

DESERET EVENING NEWS

JUDGE OF THE Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.)
Office: 104-106 Times Building, New York City.
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor.
Ezra C. Whitney, Business Manager.SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
Per Year, \$5.00.
Six Months, \$2.50.
Three Months, \$1.25.
One Month, .50.
Cable News, .25.
Saturday edition, per year, \$2.00.
Semi-weekly, \$1.00.EASTERN OFFICE.
104-106 Times Building, New York City. In charge of H. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising from our Home Office.Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.
Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 16, 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene Sunday, April 7th, 1901, at 7 p. m., in the Tabernacle. It is desired that each Stake of Zion be represented at this meeting, and that Stake superintendents, officers and teachers attending the General Conference of the Church be present.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
General Superintendency.
HORACE S. ENSIGN,
General Secretary.

PREDICTIONS FULFILLED.

In the debate on the question of passing the Evans bill over the Governor's veto, a senator exclaimed over the fulfillment of his prediction, that the passage of the bill "would be proclaimed to the people of the United States and would be construed as meaning a revival of polygamy in Utah." He had been informed that the people of the East were "demanding that the question of polygamy be regulated by federal enactment."

These were the threats which the supporters of the measure had to confront when voting for the bill. These were the "arguments" of the preachers and the press before the bill was passed. Of course they were "fulfilled." Misrepresentations as to its purport were diligently circulated throughout the land. The Salt Lake morning papers commenced the assault by calling the measure a "Polygamy Bill." Special and regular dispatches were sent from this city, with the false tidings that "The Mormons were commencing to re-establish polygamy." The sectarian ministers did their part to establish the untruth and to alarm the country. Of course the eastern and western papers were deceived, and the mischief intended by the opposers of the bill was accomplished.

So far, the work desired has been done. The nation has once more been inflamed. Who started the baleful fire? Senator Evans and the friends of the bill? Certainly not. It was the conscienceless disseminators of falsehood who struck the match and applied the torch, and when the conflagration they threatened and created flared up and spread abroad, they exclaimed with pretended concern: "We told you so!" If they had fought the bill fairly through conscientious objection, without distorting its meaning and intent, and without misnaming it to stir up prejudice, the flame would not have started and the crackling and smoke would have been avoided.

The whole tenor of press comments on the bill, shows how the country has been hoodwinked by the enemies of the "Mormon" people. Although there is nothing in the bill which even hints at the re-establishment of polygamy, but on the contrary it expressly provides that it shall not be construed as affecting the laws against that practice, yet that is what its opponents have made the country believe it means, and hence the hue and cry they have occasioned.

The newspapers of the land ought to be made aware that the bill did not change one penalty against the several offenses that are classed as sexual. If the bill had become a law, Utah would still have the most stringent statutes of any State in the Union against every crime in that category, as it has today. The very States in which the papers now floundering around this subject are published, are either unprotected by the legal guards erected in Utah against those offenses, or have a similar provision for the commencement of prosecutions in such cases, as that proposed in the bill they condemn without understanding its real purport.

The New York Evening Post, after

attacking this measure as a clear evasion of the State Constitution, by which "polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited," thus showing that paper to be completely in the dark on this subject, says:

"If the bill were intended as a kind of measure of amnesty to a few surviving polygamists, something might be said in its favor."

Well, has any member of the Legislature who opposed it claimed that it meant anything else? Has the Governor who vetoed it intimated that it had any other intent? The Post, without knowing it, has defined its meaning, and then through the false reports sent out from this city, has condemned that which it says it would approve. That is the situation throughout the country. When the exact purport and effect of the bill become understood, it will be seen how much ado has been made about next to nothing.

The press of the country ought to be chary about accepting as truth, dispatches wired from Salt Lake City, concerning anything that relates to the "Mormons." They are usually unreliable, and sometimes utterly and maliciously false. Those lightning libels are the cause of such headlines as these in the Chicago American, and similar startling announcements in papers farther east: "Polygamy Is Legal in Utah!" "State Legislature Passes a Bill to Stop Prosecutions." "Old Offenders Absolved."

Is the Evans proposition responsible for all this tumult? No, indeed, it is the authors of the misleading dispatches who are under condemnation, and who are the enemies of this State and of harmony, truth and peace. Let the blame rest where it belongs. The mischief predicted has been done. All that was intended, however, we believe will not be accomplished. Federal interference is the goal of their hopes eagerly desired while they pretended to dread it. The country will come to its senses when the facts gradually appear, and Utah will be absolved from the supposed fault of which it has been falsely accused.

MCKINLEY'S TRIP.

Washington advices state that it has been finally decided that President McKinley will leave the capital for his western trip, on the 29th day of April. The first stop is to be made at New Orleans, and from there the party will proceed to Galveston, and then to Houston and San Antonio.

An important feature of the trip will be a meeting between President McKinley and President Diaz, of Mexico, to take place if the present program is carried out, at El Paso. Neither of the chief executives will at this interval leave their own country, but they will, it is said, shake hands across the border. This would be a unique historical incident. The entire trip is calculated to last five or six weeks. It is hoped and expected that he will give Salt Lake a call.

Without doubt, the entire journey will be one great event. McKinley is honored as but few of his predecessors in the exalted office he holds. There are different opinions as to the wisdom of his policy in some respects, but there is no doubt as to his spotless character, his fervent patriotism or his independence of judgment. That the country, during his administration, has passed through epoch-making events, and that it was fortunate to have such a pilot at the helm of the ship of state at that period, is conceded by all.

BEAR AND LION IN CHINA.

A dispatch from Tien Tsin characterizes the situation in China as dangerous. The Russians, it seems, are intrenching on disputed territory and British troops have struck a threatening attitude, while the commanders of the opposing forces are awaiting instructions from the home governments.

For some time it has been evident that the European powers in China have been bent upon a division of territory, and the danger of a clash between them has been equally evident. Great Britain is as watchful as ever, lest her powerful rival should obtain an advantage over her, and in case Russia should insist on taking possession of disputed territory, she would be resisted. We do not believe the two governments desire war, but it might be precipitated in spite of their efforts to prevent it. Those who can read the signs of the times will look for great events whenever the Russian bear strikes the British lion.

But whatever may happen as a sequel to the raid on China, the United States will not easily be drawn into an international quarrel. An order has been sent to General Chaffee to evacuate the country by the last of next month. This is proof positive that this country will not take part in any further military demonstrations in that country, but will confine herself to diplomatic action. The withdrawal is timely. It puts an end to further talk about "entangling alliances."

Russia has steadily advanced toward the Pacific coast. She has assimilated territory, raised her flag and built railroads, and now she is about to put the crowning act to her previous achievements. It is not probable that Great Britain can induce her to withdraw. No single European nation is strong enough to do so, and a coalition against her would not find her isolated. A war on account of China might become general. It looks very much as if the plot now laid on Chinese soil might develop toward a denouement not looked for. It is recalled that Napoleon once said that Europe must be come either republican or Cossack, and the prediction may be verified before the end of the present century.

ROME ON SOCIALISM.

The pope's encyclical on Socialism is regarded as a document of more than common importance. Socialism, in its various hues and colors, has become a power in many countries where Catholicism predominates, and the authoritative utterance of Rome on the questions involved may have considerable effect upon the further progress of the movement.

The pope first defines what is meant with that particular form of social democracy which he condemns. It is the effort which seeks to "level away all civic distinctions, and establish a com-

munity of fortune," by which property rights are done away with and all that individuals possess is regarded as common property.

To this socialism he contrasts what he calls Christian democracy, which, he says is based on the principle of divine faith, and studying the advantage of all, seeking to perfect human souls for everlasting joy. A socialism which concerns itself only with temporal matters he stamps as dangerous, while Christian democracy he recommends to the careful consideration and practice of all good Catholics.

The keynote of the entire encyclical is this, that the institutions of the church are all-sufficient for the temporal as well as spiritual needs of the human family. He warns the wealthy and influential classes that if they do not heed the evils of the present time and apply the proper remedy, these evils will eventually bring destruction upon all classes. He recommends the founding of societies for the social betterment of the people, but under the supervision of the bishops, because nothing beneficial, or pleasing to God, can come of a charity that disregards obedience.

On the duty of the wealthy classes to lend their struggling brethren a helping hand, the document says:

"What means may be adopted for this Christian movement will not matter so much if the principle laid down by us be observed. But what matters most of all in an affair of such vast importance is that Catholics should act with one mind and will and with one effort, and what is quite as important is that their action should multiply itself by every human and worldly resource and go on increasing and expanding. Those especially are exhorted to take part in this movement whose station, means, mental and moral endowments give them some influence in the commonwealth. If these be wanting, scarce anything can be done that will avail for advancing the conditions of the people; while, on the other hand, this advancement is all the more sure and speedy when a number of leading citizens combine together for it. We would have them consider that they are not free to mind or to neglect the lot of the poor, but that they are bound to this by their very duty, that no man dwells in a community for his own benefit simply, but for the good of all; so that what some can do to contribute to the common weal, others who can should contribute abundantly, and the extent of the obligation in this matter is to be measured by the abundance of their possessions, for which they must make a strict account to God, the Giver."

The pope, it will be seen, indirectly admits that the evils which socialism seeks to remedy are real, and that a remedy is called for. But socialism, he thinks, is mistaken in its idea that a remedy can be found outside the principles on which the church is built. And this is true, Rome, however, is not guiltless in the matter. She has failed to read the signs of the times, as seen in revolutions, bread riots, assassinations, and industrial disturbances. She has not listened to the groans of the peoples on whose shoulders have been laid the intolerable burdens of taxation, much of which has gone to pay for wars and war implements. She has always dispensed charity, but people no longer demand alms. They ask for justice. They call for equal opportunities, if not for community of property. And it is this appeal that is ringing throughout the world.

There is not much hope that the Roman church can successfully grapple with a problem, the existence of which should have been recognized long before this. Many of those who are active in social and communistic movements have drifted away from all church influence, and are beyond reconciliation. It is more probable that the revolutionary movement will continue, until the present social structure gives way for another more suited to the advanced age. But Rome must be given credit for her recognition, even at a late hour, of the seriousness of the situation. That is more than some other large churches have done, though they claim to be far ahead of Rome.

A FINAL EXPLANATION.

When the terrible accident occurred in the Diamond mine near Kemmerer, Wyoming, we sent a "News" reporter to the scene of the horror, who furnished the graphic accounts which appeared in this paper, and which have been highly complimented by the reading public, both in Utah and in Wyoming. Some remarks were made in those communications concerning the apparent apathy of the Finnish miners to the doom of their countrymen, and their failure to come forward in the work performed so nobly by others, to rescue the bodies of the victims of fire and foul gas.

Some of the Finns took umbrage at this, and accused our regular Kemmerer correspondent, Mr. J. H. Cutler, of writing this information. At his request, the Deseret News explained the matter, stating that he was in no way responsible for the articles, but that they were supplied by one of the "News" staff, specially detailed for the purpose. Mr. Cutler writes again to say that the Finnish people are not satisfied with our explanation, and it seems as though he is in the same condition of mind, and wants something further but doesn't say what.

We have nothing more to add to that which we have already explained, and we are of the opinion that this ought to be enough, for anybody who has as much intelligence as Mr. Cutler claims for the people who he says feel aggrieved at him. If he and they cannot understand plain English, both had better employ an interpreter. We have now stated twice that J. H. Cutler did not write the letters referring to the Finns, and we decline to continue these explanations. This ought to be sufficient.

Read the debate over the question of the Governor's veto and see where the truth stands.

The Smasher's Mail seems to fit Mrs. Nation to perfection. She hasn't broken out once since she put it on.

William E. Curtis says there is a big commercial opportunity in Cuba. In the syndicate or independent lines?

Senator Evans should henceforth have a change in the spelling of his front name; he will be known as Able John Evans.

The Ohio maple sugar camps are

ready to be opened. Those who work in them become sap-lent and sweet if not wise.

Count Boni de Castellane wounded M. de Rodays in the thigh. After all, then, it was not an ordinary bloodless French duel.

American playing cards are said to be the best in the world. And in the game of world politics no country is playing its cards better than America.

Mr. R. S. Crockett's forthcoming novel will be called "The Silver Skull." It may have some relationship to the famous Calaveras skull. Who knows?

"The weather is wet, delaying the movement of columns," telegraphs Gen. Kitchener from Pretoria. For a long time people have been convinced that it was Dewet that was delaying the movement of columns.

Yesterday's announcement credits Mr. Carnegie with giving away the sum of thirty-one millions two hundred thousand dollars. What a contrast with the infamous speculation of Black Friday.

The Senators who have had the courage of their convictions and stood by them are the true heroes in the struggle for justice and right. Able John stood at their head and no threats of cyclone or fury deterred them in their course.

It looks wonderfully as if the sultan in agreeing to pay his debt through the purchase of a cruiser from the Cramps, had sold Uncle Sam a lot of wooden nutmegs, a specialty only dealt in by Uncle Sam himself, it was thought.

The London Times' disclosures concerning the civil list have, seemingly, stirred up parliament more than the danger of a clash of arms with Russia at Tien Tsin. The one might change a cabinet tax policy, the other might change the destiny of nations, yet it is the smaller that receives the greater attention.

The concert of the powers in Peking will soon, judging from present appearances, be a thing of the past. The order for the withdrawal of the American soldiers has been issued; the forces of England and Russia are facing each other with arms in their hands and anger and hatred in their hearts; the German imperial chancellor in the Reichstag admits that there are differences among the powers. And thus it is that the concert is passing away and leaving naught behind. While this is so it still bodes ill for China.

Every American will approve the order to Gen. Chaffee to evacuate China, leaving only a hundred and fifty men as a legion guard. It is a proper order and in line with our whole policy in China. The troops of the various nations were sent there to relieve the beleaguered legations. After they were relieved the soldiers were retained as a precaution and then for the purpose of carrying on punitive expeditions. Our government is the only one that has acted at all in accordance with its professions. They all profess a desire to maintain the integrity of the empire but the continued presence in Peking of large bodies of troops is a menace to that very integrity. The number of our soldiers to remain is no menace and yet it is a safeguard to the American legation. The order of withdrawal is eminently proper.

"Our engineers are doing work that no other engineers in the world would have dared to attempt. I use the word engineers in the broadest sense. Engineers are coming to this country to observe our work and methods. This is because the American will not let himself be hampered by traditions." So spoke Dr. H. S. Pritchett, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Kansas City, the other day. What he said is true. As traditions are not to be cast aside lightly neither should they be slavishly followed. They may contain a great truth that at one time has been a bright light to men, or they may be mere shells or husks from which everything of worth is gone. Traditions are often good for guides, never for absolute masters. Conscience and God-given intelligence should be man's guide and master.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Northwestern Christian Advocate. Despite the efforts of the Antisemites the Jew seems to hold his own in Europe. The Jews form only 5 per cent of the total population of Berlin, but they supply two-thirds of its lawyers and one-third of its notaries, notwithstanding the Jewish lawyers are promoted to be notaries more slowly than the Christians. If the rate of promotion were uniform, they would soon swamp the ranks of the notaries. Dr. Schonstedt, minister for justice, raised a tempest recently by declaring that the ministry of justice is the only Prussian department which employs Jewish assessors at all. As the Prussian constitution enacts that appointments to public posts shall be independent of religious profession, Dr. Schonstedt practically impeached his colleagues of violating the oath of office. From this awkward position he endeavored to extricate himself in the Prussian Diet by admitting that his remarks had been ill-advised, and urged in reply to his critics that the letter of the constitution should not be always decisive. "Every case ought to be decided on its merits." The episode may open the way for a wider employment of Jews in the public service.

Alexander McLaren.

We are all architects of ourselves, and whatever else you and I make, or fail to make, in this world we are making the greatest thing of all, and that is character. If we could only keep that before ourselves as we ought to do, with what mystic solemnity it would clothe the smallest things of our daily action! And how it would make us feel that nothing is indifferent and nothing to be done lightly and that all in a most profound sense is eternal! Nothing human ever dies. They tell us that the vibrations of light so rushing through the whole space of the universe and never cease. You have set vibrations by every act of yourself, going which last to eternity.

Through our soul the echoes roll, And grope forever and forever.

New York Evangelist.

Men are waiting for a message, something living, born of the spirit in the soul of a man, a burden of energizing truth, a reality of personal conviction. Men care little to hear you talk of what other men have seen and heard, but they will give earnest heed to your vision of the world to come, to what God has told you of his love and providence. We heard one summer day a

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CONFERENCE PAMPHLET

The verbatim report of the proceedings of the seventy-first semi-annual conference of the Church is now printed and for sale at the Deseret News office. The pamphlet also contains an account of the General Conference of the Deseret S. S. Union, held Oct. 7, 1900.

Price per copy postpaid, 15 cents.

FIRST

Everybody wants to be first. That is, everybody who is anybody. You do, anyway. And we want you to get there, too. We want you to hold your head up and take a new interest in life. We want your chest to swell high with pride and your heart beat fast with pleasure. That's why we carry the

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