

Yankees. The first of her railroads Yankee, and this was the first railroad built in South America. Her first great steamship line was founded by a Yankee, named Wheelright, who brought his scheme to New York, but could find no one to support it. He then went to London and there organized the Pacific Steam Navigation company, which has the most powerful fleet on the west coast. It has sixty steamers, including tenders plying between Valparaiso and all the ports to the Isthmus of Panama, and also a steamship line between Valparaiso and Liverpool. It should pay big dividends, for with the Chilean South American Steamship company, with which it combines. It has the monopoly of the freight and passenger travel and charges the highest rates. The railroad between Valparaiso and Santiago, a little over 100 miles, was built by an American, Henry Melggs, who constructed also many other roads in Peru. Melggs came first to Chile from California. His partner there had ruined him financially, and he ran away to avoid arrest, owing some \$40,000. He arrived in Peru almost penniless, but got the contract for this road by offering to build it for about half the amount asked by some English engineers. He made money out of it, and from that time he became one of the greatest contractors south of the isthmus. He built other roads and made fortunes out of them. He then went to Chile and there contracted for works which cost tens of millions of dollars. He built the famous Oroya road up the Andes, back of Lima, which is the steepest, and I doubt not the costliest, road ever built, and when he died he was putting a tunnel into the mountain of Cerro de Pasco to strike and drain the great silver deposit there. Melggs was undoubtedly an able man, but whether he was an honest man or not I have not been able to determine. His friends say he was, and they state that out of his first earnings in Chile he sent back to California the \$40,000 for which he was indebted. Others say he was tricky, and in this connection I was told today of a lottery scheme which it is asserted he worked to his profit. We were walking along the Alameda and admiring the great palaces in which the nabobs of this city live, when my friend said:

"Do you see that house there on the corner?"

"Yes," said I. "It must have cost a fortune to build it?"

"It did," was the reply. "That house belonged to Henry Melggs. He built two magnificent palaces in Santiago and in doing so spent, I venture, more than half a million dollars. He sold them, however, when times were hard, for more than their cost."

"How did he do it?"

"He did it by a lottery scheme, in which there were 700,000 tickets offered for sale at a dollar apiece. The only prizes were that house and the other, which is further down the street. Well, only 600,000 tickets were sold, and when the drawing was made it was found that the numbers of the prizes were left among the 100,000 unsold blanks. So, you see, Melggs got his \$600,000 and held on to his houses. The people were mad, but nothing was done."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

Almy, Wyoming, Sept. 4, 1898. The Woodruff Stake Sunday school conference was held on Sept. 3rd and 4th. There were present Elders George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser of the Sunday School Union board; Elder Baxter and his counselors; Superintendent Wm. Beveridge and his assistants.

Saturday morning the meeting was called to order by Stake Superinten-

dent Wm. Beveridge and after singing and prayer, Bro. Beveridge made a brief address of welcome after which Brother K.G. Maeser explained how the superintendents should report their schools; he also stated that the class exercises to be given would be limited to ten minutes each.

The roll call of the schools of the Stake showed seven represented and four absent, but in the afternoon two more schools were represented, making a total of nine represented out of the eleven in the Stake.

The first intermediate department of the Evanston Sunday school (Sister Kate Whittle, teacher) gave an interesting class exercise.

The Woodruff and Randolph schools were reported to be in good condition, officers and children taking a deep interest in the Sunday school work.

Sister Katie Whittle of the Evanston Sunday school, gave a very nice recitation.

Bro. Maeser then addressed the conference. He said that exercises rendered at Stake conferences were expected to be and generally were models for Sunday schools of the Stake to follow. He said that schools should always open promptly at the appointed time even if the superintendent were there alone, and that when classes were selected to give exercises at the Stake conference, the class should be the best in the Stake and that but eight classes be selected for each conference. He advised superintendents and teachers when attending conferences to take notes in a book of the exercises and instructions that were given and preserve them for future reference.

The first intermediate department of the Red Cannon school then gave a class exercise consisting of questions and answers on the life and travels of Lehi.

Bro. George Goddard next addressed the conference for about ten minutes.

Superintendent Beveridge invited all to attend a conjoint meeting in the afternoon.

On the Sunday morning session Bro. Maeser stated that any one wishing information should write it in the form of a question and hand it to the secretary, when it would be answered from the stand.

The Sacrament was then administered and during the administration Assistant Superintendents made a few timely remarks, after which Brother Goddard spoke and showed a gold medal that he had received from the Sunday school workers of Zion. He reminded the audience that it was fast day and spoke of the object of fasting and what could be accomplished thereby.

Randolph theological class gave an interesting class exercise, the subject of which was "Phophecy Fulfilled."

Bro. Maeser spoke of the nickel fund and urged that it be paid in full; also that five minutes be devoted every Sunday to the concert recitation of the Articles of Faith, the Lord's Prayer, etc.

Bro. Goddard then spoke a short time on tithing, telling the benefits to be derived by obeying this law.

The afternoon meeting opened promptly at 2 p. m., and after singing and prayer the Rock Springs school was reported by the superintendent to be in excellent condition. The Woodruff school gave a class exercise on the "Travels of Lehi."

Bro. Maeser then conducted a concert recitation of the Articles of Faith, after which the Almy school gave a class exercise.

Elder Baxter and his counselors, each gave a five minute talk in the interest of the Sunday schools. Bro. Goddard advised all to attend family prayers and gave a humorous example of how some

attend to that important duty. He closed his remarks with singing, "Who's on the Lord's Side, Who?"

Bro. Maeser said we should teach the children in Sunday school to honor the Priesthood, the divinity of God and principles of the Gospel. Testimonies should be encouraged in Sunday schools by the superintendent and teachers doing so first. Many other instructions were given.

The conference was brought to a close with singing, "Marching Home" and prayer by Bishop Bowns.

OHAS. BEVERIDGE JR., Clerk.

DEATH OF MRS. SPRAGUE.

Mrs. Mary Ann Sprague, one of Utah's early settlers, died at her residence, 44 south State street, at 5:30 Thursday. Her demise was perfectly painless and peaceful. The deceased was the widow of the late Dr. S. L. Sprague. She was a native of Massachusetts, in which state she was born in March, 1803, thus being four years the senior of President Woodruff.

Mrs. Sprague came to Utah in 1848 and suffered all of the privations incident to a journey across the plains in those Pioneer days. She had a pleasant disposition and a constitution that was almost marvelous in its endurance. For years past she has been one of the conspicuous figures of the Old Folks' gatherings. She leaves one son, Samuel L. Sprague, five grand children and one great-grandchild. Her funeral will be held from the Thirteenth ward assembly rooms beginning at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Friends of the family are respectfully requested to attend.

The deceased was baptized in Lowell, Mass., in April, 1843, by Elder Ezra T. Benson into the Mormon Church. In the same year she moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, with her husband, the late Dr. Samuel Sprague, where they became acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and the leader of the Church. Soon after they were sent to Skunk river to look after the sick. They remained there till the troubles commenced at Nauvoo, to which place they returned on a flat boat built by Elder (now Bishop) F. Kesler, which brought down several hundred souls. After the martyrdom they crossed the Mississippi river on the ice and wended then westward with the exiles, and wintered at Winter Quarters, where she nursed the sick, as was her wont to do.

In 1848 they crossed the Plains, Mrs. Sprague driving the ox team as well as attending to her domestic duties. Her husband was President Young's physician for many years, while she was associated with the leading Mormon women in every good word and work. They wintered on Pioneer Square, and then located on the lot she died on, just north of the Theater on State street. The deceased retained all her faculties up to the hour of her death, and quietly fell asleep into eternal slumber without an ache of pain.

IDAHO WEATHER REPORT.

The weather of the week ending Monday, September 12, 1898, was generally clear and unusually cool, the temperature on several dates falling below the freezing points; light frosts were of frequent occurrence but as all crops are well matured no material injuring is reported, except in the case of garden truck, the tender varieties of which have suffered more or less. Little or no rain fell during the week. Harvesting is generally completed and threshing nearing that stage. The ranges are slightly improved, and stock in good condition.

D. P. McCULLUM,
Section Director.