

a Stake and ward capacity. The Bishops of wards have high responsibilities, and to accomplish the design of the Lord in a ward capacity the Bishops need the help of all. The speaker made some very practical remarks illustrative of the parable of the Gospel net that gathers all kinds of fish. He commended the Bishops who are successful in handling the refractory spirits, and wanted such to change their course and not oppose their Bishops at every turn.

Elder Thomas E. Bassett said he saw a great work in the religious classes. What we do and not what we hear, will benefit us. If we want temporal blessings we must exercise faith and not fret because of occasional drouth, hail storms, etc. He spoke of the counsel of President John Taylor for the people of this Stake to gather on townships.

President Thos. E. Ricks desired to impress strongly upon the people, the former speaker's closing remarks. He had been sent to begin to settle this country, provided with a letter from President John Taylor, which was recorded on the first pages of our Stake history. That letter said among other things pertaining to settling on townships that it was "President Brigham Young's plan for the people to settle in towns and villages and a better way had not yet been found."

Monday, 2 p. m., Elders C. R. J. Harris, H. B. Jackson and Ephraim Ricks, missionaries who leave for Montana tomorrow, all spoke with gratitude for the privilege of being called to preach the Gospel, and desired the Spirit of God to accompany them.

Elder Douglas M. Todd testified that obedience to the counsel of the Priesthood is the rule to bring prosperity and is the way of safety. The Lord is no respecter of persons. He reverences principle and not men. There is no blessing without responsibility alongside. The speaker portrayed in many convincing and beautiful ways the pleasure and blessings that come to those who obey the Gospel and sustain the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

President Thos. E. Ricks made a few closing remarks. He never had enjoyed any conference more, and hoped that in the future we would all continue to do better. To have conference held here is the greatest boon Willford ever received, and this ward will do better from now on. He thanked all who had participated in making conference enjoyable and much praise was due the choir of Willford and Parker for the inspiring music furnished at all the sessions.

Benediction by Elder Joseph Kerr.
JAS. GILLESPIE, Stake Clerk.

ST. JOSEPH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The St. Joseph Stake conference convened at Pima, Arizona, meeting house, Sunday and Monday, June 13 and 14, 1897. There were present on the stand Elder Wm. D. Johnson, counselor to Elder Christopher Layton, president of the Stake (who is now prostrated on his bed of affliction and who has been for some months), members of the High Coun-

oil, Bishops of the various wards and other influential men.

Elder Johnson reported the condition of the president of the Stake, who, he said, was in the hands of the Lord; the speaker had been alone in the work ever since Brother Layton's sickness; was instructed by the Twelve to set the wards in order; also to organize a ward up at Dunkin, which had been done. It was given the name of Franklin. Elder Johnson reported the Stake as being in a fair condition today. He spoke very pointedly upon the duties and responsibilities that rest upon the officers and all those who hold responsible positions.

The Bishops of the various wards reported the same as being in a prosperous condition both spiritually and temporally. Crops never have been better; have had some sickness, but at present the health of the people is good; but little sickness is reported. We have started on second crop of hay and are cutting and threshing our grain.

We were favored with the presence of three returned missionaries—Elder Charles Matthews, who has been laboring in the Southern States, and Robert Walker and Robert A. Smith from the Samcan mission. They were all filled with the spirit of their mission, and gave an account of their travels and labor; also the manner and customs of the people, and bore a strong testimony to the truth of the work.

A portion of the time was occupied by Patriarch Philemon B. Merrill and Elder Wm. J. Packer, president of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association. They spoke of missionary labor and the conditions of the Lamanites in settling their own difficulties; referred to the Semi-Centennial that will take place in Utah next month; also on treating lightly the Sabbath day; and they spoke upon other principles of the Gospel.

Elder Benjamin Cluff reported the High Priest's quorum and showed the responsibility that rested upon the High Priests.

The general and local authorities were put before the people and sustained.

The meeting also listened to the reading of the statistical report.

Elder W. D. Johnson felt pleased with the reports of the missionaries, and exhorted all to give heed to the counsel given them by those in authority.

The excellent singlog, rendered by the Pima choir, under the leadership of Prof. Peter H. McBride, during our conference, helped to make the meetings a success.

F. W. MOODY, Clerk.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The Boxelder Stake Sunday school conference opened at Bear River City Saturday morning, June 12th. There were present General Superintendent George Goddard and Joseph W. Summerhays, members of the Union board, Stake Presidents Clawson and Watkins, the Stake Sunday school superintendency, besides a host of Bishops, Sunday school superintendents, etc. The room was packed with

enthusiastic Sunday school workers and members.

During the morning and afternoon sessions reports were given by the superintendents of the schools that form the Bear River district, showing the schools to be in good condition. Songs and exercises were rendered by the Bear River City, Honeyville and Deweyville schools.

Brothers Goddard and Summerhays at both sessions gave much good instruction to the people, touching on the following points: Word of Wisdom, keeping the Sabbath day, punctuality, honoring the Priesthood, virtue, family prayers, nickel donations, etc.

Elders Clawson and Watkins addressed the meetings, felt the Sunday schools were accomplishing a good work in the Stake; urged the importance of perseverance in this as well as all our duties as Latter-day Saints.

At the close of the afternoon meeting Superintendent Goddard was conveyed to Honeyville, where he took train for Salt Lake City.

Brother Summerhays and the Stake superintendency continued their journey to Mantua where night meeting was held. A large turnout of Sunday school workers and members were present. Superintendent Jensen reported the Mantua school in a healthy condition. Articles of Faith were recited by the primary children. Stake Secretary C. D. Brown spoke to the meeting referring to the many good instructions we had so far received during the conference.

Brother Summerhays then addressed the Saints, explaining the Sunday School Union card, its objects, etc.; the use to which the nickel donations were applied; advised the young to keep the Word of Wisdom, not to swear or profane the name of Deity, honor their parents and do good. A song, Oh, My Mother, was rendered by members of the school.

The conference was continued Sunday, June 13th, at Brigham City, where two meetings were held in the new Stake Tabernacle, one in the morning the other in the afternoon. There were present at these meetings President Lorenzo Snow, J. W. Summerhays and Hugh J. Cannon, members of the Union board, General Secretary John M. Whitaker, Stake Presidents Clawson, Kelley and Watkins, the Sunday school superintendency and a large number of Sunday school officers and members. Reports were given by the superintendents, and exercises, songs, etc., by members of the different schools. Brothers Summerhays, Cannon and Whitaker during the two meetings gave instructions on the importance of Sunday school work; lessons should be prepared; teachers should be prayerful; simplicity in work; obedience; correct interpretation of the Scripture doctrine, miracles, etc.; Sunday schools not a Sabbath edition of the day schools; duty of Sunday school teachers; impressions when made are lasting, and should be correct; the wayward must be labored with and kept in the fold, persuasion better than harsh treatment, etc.

President Lorenzo Snow endorsed the remarks of the brethren, referred to the great opportunities enjoyed by the young in the Sunday schools and other organization; they should take