

CHURCH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The fourth annual convention of the Church school system was held in the Latter-day Saints' College this morning. There were present of the members of the General Board of Education Lorenzo Snow, Anthon H. Lund, General Superintendent K. G. Maeser, Secretary George Reynolds and Willard Young, all the members of the Board of Examiners and other prominent representatives of Church schools.

After singing, and prayer by Prof. Benj. Cluff, Gen. Supt. Karl G. Maeser stated that the members of the convention were expected to be free in the presentation of subjects and in asking questions, so that the interests of the Church school system might be advanced. All that was done in that convention was official and binding. Some misunderstanding had existed in the past. It was desirable that the causes of this might be removed and all work be pursued on a well-defined basis.

General instructions were given regarding district conventions and attendance thereupon. Attendance at these conventions was obligatory upon all Church school teachers and religion class instructors, so that all might receive the necessary training and instruction. Some of the Church school officers, said the speaker, were not acquainted with the general circular of the board and the Church school papers, published in the *Juvenile Instructor*. This had been a source of astonishment and chagrin to the General Superintendent and it was expected that this would be rectified in future. Knowledge of the work to be done, and the way of doing it, was absolutely necessary to the uniform operation of those engaged in this important labor. Confusion had formerly existed in the reports received from the Church schools. Hereafter only one report of each kind would be required each year, and this was to be sent to the general superintendent before July 15. A report was to be made to the historian detailing the history of each school from its organization. A financial report should accompany the statistical and the historical reports referred to, and all should be sent to Dr. Maeser by the above mentioned date.

Difficulty had been experienced in keeping records of the work done in the schools, on account of a lack of completeness and clearness. These records are the general register, the register of studies, the faculty record, the theological record, the record of the Students' and Polysophical societies, the teachers' rolls, the term reports, and the abstract from the term reports. All Church educational work in a Stake was under the supervision of the Stake Board of Education, all boards of a special nature in that Stake being under the board's direction. A visiting committee of two members should be appointed from each board, its duty being to visit the schools under the direction of that board, taking notes of their condition, and making a written report thereof to the board. There had been a lack of interest in the matter of visitation by members of boards, and this was discouraging to the teachers and pupils. These should feel that their work was supported by those

having general supervision over the school. It was necessary that all members of boards should be live members, and demonstrate their interest in the school by working up its interest at all times. The board should meet at least quarterly, listen to reports from the principal, the visiting committee, etc., and take steps in the direction of improving the general condition of the school.

The faithful work of the faculties was commended by the speaker, and the teachers were admonished to avoid overwork and consequent illness. It was desirable that a faculty meeting be held once a week for reports concerning students, statistics and studies, and a record kept of all these meetings. Some principals neglected their associate teachers. The principal was responsible for all matters referred to him by the other teachers, and should act with decision. He should make his influence felt in all departments of the school and be recognized by the members of the board. If they desired to correct any of the mistakes of the principal or the instructors, those corrections should be made in private and not before the students.

With the regard to the employment and compensation of teachers, it was desirable that principals be employed for the full year, at a stipulated salary. The board would be left as to what should be done in the case of the other teachers. The forty-week year should not be departed from, unless permission was obtained from the general board, through the general superintendent.

The religion classes had been established in 112 wards, in nineteen of the Stakes of Zion. It was expected that those classes would be established in all wards wherever practicable.

In teaching theology in the colleges and Stake academies especially it was necessary that this instruction be given in such a form that the students could be made available in the M. I. A. and Sunday schools. Special stress should be laid upon the Sunday school leaflets, so that these admirable productions might be used to the greatest possible advantage. The teachers were warned against political work of a too partisan character, while still holding firm political convictions.

With reference to going East for courses of study, advice in favor of this should be given very cautiously, as many had gone who were but ill-prepared, and as a result some had lost their faith. Even one soul is too great a price to pay for the science which the world could give.

The fact was mentioned that many principals and other teachers were resigning for various reasons, and the danger was that the schools would be left without competent teachers. It had sometimes been found necessary that some of the principals should be requested to forego their intended courses in order to keep alive the interest of the school. Many of those thus approached had shown a noble spirit of self-sacrifice to the public good.

Captain Willard Young spoke upon Circular No. 8 of the General Board of Education, calling particular attention to the subject of authority for establishing Church schools. There had been prepared certain credentials au-

thorizing those to whom they were issued to conduct schools of specified grade. A blank letter was to be signed by each Stake board and sent to the General Board of Education, applying for a certificate entitling this board to conduct certain schools in that stake. The certificates would be issued by the general board upon the receipt of the letter of application. It should be understood that all communications from the teachers of any institution will be directed to the Stake Board, and by them to the general board. Also, appropriations will be made to the stake boards and distributed among the various institutions in the respective stakes. The necessity of proper order in these matters was emphasized.

Dr. James E. Talmage made some remarks upon the subject of examinations, pointing out their necessity in church schools. No one was to teach in the church school system who did not hold credentials from the general board; such credentials could be easily obtained. First a license was issued for one year, and in that time the holder must be able to show to what extended credentials he was entitled. The church school system was a perfectly organized one and perfect order was maintained in the carrying into effect of the provisions of the general board. Regular examinations were held each year by the board of examiners, and these should be properly regarded by each applicant or they would become too cumbersome.

This year the examinations would be held simultaneously in the following places, commencing Thursday, June 16, 1892, and continuing as long as may be necessary: Salt Lake City, Provo, Logan, Manti and Cedar City, Utah, and Paris, Idaho. All branches omitted in previous examinations should be made up in the coming one, or the certificates would be issued and the blanks would count to the decided disadvantage of the holder.

The academic examination was referred to, it being emphatically stated that applications for such must be made at least two months before the time of holding the examination, that all might be done in order. The fees charged for certificates should be paid to Prof. Willard Done, assistant secretary of the Board of Examiners, and the receipt issued by him would be a ticket entitling the holder to the examination and the certificate issued as a result thereof.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention resumed its labors at 2 p. m. Friday.

Prayer by Dr. J. E. Talmage.

L. F. Moench, principal of the Weber Stake Academy, conducted a drill in the principles of class discipline, prefacing the exercise by introductory remarks.

The necessity of order in class was pointed out as also the fact that this can be reached only by strict attention to the laws of discipline. The manner of the teacher before the school should be dignified and commanding, not harsh or imperious. Quiet dignity and calm demeanor will do much toward enforcing discipline, and these may be supplemented by the proper use of the call bell. The tap of the bell must not be repeated, and those