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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 14, 1903.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle Salt Lake City, commencing on Saturday, April 4, 1903. A general attendance of the officers and members of the Church is requested.

JOSEPH P. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

CHANGE OF PAST DAY.

As the General Conference will be in session on the first Sunday in April, it is deemed advisable that the fast, usually observed on the first Sunday in each month, be held on the last Sunday in March, 1903, in those stakes and wards where the officers and members in large numbers will attend the Annual Conference. This will apply particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and adjoining places. The Presidents of Stakes and Bishops at distant points will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

JOSEPH P. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

NOT OBLIGED TO REPLY.

The Deseret News desires to emphasize the views it has heretofore expressed. In reference to the fallacious notion that people are under obligation of any kind to clear themselves from the groundless imputations, or definite charges, made by newspapers for the purpose of creating a public sensation. The idea set forth, that when such stories as have recently been set afloat appear in print, the individuals assailed are in duty bound to establish their innocence, is so manifestly monstrous and absurd, that it is surprising even in the source from which it emanates.

THAT BUFFALO MURDER.

The Buffalo murder mystery continues to draw attention. It does not appear that the officers have found any clue to the perpetrator of the deed, but the light thrown upon it has revealed a terrible state of rottenness in what is called society. It is shown that under the cloak of respectability, vice flourishes, just as in the "slums." It has proved that society needs regeneration, from head to foot, and not only reformation in part.

STOP THE INCREASE.

It is confidently hoped by the large majority of the taxpayers of this city, that the bill which, strange to say, has passed both houses of the Legislature, combining the provisions of two other bills, which were severally defeated, will not receive executive sanction. A protest has been entered against it from representative business men, who voice the sentiments of poor and rich alike upon whom the burden intended by the bill would fall if it became a law.

TEST OF "QUALIFICATIONS."

In the March number of Law Notes, published monthly in New York, there is a cogent legal argument on the power of Congress as to the right to a seat in that body of persons possessing the qualifications prescribed in the national Constitution. As it maintains the same ground taken on the question by this paper, we are pleased to give it space in our columns. The subject is of national as well as local importance, and we commend it to the attention of our thoughtful readers. It is as follows:

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

A recent London dispatch stated that interest is manifest in a statement made in the House of Commons by Secretary Cranborne, who said "the government was of the opinion that it was most desirable that there should be an amicable understanding between Great Britain and Russia on the subject of their respective interests in Persia and elsewhere. He added that a question concerning those interests had lately been discussed by the two governments. It has been thought that the interests of the two countries were irretrievably clashing nearly everywhere—in China, in Afghanistan, in India, in Persia and in Turkey. The announcement that these interests have lately been discussed by the two governments with a view of arriving at an amicable understanding, must therefore be regarded as being of more than common importance. It probably means that the two powers are about to agree on "spheres of influence" in those quarters of the globe, and that each will be at liberty to pursue its own policy in those spheres. If this is correct, important developments may be looked for in the near future. Co-operation with Russia was urged by Gladstone, but that was not thought to be sound doctrine then. Public opinion must have changed in Great Britain on this point.

BIBLES IN THE WORLD.

According to the reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society, that organization has translated the Scriptures into 400 languages and dialects and has circulated 150,000,000 copies. The American Bible Society has also issued millions of volumes since its organization. It is estimated that altogether the societies have sent out nearly 300,000,000 copies of the Bible or parts of it within the last century. There is no lack of Bibles in the world. But it will never be redeemed by the distribution of Bibles. When the Church of Christ first was introduced into the world, it did not depend upon the circulation of copies of the Septuagint throughout the world, but upon the "living word" of the divinely-inspired and authorized messengers. The Ethiopian who returned from Jerusalem had the Bible, or part of it. He read it on his chariot. But when asked if he understood it, he frankly admitted that he did not. "How can I, except some man should guide me?" And that is just the trouble of the Bible-readers, who have no Philip to interpret the word to them. They read without profit. For "to read and not to understand is to plough and neglect to sow." The work of distribution is being done with a thoroughness that most elicit admiration. Thousands of colporteurs are engaged in that work. They report to the distributing stations regularly for their consignment of Bibles and Testaments. Each man has his prescribed route, which he traverses on foot or on horseback. Every hour men are toiling up mountain paths, crossing rivers, traversing jungles, and journeying along thickly traveled highways in China, in India, in Turkey, in South America, in Africa and in the islands of the South Seas to sell their books. It is a great work. The result is not in proportion to the effort, for the Bible is becoming more and more a neglected book in the Protestant world.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"Lake Bonneville—the Predecessor of the Great Salt Lake," is the title of an exhaustive article on that subject by Prof. James E. Talmage. It appeared originally in the Scribner Geographical Magazine for September, 1902, but it has been reprinted in pamphlet form. It contains a vast amount of valuable information on this mountain region, and will be read with interest by all.

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THE CHRISTIAN WORK AND EVANGELIST.

We know little or nothing about the invisible country and its people, but loved ones who have gone before. But the creeds emphasize and we take to heart the blessed assurance that as Christ lived after His enlightenment, so they whom we mourn live in a blessed state; we believe this not because He rose from the dead, but because He assured us of the blessed truth. Believing this, then, can we deny to them spiritual comfort or believe that they who loved us on earth care for us less, remember us less, now that they have passed into the world of light, even into the bright atmosphere of the eternal home?

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THE OUTLOOK.

The constitution of the National Educational Association was adopted bodily, with only such changes as adapt it to the specific purposes of "The Religious Educational Association." The admirable balance of this well-adjusted and thoroughly representative form of organization, it was thought by all, would prevent any possibility of the use or abuse of the new association by any faction, section of country, school of thought, sectarian influence, or even by direction in the exclusive interest of any single phase of its own work. It will undertake "to render service in unifying the efforts of the different agencies already engaged in various lines of work in correlating the forces already established, to the end that these agencies may accomplish even larger results, the acceptance of such service being, of course, wholly voluntary and in no case involving the giving up of independence.

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IS AS IRRITATING AS IT IS ILLEGAL, AND PUNISHMENT MAY BE MARKED THAT IF WE ARE WRONG AS TO THE SCOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD TAKE IN INVESTIGATING THE SLIGHTING OF A MEMBER, AND IF EVERY SECRET TALK IN THE LIFE OF A SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE BROUGHT TO JUDGMENT AT THE BAR OF THE HOUSE, IT WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY EXTENDED THAT WE HAVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO FURNISH THEM SEEKING THIS OFFICE AS TO THE CHARGES THAT THEY WILL MAKE TO MEET.

But the right of the Senate and the House of Representatives to inquire whether or not a member has other qualifications than those laid down in the Constitution ought to be disposed of by this proposition, which is self-evident: The office of a representative in Congress or of a senator in the United States Senate is a United States office as such as that of president. It was created by the Constitution of the United States. The test of qualifications for office, state or national, can be prescribed only by the authority under which the office itself exists. It is, then, only a congressman who has taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, by his vote to seal or assent a member directly to the qualifications of that office not prescribed in the Constitution itself?

Under a republican form of government the people have a natural right to choose any one they see fit to act as their agent in making the laws under which they live. When the people of the United States formed a federal government they exercised this right and agreed upon the qualifications that their representative in Congress must possess. No one can take it away or limit it but themselves. They did limit it in the Constitution, and by those limits and according to the letter of them, the senate of the United States and the House of Representatives should be and are bound. E. C. W.

HOPE DEFERRED—THE ADVENT OF REAL SPRING.

Even street cars come to those who know how to wait. The song of the blue-bird will soon be heard in the land. The most unflinching sign of spring is muddy water in the service pipes. Tonight the legislators will disperse and their works will follow them. The Mississippi will raise itself in people's estimation if it will lower itself a little. Just as soon as the trees begin to leaf and the birds to sing, look out for an epidemic of spring fever.

SENATOR MORGAN IS VERY LIKE THE VILLAGE SCHOOL MASTER, WHO, "EVEN THOUGH VANQUISHED CAN ARGUE STILL."

Mr. Carnegie will finance a movement to reform the English language. What better evidence could be given that money talks? The cloud capped towers, the gorgeous palaces and the great globe itself may perish and leave not a wreck behind, but it is not so with the railroads. The President may call an extraordinary session of the Fifty-eighth Congress. What have the people done that they should be so threatened?

AT LAST THE BUFFALO POLICE HAVE LOCATED THE WOMAN IN THE BURDICK CASE.

Her name is Jane Doe, next to Lydia E. Pinkham, the most famous woman in America. The Washington elm, in Hartford, Ct., must come down, it is said. In the language of the late Mr. Morris: "Woodman, spare that tree; touch not a single bough." The people of Salt Lake will be sorry at the departure of their very competent weather clerk, Mr. Murdoch who will go with the regrets of the public mingled with the pleasure at his promotion.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WARNS DOCTORS TO REPORT ALL BIRTHS COMING UNDER THEIR NOTICE.

Perhaps he is gathering statistics for the President to be used in a work on "Patriotism and Large Families." It is now stated in an inspired article in a Vienna paper, that it is the intention of Russia, France, Austria, Italy and England "to reform Turkey from top to bottom and transform her from an Asiatic to a European state." How is that to be done, except by benevolent assimilation? The question of the constitutionality of the acceptance by the present judges of the supreme court, of the increase of salaries provided by the new law, was argued extensively some time ago and any revival of the controversy now would be unprofitable. It is all right.

SENATOR SMOOT, IN THE SKETCH OF HIS LIFE IN THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY.

Says that he was married Sept. 17, 1884 to Alpha M. Eldredge. The prying Boston Globe indorses Alpha as being all right, but wonders if there is an Omega, says the Denver Post. This is a case where, strange as it may seem, Alpha is Omega.

IN THE MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP AND THE METHOD OF APPOINTMENT THERE TO IT WAS DEFINITELY DECIDED FOR UTAH, ARIZONA AND NEVADA THAT THE RHODES SCHOLARS FROM THESE STATES SHALL BE CHOSEN BY A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY AND TWO OTHERS, OF WHOM ONE MUST BE CHOSEN FROM HIS OWN FACULTY. THIS COMMITTEE IN EACH STATE WILL ELABORATE ITS OWN METHOD FOR DECISION AS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES, AS TO THEIR ATHLETIC PROWESS, AND AS TO THEIR QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AS SHOWN IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS. AT THE SAME MEETING IT WAS ALSO FURTHER DECIDED THAT THE RHODES SCHOLARS MUST HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SOPHOMORE YEAR, IN A COLLEGE OF THE STANDARD OF THE STATE OR TERRITORY UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH FROM WHICH THEY ARE CHOSEN. THEY MUST NOT BE MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND THE YOUNGER CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN THE PREFERENCE. THEY MUST BE RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS OF THE STATE OR TERRITORY FROM WHICH THEY ARE CHOSEN OR A STUDENT AT AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE STATE. THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO PASS THE OXFORD ADMISSION EXAMINATION KNOWN AS RESPONSIONS. NO MARRIED MAN WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPOINTMENT.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Interior. The only man can overthrow the truth in a gospel is to wreck the church, "He that sows evil, shall reap evil," by his upright "behavior." Many a man who has withstood the theologian's argument and the orator's appeal, has

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