SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING.

Minutes of the [illegible] Annual Conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union Held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Evening, Oct. 8, 1893, 7 P. M.

There was a large representation of Stake superintendents and officers and the largest gathering of the kind ever held in this Territory, the immense Tabernacle being crowded. The assembly was called to order by Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard, and the choir sang the opening hymn,

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray.

Elder Joseph W. Summerhays offered the opening prayer.

"Gloria" was sung by the choir.

The general secretary called the roll of Stakes, in which nearly every Stake responded. He also presented the following general authorities of Sunday schools which were unanimously sustained:

George Q. Cannon, general superintendent.

George Goddard, first assistant superintendent.

John Morgan, second assistant superintendent.

George Q. Cannon, George Goddard, John Morgan, George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, Thomas C. Griggs, Joseph W. Summerhays, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman, Heber J. Grant and John C. Cutler, as members of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board.

George Reynolds, general treasurer.

John M. Whitaker, general secretary.

ELDER GEORGE GODDARD

said the Deseret Sunday School Union is an [illegible] organization, the largest in the Church, numbering something over [illegible] officers, teachers and workers. He was extremely thankful for his long connection with this important cause. It is in the Sunday school that instructions are given to form the character and shape the future of the future boy and girl [illegible] which will of necessity leave a great impress upon the character of the work of God in time to come, and shall only qualify those who go forth as ambassadors to represent the truths of heaven among the nations of the earth. He explained that the union board holds meetings every week, when matters for the proper advancement of the schools, the grading, course of study, and other points are discussed, the raising of the schools to a higher degree of efficiency and uniformity in the methods of teaching; and it is earnestly desired that the recommendations from the board be carried out and given a fair trial by all. The able work done at the B. Y. Academy, Provo, has been felt in the efficiency of the teachers who have labored on their return to their respective homes. From this source great good has been accomplished. The speaker, in connection with some of the officers of the board, had visited ten Stakes in the interests of Sunday schools and attending jubilees, anniversaries and reviews. At these gatherings large numbers of parents and others interested are in attendance, and much good may be accomplished by wise and proper programs being prepared and carried out. The parents form some idea of the truths taught to their children. It brings them into closer union and harmony with the superintendents and teachers, and implants a disposition in [illegible] in sending their children to the Sabbath school. It would be an excellent thing if at these gatherings more of the actual work of the school were presented—making the exercises not only instructive and interesting, but implanting deeply the truths that have been committed—in fact a review of the work in the school. Individual recitations at these gatherings should be very few indeed, but the entire school, as much as possible, should be allowed to take part. Our own songs, literature and works should be used. No other works should be allowed except recommended by the Union board. Another important thing that should be strictly followed, is punctuality in commencing and closing the schools. Ten o'clock in the morning has been the regular custom, and this should be adhered to strictly and all schools should commence at this hour.

The speaker invoked the blessings of heaven upon the great Sunday school cause and all workers connected therewith; and upon expressing a desire to see how many out of the vast audience were workers and officers of the Sunday school cause, fully eight-tenths of the audience arose to their feet.

ELDER GEORGE H. BRIMHALL,

one of the teachers of the normal Sunday school training class, and connected with the B. Y. Academy, Provo, said there have been several classes turned out from the academy under a five weeks' course, which was found to be entirely too short for proper and efficient work. Now the Deseret Sunday School Union board, under whose direction the Sunday school courses are carried on, have extended the course to a full semester—a twenty weeks' course, and in the first course of this year there are forty-eight bright, intelligent and faithful workers forming a most excellent and praiseworthy class. Their aim is high, their instructions calculated to prepare them to be teachers of teachers when they shall have completed their course and returned to their own homes; and they are following out one of the mottos of the academy, "That self-effort, divinely directed, truly educates." Their instructions are upon the training and understanding of the human mind with respect to theology, the methods of increasing attendance in the Sabbath school, the attention of the pupils, [illegible], the use of the charts, cards, [illegible] and other text books, etc., which have been furnished by the Union board, and under its instructions, we are carrying out their wishes. The Sunday school in the Academy itself numbers [illegible] pupils; it is held every Sunday during the academic year, and is of great benefit to the teachers taking the Normal Sunday School course, as they all take part in directing and managing the four departments into which the school is divided. The teachers of the various departments are expected to meet once each week and one among them is selected to present the subject to be given the following Sunday before the rest of the teachers, and in this way, when they come before their class, they are "full of the subject," and great interest is maintained by all the pupils. This brings [illegible] and success in training.

We have also organized a kindergarten school for the very small ones, which is doing excellent work. The lesson work is planned out in each department for twenty to thirty weeks ahead, and the detail work left to the respective teachers. The Guide and Lessons of Dr. Maeser are being followed out strictly. The work is efficient, the teachers and students are interested, and the love that is created is doing good as a power for good, and its effect is being felt in the increased attendance at the schools, of Utah Stake especially, and as the students of the academy now graduating [illegible] their labors in the various Stakes, the result will be almost marvelous [illegible].

ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS

said the work being accomplished at Provo was very great and its effects would be known as the teachers put the knowledge they are acquiring into practical work in their future homes, in the Sunday schools. It had been the intention of the Union board, at the close of the first semester of the present class, to establish [illegible] in the Stakes from which the present students of the class have come [illegible] the number is [illegible] it was hoped. It would be, it has been decided wise that no attempt be made by any of the [illegible] to organize such classes until instructed to do so by the Union Board, as they desire that at least the second class shall have completed its course before the work of organizing similar classes in the various Stakes shall commence. It is to be hoped that those who intend to take part in the second class, commencing in January, 1894, will be [illegible] to attending, and those who have not handed in the list from their respective Stakes,—the Stake Presidents—are requested to do so at once, that the list may be completed at an early date. They should send the lists to the First Presidency of the Church without delay, that they may know where from, and how many are likely to attend the second course.

The choir rendered in a beautiful manner, "Heavenly Father."

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN

stated that he never before saw, and did not believe there ever was seen, such a sight as the gathering there assembled in the interest of Sunday schools—the largest ever held by the Latter-day Saints since the establishment of the Church. In his travels among the people he saw full [illegible] of learning [illegible] the conditions of the Sabbath schools, but every [illegible] has been given to opportunity afforded, and he has said much to encourage the workers and students in their labor of love. The Sunday schools are the most popular gatherings in the Church—surely more people attend—than any other save the general conferences. There is no more devoted class of workers than those engaged in the Sunday school work. At the same time there is much room for improvement in the method of teaching, as in nearly all instances he had observed the work was not as thorough as it should be. It is most important that everything that is done, every lesson that is presented, every subject handled, should be most thoroughly digested and not pass on to anything else until it is so well understood and memorized that it will never be forgotten. This was one of the great necessities of the schools. The mission of the Sunday school teachers is equal to any mission in the Church—in dealing with and handling the innocent youth, shaping their course and implanting in their hearts the great truths of the Gospel. As to jubilees, reviews, etc., Elder Goddard was right in that these gatherings should be reviews of the work of the school, and in which all should take part; there is too much superficial work in these preparations for show, and he trusted that in the future the reviews would be what they signify—a resume of the past work of the class or school for a given period of time. Alluding to the Sacrament in the schools, he said this is an ordinance regulated by church discipline, and one of great importance. It should be attended to every Sabbath morning with solemnity, its object explained to the children, and no Sacrament should it be neglected. He had heard of some Bishops who thought it unnecessary. He wanted to say that where the Sacrament was neglected in the Sabbath school, there is something wrong. He believed no Bishop in all Zion had any right to question this matter, or to say that he will do as he pleases. It is not right that he should do or say so, it is insubordination to the discipline of the Church, and no brother has a right to change the discipline in regard to the ordinances and government of the Church. This should not be varied from by any one of the Bishops. It has been decided and established by the highest authority on the earth as a right and proper thing to do. Our children are entitled to it, and should not be deprived of it, but it should be administered with regularity and the object of it taught to the children. They are pure and innocent, and have a right to it. Elder Lyman earnestly exhorted all to become interested in the great work of the Sunday school, and invoked the choice blessings of heaven upon the labors of the teacher, superintendent and all faithful workers.

ELDER HEBER J. GRANT

spoke briefly upon the nickel donation fund, its necessity, and of it being strictly carried out. He said the work being accomplished at the Provo academy had been plainly laid before the Saints and the Deseret Sunday School Union board is called upon to meet the expenses of these courses, as they also have to meet the lithographing, printing and getting out of the Book of Mormon charts and cards, which they have distributed to all the schools, as also to pay traveling expenses of the officers of the Union Board in visiting the different schools in Zion, the printing of circulars, the stamps and stationery, office rent and expenses, guides, minutes, etc., all of which takes large sums of money which the Union board have to pay. The nickel donation was instituted for the purpose of meeting these expenses, and if promptly met by all the schools it would be sufficient. One-fifth of the amount collected in each stake is retained by the stake officers for local Sunday school purposes and this leaves four cents per capita for the Union, [illegible] schools [illegible]

[illegible] readily and faithfully to [illegible] Union board have [illegible] [illegible] years, [illegible] Union board [illegible] sufficient means [illegible] work of publication [illegible] but as the works demanded are increasing, the expenses have arrived at a point when it was found impossible to meet them only by the adoption of some regular contribution and something that was sure. With this object in view, the Nickel Day, the first Sunday in September of each year, was established. It should be the pride of every superintendent and officer of Sunday schools to see that on the day appointed, at least five cents is collected from every officer, teacher and student in the school, and if some are not able to pay that small amount once a year, [illegible] be able to pay more than the amount, and from the grand total from each school would represent five cents for each member of the school. Where schools have not yet collected the full amount this year, it should be attended to at once and sent forward to the treasurer, that the Union may be freed from debt. The amount paid in by each school is more than returned to them by the libraries, charts and other publications from the Union without cost.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN

briefly reviewed the Sunday school work in the various missions of the world. We have schools established in all the missions in Europe, America, Mexico, Canada, the islands of the sea, and wherever [illegible] of the Church are formed, a Sunday school is organized. The same Guide is sent as the seed here at home is sent to them; and the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] this material in the various languages. Reports of the missions and progress of the [illegible] schools are received from the various missions by the Union board and the progress is most gratifying. We did everything that we could legitimately to gain admission to the International Sunday school convention, where representatives of the various denominations meet together and discuss matters for the promotion of the Sunday schools in their [illegible]. But it was denied. We hope some day to be able to meet in such conventions, and when we do, it will be as great as any there to-day, as our Tabernacle choir has been to the music-loving people of the world, and we will come out as we are known and will be recognized for the good we have accomplished for the salvation of the human soul. The schools abroad in the various missions will gather fresh courage and renewed strength from hearing of this vast gathering, the like of which, the speaker asserted, has never been witnessed before on this earth, where so many interested in Sabbath school work have been assembled.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE,

in representing the Sunday schools of Mexico, said they were deeply interested in this important work, and were striving to keep up with the suggestions and newest means in methods and manner of teaching. He bore a cheerful testimony to the great good that is being accomplished by this institution.

ELDER ABRAHAM H. CANNON

said just after the St. Louis Sunday school convention he met several representatives from England who attended the convention and who had formerly been in Utah and been in the Tabernacle; they said that a building such as the Salt Lake Tabernacle would hold ten times the number of people gathered in their convention at St. Louis. Besides, the vast number engaged in this work, the excellence of the methods of instruction and labors of the teachers cannot be excelled anywhere in the world for thoroughness and faithfulness. He believed this high state of perfection has been brought about by the inspiration of the Lord unto His servants. It is most necessary that we continue to adopt higher methods and work for advanced ways of teaching, that we may be in the van of Sunday School training in all the world.

GENERAL SUPT. GEORGE Q. CANNON

was exceedingly gratified at the manifest interest in Sabbath school [illegible]. Those who had watched the progress from the beginning [illegible] [illegible] through it, [illegible] this for the past [illegible] and [illegible] the young today will be [illegible] engaged in its promotion [illegible] future, contemplate their labors with the greatest satisfaction. The earnest efforts of Sunday school workers will be felt in the influence exerted upon the character of our youth, in a broader comprehension of the Gospel, in raising and uniting the whole people to a higher plane, and in preparing a generation the character and greatness of which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] within the [illegible] lines of our Republic. The remarks of the previous speakers were heartily endorsed. The speaker stated that no Sunday school associates would be seen out this fall, as the main effort is centered in the training of teachers at the central college at Provo; and he earnestly urged to have the people with as many [illegible]. After the second [illegible] is completed, the [illegible] will be [illegible] to organize similar courses in different Stakes, but until then, no movement should be made by the Stake officers. The speaker called the attention of Sunday school workers to the [illegible] of teaching the principle of [illegible] and of parents having their children baptized at the proper age, in teaching the [illegible] through in their [illegible] always we may all [illegible] that we shall have a generation [illegible] valleys which cannot [illegible] all this broad land. The speaker invoked the blessings of [illegible] upon this great movement.

The choir sang the anthem "Hear, O Israel, Hear Our Prayer."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Brigham Young, and the conference adjourned [illegible].

JOHN M. WHITAKER,
General Secretary.

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BANK STATEMENTS.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

The Deseret National Bank

At Salt Lake City, in the Territory of Utah, at the Close of Business, Oct. 3, 1893.

RESOURCES.

[illegible]

LIABILITIES.

[illegible]

[illegible]

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

The Deseret Savings Bank

[illegible]

RESOURCES.

[illegible]

LIABILITIES.

[illegible]

[illegible]

STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF

STATE BANK OF UTAH

[illegible]

RESOURCES.

[illegible]

LIABILITIES.

[illegible]

[illegible]

REPORT OF THE CONDITION

OF THE

Utah Commercial and Savings Bank.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

[illegible]

RESOURCES.

[illegible]

LIABILITIES.

[illegible]

[illegible]

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