

DESERET EVENING NEWS
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SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 14, 1903.

Y. M. AND Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The 8th General conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 30, 31 and June 1, 1903.

On Saturday, May 30th, at 10 a. m., a joint meeting of all officers will be held in Barrett Hall.

Business meetings will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, for the young men in Barrett Hall of the L. D. S. university, and for the young ladies in the Fourteenth ward assembly room, and general public meetings in the Tabernacle on Sunday, May 31, at 10 a. m. and 2 and 7 p. m.

All officers and members of the associations are requested to be present at all the meetings, and a cordial invitation is extended to all the Saints to attend the Tabernacle meetings.

Special rates on all railroads. See announcement in newspapers for details.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
General Sup't., Y. M. M. I. A.
THOMAS HULL,
General Sec'y., Y. M. M. I. A.
ELMINA E. TAYLOR,
General Pres't., Y. L. M. I. A.
ANN M. CANNON,
General Sec'y., Y. L. M. I. A.

AN IMPORTANT CONVENTION.

The Book of Mormon convention to be held in Provo, at the Brigham Young Academy, on Saturday, May 23, and Sunday morning, May 24, will certainly be an interesting and instructive occasion.

The object in view is to promote investigation of that important volume containing, as it does, the chief incidents in the history of the early inhabitants of this continent; accounts of their migrations, wars, industries, accomplishments, buildings, fortifications, language, progress and decadence; writings of their prophets and seers, revelations of the Almighty, personal teachings of the Savior, plain expositions of the true Christian religion, and predictions concerning the people of this great nation in the latter days.

It is also designed to give, in this convention, data concerning the location of the important places mentioned in that record; also instructions as to the correct pronunciation of proper names; and to discuss the evidences, internal and external, of the divine authenticity of a book the value of which to science and religion has not yet dawned upon the world, and is not fully estimated even by the Latter-day Saints.

The convention is to be presided over by President Joseph F. Smith, who will make the opening address, and a number of experienced and able speakers will touch on appropriate questions, the closing speech to be delivered by Elder John Henry Smith of the Apostles. The faculty of the institution are very desirous of making the convention a means of spreading intelligence concerning the sacred record of this hemisphere, and they extend a cordial invitation to all who wish to attend. Half rates will be issued by the railroads to Provo and return, good from May 22 to May 25, 1903. We advise our friends who can take the trip to be present on this occasion, which we believe will accomplish much good in forwarding the work of this latter-day dispensation.

A CORRECT POSITION.

The best people of Weber county support Commissioner Joseph Stanford in his opposition to the sale of intoxicants in Ogden canyon. He found himself in a minority on the Board of County Commissioners, and so his protest failed. But he gave good and sufficient reasons for his motion to refuse a license, and we are of the opinion that there will be cause for regret that it did not prevail.

Ogden canyon is not only the thoroughfare for travel into Ogden valley, which is inhabited by a peaceable and thrifty community, but in the summer time is a place of resort for visitors, has camping grounds for residents of Weber county, and is noted for its many scenic attractions. It is a lovely defile in the mountains, and in spots is truly grand and majestic. There are places on the narrow road which must be passed with caution or serious accidents may occur. For safety's sake, and for the quiet and good order of the campers by the stream, and of the people in the upper valley, the liquor traffic ought not to be permitted there, for the accommodation of a few drinkers to the detriment of the many abstainers.

This is the view taken by many people in Ogden as well as dwellers in Huntville, Eden and other settlements and it would have been well for the county board to have listened to the forcible reasons advanced by Mr. Stanford, as reported in Wednesday evening's "News," in behalf of numerous protesters against the issuing of the license. Danger would be largely avoided.

ed, rowdism greatly suppressed, the serenity and rest of the people seeking repose in the cool shades of the canyon would be preserved, if the sale of liquor at its resorts had not been permitted.

Saltair gave a demonstration of the benefits of no license for the sale of intoxicants last summer, and the same policy then pursued will be carried out during the coming season. Religious societies, Sunday schools, and excursionists generally will be able to go to Saltair for recreation, without fear of meeting the usual conditions arising from the liquor traffic at such resorts. Mr. Stanford took a right stand and is to be congratulated even though he did not meet with his usual success.

ANCIENT LAWS.

The so-called Code of Hammurabi, has been the subject of a great deal of attention since its discovery in the mound at Susa, about a year ago. And this is quite natural; for this code may be considered one of the most remarkable documents in existence, dating as far back as 2300 B. C., or perhaps still further back. The text was engraved in cuneiform script on a basalt tablet eight feet high, making originally about 3,000 lines. Five columns were erased by a later king, but the remainder, have been photographed and deciphered by eminent Assyriologists.

The code itself opens with the following introduction of the author: "In that day, I, Hammurabi, the glorious prince, the worshiper of my God, justice for the land, for witnesses, plaintiff, and defendant; to destroy the tyrant, and not to oppose the weak, like unto the sun, I promulgated." But the laws are considered inspired from a higher source; for on the column there is a bas-relief, representing the king standing before the throne of a divine personage who is supposed to dictate the laws to him. The latter, then, is merely the instrument through which the law is given. The law itself, according to that ancient representation, is from a divine source. And this is correct, too. For all just and lawful authority is primarily from God.

According to a description in the London Times of the remarkable find, the code opens with an enumeration of the king's titles, and a description of his installation in office by the Almighty, and the elevation of Babylon to the dignity of capital of the empire. The king, speaking of himself, says: "I am the settler of the tribes, the ruler of the people, who restored its propitious gods (winged bull) to the city of Assur, who caused it to shine with splendor; the king who in the city of Nineveh, in the temple of Dabub has made brilliant the adornments of the goddess Ishtar." That is a most important passage which sheds new light upon the history of those early times.

The new code itself occupies 19 columns and about 250 clauses. It is introduced as follows: "Law and justice I established in the land. I made happy the human race in those days." It is also stated why the laws were thus engraved in stone. The author says: "The law of the land as to judgments, the decisions of the land as to decisions, my precious decrees for the information of the oppressed. Upon this stone I wrote and placed in the temple of Merodach in Babylon." This expresses the only reason for the existence of law. It is for the benefit of the weak, the oppressed, who, but for the law, would be the prey of the tyrants.

The code is said to show a most careful, systematic order. It begins with grades of social and domestic life, ending with a scale of wages for all classes of workmen, even the lowest. The laws of witchcraft contain the "ordeal of water." If, says the law, a man has placed an enchantment upon a man and has not justified himself, the bewitched person shall plunge into the Euphrates. Then, if the holy river holds (drowns) him he is guilty, and the wizard who enchanted him shall have his house; but if he is not drowned (is innocent) the wizard is to lose both life and house. An extravagant wife or a saloonkeeper accused of cutting prices was subjected to the same ordeal.

The essential features of the ordinary laws, were, first, personal responsibility and the rule of exact retaliation, tempered with the doctrine of ransom; second, the belief in the efficiency of the oath, as a sort of enchantment, to bring to ruin the man who violated it; third, the absolute necessity of written evidence in all legal matters. The courts required "sealed" documents. Agents must take and give receipts in all transactions. The agricultural laws are very explicit. Land must be cultivated; if neglected the owner must pay as much on it as his neighbors paid. Damage to crop by a storm excused from the payment of interest on loans.

Irrigation is carefully regulated. If an agent sows that what was entrusted to him was taken from him by force; he was guilty. What a man sows to must be accepted as true. Money for which no receipt was taken could not be included in an account. Women were the wine merchants, and were put to death if they kept disorderly premises, but women, other than saloonkeepers were not allowed to "drink" at a saloon. Women was given a high position and had the careful protection of the courts. She could not be slandered with impunity. "Common-law" marriages, however, were not recognized. Divorce was provided for, but if divorced without cause the woman received alimony and the custody of children. A second wife was allowed if the first became a chronic invalid but the sick wife had to be provided for. "Wards in chancery" were looked after by the judge.

The commentator on the code in the Times finds a striking resemblance between this code and the Mosaic law, but it would be just as easy to point out the essential differences. Take, for instance, the water trial. In the Babylonian code, he who could swim could evidently easily prove his innocence, while he who did not possess this accomplishment, must drown and be pronounced guilty. The Mosaic code permitted the trial of a suspected wife by the so-called water of jealousy, but this was undoubtedly done in order to bring an evil already existing. The water of jealousy was prepared of

harmless ingredients, and could therefore not do injury to any innocent person. If it hurt anybody, that was because of the consciousness of having committed a great sin, and not because of anything poisonous in the drink. And this makes the difference between the heathen custom and the Mosaic law at once so great as to prove the difference of origin. Jewish writers claim that the trial was so much dreaded by guilty parties that they generally preferred a confession. Thus the law relating to that subject gradually fell into disuse. And it is significant that there is not a case on record in the Old Testament of the application of that law to any case whatever.

Parallels there are between the two codes. But the Mosaic code shows so much originality that it would be unjust to charge its author with plagiarism.

May is warming-up to its work-making the flowers grow.

The Shamrock III has started for the United States. Bon voyage!

To have the right of way is good; to have the right way is better.

There are many strikes these days, but they are not for home and country but for higher wages.

Masegni is coming back to America. Perhaps he wishes to make a further study of the uses of adversity.

A German officer has been sent to prison for having "lied like a gentleman." But can a gentleman lie?

The dog stealers are abroad in the land. The thing to do is to set the sleuths of the law on their track.

The Paris-Madrid automobile races have started. The race is not to the strong alone but largely to the lucky.

It should surprise no one that on southern railroads during strike troubles there should be non-union crews.

With its cooks and waiters, butchers and bakers "called out," Denver may yet learn that man lives not by bread alone.

Mr. Anthony Fiala proposes to place an American flag on the north pole. A noble ambition, but let him first find the pole.

The season of the sweet girl graduates is fast approaching. And she is the most beautiful product of all the flowery time.

The trust has raised the price of strawboard from \$13.10 a ton to \$12 a ton. Strawboard shows which way the wind blows.

"As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean," accurately describes the monitor Arkansas, half stranded at St. Genevieve, Mo.

It only remains for Judge Munger and Judge Dickinson to enjoin each other to make the Omaha situation complete and unique.

Ben Holliday, in the palmist days of the overland stage, could not have put Mr. Harriman through Ogden quicker than he went yesterday.

Miles Floy Gilmore has been made assistant attorney-general to the Philippine government. It is a distinguished honor and puts the young lady in the same class as Portia.

"Los, alack! Why am I writing. And the critic's scorn inviting. With its sting."

asks a Boston poet. Either because she can't help it or for a penny a line.

Attorney Polk, the scourge of St. Louis bootleggers, has refused a fifteen thousand dollar house his friends wished to present him. Evidently he didn't want a house built upon the "sand."

If Mr. Cleveland were an avowed presidential candidate he could not call forth more comment and conjecture than he now evokes. In politics silence often beats speech all to pieces for starting rumors.

It is no news that a love-making department has been established at the University of Michigan. It is contemporary with the introduction of co-education into that institution of learning.

Another revolution has been started in South America, this time in Bolivia. What South America needs is to turn its implements of war into agricultural implements and start an industrial revolution.

And now General Miles is calling on Secretary Root to know who gave his report on affairs in the Philippines to the public. Considering what their relations have been, this request is strongly suggestive of a leaf from Orfenbach.

"It is no disparagement of Mr. Carnegie as a philanthropist to say that, considering how much money he has given away, it is wonderful how little he has promoted his own popularity," says Harper's Weekly. The reason is not far to seek. He has not sought popularity, which is not even remotely related to philanthropy. George Peabody and Peter Cooper were not popular in the ordinary acceptance of the term, yet they were great philanthropists.

That the men on whose shoulders rest the cares and responsibilities of the American government, sometimes get innocent amusement out of their arduous work, is proved by the following story, which is good enough to be true. The story comes from Washington and is to the effect that a Chicago woman was using the mails in an improper way. Postmaster-General Payne ordered that her letters be excluded from the mails, whereupon the fair Chicagoan went asking him for a personal hearing, so that her side of the case could be presented. "I feel sure," she wrote, "that if I could get a chance to look straight into your beautiful brown eyes you would hear my story." Mr. Payne, by the way of a joke, wrote on a blank leaf of the letter: "Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War for advice," and sent it over to Mr. Root. The latter immediately returned it with this indorsement: "Risk one eye—Elihu Root."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.
San Francisco Chronicle.

The Western interests of the President, which were the occasion of his many long periods of residence in the arid West, have made him perfectly familiar with the questions of irrigation and forestry. He has seen the arid valleys of the mountain states develop, under the power of water, into fertile plains, yielding a luxuriant growth of all that is required for man and beast. Nowhere are the results so attractive as in California, for in no other part of America do the products of irrigation appeal so powerfully to the eye and the imagination. It is unquestionably due to the President's influence that the nation has formally committed itself to the development of its western empire by irrigation, and while what he has done has been based on personal knowledge of the results of irrigation, what he is seeing in this state will deepen and strengthen the convictions already entertained.

Centralia Chronicle.

President Roosevelt has now over half completed the most extended tour ever made by a President of the United States. His trip is not his first wherever he goes, and people are more and more feeling that the appellation, "The Typical American," is one in entire accord with his moral, political and social actions. With whatever class of people he was associated, he has always been one of them in thought and action, but always upholding strict integrity and right doing. When he was on the plains he was as thorough a cowboy as he was society man among the New York four hundred, or politician when he was fighting the bootleggers in the New York State Legislature. If Roosevelt makes no more serious mistake than he has thus far made he will deserve a high place in the nation's history.

Baltimore Sun.

Statesmen who contemplate competing with Mr. Roosevelt for the presidential nomination of the "Grand Old Party" ought to take their position at once on the "race-against" platform. Then, after a few months' preliminary training in a nursery, they may venture to swing the circle and make "goosey" use of Uncle Sam's babies. The President has set the pace; woe unto the aspirant for Presidential honors who cannot handle babies as skillfully as he can handle the economic problems which engage public attention in political campaigns!

Kansas City Times.

It is due to President Roosevelt to say that much of the moral assertion that is now being shown in public sentiment and in individual effort is due to his example. The personal integrity and the sense of civic responsibility that Mr. Roosevelt had shown in less important positions, became luminous and vivid when he applied them to the great office of the presidency.

Los Angeles Express.

To the young men of the country his personality is most attractive; he presents a collection of forces rarely found concentrated in one individual. Rub him at any point and he shines; sub him and he rings true; apply the acid of distrust and no pinchbeck will be found.

Kansas City Journal.

By the time he gets back to Washington the President will know that he was needlessly alarmed on the subject of race suicide.

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