

CONFERENCE OF GRANITE STAKE

Meetings Were Held in the South
Cottonwood Ward House.

PROMINENT VISITORS THERE

Presidents Snow and Cannon and
Apostles Grant and Lund Were
Among the Speakers.

The first quarterly conference of the Granite Stake of Zion convened in the South Cottonwood meeting house at 10 a. m. on Saturday, May 19, 1900. President Frank Y. Taylor presiding.

The meeting house was very conveniently arranged for the purpose of the meetings, the stand being so located that the envious vestry could be utilized for seating the congregation.

The musical exercises were furnished by the South Cottonwood choir under the efficient leadership of Elder H. V. Ballard, and too much praise cannot be accorded the leader and members for the excellent manner in which each number was rendered.

Of the general authorities there were present, of the Quorum of Apostles, Heber J. Grant and Anthony Lund; of the Presiding Bishopric, John R. Winder.

Of the Stake authorities, Frank Y. Taylor and Edwin Bennion of the Stake presidency; eight members of the High Council and three alternates. The various organizations of the Stake were represented by their presiding officers, and the wards by the bishops or counselors; no ward or organization being without representation.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing:

"Up, awake ye defenders of Zion!"

The opening prayer was offered by Patriarch William H. Walker.

The choir sang the hymn which begins:

"Israel, Israel, God is calling."

The following wards were represented as in good condition, with all the usual organizations in good working order: South Cottonwood, by Bishop Joseph S. Rawlins; East Mill Creek by Bishop John Neff; Hunter by Bishop Christopher E. Layton; and Mill Creek by Bishop James C. Hamilton.

The choir sang, "Behold the mountain of the Lord."

Superintendent George M. Cannon reported the Sunday School organization of the Stake as in excellent condition; the Union doing a good work, and the nineteen schools thoroughly alive to their work.

President Emma S. Woodruff of the Relief Societies said, the more she became acquainted with the sisters of the various societies, the more she learned to love them; they were a noble band of workers.

Superintendent Wm. C. Winder of the Y. M. M. I. A., stated that there were fourteen associations in the Stake and all were doing a good work; the officers were alive to their duties.

Apostle Anthony H. Lund, said there is a great future in store for the Granite Stake. Spoke of the progression of the Saints; the pleasure there was in serving the Lord; the promise of God through President Lorenzo Snow in relation to the payment of tithing, which had been fulfilled, and the power of our Heavenly Father to fulfill all His promises; and to hear and answer prayer. The people of God will increase and the Lord will bless the land so that it will sustain a vast population. Exhorting all to perform their duties and to add works to their faith.

The choir sang the hymn, "Glory to God on High."

Benediction by Elder William Taylor. Adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

Choir sang the anthem, "Let the hills resound."

Benediction by Elder Chillian L. Miller. Adjourned until Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

Sunday, May 20th, 10 a. m.

Choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing: "How firm a foundation."

Prayer by Elder Nathaniel V. Jones. The choir sang the hymn on page 23, "An angel from on high."

President George Q. Cannon, of the First Presidency, was in attendance at both meetings.

Counselor Edwin Bennion, of the Stake presidency, was pleased with the various reports. The people are growing better. It is only the cultivation of the faculties that will strengthen. As we grow in faith the Lord will bless us.

Bishop John R. Winder said it was gratifying to see the increased efforts of the bishops and Saints in regard to the law of tithing, and also Temple work. There has been 550,000 ordinances performed in the Salt Lake Temple since its dedication. Cautioned the brethren in relation to the distribution of water and said all rights should be respected.

Apostle Heber J. Grant was sure that if the officers of the Stake will keep up their efforts the people will support them. Spoke upon the subject of faith, and urged the associations of words with faith. It is more important to know that we have the approbation of God and our own conscience than to gain the plaudits of men. The prime object of life is to save ourselves and to try to save others. The keynote to all Latter-day Saints is to be honest with God and our fellow-men.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn which begins: "Our God we raise to Thee."

Prayer by Elder Samuel W. Richards. The choir sang the hymn commencing: "What was witnessed in the heavens."

At this meeting there were eleven members of the High Council present.

The following wards were reported in excellent condition: Forest Dale, by Bishop Joseph Granger; by Bishop Alexander McLean; Big Cottonwood, by Bishop David B. Brinton; Sugar House, by Counselor Milner M. Atwood; Farmers', by Counselor John Gabbett.

President Zina H. Cannon, of the Y. M. M. I. A., had learned to love the work she had been called to; and found great faith in the young sisters.

Sister Rena M. Wheeler, president of the Primary associations, requested the aid of the parents in their work; the associations in all the wards are in good working order.

Choir sang: "Hark! listen to the gentle breeze."

President Frank Y. Taylor had been very much interested in the reports of the Bishops and heads of the various organizations; they are correct. A spirit of unity should be cultivated among the people. His labors had shown that there was ample opportunity for labor at home. Parents should set their houses in order, and call as earnestly as they would if labor was out into the world.

Apostle Heber J. Grant was pleased to meet in the first conference of the Stake, and hear the reports. Where we surrender our own judgment for the good of the whole we live to see the

results greater than they could possibly be otherwise. Spoke of the desirability of the approbation of God rather than the riches of this world. The hymn, commencing, Awake, ye Saints of God, awake, was sung by the choir.

President George Q. Cannon had been greatly pleased with the organization of the two new stakes; had heard very good reports of progress. The irrigation of crops and avoidance of disputation is very important. We have preserved peace in these matters because of our religion. The subject of tithing has been dwelt upon none too soon; it should be brought before the people. It is in vain to expect the United Order to be established until we become very faithful tithing-men. Those who pay an honest tithing are prosperous. We cannot devote too much of our means to public use. Dwell at length upon the subject of virtue. If we yield to temptation in this direction the curse of God will come upon us. Read from the revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith in relation to the sources to be brought upon the world because of the departure from virtue.

The anthem, "Come unto Me," was sung by the choir, and after benediction by Bishop Harrison Sperry, conference adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

President Lorenzo Snow was present at this meeting.

The hymn, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," was sung by the choir and congregation.

Prayer by Elder Ferdinand F. Hintze. The choir sang, "Arise, my soul, arise."

President Frank Y. Taylor announced that in consequence of the crowded condition of the congregation the administration of the Sacrament would be dispensed with, and that an overflow meeting would be held in the grove adjoining the meeting house in order to accommodate the vast number of people who could not be seated in the house.

Apostle Heber J. Grant and Anthony H. Lund were the speakers at the overflow meeting.

President F. Y. Taylor presented the general Church and Stake authorities, all of whom were sustained by unanimous vote.

President Lorenzo Snow exhorted the Saints to exercise their faith and prayers in behalf of the speakers. There is nothing that will advance the Latter-day Saints in the work of the Lord so much as work. Spoke upon the subject of Priesthood and read from Sec. 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants upon the same subject. The time is coming when the people will be prepared to see the face of God until we are conscientious in the payment of tithing and other duties. There are some present, said the speaker, who will go back to Jackson county and converse face to face with God. If they prove faithful.

President George Q. Cannon read from Sec. 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants, and spoke upon the subject of the gathering of the people. Referred to the previous neglect of the Saints in the payment of tithing. There must be an effort to live right and an exercise of faith before the face of God can be seen. Spoke at length upon the subjects of virtue, honesty and unselfishness. Said we can never be prepared to see the face of God until we are conscientious in the payment of tithing and other duties. There are some present, said the speaker, who will go back to Jackson county and converse face to face with God. If they prove faithful.

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JOHN W. RIGDON IN SALT LAKE.

Only Surviving Son of Sidney Rigdon Visiting Old Friends.

SPEAKS OF BY-GONE DAYS.

Affirms That His Father Maintained
to His Last Day That Joseph
Smith Was a Prophet.

John W. Rigdon, a son of Sidney Rigdon, once the first counselor to the Prophet Joseph Smith, is in the city visiting old friends and acquaintances. He was called on by a representative of the "News" this morning, and in the course of a conversation stated that a morning paper had not quoted him correctly in some portions of the interview that appeared this morning. In regard to his father's conversion to the "Mormon" Church, and his first knowledge of the Book of Mormon, he stated that he thought Oliver Cowdery was the man who brought the book to his father, but that Farley P. Pratt was with him at the time. Mr. Rigdon stated that he went to his father just before the latter's death, and told him that if he knew anything regarding the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, that had not been told, he owed it as a duty to himself and his family to tell it. The father replied that he had but one story to tell, and that was the story told him by the Prophet Joseph Smith, that the records from which that book was taken were engraved on gold plates, and the father then testified to his son that Joseph Smith was a prophet, and that an angel had shown him the plates from which was taken the Book of Mormon. "Do you believe that Mr. Rigdon?" "Yes sir, I believe every word of it. For a long time I was skeptical about it, but now I believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet, and my heart is with the Mormon people. So was my father's, he would never permit a man to speak disrespectfully of the Church in his presence."

Mr. Rigdon stated that it was his belief that Joseph Smith instituted the system of polygamy, and although he (Rigdon) never subscribed to the doctrine, he never said that it came from the devil, as was stated in the latter-day view with a convincing testimony. Mr. Rigdon affirmed that the Prophet made a proposal of marriage to his sister Nancy, who resented it with much spirit, and went to her father about it, with great indignation, and, according to Mr. Rigdon, that was the last time between his father and the Prophet, which, however, was subsequently made right, and the two remained firm friends until the latter's death.

Mr. Rigdon affirmed that two points on which his father hung out were polygamy and the accession of Brigham Young to the leadership of the Church, and although he never recovered from the humiliation, and spent the remainder of his days in silence, whenever the Church was assailed the old fire would kindle in his eyes, he would become animated and the assault would soon retire a thoroughly whipped man.

When he came here in 1883, Mr. Rigdon stated, he was urged by Brigham Young to write to his father, conveying to him Brigham Young's earnest request to come and make his home in Salt Lake. He wrote the letter, and although he hoped that his father would accede to the request, he felt at the same time that he would not do it.

"I like Salt Lake," said Mr. Rigdon, "and if circumstances were such as to permit me to move here, I would certainly do so."

Mr. Rigdon now resides in New York, and by profession is a lawyer. He is a ready and intelligent conversationalist, and very affable in manner. His sensitive nature was assailed when he was speaking of his father's lonely and brooding life, he became so affected that he broke into tears.

He related many very interesting experiences incident to his boyhood life in the Church, and stated that he was proud of having been baptized by Hyrum Smith, the Prophet's brother, and having his father and the Prophet as an audience. He was taken from what was supposed to be his death bed, and although he hoped that his father would accede to the request, he felt at the same time that he would not do it.

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