

THE CONFERENCE.

Today's Meeting in the Stake Assembly Hall.

The Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened according to previous announcement in the Assembly Hall, this city, at 10 o'clock a. m. Saturday, Sept. 1. On the stand were President Angus M. Cannon and four High Councilors.

The Conference was called to order by President Angus M. Cannon. The choir and congregation then joined in singing the hymn:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Prayer was offered by Patriarch Draper.

Singing:

Now form a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord.

The roll was called showing the following in attendance: Four High Councilors, two patriarchs, four Presidents of Seventies and six home missionaries. All the Wards of the Stake were properly represented excepting the Eighth, Tenth and Fifteenth city Wards, and Sugar House, Mill Creek, Mountain Dell, Sandy and West Jordan of the county.

The 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and 13th Quorums of Elders failed to respond to the roll call.

The Lesser Priesthood was not represented as fully as on other occasions.

Six young men were recommended to be ordained Elders by their respective Bishops, and after promising to honor this office and calling if ordained, their recommendations were endorsed by unanimous vote of the meeting.

ELDER JOSEPH HORNE

then addressed the Conference. He felt thankful for the opportunity of meeting the Saints, because he had not had this privilege for a long time. He realized the importance of the work of the Saints. We need continual teaching, even if we have been connected with the Church for some time. We are like other people in former times. They needed Apostles and Prophets to continually talk to them. Our duties are not in all particulars alike, but they are similar. We have duties to perform at home. Those that are faithful at home, are generally faithful in other duties too, that they may be called to perform. Those also enjoy the Spirit of the Lord. We live in the last dispensation. Hence we must be more diligent. We are now a great people, and the work is continually increasing. I rejoice in witnessing this. We have many Elders abroad and we must have more. The speaker had been among the people for some fifty years and he had seen them in many different experiences. He wished Zion all happiness and testified that the Spirit of God should be with the people forever.

Report of the First Quorum of Elders of Salt Lake City was then read.

ELDER E. W. DAVIS, the President of the Quorum, said: That he had spoken to such persons as did not attend the meetings, and tried to admonish them to do so. But he had not been successful in all instances. There was a spirit in the people to attend more to boat races than to the duties that devolve upon Latter-day Saints. Those that do not possess the Spirit of the Lord cannot have any enjoyment in this work, nor can they do any good. He was afraid that those who did not attend to their quorum meetings do not attend to their duties at home either. Little things often bring about great results. This was illustrated by the history of Mordecai and Haman. If we neglect our small duties we will have no desire to do the greater ones, and we will go into darkness.

ELDER EDWARD SNELGROVE

said that there was not a happier man on earth than a "Mormon" Elder who was in his line of duty. If I were to give a report of the High Priests of this Stake which numbers four or five hundred persons, I would say, that there is none of them that is better than he ought to be. But he thought they would compare favorably with any of the inhabitants of this Territory. Some do not attend their meetings, but he thought they were good men. There seems to be a feeling that it is not necessary to attend all meetings. They excuse themselves on various grounds. It is too much trouble with some people to attend meetings. There is a light that enlightens every individual, even the light of Christ. We have received this light, everyone, that is, or who has been obedient to God and received baptism and the Holy Ghost. When we first received this Spirit, it was not difficult to attend meetings. For then we lived near God and rejoiced in his light. A man who is a thoroughly good Saint will not seek the wealth of the world. He will remember that he did not come here for this purpose but in order to lay up treasures in heaven. We have set out to obtain eternal life. If we can obtain this we have the riches of eternity.

Superintendent of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association Joseph Felt, read the report of the Association. The speaker realized the importance of this work and would say that there was not enough interest shown in it. He would like to see all young men in the Stake enrolled in the Association. The speaker felt well and would stand faithful to the end.

The statistical and financial report of the Relief Society was then read.

MRS. M. ISABELLA HORNE,

the president of the Relief Society, said she was glad to represent the society. Although the report is not quite complete it seems to be very good. Some of the branches lay up cash, but I have always told the sisters that wheat is what President Young counseled us to lay up, not cash. One thing must be corrected. People think that the sisters should come and sit up with and help everybody that is sick. But the Society was organized for the special benefit of those who have no friends or means whereby to help themselves. The Society are greatly blessed in their labor, trying to do whatever they are called to do. We have a great work to do as mothers in Israel, and if we take the children while they are young, we can instill into their minds those principles that we wish them to live for.

The report of the First Ward of Salt Lake City was then read and accepted.

COUNSELOR JOSEPH HOOCH

of the First Ward was happy to meet with the Saints in the Conference. The First Ward were not any better than the other wards, but they were trying to do their best. We suffer as the rest of the Saints by a wave of pleasure-seeking which rolls over us. We could wish that the people would live nearer God, rather than to draw off in pleasure hunting. May God bless us with an outpouring of His Spirit.

ELDER J. M. SODAH

said that he had had the privilege of translating the Book of Doctrine and Covenants in the Swedish language, and from the knowledge he now had of that work, he could bear the testimony that he held it to be an inspired volume, for no human mind could, without the aid of the Spirit, compose such a work. This did not refer to the way in which the sentences were constructed, but the sublime truths that shone on every page of the book. As a people, we have many and great privileges. This means great responsibility. The speaker referred to heathen nations without much light and said among them were found individuals willing to sacrifice their dearest ties for their religion, even throwing their children into the sacred waves of the river or themselves before the car of Juggernaut. What would our condemnation be, as compared to theirs, if we reject the great light we have. May God enable us to be faithful in serving Him in holiness.

The choir sang:
O my Father, thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place.

Elder Henry R. Wood pronounced the benediction.

The conference then adjourned till 9 o'clock p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The second meeting of the Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion commenced at 2 o'clock p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

Prayer was offered by Elder A. W. Winberg.

PRESIDENT SKYMOUR R. YOUNG

was the first speaker. He said it is some time since I had the privilege of speaking in this building. The Prophet Joseph said that our choirs should be guided by the Spirit of God, and that the more they possessed of that Spirit the sweeter would be their music. This is founded on a correct principle. It is necessary in all our services that we be in possession of the Holy Spirit. When we meet together our aim should be to divest our thoughts of all business cares, and be fully prepared to receive the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord.

We have before us a practical every-day life. The revelations of God are calculated to save us by our own obedience and faith, and our continued walking in that faith—walking nearer to God day by day. Then the blessings of our Lord will increase upon us. God has said to us, get knowledge from good books, treasure up knowledge, study the word of God and the principles that underlie everything that belongs to our faith, so that we can let our works shine, not only to those in our immediate vicinity, but to everybody with whom we come in contact. The farmer when he builds a granary, does not suppose that God will put the grain in it, but lays up within the walls of that granary what he has gained through his labor. So it is with the mind of an Elder of Israel. If he has treasured up the choice things which he has heard and read; he will open the gates of his mind and the Spirit will draw out thereof what is necessary for the sustenance of the people. It is the same with the Saints who attend their meetings.

We must go to the table daily to get our earthly nourishment. So we must go into the house of the Lord to get our spiritual nourishment, for our spiritual wants are as frequent as are our earthly wants. The man who does not read and make himself conversant with the principles of the Gospel has nothing to say, when questioned about those principles. He is as the husbandman who has failed to store up anything in his granary, can draw nothing from it in the time of need. The Prophet Joseph was impressed with the passage in the Epistle of James, promising wisdom to those who asked for it, yet when he asked,

there was an evil power that seemed to surround him with darkness. But he continued asking and the manifestations he sought were given to him. This was a commencement of the supply of this spiritual food which he was asking for. Had he failed to ask for the blessings promised to him, could he have received them? No. And if we fail to ask, we will be found void and empty. As the Prophet commenced to understand the narrowness of the way, he realized that God would fulfill His promises, and so he saw that he could ask from day to day for further light and knowledge.

The manifestation of the Deity was one of the greatest ever given to man upon this earth. As God the Father revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, so the Father came down and revealed this great truth to the Prophet Joseph. Joseph went into the woods to pray, and he believed that God would hear him, but the greatness of the manifestation given in answer to this prayer was no doubt far beyond the anticipation of the Prophet. It was the Holy Spirit that moved upon the youthful Prophet to ask for light and guidance. But if he had disregarded the promptings of that Spirit, where would the foundation of this great work have been so far as he was concerned? The Saints must be fed by the Spirit, and our intellects must be attended to, else they will be dormant, however bright they may be. Through our faith we will have a growing desire to be fed with that food which will prevent us from becoming cold and lifeless.

The speaker further dwelt upon the great revelation of God to Joseph, the Prophet, and upon the faithfulness of His promises to His disciples. The Lord has revealed Himself from time to time and manifested His will to us. When Noah was upon the earth preaching, there were a people so wicked that God could not allow the precious spirits to inhabit tabernacles begotten by these people. Therefore they had to be destroyed and a nobler and purer race called into existence. The people in Noah's time had the Gospel preached to them again while they were as spirits in prison, and they had a chance then to repent and to "live according to God in the spirit." So He will redeem all of His children as they will accept salvation. But we have a work to do, and we must be filled with the Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to properly perform this work. When we live according to the guidance of this spirit, God will fulfill His part. Let us ask in faith for wisdom, and it will be given to us. The privilege of meeting together like this is an estimable blessing. I pray that we may be faithful so that God can say to us, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, enter the mansions prepared for you."

The report of the Sixth Ward, Salt Lake City, was read.

BISHOP JAMES C. WATSON

said that there were some very good people in the Sixth Ward. I was reared there, and am not tired of the place yet. We try to do what is right, and I hope that we may improve and do our duty in every respect.

ELDER ELIAS MORRIS

thought that the small attendance was rather a sad spectacle. We number many thousands of persons in this Stake, and yet we have here but a few hundred and quite a number of those from a distance. This does not speak very well for us as Saints in this city. I fear we are overfed and feel sick at heart. When a man is sick he has no desire to go and look at a well-spread table. I could not help but reflect on the fact that when we were scattered in the world we longed to go to Zion. You remember those days. How faithful we felt we would be, if we could only be delivered from Babylon. What a change has come over us! We find today that many of us cannot walk one block to meet in conference, yet when we were in the old countries we could walk 15 miles for that privilege. This does not speak well for us. The Lord can not approve of this.

Yesterday thousands crowded to the lake to see child's play. They could close their places of business and go and spend money. And some of those will perhaps, when the winter comes, ask the Bishop for bread. Are we walking in the path to God, or are we forgetting our great work? The brethren who have spoken today have touched upon the necessity of caring for our children. Our Academy will be open Monday next. This is a Church school. If we have any regard for our children we should see that they be educated in the glorious principles of the Gospel. There is no need of any argument in favor of this school. We know how we are surrounded, and that the enemy uses every influence to check our work and draw away our children. We have no friends in the world, but we have God. We want schools where we can place men with the fear of God in their hearts to instruct our little ones. We want learning, but want it sanctified with the Gospel. This can only be done in schools of our own. This subject should occupy the hearts of every father and mother, and all should sustain this Academy. If we sustain this institution now, we will in time be self-sustaining and reach the poorest among the poor. This is within our reach and we should accomplish this end. As we increase it means our children can receive a better education, and in addition we have the inspiration of God, which will bring us to the front in all that is good and noble.

ELDER F. S. RICHARDS

said the Saints should not be behind the world in any science or art. We have inspiration, but we are also commanded to seek knowledge; then we may rely on the Spirit to help us to use that knowledge to the glory of God. The authorities of the Church have therefore taken steps to have institutions of learning established throughout Zion. This is a very important work. We desire that our children should possess the same blessings that we have and more. We cannot educate the world unless we give sufficient time to the education of our children and ourselves, that we can teach true principles.

The names of the Salt Lake Stake Board of Education were read and unanimously sustained.

The choir sang

Guide us, O thou Great Jehovah,
Saints unto the promised land.

The Conference adjourned till 7:30 p. m.

Benediction by Bishop S. A. Woolley.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The meeting opened at 7:30 p. m.

Singing.

Prayer was offered by Elder Milando Pratt.

Singing.

The reports of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth wards were read and unanimously adopted.

BISHOP H. B. CLAWSON

said the Twelfth Ward is one of the smallest in the city, a majority of non-members of the Church living in the Ward. But they are a fine people. The speaker had not been able to be present lately at the meetings of his Ward, but his counselors had done their best, supported by brethren, who had rendered effective service. He reported all of the organizations in the Ward as in excellent working order.

BISHOP SAMUEL BENNION

was pretty well acquainted with the people generally in his ward—Taylorsville—and could say that the organizations were all in good working order. We have regular meetings. There is a disposition among the people to do their duties and to attend the meetings. Of course, some were careless, but still I think the people generally never have been in a better condition than at the present time.

BISHOP ALEXANDER MCKAY

said that the Eleventh Ward had well attended meetings and the people were doing well. There were about 1,100 Saints belonging to the ward. Many are poor, but we try to supply their wants.

ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

testified that the blessings of the Lord have been with this people in their efforts at educating their children. These efforts have been few, but now an institution according to the genius of the Gospel is founded here, and great success has followed the Salt Lake Stake Academy during its existence. Extensive improvements have been made, and we can afford to rejoice at this. We must now show our interest by our works rather than in words, for this is the kind of testimony God delights in. If we ask blessings upon our various institutions, we must show our sincerity in the work. Among religionists in the east an unanimous opinion exists to the effect that the only hope of reaching the "Mormons" is through their children. This is no secret. They propose to entrap our children. We must therefore establish schools where our youth can be taught by and made Latter-day Saints. May the good results of the past be increased.

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON

said that size of congregation was not an inspiring feature of the gathering. It appears to me that there are two opposite spirits at work, specially manifested during the last few days—the spirit of the regatta and of the conference, the former gaining the ascendancy. Paul says that the people of the latter days would be lovers of pleasure more than of God. Actions are more forcible than words and indicate the condition of the heart. It appears that a large part of the people are seeking more after pleasure than after God. Those who indulge in pleasure-seeking will lose the spirit of the Gospel. The spirit of the Gospel is one of self-sacrifice. That was the principle exhibited by Jesus, when he offered himself to redeem the world. There was no self-seeking in the course of Christ. He laid aside his own will to do that of the Father, and to serve his brethren and sisters. And we should follow him. None will receive the blessings of God except they are capable of appreciating them. And this must be shown by actions. Hypocrites can speak words of adoration. Is it not essential that we should return to first principles and repent of our sins? Faith is obtained by making sacrifice to God. When two positions are placed before us, one to honor God and one to gain our own immediate pleasure or advantage, and we set our personal interest aside, our faith increases. Some grow fainthearted because they meet with difficulties, forgetting that trials and obstacles are met with in order to educate us and strengthen our faith. Many now seem to be overcome by the desire for pleasure. We seem to be very near the edge of becoming like the rest of the world. How can we undertake to cure the evil? Only by ad-

ministering the law of God to the transgressor who will not repent, and providing the right kind of education. Many do not seem to wish to administer the law of God. Much is said about the young, but what about the older ones? Are they not indulging in many things opposite to the genius of the Gospel. My idea is that the case of the younger offenders should be held in abeyance until those of the older ones are disposed of. There are officers whose duties it is to see that no iniquity exists in the Church. We should reach the people where they live and seek to rescue those that wander away. If we cannot do it after long and patient labor then comes the law of God, which is unqualified in its requirement. "He who sinneth and repenteth not shall be cast out." If we do not deal with the transgressors as we should, do we not partake of their evil? Our duty as parents to those whom God has given us charge of, is clearly specified in the revelations. If we teach not our children to serve God and avoid evil, the sins of the children will rest upon the parents to the extent of the parental neglect. I also hold that there is an imperative obligation upon us as a community to see that a generation of Saints are reared unto the Lord. We need not mourn over spilt milk, but we can take care of the future. If the species of education defined by our brother who preceded me had heretofore existed we would not have had to mourn over our children to that extent that we do. In this respect we have somewhat failed, the proof of the omission being that we are now trying to make a decent commencement. I find no fault with anybody, but take my own part of the blame as a member of the community. This question is gigantic in its aspects. The Book of Mormon tells of class distinctions and pride among the ancient Nephites on this continent. We have some of those social phases, amongst us. There was another phase of class distinction among the Nephites. Those who could through their wealth obtain learning advanced intellectually beyond those who did not possess similar facilities. There is danger of similar conditions among us. I hope to see the day when adequate facilities of this nature will be within the reach of the poor, and when the children of the people of God will not only be able to graduate as ripe scholars, but also as full-grown Latter-day Saints. If there is evil in the midst of the people, it is the result of the existence of darkness. The remedy is to let in the light.

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

rejoiced in the testimonies borne by the brethren, and desired that our souls might continually be fed by the word of life.

Benediction by Elder Rodney C. Badger.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock a. m. Sunday.

SUNDAY MORNING.

10 o'clock. The meeting was called to order by President Angus M. Cannon.

The choir sang:

With all my powers of heart and tongue,
I'll praise my Maker in my song.

Prayer by Elder Andrew Jensen.

The choir sang:

O Thou, at whose supreme command,
The hosts of darkness fly.

The report of the Young Ladies' Associations of the Salt Lake Stake, for the half year ending August 25, 1888, was read, showing a membership of 908, an increase of 44 during the past six months. A report of the exercises in the Association meetings and of the financial condition of the organization was also made.

ELDER W. W. ALLEN

of Nephi, said he was pleased at the privilege of assembling with the Saints. He had been in the Church forty-nine years and had a testimony of the truth of the Gospel. He saw the manifestation of the power of God in the preservation and guidance of the Saints. In the providences of the Almighty we are called to pass through tribulation in order that we may be purified and educated so as to be in a condition to receive the blessings of the faithful. But notwithstanding all trials, the Lord holds the destiny of His people in His hands and if they serve Him, He will maintain their liberties. Since the Latter-day Saints came to Utah there have been vast changes for the better in their temporal condition. The Lord has not left them without the voice of inspiration; nor will He if they seek Him. But I fear that we are inclined to forget Him; that we do not feel to thank Him for His mercies. We should sanctify our hearts before Him by overcoming evil in ourselves, and laboring for the establishment of truth with greater diligence. If we are honest He will give us the strength and the opportunity to fulfill our mission. Are we as zealous in the work of God today as we were when we first received the truth? Then, the spirit of the work rested upon us, and we were willing to sacrifice all for eternal life. It should be the same with us today. My soul rejoices in the Lords for His Spirit has rested upon me and given me light. May we be strengthened and enabled to walk in the path to life eternal.

The reports of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Wards were read by the Clerk of Stake, Elder James D. Stirling.