

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING.

Minutes of annual meeting of Desert Sunday School Union, held in the Tabernacle Sunday evening, April 7, 1895, at 7 o'clock. There were present General Superintendent George Q. Cannon, Asst. Superintendents George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser, and all the members of the Union board. The building was filled with officers and those interested in Sunday school work.

Elder George Goddard called the assembly to order, and the Tabernacle choir sang

Praise ye the Lord, my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

Elder Wm. Foxman, Superintendent of Juab Stake, offered prayer.

The choir sang:

High on the mountain top,
A banner is unfurled.

The secretary called the roll of Stakes, showing representatives from nearly every one, including Mexico and Canada, and also presented the general Sunday school authorities, who were unanimously sustained as follows:

George Q. Cannon, general superintendent.

George Goddard, first assistant general superintendent.

Karl G. Maeser, second assistant general superintendent.

As members of the Desert Sunday School Union board—George Q. Cannon, George Goddard, Karl G. Maeser, George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, Thos. C. Griggs, Jos. W. Sumnerhays, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman, Heber J. Grant and John C. Culler.

As general secretary—John M. Whitaker.

As general treasurer—George Reynolds.

The annual statistical and financial report of Sunday schools for 1894 is as follows:

Number of Sunday schools.....	600
Times schools held during the year.....	29,647
Number male officers and teachers.....	6,013
Number female officers and teachers.....	1,042
Total officers and teachers.....	10,055
Average attendance of officers and teachers.....	7,644
Number male pupils.....	40,393
Number female pupils.....	41,526
Total number pupils.....	81,921
Number pupils in primary department.....	32,262
Number pupils in first intermediate department.....	17,982
Number pupils in second intermediate department.....	18,689
Number pupils in higher department.....	17,988
Total of pupils.....	81,921
Average attendance of pupils.....	60,831
Grand totals officers, teachers and pupils.....	91,978
Cash on hand last report.....	\$ 2,389 94
Cash collected during the year.....	9,888 48
Total.....	\$12,278 42
Cash disbursed during the year.....	9,618 31
Cash in treasury.....	\$ 2,660 11

Elder George Goddard was much gratified at the improvement in the Sunday Schools since last report, there being an increase of nearly nine thousand during the year. He paid a high tribute to the faithful superintendents, officers and teachers, who are devoted in instructing the young of Zion, and noted with pleasure in his extended visits to nearly every Stake the manifest interest by the Stake and ward authorities and especially the parents. Such activity and earnest work was

needed, and cannot but be fruitful of the most glorious results. But what was a very great source of pleasure to him and the authorities since the instructions by the General Church Authorities on that subject, was the living up to and observance of the Word of Wisdom by superintendents, officers and children generally. He believed that never before was that important law so universally observed; and he looked forward with glorious anticipations to its complete observance by all engaged in the great Sunday school cause, and the power and influence it would exert in civilization of the world and the fulfillment of the great promises made by its observance. He announced that the Union board were distributing free to the various Stake superintendents for the benefit of the Sunday schools of the respective Stakes twenty-four hundred Sunday school song books, and the Stake officers, by calling at the general office, 334 Constitution building, could obtain the number assigned to their Stake.

Dr. Karl G. Maeser followed and spoke upon "The Teaching of Myths in the Sunday School." In his visits to and labors among the Sunday schools he noticed with pride the improved methods of giving instructions and the earnest, zealous and prayerful work of the teacher. He would confine his remarks mainly to the primary department as this was the foundation work, and where the greatest care and most thorough work possible should be done. He compared the work done in the day school regarding intellectual and moral training, with the moral and religious work that should be followed in the Sunday school, and felt that the very choicest teachers, men and women filled with the Spirit of the Lord, should be obtained. Regarding the instructions that should be given, he urged that the principles of the Gospel should be first and foremost, the great aim of Sunday school instruction, as the object was to make Latter-day Saints. In all the departments this should be the great aim. He deprecated the method of using fables, myths and stories not founded on truth in trying to teach some principle, as in the history of God's people and in the lives of His servants are ample incidents to teach in a most effective way the very truth or principle desired. He loved to see the great use of object lessons, to arouse interest, but urged as the wish of the Union Board that these be taken from the incidents in the lives and work of God's people. He trusted that every teacher would strive to follow this instruction and make it their duty and labor to so teach that the young will grow up filled with a testimony of the glorious truths of the Gospel.

Glory to God on high
Let heaven and earth reply.

Elder Heber J. Grant explained the meaning and object of "Nickel Day," as being established for the purpose of raising means for the promotion of the Sunday school work. It is designed that every officer, teacher, and pupil should pay at least five cents each and if this were done the hands of the Union board would be strengthened and would result in more Sunday school publications for the benefit of the

schools. In 1891 the total donation to this fund was \$2,110 or about two and one half cents per capita, while it should have been at least five cents each. And the average per capita from 1891 to now is about .022 cents. When it is remembered that 20 per cent of the entire amount collected is retained by Stake officers for Stake Sunday school purposes only four cents per capita, if all paid, would come to the Union board, beside in some places not only the 20 per cent was retained but very much more and this was very wrong and ought not to be done any more. The speaker showed the use made of the nickel fund in traveling expenses for members of the board visiting annual Sunday school conferences, in publication and free distribution of Book of Mormon charts and cards, lectures, instruction guides, and Sunday school literature and office expenses. Elder Grant urged all to use their best endeavors this year to have a full quota from every school, and stated that Mexico, with all the poverty and trial incident to a new place, and one other Stake, were the only ones which paid five cents per capita. He believed every Stake could make the same showing.

Elder F. M. Lyman stated that as to the teaching of the Articles of Faith, the Ten Commandments, and such fundamental tenets of our religion, the children should be encouraged to commit them to memory. He specially took up and read the Ten Commandments, treating upon their value and the good effect they would have if all the Saints understood them. He believed it would be a splendid rule for every Latter-day Saint to make them the rule of life, sincerely and conscientiously repeating them every morning. They would be a stimulus in restraining from evil and many besetting sins. They, with the Articles of Faith, should be kept before the young continually, and though they may not fully understand all contained therein, yet he believed them to be so essential that no teacher should neglect them. What we wanted in the Sunday school was the rearing of children to be true Latter-day Saints. The tree is known by its fruits. He desired the Sunday schools to be very fruitful, that the fruit would be pure, clean and free from worms and disease. The tree needs spraying and pruning at the proper time to insure choice fruit. So in the Sunday schools should proper training, spraying, and pruning be attended to while the opportunity is afforded for operating upon the mind of the young and the Sunday schools would then be potential for good in supplying the young with everything to promote a healthy growth, morally and religiously, and that will enable the young to obtain a comprehensive knowledge of the Gospel and a testimony of the truth.

Elder Abraham H. Cannon said that officers and teachers in Sunday schools should be living exemplars in the practical duties of their religion; should speak clearly and distinctly and aim to be a model to the students in all things. The schoolroom should be clean and orderly, a spirit of peace, love and devotion should reign supreme in every heart, and every-