

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference and monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake was held in the Assembly Hall, commencing at 10 a. m. Saturday, March 12, Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presiding.

There were present President Joseph F. Smith; Patriarch John Smith; Bishop John R. Winder; the Stake presidency, Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose; four High Councilors; five Patriarchs; two members of the presidency of the High Priests' quorum; sixteen presidents of Seventy; ten home missionaries; representatives of all the wards of the Stake except the Tenth and Thirteenth; representatives of the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders; and a goodly number of holders of the lesser Priesthood, and of Saints from various wards. The Relief Society, Sunday school, Y. M. M. I. A., Y. L. M. I. A., and Primary association were represented by their Stake officers.

Conference opened by the choir singing.

Guide us, O, Thou great Jehovah.

Prayer was offered by Bishop John R. Winder.

Singing by the choir:

On the mountain's top appearing.

On the recommendation of their respective Bishops, twenty-six brethren were recommended to the office of Elder, upon their promising to magnify the calling.

Elder Angus M. Cannon referred with regret to the death of Elder J. H. Jensen, a missionary in Sweden; but felt to congratulate the people on the spread of the work of God abroad, and its establishment in the hearts of the people at home.

Elder J. M. Tanner, of Logan, addressed the conference, speaking with pleasure of his connection with the people of God, and of the great faithfulness and blessedness of the Saints. The work was individual, each one being responsible for his own words and actions, yet all measurably responsible for the good of others and the reputation of Zion. The experiences of the past and the conditions of the present were united in the experiences of the Saints, to confirm their faith in the work, and to fulfill the prophecies of former times.

He referred to the new tendency in the nation toward sensationalism and excitement, without substantial grounds. A war cry had swept over the country, and, swelled by the voice of the people, it had become so strong as to threaten the peace and safety of the nation, and its institutions, which had been built upon the foundation of truth, not of untruth. The speaker thought the greatest present danger to the nation was the tendency toward untruth; which, encouraged against the Latter-day Saints in the past by the sensational press, had become a menace to the nation. It seemed strange that former victims to this false representation should yield to it and accept it without question. New history would be made with great rapidity in the near future, and it would be necessary for the Latter-day Saints to assume a conservative attitude, and check every tendency toward the sensationalism which deluged the land.

Elder Hyrum M. Smith, lately returned from a mission to England, testified to the power of faith existing among the people of God, and accompanying their prayers. This was illustrated in the case of President Woodruff, who had testified that he was liv-

ing on account of the prayers of the Saints in his behalf. The speaker referred to his experiences among the portion of the "body of Christ" abroad, who were not blessed with the same privileges as were enjoyed by the Saints in Zion, and whose sufferings should be felt and sympathized with by the Saints at home. He urged all the members of the body of the Church to be faithful in the performance of the work directed by the head; and he depicted the power which would thus be developed. The young men were urged to faithfulness in preparing for missionary work abroad and important labors at home. The strength thus acquired, if combined with the influence of the Spirit of God, would render the young men of Zion a great power in the world.

President Joseph F. Smith followed, speaking, for the most part, on the subject referred to by Elder Tanner, and on the responsibility resting on those who hold the office of Elder. A stenographic report was taken of President Smith's remarks.

It was announced that the Primary associations would hold conference in the Assembly Hall on Saturday, March 19.

The choir sang:

Awake, ye Saints of God, awake.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder A. W. Winberg.

Salt Lake Stake conference, 2 p. m. Saturday.

The choir sang:

"Go, ye messengers of glory,
Run, ye legates of the skies."

Prayer was offered by Elder George B. Wallace.

Singing by the choir:

"Softly beams the sacred dawning,
Of the great Millennial morn."

Reports of the Primary associations, Sunday schools, Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations, the Relief societies, and the High Priests' quorum for the year ending December 31st, 1897, were read, accepted and ordered filed. There was a very marked increase in numbers, interest in and progress made by these different organizations in the Stake as shown by their reports.

The statistical report of the Stake for the year ending December 31st, 1897, was also read, showing a net increase of 1,965 souls; and was followed by the reading of the statement of fast offerings and charity accounts. A very marked improvement in the fast offerings during the last six months was noticeable in this report.

Elder Lorenzo Snow, of the council of the Twelve Apostles, addressed the conference. He urged heads of families, neighbors and all the members of the Church to be kind and courteous to each other; to live in unity and harmony, and that all strive hard to gain the reward of the righteous pertaining to this life and the life to come.

Elder William M. Davis, recently returned from a mission to Great Britain, reported that the work of the Lord was progressing nicely in that country; that very much prejudice had been removed from the minds of very many honorable people; that the Elders were being received by the people more kindly than formerly, and that the Saints there were longing to gather to Zion and enjoy the blessings we enjoy. He advised that those who had gathered here from Great Britain and elsewhere write to their friends whom they have left behind. By doing this, he said, very much good would be accomplished and fields opened for the Elders to preach the Gospel more widely than is done.

Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of

the Stake, strongly urged upon parents the great importance there is for throwing all the safeguards possible around our children that they be not led down to death and destruction by the many allurements and pitfalls set for their downfall by the wicked among us. Parents should know where their children at nights. He also advised the fostering and sustaining of the home industries established in our midst, and the living of our religion in every particular.

The choir sang:

"For the strength of the hills we bless
Thee,
Our God, our Fathers' God."

Adjourned until Sunday morning at 10 a. m.

Benediction by Patriarch Alonzo H. Raleigh.

The Stake conference was held in the Tabernacle at 10 a. m., in accordance with adjournment of Saturday afternoon's session.

The choir and congregation sang:

Redeemer of Israel,
Our only delight.

Prayer was offered by Patriarch George Goddard.

Singing by the choir and congregation:

Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning.

Joy to the lands that in darkness have lain!

The following Elders, all of whom are Bishops, reported their wards as being in good condition, and the people as a rule living their religion, viz.: Samuel M. T. Seddon, of the Fifth ward; Alfred Solomon, Twenty-second ward; Alva Butler, Granite ward; James C. Hamilton, Mill Creek; James C. Jensen, Forest Dale; Albert W. Davis, Center ward; and Thomas Maycock, of the Third ward.

Bishop Davis of the Center ward made special mention of a young man in his ward who was of great assistance in teaching the young men the principles of the Gospel in their meetings; he having received his education in the Latter-day Saints' College.

Bishop Jensen of Forest Dale, during his remarks, testified to the great work being done by a young sister in his ward in behalf of the young sisters in religion, and that this sister received her education in the Latter-day Saints' College.

Elder Willard Young, representing the Church schools, reported the Latter-day Saints' College of Salt Lake City as filling its place admirably, and asked the Latter-day Saints to encourage and sustain this institution as it should be sustained. He knew the brother and sister referred to by Bishops Jensen and Davis and said they received their education at the Latter-day Saints' College. There were many others from College who were doing a great deal of good among their associates. The advantages derived from attending this college and other schools and colleges of the Church was of great benefit to the Mutual Improvement associations, Sunday schools and other organizations of the Church.

The great importance of being firm and faithful in the Gospel was emphasized by the speaker.

Elder George M. Cannon, president of the first quorum of Elders of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, reported his quorum as doing well. There had been quite a number of members belonging to their quorum, he said, who did not attend to any meetings of the quorum after being ordained, but by sending special letters to these, four-fifths of the number had responded to these letters and attended their meetings.

Elder C. W. Penrose of the Stake