

"By this arrangement all would be placed on equitable footing, and those things be amicably adjusted as are others by the properly constituted authorities.

"This principle might apply just as far as you can agree among yourselves in regard to other matters, such as the erection of grist mills, sawmills, co-op stores, or anything else that may be considered beneficial to the whole community, and thus try as near as possible to get this Stake of Zion placed in a proper condition.

"In securing the titles to your land you must of necessity conform to the law in every particular, but this being accomplished you can unite together as in all other matters before alluded to.

"In all these matters be very careful that no coercion of any kind is used, but that all men be left to enjoy the fullest and most untrammelled free agency in all of their actions, providing a full and fair compensation to all persons interested in any and all of your secular affairs. Keeping this in view, you avoid all interference with private rights.

"The nearer you can come to Union in all of your agricultural, mechanical, manufacturing, commercial, political, social and religious pursuits, the nearer you will approach to that harmony that is contemplated by the Almighty in the organization of this people. Thus giving the fullest and most complete free agency to men on the one hand, and the most perfect union of action on the other. By these means a band of union will be formed and these matters be amicably adjusted.

"And then the people should pay their tithes and attend to all their social, moral and religious duties, and those who thus operate harmoniously in the interest of all and for the benefit of the whole, will place themselves in accordance with the spirit that ought to exist in the land of Zion, and will be blessed and prospered in all their enterprises, while those who take a contrary course will be deprived of many of the blessings resulting from an observance of the laws of God.

"With sentiments of the highest regard, we remain

"Your Brethren in the Gospel,

"JOHN TAYLOR,

"GEORGE Q. CANNON,

"Of the First Presidency."

Sept. 6, 1884, at a Priesthood meeting held at Rexburg the number of wards in the Stake were increased to seven by giving the Wilford branch a ward organization with Thomas S. Smith as Bishop. He was ordained on that day.

At the third quarterly conference held at Rexburg, Nov. 23, 1884, the Salem Ward was organized. This was the eighth ward in the Stake. On the same occasion James H. Pincock was appointed to fill the vacancy in the High Council caused by the calling of Geo. H. B. Harris to preside over the Salem Ward.

At a Priesthood meeting held at Rexburg, Dec. 6, 1884, the boundary lines between the eight wards of the Bannock Stake now organized were established as follows:

"The centre stake on the south line of Section 10, Township 6 north, Range 40 east, was taken as a starting point, and all the country lying east of that, between the Teton and Henry's Fork of Snake River, was attached to the Wilford Ward. The Teton Ward was to embrace all that district of country lying south of the Teton River and east of the aforementioned point. Salem Ward was to embrace all that district of country lying west of said starting point and north of an east and west line drawn therefrom to the south bank of Henry's Fork. Rexburg Ward was to include the country

extending six miles south from said starting point; Lyman Ward to embrace all that district of country lying between the Rexburg Ward and the south fork of Snake River. Parker Ward was to include the country lying north of Henry's Fork, Cedar Butte (Menan) the whole of Poole's Island, and Louisville Ward all the country lying south and east of the south fork of Snake River."

In the summer of 1884 steps were taken by Prest. Thos. E. Ricks and others, to build a grist-mill at Rexburg. It was completed December following. This was the first grist-mill in the upper Snake River valley.

In 1884 there were quite a number of Saints at Beaver Canyon and also several families belonging to the Church at Medicine Lodge. There was some talk of organizing a ward in that part of the country, but this was not done, and since then most of the Saints have removed from these mining districts to other parts of the country.

Jan. 31, 1885, the fourth Stake statistical report showed 1,770 souls.

Feb. 21st and 22nd, 1885, the fourth quarterly conference was held at Rexburg, at which Apostle John W. Taylor was present. A stock association was organized.

May 10th, 1885, William J. Pratt, of the Wilford Ward, and John L. Roberts, of Rexburg, were arrested by a posse of deputy marshals on a charge of unlawful cohabitation and taken to Blackfoot. Both pleaded guilty and were sentenced on May 23rd following. These were the first arrests made under the Edmunds law in the Bannock Stake. Since then a number of others have suffered for conscience sake in a similar manner.

May 16th and 17th, 1885, Apostle John H. Smith and Prest. Seymour B. Young attended the fourth quarterly conference at Rexburg. On that occasion the 84th quorum of Seventies was organized by the selection of faithful Elders in the Bannock Stake.

Aug. 15th and 16th, 1885, Apostle Moses Thatcher and William B. Preston attended the sixth quarterly conference held at Rexburg.

Dec. 12th, 1885, Robert L. Bybee was appointed first Counselor to President Thomas E. Ricks, *pro tem*. Soon afterwards he became the acting President of the Stake, President Ricks being an exile because of the religious persecution raging against some of the brethren at that time.

May 16th, 1886, James E. Fogg was called as an assistant to Acting President Robert L. Bybee.

In May, 1886, the Stake was visited by Apostle John W. Taylor and Elder C. D. Fjeldsted. They attended the ninth quarterly conference held at Rexburg May 15th and 16th, 1886; reorganized the Lyman Ward on the 18th, organized the Brighton Ward on the 19th, Cleveland (Labelle) Ward on the 21st and Rigby and Iona Wards on the 23rd. This increased the number of wards in the Stake to twelve.

In November, 1886, Apostle John H. Smith visited the Stake, attended the eleventh quarterly conference on the 13th and 14th, and gave the branch at Eagle Rock a ward organization on the 18th.

In 1887 the number of acres of land cultivated in the various wards in the Bannock Stake was as follows: Brighton 136 acres, Iona 92½, Labelle 376,

Louisville 918, Lyman 390½, Menan 790, Parker 466, Rexburg 1,539, Salem 417½, Rigby 253, Teton 874½, Wilford 443, Burton 209; total 7,744.

In August, 1887, Apostle Lorenzo Snow visited the Stake and attended the fourteenth quarterly conference held at Rexburg, August 20th and 21st. On that occasion Acting President Robert L. Bybee and James E. Fogg, who had acted during the absence of President Ricks, were honorably released with a vote of thanks for their services. President Ricks having returned again assumed the duties of his office and was sustained by the people. On the same occasion Rexburg was divided into three wards, and the north end of the Lyman Ward set off into a separate ward organization called Burton. The Lyman and Wilford Wards Bishoprics were also reorganized, and Arza E. Hluckly was ordained a Patriarch.

Sept. 10th, 1887, James E. Fogg was set apart as a High Councilor to fill the vacancy caused by the ordination of Casper Steiner to preside as Bishop of Rexburg Second Ward.

Aug. 18th and 19th, 1887, the quarterly conference was held in Louisville, at which Apostle Lorenzo Snow was present. On the second day of conference (19th) William Priest was ordained Bishop of the Taylor Ward, Alfonso B. Simmons of the Willow Creek Ward and Andrew O. Ingelstrom of the Basalt Ward. Franklin Stevenson Bramwell was ordained a member of the High Council. The organization of these three new wards increased the number of wards in the Stake to nineteen.

Nov. 12th, 1888, the Bannock Stake Academy was opened with Jacob Spori as principal and Axel Nielsen and Sarah Ann Barnes as assistants. The school opened with sixty-seven scholars. It has ever since been kept in good running order.

Aug. 2, 1889, the Saints in the Teton Basin were organized into a ward—the twentieth ward in the Stake.

Second Counselor Gunnell having removed to Cache County, Utah, James E. Steele was set apart as Second Counselor in his stead at a Priesthood meeting held Feb. 1, 1890. He was called some time previous to that.

The following is a complete list of the quarterly conferences held in the Bannock Stake since its first organization:

1. April 26th and 27th, 1884, Rexburg.
2. Aug. 16th and 17th, 1884, "
3. Nov. 22nd and 23rd, 1884, "
4. Feb. 21st and 22nd, 1885, "
5. May 16th and 17th, 1885, "
6. Aug. 15th and 16th, 1885, "
7. Nov. 14th and 15th, 1885, "
8. Feb. 20th and 21st, 1886, "
9. May 15th and 16th, 1886, "
10. Aug. 21st and 22nd, 1886, "
11. Nov. 13th and 14th, 1886, "
12. Feb. 19th and 20th, 1887, "
13. May 14th and 15th, 1887, "
14. Aug. 20th and 21st, 1887, "
15. Nov. 26th and 27th, 1887, "
16. Feb. 26th and 27th, 1888, "
17. May 19th and 20th, 1888, "
18. Aug. 18th and 19th, 1888, Louisville.
19. Nov. 18th and 19th, 1888, Rexburg.
20. Feb. 16th and 17th, 1889, "
21. May 19th and 20th, 1889, "
22. Aug. 18th and 19th, 1889, Louisville.
23. Nov. 17th and 18th, 1889, Rexburg.
24. Feb. 16th and 17th, 1890, "
25. May 18th and 19th, 1890, Louisville.

(To be continued.)