpose of their part of hampering
if possible the management of its
properties. The Desert News fore-
stalled the intended surprise and sen-
sation planned for the morning papers,
by giving the gist of the matter on Fri-
day afternoon. The full text of the
complaint will be found in this evening's
issue of the "News."The absurdity of the attempt will be
readily seen by those of our readers,
who wade through the document, and
who understand the status of the plain-
tiffs and can see what the purpose is
behind the proceedings. We do not
think the chief movers are silly enough
to imagine they can make any real case
out of their latest effort. But they may
succeed in arousing fresh or re-kindled
excitement against the Church, and the
will of course be abroad rather than at
home.The Latter-day Saints, who are over-
whelmingly so intensely devoted to their
President, and imbued with the
utmost confidence in his integrity, hon-
esty and ability, can afford to smile at
the feeble efforts of his foes and at their
exhibition of silliness mingled with malice.
There is no need for any concern
on their part as to the outcome of this
or any other maneuver against the
Church. The work of the Lord has met
with all kinds of hostility from the very
beginning, and we may look for it until
the end; that is, the end of the rule of
that Adversary who always was an ac-
cuser of the brethren, and who still
works in the hearts of the children of
disobedience.The case to come before the court
will, no doubt, be considered on its
merits, if it have any, and there may
be some developments which will fur-
nish food for the agitators out of which
to forge sensations for the out-
side world; but the people here
will soon see how little fire
there is for the smoke that
arises and the folly of the incendiaries
will be fully seen when it clears away.
Meanwhile, let no sane person become
excited over the flurry.

THE GENERAL SENTIMENT.

The feelings of the Latter-day Saints
throughout the Church when expressed
in words, are in accord with an article
which we clip from the Rexburg, Idaho,
Current-Journal. We do not believe
that any President of the Church has
ever had more cordial and united sup-
port than its present head. He not
only has the confidence and respect,
but the love and esteem of the people
to whom he ministers and for whom
he has been from the commencement
of his career a devoted, faithful and
untiring servant. The sentiments
brought out by the opposition of his
implacable enemies, who delight in
casting at him the mud in which they
flounder and revel, are reflected in the
article from which we quote, and we
are sure that they are echoed in the
heart of the great body of the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Every sentence in the editorial cited
is true. The words are well chosen, and
shine out as the genuine and honest
conclusions of the writer. We are
pleased to re-produce them and en-
dorse them. They will find many sup-
porters, even among people who are
not of our faith. The Current-Journal
says:

"We know President Smith and have

heard him speak many times. From
the day of childhood we have lis-
tened to his counsels and admonitions,
and he has never said anything in our
hearing that was not emulating and of
an elevating character. Through his
teachings we have learned to love our
country and its institutions better, and
to serve God with a greater zeal.
There is no need to be ashamed of the
testimony which he gave at Wash-
ington. We glory in it. We are proud
of him for saying what he did. To
know that he has been true to those
whom the Lord gave him in the days
of his youth, to his wives and children,
should not bring him reproach, but the
commendation and respect of all good
men. No man in the United States
has more occasion to be proud of his
family than he. Forty-two children, and
not one of them has ever crossed the
threshold of a saloon, or strayed from
the path of virtue. What a testimony
that is to his own character and the
purity of his life. How many of his
accusers can show a family record as
clean?""Where is the man or woman that he
has ever wronged? Where is the debt
that he has ever left unpaid, or the sin
of any kind that he has committed?
Who among all the barking curs that
snarl at his heels are worthy to sit as
his judge, and pass judgment upon his
morality?""Orphaned in his boyhood by the cruel
murder of his father, and the death of
his mother, he has made his own way
in the world, and written his name so
high upon the scroll of righteousness
that it will shed its light upon genera-
tions yet to come, and be held in honor
to the ends of the earth. He has strug-
gled with adversity and overcome all
obstacles. He has passed through pov-
erty as well as prosperity. He has
been an exile for years because of his
convictions, and lifted up his voice in
many lands and climes for the cause of
truth. Since he was fifteen years of
age he has been engaged in the minis-
try. Upon the islands of the sea, and
the continents of both the new and old
world there are thousands who bless his
name for the good he has done.
His life has not been devoted to the
accumulation of wealth, or 'com-
mercialism,' as it is falsely charged. He
has given his youth and manhood to the
Master's service, and the uplifting
of humanity. And today he stands as
the prophet of the people, their pres-
ident and leader, beloved and honored
by all in whose heart burns the spirit
of the Gospel.""Let his enemies rage in their fury
against him, and hold him up to ridicule
and scorn. They cannot shake him
from the hearts of his people; he is too
firmly established in their love. His
character has been too long build-
ing for it to be stained by the
vapors of a few disgruntled office-
seekers.""It should not be necessary for him
to defend himself. Let the Latter-day
Saints, who are acquainted with his
character and life, be his defenders.
Let him know that he is sustained by
their love and prayers daily. Where-
ver his name is uttered let them re-
spond as they would an insult. Every-
where, at home and abroad, from the
pulpit and in the press, let all the
world know that we are not ashamed
of our Prophet, Seer and Revelator."

DISLOYAL MISSIONARIES.

Turkish government officials have al-
ways maintained that the ultimate re-
sult of so-called missionary work in the
country, would be rebellion. For this
reason they have not looked with favor
upon the efforts of foreign missionary
societies to establish headquarters,
build schools, distribute tracts, etc.
They have, in fact, opposed this kind of
religious activity as much as they
have dared to do so in the presence of
the entire diplomatic corps and a little
army of foreign consuls. The mission-
aries generally have denied the Turkish
charges, and ascribed the annoyances
they have suffered to Turkish
bigotry, which, however, is strange.
In view of the fact that Mohammedans,
as a rule are entirely indifferent to
the beliefs of other people.That there is more truth in the
charge of disloyalty, than the mission-
aries care to admit, appears in a corre-
spondence from Sidon, Syria, to the
New York Evening Post. The writer
says that the American ideas imbibed
by returned emigrants, as well as stu-
dents in the schools, have inspired a
revolutionary movement in Syria. This
movement, we are told, is directed, in
the first instance, against the priests,
and the correspondent is evidently in
sympathy with it. But as these priests
hold authority with the consent of the
Sultan and, to some extent, represent
him in the midst of communities in
which Mohammedanism is considered
an abomination, the revolutionary
movement, though of a religious na-
ture, will lead to rebellion pure and
simple.As an illustration of what is going
on, the correspondent tells of the con-
ditions at Kesrawan. Not long ago, he
says, a few emigrants returned from
America, all on fire with ideas of lib-
erty, and they have kindled a flame
in the hearts of the young men of the
region. As a result, secret societies
are being formed in various parts of
the district, to resist oppression. We
are told expressly that missionaries are
aiding the revolutionary movement.
The correspondent says that "The
Young Men's Christian association of
Beirut, naturally sympathetic, was
among the first to become aware of the
movement in Kesrawan, and it is
sending books and pamphlets to the
leaders, and giving them such moral
support as may be possible under the
necessity of maintaining the essential
secrecy of the movement."There is a wide difference between
the sectarian missionaries of the Lord
and the first emissaries of the Lord,
who went out into the world with the
divine message. The latter were loyal
to the existing governments, and they
taught their followers to be loyal. They
enjoined the faithful to pray for the
preservation of the Roman empire, though
a Nero was at the head of it. They
did not aim a blow of violence
against any existing insti-
tutions. Paul restored a fugitive
slave to his master, thus avoid-
ing even the appearance of hostility to
an institution that he must have known
to be doomed under the banner of the
Gospel. They were loyal in everything.But our modern missionaries are too
often mischief-makers. They meddle
with everything, no matter how far
from their business it may be. There
is no doubt about it, that unwise mis-
sionary zeal was largely responsible for
the scandalous military expedition to
China, a few years ago, when Chinese
villages were outraged, thousands of
Chinese lives sacrificed, and millions stolen
by alleged followers of the cross. Are
the missionaries in Syria about to in-
stigate another movement that may
end in a massacre? If those responsi-
ble for the sectarian missionaries areunwilling to look after them, and give
them correct instructions as to their
work, it may become necessary for the
respective governments to take a hand
in the game. Missionaries, wherever
they go, should first of all be loyal to
the governments and laws that exist,
as far as they can without violating
God's laws. We do not agree to the
propagation that one laboring in the
Christian ministry has no right to do
anything but to read, pray, sing and
shout, as some of the enemies of the
"Mormons" contend that we ought to
do. On the contrary, we hold that every
man and woman has all the rights
and privileges accorded to him, or her,
by law, and that their duty is to exer-
cise the prerogatives given. But we
contend that loyalty is one of the first
duties and that reforms must be work-
ed out from within. Jesus was loyal to
the Old Testament laws and or-
dinances. And from that standpoint He
effected the reforms that encompassed
the world. So His followers must be
loyal, no matter where they are. And
from that standpoint they are to pre-
claim the divine message, as given to
them, and then leave the results with
God.The trouble of the sectarian mission-
aries is, that they, as they freely con-
fess, have no divine message to deliver.
If they had, they would have no time to
give to revolutionary activities and se-
cret agitations in the world.

A LAND OF PROMISE.

The tract of land in East Africa of-
fered by the British government to the
Hebrew Zionists, has now been ex-
plored, and, according to a preliminary
report, it is a most wonderful land of
promise. It is a plateau containing
about 5,000 square miles, and fine pas-
ture lands are said to be abundant. As
there are no settled natives, the colon-
ists will have no conflicts with any-
body. And, most wonderful of all, it
is said to be a country where there
are no disease germs. There are no
mosquitoes, even, and no healthier coun-
try exists on the surface of the earth.
That is, in substance, the preliminary
report of the explorers, and we pre-
sume this will give a new impulse to
what may be called African Zionism.
For, if only half of the report is true,
the country is worth taking possession
of, as a preliminary to the entering in
to the ancient land of promise.The Hebrews of today, we would
think, would need a time of prepara-
tion, before again taking possession of
Palestine. The race is no longer purely
Semite. Quite recently a student of
that question, Dr. Maurice Fishberg,
expressed the conviction, that perhaps
only ten per cent of the existing Jews,
have preserved the characteristics of the
race, while the 90 per cent repre-
sent a large proportion of Slavic, Ger-
man, and Hun intermixture. The
modern European Jew, according to
Dr. Fishberg is much more allied by
physical characteristics with the native
Christian population than with the
races generally looked upon as pure
Semite as the Arabs and the peoples
of Palestine. It is very probable, there-
fore, he adds, that the modern Euro-
pean Jew is not intimately connected
by blood with the true Semite Jews of
the Biblical times.The inference from this would be that
a time of preparation, and, as it were,
purification, would be needed as a pre-
liminary to the realization of the high-
est ideals of Zionism. And a Hebrew
state in Africa would seem to be a
splendid preparatory school. When the
Jews finally settle in Palestine as an
independent nation, their mission will
be one of the greatest importance to all
the world. They will need all the ex-
perience in diplomacy and statecraft
they possibly can obtain before under-
taking that world-mission.We are told, however, that African
Zionism is being relegated to the rear,
at least among American Zionists, and
that it is deemed best to concentrate
on the development of Jewish nationality
by slow educational means. The Jews
must be inspired with a longing for
Zion and the ability to live as Jews,
should the land be opened to them. The
cultivators, accordingly, plan a revival
of the Hebrew language, the study of
Jewish history and its literature, the
development of the solidarity of Jews,
wherever they may be. You cannot
build a Jewish nation with a charter,
they say, you must have Jews. A
charter is an incident; it will come
when the Jews are ready for it. The
first duty of the Zionist, in their opin-
ion, is to be a Jew in spirit, in senti-
ment, in habit, in religion.A crusty bachelor says that poets are
born not made.Spotted fever is breaking out in spots
all over the country.Conference visitors have had splendid
weather and splendid advice.Peace is nearer just in proportion as
Oyama draws nearer to Russia.Is the Kaiser's tour of the Mediter-
ranean a naval reconnaissance?It takes more than an earthquake in
India to shake the British throne.The Panama canal commission wants
to hurry up and cut its way to fama.These long sentences will enable the
hold-ups to become expert in parsing.It isn't a check book that Mrs. Cas-
sie Chadwick is going to write this time.An Irish dividend and a Russian victory
are synonymous terms of disaster.All the public buildings in St. Peters-
burg are built in the Romanoffesque style.A man who is continually sandbag-
ging his town and state is not a good
citizen.Let no one in the presidential party
cry "Wolf!" before they are out of the
woods.The President can be relied upon to
make the paths of the Rough Riders
smooth.

What is the general solicitor of the

Standard Oil company for, if not to de-
fend the Standard Oil company?Russia objects to paying an indemnity.
She will break before Japan does;
and he who breaks pays."Mr. Harlan has made a man's fight.
What a man could do, he did," says the
Chicago Record-Herald. No; his op-
ponent Dunne better.The New York World is in the midst
of frenzied predictions as to presiden-
tial candidates in 1908. It has the mat-
ter all settled."Has New York a Folk?" asks the
Chicago Tribune. New York has more
folk than any city in the country, Chi-
cago not excepted."Certainly there are 'ripe' men. Wall
street plucks quite a bunch daily," says
an exchange. Wrong. Wall street
plucks them because they are "green."President Roosevelt says he has left
Taft "sitting on the lid, keeping down
that San Domingo matter." The Sec-
retary's twenty stone will keep it down."I want to be home in my own little
home, with my book and my dog," says
Mme. Nordica. If she were would
the dog be able to keep the wolf from
the door?Marconi says it will be possible within
two years to send wireless messages
around the earth. What's the use?
When a message got to its destination
it would be just where it started from.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Living Church.

If we assume that money unright-
eously made must be rejected when of-
fered to the Church, does it not fol-
low, that no single contribution—ever
of the penny or of the nickel carelessly
thrown into the alms basin—may be
accepted until the Church has first
investigated the manner in which it
has come into the giver's possession?
The size of the contribution is not a
germane consideration; nor is the fame
of the giver. If the Church has the
right to refuse a gift, she has the right
to examine into the righteousness of Mr.
Rockefeller's title to his wealth before
she accepts the gift, she must exercise
this duty of this right impartially in
accordance with every single contribu-
tion, however small, every single
contributor, however obscure.

Presbyterian Banner.

The protest of a number of Congrega-
tional ministers in and around Bos-
ton against the acceptance by the Amer-
ican Board of Foreign Mission of a
gift of one hundred thousand dollars
offered by Mr. John D. Rockefeller
raises a question in ethics. They base
their protest on the alleged fact that
Mr. Rockefeller has made his money by
dishonest means, and that the Church
should not compromise itself by ac-
cepting gifts from such a source. They
say that Mr. Rockefeller is a man of
power and influence, and that he is
using his money to corrupt the
police and the courts, and that the
Church needs to be circumspect in its
manner of getting and in its use of
money, and should keep itself un-
spotted from suspicion. Yet we think
the view of these ministers is a mis-
taken one. It proceeds on the assump-
tion that the Church approves of and
should be held responsible for the way
in which the money given to it has
been obtained. This is not the case.

New York Outlook.

"Back to Christ," has become the
watchword of the social theology that
seeks to get below divisive dogmas to
unifying faith. "Back to Christ," must
be the watchword of the social moral-
ity that is complete enough to un-
derstand what Horace Bushnell declared
to be "the great problem—to Christian-
ize the money-power of the world." The
world's mistake has not been in desir-
ing free competition, but in choosing
the competition that divides men in-
stead of that which unites; competition
in getting instead of the competition
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