

on a shovel over a fire until red hot and then hurling them promiscuously amongst the crowd below. As they were too hot to handle, the street urchins promptly threw themselves upon the coins, whilst more of that ilk piled on top like a football scrimmage; when sufficient time elapsed for the cooling process, the boy at the bottom, if still alive, secured the prize; if hors du combat was rolled over and the penny secured by other adventurous spirits. In either case there was a desperate scramble, much hilarity on the part of lookers on, and much profanity on the part of participants—finally to the victor belonged the spoils. Above the din is heard the intermittent strains of bands of music and four mounted policemen appear at the end of the street. Instantly a scene of confusion occurs; there is a mad rush for the center of the street and the horsemen approach in the form of a wedge and literally force the crowd back. Thus those in the center of the crowd, who escape being thrown down are ultimately happy in being in the front rank and having an uninterrupted view of the parade. Military bands, troops and volunteers pass in proud review: floats representing various trades and epochs in history: the old Rocket coach of 1837 is followed by the up-to-date motor car of 1897; a large model of a frigate is in vogue sixty years ago, by a big modern battleship complete on wheels and drawn by six horses.

The Lord Mayor of London puts on more style than royalty. Certainly his carriage was not drawn by eight cream stallions bedecked with red morocco and gold mounted harness, but the carriage itself from gilt and resplendent point of view far surpassed the equipage used by the queen at jubilee time. The mayor, attended by his mace-bearer, was gorgeous in cocked hat and ermine. One of the most popular features of the show was a lifeboat, as brought up from Hastings, manned by its stalwart crew of cork belted gallant lifesavers, the same being mounted upon the original trucks that are used when launching the boat into the boiling surf. But it was emphatically the companies of firemen, all wearing their shining brass Roman helmets and a great many carrying upon their breasts medals that bespoke deeds of bravery and courage, that aroused the enthusiasm of the populace. As in any city the world over, the fireman was the hero idolized by the populace, the star of a theatrical company, the hero of a novel so to speak. With steady tramp they passed, bearing their heads and heavy countenances proudly.

Ten short days later saw the majority of these men fighting the biggest fire that has been witnessed in the metropolis since 1666—that memorable Great Fire of London. Fifty-seven steamers could not subdue the flames last Friday until \$25,000,000 had gone up in smoke and 300 offices and warehouses had been reduced to ashes. Sixty-five thousand tons of water were poured upon the flames; so rapidly did the latter spread that a publican in the next street bawling that he would not have enough beer to quench the firemen's thirst, rushed frantically out of his burning premises twenty minutes later. As soon as the firemen realized that the Grape Vine was burning, rumor says they worked like Trojans to save that ancient "pub." It was all of no avail. Street after street went down before the holocaust, ere the primitive nozzles got the upper hand.

It was no fault of the firemen, for they are a splendid body of men, underpaid and overworked as they are. How are they to fight fire successfully and speedily with the weapons at their disposal? One might as well arm

trained soldiers with bows and arrows and expect them to stem an overwhelming cavalry charge with such weapons. Without any braggadocio Salt Lake City can shake hands with herself and say that she has a better equipped fire department than the best fire station in the largest city of the world. Fancy (with but three exceptions) in every station in London there is no rod for the men to slide down to the floor below to answer a call—they tumble downstairs when they get ready. In the majority of cases the horses are kept at the rear of the station house and are led up an alley previous to hitching. True, they are always harnessed, but in any case two men invariably hitch the tugs on to the engine. In the city of London there is not a single chemical engine and in conversing with a London fireman the other day he displayed utter ignorance as to what a ball-nozzle resembled. London has not a single water-tower, or a single hook and ladder truck that can be reared independent of the support of buildings. To see a run to a fire, as I witness several times a week, is truly ludicrous. The horses go along at a trot, with an aggregation of rag-tag-and-bobtail, keeping up with the engine alongside. Truly, the traffic is dense but why not educate the same to get out of the way, or climb a lamp post at the sound of the gong? However, London fire engines are not furnished with gongs, the horses are decked with sleighbells instead.

London has at last awakened, and this state of affairs is being freely ventilated in the press. Colonel Rotton (a most suggestive name), chairman of the fire committee of the London county council, indignantly retalliates in today's Mail; he designates chemical engines as "useless fads," and a water tower as "a ladder with a hose attachment at the top." The chairman of this out-of-date senile council of grandmothers concludes his interview with the following: "At headquarters we turn out much quicker than they do in New York. We have been under way in sixteen seconds after the ringing of the bell. That is our record. On other occasions I have known it done in nineteen seconds, and twenty-one."

Can you beat that Chief Devine? There are several Utahians staying in town, including Mrs. Mary Hunt, Dr. L. W. Snow, Mr. E. V. McCune and his charming young bride on their honeymoon, and Mr. Brubeck of the Sanpete Valley railroad.

The majority of Salt Lakers will remember Madam Turner, the beautiful specialist, who two summers ago used to drive a couple of white ponies down the drive and through Liberty Park. She is heralded at the Palace theater as "The Original Descriptive Toe Dancer," and is placarded under the foreign sounding name of Mlle. Titenia. One recognizes the hall mark of Phil Turner in the various advance notices one encounters in the papers. Mlle. Titenia seems as yet to be chiefly famous for barbaric notions as regards jewels, for she wears a huge affair consisting of a cabochon emerald set with diamonds which she calls a "hand brooch" upon the back of her hand. She is trying to introduce another fashion, however, upon the long suffering British public that heaven forbid should ever become anything more than a passing freak: Each of her finger nails—all ten of which are worn a la quill pen, long and scratchy—is pierced at the end and a gold ring with a diamond attached inserted. In fact, to use an Hibernism, she wears earrings at the tips of her fingers. Next. GEO. E. CARPENTER.

The Oakland, Cal., board of trade has adopted resolutions in favor of the annexation of Hawaii.

ALBERTA STAKE CONFERENCE.

Cardston, Alberta, N. W. T., Canada, Dec. 9, 1897.

The regular quarterly conference of the Alberta Stake was held in Cardston, Sunday and Monday, November 28th and 29th, 1897, Elder C. O. Card presiding. Present on the stand were the presidency of the Stake, the Bishops of the different wards, leading Elders of the Stake, and Sister Zina D. Young of Salt Lake City.

Sunday, 28th, 10:30 a.m. After the opening exercises addresses were given by several members of the High Priests' quorum, impressing upon the Saints the necessity of continued diligence in the work of the Lord, and showing the danger of slackness, especially among those placed in responsible positions, and the blessings accruing from that unity which should characterize the people of God.

In the afternoon the Bishops reported the different wards of the Stake, the Saints, generally speaking, being alive to their duties, and laboring for the welfare of the cause, the greatest evidence of which, at the present time, being the liberal spirit manifested in the payment of tithing, and the sustenance of the Elders who were laboring in the missionary fields.

After the reports Elder J. A. Woolf addressed the conference, impressing upon all, especially the youth, the necessity of qualifying themselves for usefulness in the kingdom of God and the importance of acting wisely under all circumstances, especially in our recreations.

Elder Card followed, giving the Bishops instructions in regard to the proper organization of their wards, and the dissemination of the principles of the Gospel among the Saints, as also among those not of our faith; spoke at considerable length upon the law of tithing, and instructed the Saints upon the importance of strictly observing this law, and the necessity of being diligent in the performance of every duty devolving upon them; referred to the great work being done among our youth in our Sunday schools. In the evening reports were given by the presidents of some of the quorums, and organizations of the Stake, showing a lively interest in the work by the members of the same; after which Sister Zina D. Young gave an interesting account of the original organization of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association, and the Relief Society by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the prophecies uttered by him in regard to those organizations, which she had seen fulfilled.

Monday, 29th.—In the afternoon the reports from the associations were continued, showing a full and complete organization throughout the Stake, except in a few places where the religion classes were not as yet organized, through various circumstances, but which in the near future would be attended to.

The general authorities of the Church as presented at the last Semi-Annual Conference were then sustained by unanimous vote, as also the local authorities of the Stake, after which addresses were given by several of the Elders upon the every-day duties of the Saints.

In the afternoon Elder Henry L. Hinman addressed the conference, exhorting the Saints to increased diligence in the performance of all the duties incumbent upon them, relating different incidents of his experience where the faith and diligence of the Saints brought down the blessings of heaven upon them, and in contrast some cases where negligence in regard to known duties caused apostasy from the Church.

The weather being rather severe, the