

was called and responded to by one High Counselor, four Patriarchs, Elders Elias Morris, George B. Wallace and William C. Dunbar of the High Priests' quorum, eleven presidents of Seventies and six home missionaries.

All the wards in the Stake were properly represented excepting the Fifth, Sixth, Tenth, Thirteenth, Sixteenth and Twenty-second city wards, and Sugar House, Mill Creek, Mountain Dell, Crescent, Riverton, West Jordan, Brighton and Hunter wards of the country.

The Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding Elders. The lesser Priesthood was represented by members from a large number of the wards.

Upon the recommendation of their respective Bishops, twenty-five young brethren received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, each of whom promised to honor and magnify the office and calling of Elder if ordained.

Elder Parley P. Pratt was the first speaker. He said he proposed to visit all the wards in the Stake shortly and deliver lectures, said lectures to be announced later on.

Elders Elias Morris, Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose addressed the meeting in a very spirited manner, the burden of their remarks being the great duty and responsibility resting upon parents with reference to the training of our children properly, the great importance of throwing all the safeguards possible around the youth of Zion, that they may be protected from the very many evils introduced here for their downfall, destruction and death, and be lead in the paths of honor and nobleness, and forever walk in the fear of the Lord.

The preaching of the Gospel to the strangers in our midst after the manner in which the Elders perform this mission in the nations of the earth, by going from house to house and getting acquainted with our neighbors and conversing with them on the first principles of the Gospel, and leaving tracts with them, was urged by the speakers. This to be done under proper direction. The house to house visiting and expounding the principles of the Gospel to our people at their firesides by the Friends and Teachers were also strongly urged.

Adjourned to meet in Stake conference on Saturday, December 5th, 1896, at 10 a. m.

A SPLENDID COUNTRY.

The Uintah Indian reservation has attracted the attention of the people of this state for over a year, on account of the negotiations that have been pending between a commission representing the United States government and the Uintah Indians for the purchase of the surplus lands owned by them. These negotiations were broken off not long ago, but are about to be renewed. A new commission is expected, and it is believed that something will be accomplished this time. The description of a visit to this In-

dian agency by one of our citizens may, therefore, be of special interest to such of our people as have been contemplating to procure a home, when the reservation shall be thrown open:

The distance from Price, the nearest railroad station to Fort DuChesne is 94 miles. Excepting the first twenty-five miles, it is a good road. About two miles northeast of the fort are the celebrated gilsonite mines, from which a number of carloads are shipped every week to St. Louis, where it is manufactured into varnish and roofing material, and where it is also sold for various other purposes. It is hauled from the mines to Price station and furnishes return freight to the numerous teams that are employed in hauling the supplies to the fort.

The distance from the Fort to the agency is fifteen miles. The road lies through the Indian farms that have been established during the last two or three years. It is encouraging to see the great progress that has been made to induce the Indians to give up their roving, predatory habits, and become tillers of the soil. Thousands of acres have been cleared and are now cultivated by these Indians, who, but a few years ago, considered it a disgrace to work, and who derided and scorned the few that could be induced by present or other favors to make a beginning in this direction. Too much praise can not be bestowed upon Col. Randlett and his assistants for the admirable tact and judgment displayed in overcoming the prejudice of these savages towards any and all forms of civilization. It is assured by those who have watched these matters for a long time, that he has done more during the last four years to bring about these desirable results than had been done previous to his time during all the years since the establishment of the agency in 1868. Possessing considerable knowledge of human nature, he discovered at once the cause of former failures. He saw it would not do to make too sudden changes, and his first endeavor therefore was to raise these savages out of the hunting into the pastoral stage, the natural way in which all civilization progresses. This he accomplished by issuing to them cattle to take care of, and buying from them part of the beef supplies, thus insensibly converting them into cattle raisers. He also paid them extra rates to haul the annually goods furnished by the government. In numerous ways he has pursued the same policy; until at last he has succeeded in breaking down their strong disinclination to work, and made them more kindly disposed towards the tilling of the soil. In speaking on the subject to the colonel he incidentally remarked that he was himself born and raised on a farm. This early training has undoubtedly been of great service to him, and accounts for the admirable judgment manifested by him in all the operations connected with his interesting experiments. I will mention only one case in point. All his predecessors have conducted the farming operations on the low bottoms, whose water was easily brought from the river. On these farms the alkali would soon rise to the surface, killing the

crops, and disgusting the Indians, who, lacking the perseverance and persistency of their Caucasian brethren, want to see immediate and continuous results. The colonel commenced his operations by taking out long canals, and carrying the water to the highest benches, and thus taking in right away better land, freer from alkali, and from which the existing excessive salts are naturally drained to lower levels. The lands thus secured are well adapted for all the various farming operations, including fruit raising, and the Indians there located are highly delighted with the results obtained. We met there an agent from one of our home nurseries, who assured us that he did an excellent business with these Indians, one of whom, who already has a young orchard growing, had given him a second order for trees to the amount of \$140. As we wended our way through a lane passing between the different farms, all well fenced in, with good dwelling houses, outhouses, etc., we had an excellent opportunity to view the numerous stacks of lucerne hay, wheat, oats, etc. We were afterwards told by the head farmer that the Indians had already thrashed over 18,000 bushels of grain, and were not half finished. These good results have been obtained by allowing each Indian to take in a white man as partner who farms with them on shares. The colonel thus hopes to educate the Indians in farming, so that in a year or two they will be independent farmers.

Arriving at the agency we made the acquaintance of Mr. Muse, the chief clerk in charge, and Mr. Wayman, the head farmer, and had a very pleasant interview with him. From Mr. Wayman we learned that in looking over the ground for a new canal from the Uintah river to cover a large bench lying between the Uintah and Duchesne rivers, on the lower part of which the above described farms are situated, he encountered the remains of an old canal, which had been used perhaps hundreds of years ago. Although the remains were sufficiently plain to be seen, the old canal had been too much impaired by the lapse of ages to be of any use for the canal he was contemplating, because the means at his command were not sufficient for such enterprise. But with sufficient means he is confident that the restoration of the old canal is perfectly possible, and it would cover thousands of acres above the canal he is building. He also stated that he found similar remains of a ditch or canal on the east branch of Lake Fork, the next stream west of the Uintah. The indications are that this country has at some time been well settled by a race whose remains are found all over this State. Similar canals were also found, and are at present utilized by the white settlers of northern Arizona.

While at the agency we also visited the Indian school. The buildings are all that can be desired; plenty of light, fresh air and scrupulous cleanliness. There are at present about eighty pupils of all ages and both sexes at the school. The lady teachers conduct the elementary English branches, and seem to take a proper pride in their vocation, and great delight in all the indications of