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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 15, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will be held in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday,
April 3, 1904, and continue until Wed-
nesday, April 6. A general attendance
of the officers and members is requested
and expected.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

FAST DAY.

As the General Conference will commence
on April 3, the first Sunday in
the month, which is the regular Fast
Day, the Saints in the Salt Lake and
adjacent stakes of Zion will observe
the monthly fast on Sunday, March 27,
1904. The stake and ward authorities
in distant places will use their own
judgment as to making the change for
this occasion.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The general conference of the Des-
eret Sunday School Union will be held
at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sun-
day evening, April 3, at 7:30 o'clock,
and the attendance of all officers and
teachers is desired. A general invita-
tion is extended to all Sunday school
workers and Saints to be present.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

BETTER BE RATIONAL.

The attempt that is being made to
revive the old anti-Mormon furor,
to fan the smoldering ashes of intolerance
and add at home to the flame already
kindled at a distance, is not surpris-
ing when we scan the names and
records of the prime movers and blow-
ers upon the nearly dead embers. We
do not allude to the comparatively new
residents of this city, who have formed
their opinions or taken their cue from
those irreconcilables who have chronic
Mormonophobia in virulent form. There
are some persons here who are so af-
flicted with the disease that their cases
may be pronounced incurable. For that
reason they may be in one sense more
to be pitied than hastily blamed. When-
ever conditions are favorable the sym-
ptoms reappear. An exciting cause is
now active and an outbreak is the nat-
ural consequence.There are two features of the move-
ment that ought to be looked at criti-
cally, by reasonable persons who may
be tempted to identify themselves there-
with. First, there is the assumption
that the statements of President Smith
at Washington disclose something new
and shocking to the principal protestors.
Second, there is the pretended horror of
Church influence in politics. To new-
comers these may appear in the colored
light sought to be thrown around them;
in the case of the other class they are
the most transparent humbug.Who caused the excitement aroused
by the examination of "Mormon" wit-
nesses at Washington? Why, some of
the same individuals who now affect
astonishment at the avowals called
forth by charges they helped to make.
They preferred the accusations, and the
witnesses acknowledged those that
were true and denied those that were
false. Read the protests that occasioned
the summoning of witnesses to the
national capital. They affirmed
that which has been acknowledged and
a great deal more which was utterly
untrue. And now they are in a rage be-
cause of that acknowledgment.In the very act of accusing the brethren
they show that they knew of the
relations existing between a number of
old residents here and their plural
wives, and the fact remains, distinct and
patent, that the protestors did nothing
through a long series of years, to show
their objection or to put a stop to that
of which they complained. That it was
a matter of common knowledge and
common disposition to let it die out of
old age, is beyond truthful dispute, and
the proofs of it are ample and over-
whelming. On this point not only local
papers have expatiated repeatedly, but
journals at a distance have recognized
it and do so now. Take the annexed
paragraph, for instance, from the
Springfield Republican:"It has seemed hitherto that the
question of polygamy would in time
settle itself, if no more plural marriages
were consummated. There are those
who have been ready to tolerate eventhe continued cohabitation of some of
the persons who had contracted plural
marriages prior to the enactment of
laws forbidding them, although the evil
of this is apparent in the birth of fresh
broods of children. Still, all polygamous
relations resulting from the old
order of things in Utah would disappear
with the death of the persons sustain-
ing them, and the question has been
whether it was wise to try to force re-
calcitrant people into a monogamous
state when time alone would afford a
cure for the anomalous situation."That reflects the sentiment of the
masses of Utah's sensible people who
dissented from the doctrine and prac-
tice of polygamy. The latest issue of
the Inter-Mountain Catholic com-
mences a strong editorial with this
paragraph:"The Mormon Church is on trial in
Washington, more so than the defend-
ant in the case, Senator Smoot. For the
first time nothing has been offered to connect him
with any violation of the law against
plural marriages and polygamous co-
habitation; nothing but the knowledge
that he must have known and did know
that most of the high officials of the
Church lived up to their religion and
practiced that which is condemned by
the state as unlawful. Most people
hereabouts, other than Mormons, know
about these transgressions of law, and
probably had as much knowledge con-
cerning them as Senator Smoot could
testify to on the witness stand."The Milford Times, a non-Mormon
paper edited by an old-time newspaper
man, long identified with a Salt Lake
anti-Mormon sheet, has this to say
on the subject:"Up to this writing the Smoot in-
vestigation has revealed little that was
not generally known in this state be-
fore the investigation was started. When
the abandonment of polygamy was
accepted and statehood was granted,
it was tacitly understood that poly-
gamists would be permitted to continue
relations with their wives and the
practice has been winked at by the civil
authorities, although perhaps it was not
foreseen that this cohabitation would be
quite so strenuous and fruitful as ap-
pears to have been the case with Presi-
dent Smith. It has been generally be-
lieved that polygamy would die out with
the present generation, and the people
have been willing to endure present
conditions under the belief that the
practice would disappear without fur-
ther agitation.""Unless it is shown that new poly-
gamous marriages have been solemnized
with the knowledge and consent of
Senator Smoot, we are unable to see
how his case can be affected."If we had space to spare we could
enlarge on this point. And if we de-
sired we might be as personal as some
of the would-be agitators, and rake up
old records that would be interesting
if not profitable. But let that go at
present. As to "Church influence." When
it comes to aspiration for political
office, how many are there of the
whole clique who would not seek to
obtain "Mormon" votes by every means
that appeared feasible? There are some
of them who have made nuisances of
themselves by their appeals to men
whom they regarded as influential in
the Church.We know, personally, of men who
pretend to be agnosts over "Mormon"
Church influence, who have sought for
it eagerly but in vain. They have
imagined that if they could gain the
support of some "high Mormon," as
they termed it, they were sure of the
votes of "the Church." Now they yell
"Church influence" till they are hoarse.
The idea seems to be with them, "If
the Church helps me it is all right;
but if the Church helps the other can-
didate or I imagine it does, it is all
wrong and un-American and shame-
ful."It should be observed by thinking
people that not one particle of proof of
the interference of the Church authori-
ties with the freedom of voters has
been adduced. It is all suspicion, as-
sertion, generalities and assumption.
We say the "Church influence" sterner
advice is a myth. "Mormons" are not
told how to vote or required to conform
to any political act or doctrine by the
Church, and are absolutely free except
when they ally themselves with politi-
cal bosses, and committees, and can-
didates, and they are controlled thereby.
Then they measurably lose their lib-
erty just the same as non-Mormons
lose theirs and thus become slaves to a
clique or party.We warn the sober-minded, peaceful
and sane people of this city and State
not to suffer themselves to be led away
by wild-fire agitators, into anything
that they may afterwards regret. We
should all be able to live here in peace
and amity, each pursuing his own way,
so long as we do not interfere with
each other's rights, and do all we can
to build up the State and to promote
peace on earth, good will to man. In
other words, let us be rational!

FALL OF PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur, it is reported, has fallen.
The Japanese are said to be in con-
trol, and the Russians are thought to
have evacuated the place. That, cer-
tainly, is important news. If it is con-
firmed, it proves beyond a doubt the
superiority of the Japanese, on the
sea. Russia has not yet had experience
enough as a sea-power, to oppose an
island nation, perfectly at home on the
ocean. Russia must not only build
ships, but also train the people to be-
come sailors, as Czar Peter transformed
his subject into soldiers, by taking
them into the battle again and again,
until they learned the tactics of the
enemy, in the presence of death. The
Russian is a fighter, as stubborn as
any, but he is not yet a seaman. The
Japanese have him beaten. For cen-
turies the Japanese, like the British,
have studied the sea and become mas-
ters in seamanship.Port Arthur has frequently been
described as a second Gibraltar, and
regarded as impregnable. Ships moored
in the inner harbor would lie in per-
fect safety, it was thought, and it was
considered doubtful whether the dock-
yard could be injured by high-angle
fire. The hill protecting the dock-
yard rises to a height of about 250
feet above sea level, and is occupied
by three powerful batteries mounted,
besides smaller guns, four new breech-
loading cannon, weighing 634 tons
each, on fortress mounting. On the
side facing the entrance and half way
down the slope are two batteries of
quick-firers, for the most part Canet
5.5-inch and 75-millimeter guns. In
addition to a torpedo and searchlight
station. The fortifications extend from
the Kwang Chin Shan for a distance
of nearly forty versts in thenorthern direction, and this line is
joined by a drible of batteries on the
hilltops surrounding the town to the
second long line of defenses starting
south around the peninsula from the
Mantow Hill. On the west, according to
the descriptions given by a Times cor-
respondent, the important fort is the
Wei Yuen, and this is joined to several
small quick-fire batteries commanding
the entrance by castellated bridges. On
the so-called Tiger's Tail are placed
seven Canet 5.5-inch quick-firers in an
open battery at an elevation of not
more than 100 feet above the sea. The
fortifications were undoubtedly con-
structed according to all the most mod-
ern rulers, and yet it is likely the
place has fallen, in comparatively short
time of resistance. That raises a ques-
tion as to the efficiency of other "Gib-
raltars" of the world. After all, it is,
as has been said, the men behind
the guns that count in modern warfare,
no less than in the ancient battles when
men fought one another with bow and
arrow, sword and bayonet.

ARE THERE ANY MORE?

We hope we will not be accused of the
awful crime of teaching or defending
polygamy, by publishing the following
letter from a reliable member of the
Church, seeing that it offers no argu-
ment on the right or wrong of the sub-
ject, but merely adds one more bit of
evidence in refutation of the bald de-
nials of certain "Reorganizers." If there
are any more living witnesses of the
occurrence related in this letter, we
hope they will promptly report what
they heard on the occasion mentioned
by our correspondent:

Riverton, Utah, March 12, 1904.

Editor Deseret News, Salt Lake City.

Dear Sir: I saw in last Monday's pa-
per of a "Josephite" portent, denying
that Joseph Smith, Jr., received revela-
tion on polygamy.I, N. T. Silcock, was at a meeting in
Nauvoo, in July, 1848, the congregation
numbered three or four hundred—where
the Prophet delivered a discourse on
polygamy.This was the only systematical poly-
gamous sermon I have ever heard.I also know positively that he had
more wives than one; I was personally
acquainted with two besides Emma.Please find out through your columns
how many of this congregation are liv-
ing.Yours truly,
N. T. SILCOCK.

THE SAME OLD SENTIMENT.

The Boston Herald is, of course, a
refined newspaper. No doubt, it is also
a "Christian" one. It gives editorial
space to "The Book of Books," and
"Advice to Missionaries." It, at the
same time, folds its hands, strikes an
attitude, and gives expression to the
pleas wish that the highly respected
and beloved President of the "Mormon"
Church be sent to penal servitude for
fourty years. Does the Herald go far
enough in its "Christian" solicitude
for the American principles of religious
tolerance? To be perfectly true to its
standards and patterns, it should pious-
ly pray for the re-erection of stakes
and the re-kindling of flames; for the
re-construction of crosses, the re-en-
actment, on Calvary, of the tragedy
of Calvary. For that is the true senti-
ment of those for whom our Boston
contemporary speaks in that matter.
The old spirit of the first Massachusetts
settlers, who used to flog and cut the
ears of inoffensive Quakers, and even
hang them, is evidently not dead yet.
When the Apostle Paul explained to
the rulers and people of his age, that
he had received a vision and a revela-
tion, the entire multitude "lifted up
their voice, and said, Away with such
a fellow from the earth: for it is not
fit that he should live." The sentiment
of many bigots has not changed from
that time. It remains the same. The
first messengers of the Master came to
a corrupt age with a message of puri-
ty, virtue, and love. But the people
regarded them and their doctrines as
"filth." The ancient world, with all
its moral ills and ulcers, considered
them perfectly clean, except for the
presence in the world of the messengers
of the Gospel. Consequently, all en-
ergy was bent upon ridding the earth
of these men. That is exactly the sen-
timent among modern intolerants.Some men live beyond their means
and others beyond their time.The Russians are beginning to learn
something about ships that pass in the
night."India needs a new map," says Wil-
liam E. Curtis. Russia is of the same
opinion.Patti has said her farewell to Amer-
ica, and said it with emphasis. She
means it this time.California has the largest seed farms
in the world. Yet the Californians are
anything but a seedy lot.Up to date the Japanese have found
that the open door policy does not pre-
vail at either Port Arthur or Vladivos-
tok."There is no graft in Chicago," says
the report of the committee that in-
vestigated the subject. Is there no
"heeler" there?A boom has been started for General
Miles. But booms are so apt to be
things of sound and fury, signifying
nothing.The director of cooking in the New
York public schools gets twenty-five
hundred dollars a year. That is the
price of dyspepsia.All along the route to Vladivostok
the people are giving General Kuropatkin
the ovations due a conquering hero.
Let them wait until he has put off his
armor.Colorado proposes to send to the St.
Louis Fair the statue, made in beet
sugar, of a girl to represent Colorado.
Utah might send one made of salt to
represent her.There seems to be a strong desire
on the part of the senators to find out
all there is to know about Mormonism.
It seems to smack a little of curiosity.says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Cur-
iosity is surely a mild word."The governor of Minnesota is very
jubilant over the decision in the North-
western securities case. He foresees the
result from the beginning. It was a
clear case of mens sana in Van Santo
corpore.Since his latest proclamation forbid-
ding federal employees, by act or speech,
to give offense to either Japan or Rus-
sia, the St. Petersburg press has been
slobbering all over President Roosevelt.
He must feel like exclaiming, "This is
so sudden!"When Judge Hiles, in charging that
ex-Senator Rawlins is a "Mormon,"
declared, "I know what I am talking
about," he undoubtedly meant to say,
"I know whom I am talking about." But
in the light of the ex-Senator's
declaration it is clear that Hiles did
NOT "know" what he was talking
about.In his dissenting opinion in the Mer-
cer case, Justice Holmes contended that
the Sherman anti-trust act applies only
to contracts and combinations in re-
straint of trade and makes no refer-
ence to competition. To the lay mind
it will seem that a combination to sup-
press competition is a contract in re-
straint of trade.A correspondent of a New York paper
asserts that the larger number of cases
of grip, colds and pneumonia are caused
by excessively heated rooms and offices.
Steam and hot air do the fatal work.
He believes that heat gives life to the
germs of grip, diphtheria and pulmona-
ry diseases. He says, in part: "Just
so long as we live in superheated rooms,
so long we shall be liable as we are
with all sorts of lung and throat trou-
bles."

MORE NEWSPAPER TALK.

Worcester Spy.

It is not any easier to forecast the de-
cision of the senate now than before
the investigation began, we believe. No
matter what extravagant and silly re-
ligious additions a man may have, un-
der the constitution he is not disquali-
fied to hold office.The senators must be satisfied that
there is something more in the Mormon
religion than is generally accepted.
Throughout the investigation he is disquali-
fied Mr. Smoot.

New York Evening Post.

It would be easy, for example, to set
on foot a rigorous senatorial investiga-
tion of the sugar trust, on all fours
with that of the Mormon Church. Are
the trust's Senators any freer than the
Mormon apostles? Will the directors
of the sugar trust allow their representa-
tives in the Senate any greater lib-
erty than the apostles of the Mormon
Church concede to their delegate? A
committee bent on ascertaining the
truth about this could bring out some
sensational facts. Its inquiries would
be of deep interest to Senator Aldrich,
and he would naturally be as stern in
calling for the expulsion of a Senator
who took orders from the sugar trust,
as one under the domination of the
Mormon Church. Simply to take an-
other example by chance, how would
Senator Depew fare under a close cross-
examination on this point? How is his
"vote as a Senator of the United
States" determined? Do the railroads
have anything to say about it? Does
he first have to ask Platt? Is his free-
dom of an undesignated man—freedom
to do wrong, but not to do right? We
ask the questions in no invidious
spirit. Mr. Depew is not a sinner above
all who dwell in the marble room. In-
deed, we fear that if even Senator Hoar
were required to go through the Smoot
 ordeal—to say that, is, whether he
dared vote against his "associates"—
the result would be to leave the abso-
lute integrity of the senatorial moral
and free representation of Massachu-
setts in the hands of Senator Lodge
alone.

Louisville Herald.

It is not, however, President Smith
that is on trial before the Senate Com-
mittee on Privileges and Elections. It
is Senator Reed Smoot. No polygami-
ous relations have so far been proved
against Senator Smoot. Nor should he
be condemned because of prejudice
against him begotten of the violations
of the law committed by others.

Troy, N. Y. Press.

The inquiry of Mormonism has been
established by the Smoot investigation;
but against Smoot personally, the dis-
closures are neither significant nor ac-
cusing. Apparently, he is a fairly moral
and church-going man, contented with
one wife who says he is "the best
husband in the world," although his
fortune would enable him to support a
harem in almost Sultanic style. This
should count in his favor. Bossism is
notoriously corrupt, polluting the very
fountains of government, yet a number
of the most rapacious and abhorrent
bosses in the country are tolerated in
the Senate Chamber and apparently
have a potent voice in the disbursing
of Federal patronage. It is un-
constitutional to discriminate against
an American citizen on account of his
religion, or want of it. To elect Smoot,
not for his own offenses, but for the
sake of the church with which he is
connected, might prove a most mis-
chievous precedent. The Roberts case
settled the fact that no proved polyga-
mist could sit in the halls of national
legislation; but the effort to elect Smoot
rests upon a more equivocal basis, and
it should be decided according to its
constitutional aspects. If it could be
shown that he was a bigamist, prob-
ably no further evidence would be re-
quired for his removal; but even his
prosecutors seem to have surrendered
any such expectation.

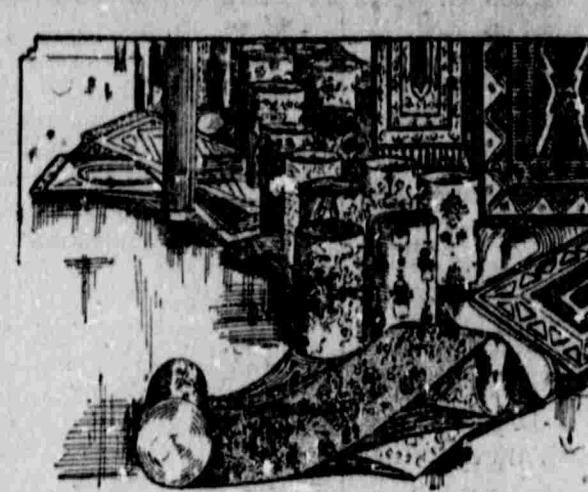
Washington Times.

If Smoot were a polygamist, he
might be expelled, as Roberts was ex-
pelled; but he is not one, and nobody
even asserts that he is. As the case
stands now it seems to be a question of
turning a man out of the Senate on ac-
count of his religion, which is contrary
to the principles on which our govern-
ment is based. If the right of a man
to hold a seat in the Senate is to be de-
termined, not by his acts, but by his
thoughts, or if the Senate can expel at
will any man whom it does not consider
fit to be a Senator, there will be severe
other heads in danger besides that of
Mr. Smoot.

Leadville Herald-Democrat.

With polygamy there should be no
compromise. There is an element of the
older Mormonism which still clings to
this practice. President Smith, with his
five wives and forty-two children is a
concrete example of this. He is the
practices of Mr. Smith or any apostle can
involve no one but themselves, so far
as the law is concerned. Polygamy
must die out in time by the mere force
of social pressure, making for better
ideas. It is a purely passing phase of
a peculiar religion brought into being
under strange circumstances. It seems
that the organization back of the
Smoot prosecution might be in better
business than trying to unseat an

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