

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world.

George Q. Cannon as First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Joseph F. Smith as Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

Lorenzo Snow as President of the Twelve Apostles.

As members of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Anthon H. Lund, Matthias F. Cowley and Abraham O. Woodruff.

The counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch to the Church—John Smith.

First Seven Presidents of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells and Joseph W. McMurrin.

William B. Preston as Presiding Bishop, with Robert T. Burton as his first and John R. Winder as his second counselor.

Franklin D. Richards as Church historian and general Church recorder, with John Jaques, Charles W. Penrose and Andrew Jensen as his assistants.

As the General Church Board of Education—Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, George Q. Cannon, Karl G. Maeser, Willard Young, Anthon H. Lund, James Sharp, Joseph F. Smith and John Nicholson.

As Trustee-in-Trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Wilford Woodruff.

John Nicholson as clerk of the General Conference.

All of the voting to sustain the authorities was unanimous.

Elder Franklin D. Richards, of the Quorum of the Twelve, was the first speaker. He spoke upon the momentous character of our times. Christ had informed His disciples concerning all the conditions now existing. He referred specially to warlike rumors and facts that would exist in the latter times. In our own day He had, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, made predictions of a similar character in considerable detail. Reference was notably made by the speaker to the prophecy in relation to the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion in our country, which included the locality where it would first appear. This prediction was made twenty-nine years before its fulfillment. It had also been prophetically announced that, in course of time, there would be universal war among the nations, and that the only place where its dire conditions would have no existence would be among the community of Saints. The war spirit had caught hold of men in public positions, and in order to be considered statesmen, or for some other reason, they were clamoring for warlike operations, for bloodshed and horrors. It was well that the Saints give heed to the counsels given by the servants of God during this Conference. The tendency everywhere in the world was in the direction of discord and strife. The opposite should be our condition, all should straighten out their temporal concerns and live uprightly before the Lord and deal honorably with each other. We should cultivate peace, while its genius was departing from the world. Elder Richards bore testimony to the divinity of the work in which the Saints were engaged, and implored the blessing of the Lord upon them.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON delivered a discourse upon the providence of God in relation to the American continent, the duty of its inhabit-

ants and the position of the Latter-day Saints with special reference to their obligations in upholding the fundamental principles of our government.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF made some closing remarks, in which he related some important predictions made and instructions given by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the early rise of the Church.

The anthem,
God of Israel, hear our prayer,
was sung by the choir.

Benediction by Elder C. W. Penrose.
Conference adjourned for six months.

STOP THE WAR IN CUBA.

Washington, April 11.—The President today sent the following message to the Congress of the United States:

Obedient to that precept of the Constitution which commands the President to give from time to time the Congress information of the state of the Union and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave condition that has arisen in the relation of the United States and Spain, by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba. I do so because of the intimate connection of the Cuban question with the state of our own Union and the grave relation the course which is now incumbent upon the nation to adopt must needs bear to the traditional policy of our government if it is to accord with the precepts laid down by the founders of the Republic and religiously observed by succeeding administrations to the present day.

The present revolution is but the successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous loss to the American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens and by the exercise of cruel barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare, shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

Since the present revolution began in February, 1895, this country, the fertile domain at our threshold, has been ravaged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequalled in the history of the island and rarely paralleled as to the number of the combatants and the bitterness of the contest by any revolution of modern times where a dependent people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign state. Our people have beheld a once prosperous community reduced to comparative want, its commerce virtually paralyzed, its exceptional productiveness diminished, its fields laid waste, its mills in ruins and its people perishing by tens of thousands from hunger and destitution.

We have found ourselves constrained in the observance of that strict neutrality which our laws enjoin and which the law of nations commands, to police our own waters and watch our own seaports in prevention of any unlawful act in aid of the Cubans. Our trade has suffered; the capital invested by our citizens in Cuba has been largely lost, and the temper and forbearance of our people have been so sorely tried as to beget a perilous unrest among our own citizens which has inevitably found its expression from time to time in the national legislature so that issues wholly external to our own

body politic engross attention and stand in the way of that close devotion to domestic advancement that becomes a self-contented commonwealth, whose primal maxim has been the avoidance of all foreign entanglements. All this must needs awaken and has indeed aroused the utmost concern on the part of this government as well during my predecessor's term as my own.

In April, 1896, the evils from which our country suffered through the Cuban war became so onerous that my predecessor made an effort to bring about a peace through the mediation of this government in any way that might tend to an honorable adjustment of the contest between Spain and her revolting colony on the basis of some effective scheme of self-government for Cuba, under the flag and sovereignty of Spain. It failed, through the refusal of the Spanish government then in power, to consider any form of mediation, or indeed any plan of settlement which did not begin with the actual submission of the insurgents to the mother country, and then only on such terms as Spain herself might see fit to grant. The war continued unabated. The resistance of the insurgents was in no wise diminished.

The efforts of Spain were increased, both by the dispatch of fresh levies to Cuba and by the addition to the horrors of the strife. The new and inhuman phase, happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian people, the policy of devastation and concentration, inaugurated by the captain-general's bando of October 21, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spanish arms was able to reach by occupation or by military operations.

The peasantry, including all dwellings in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrison towns or isolated places held by the troops. The raising of provisions of all kinds was interdicted. Fields were laid waste, dwellings unroofed and fired, mills destroyed, and, in short, everything that could desolate the land and render unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other of the contending parties and executed by all the powers at their disposal.

By the time the present administration took office a year ago, reconcentration—so called—had been effective over the better part of the four central and western provinces, Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. The agricultural population, to the estimated number of 300,000 or more, was herded within the towns and their immediate vicinity, deprived of the means of support, rendered destitute of shelter, left poorly clad and exposed to the most unsatisfactory conditions. As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation.

Month by month the death rate increased in alarming ratio. By March, 1897, according to conservative estimates, from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados from starvation and the disease thereto incident exceeded fifty per centum of the total number. No practical relief was accorded to the destitute. The overburdened towns, already suffering from the general dearth could give no aid. So-called zones of cultivation, established within the immediate area of effective military control, about the cities and fortified camps, proved illusory as a remedy for the suffering. The unfortunates, being for the most part women and children, with aged and helpless men, enfeebled by disease and hunger, could not have tilled the soil without tools, seeds or