

## ELDER THOMAS C. GRIGGS

spoke about Sunday school work. The interests of the schools are represented at the monthly meetings, and these are of such a nature as to create and maintain the interest in this work. Statistical data of much value have lately been obtained, and the work is shown to be in a good condition, generally. The minds of the young are susceptible of instruction and the good work done in the schools is more particularly seen when the boys have grown up and are called upon to go out on missions.

## COUNSELOR CHARLES W. PENROSE

was the next speaker. He had been much interested in listening to the reports already made and he was now asked to say a few words about the Stake in general. The Salt Lake Stake of Zion is a very large stake, there being 44 wards, some of which are very large and containing many people. It takes a good deal of time to look after them all. I have sometimes thought that it would be beneficial if the brethren of the Presidency could spend their whole time laboring for the interest of the people. We spend, however, the time we can and make visits as often as possible.

The authorities and the various officers of the wards are annually placed before the people and they are in nearly every instance sustained, unanimously. There are only very few who are dissatisfied and when these state the reasons for their dissatisfaction, it is seldom that any real ground is found to exist. It is better, however, to speak out frankly when fault is found than to harbor ill feeling or spread discontent in private. The Bishops are alive and diligent, spending a great deal of their time among the people. They are expected to be on hand on all public occasions, and their labors are very onerous.

The visiting Priests and Teachers have been stirred up lately and there is much improvement manifested among them, although there is room for more. Much instruction now given from the pulpits should, in my judgment, be given in private; when any member of the Church begins to go astray or become negligent, the visiting officers should seek after him in private.

The home missionaries are very diligent in their work. They visit the wards regularly and have a monthly meeting for their own edification and instruction and for the presentation of the condition of the people. Their visits to the wards are much appreciated.

The Priesthood meetings, which are held once a month, are better attended than formerly. The Assembly Hall was well filled at the last meeting. Everyone in the Stake who holds the Priesthood should endeavor to be present at these meetings.

The High Council meets whenever called together. It used to meet once, and sometimes twice, a week, but lately difficulties have been settled among the people or before the Bishops' courts. This Council consists of good men, who are capable of forming their own opinions, who speak their minds freely and who have the welfare of the people at heart.

The chief difficulties among the people are those relating to temporal matters. I hope the time will come when the Saints will not disagree upon such trifles. In the cases which have come before the Council, the decisions of the Bishops have, as a rule, been sustained.

The High Council of this Stake, as of all the Stakes, is composed of twelve High Priests, sustained by the body in conference. The president of the Stake presides, or, in his absence, his counselors or either of them. In addition to these twelve, we have alternates who are called upon to take the place of those who may be absent. These men sit together and, when a case comes up on appeal they decide whether it shall be taken up as a new case or be acted upon from the evidence already given before the Bishop's court.

Each of the parties has a right to be heard. Generally two members of the Council speak for the accuser and two for the accused. But half the council watch the case for the accuser and half for the accused. When the witnesses have given their testimony, the speakers appointed present the case on either side. The accused and the accuser can then speak. The president of the Council gives the decision and if the majority concurs with him, it is the decision of the Council. The decisions of the President have always been sustained since I have been associated with him in the High Council.

The power of the High Council is not used to inflict any penalty except the cutting off from the Church a member who will not repent of his sins and comply with the decision in his case. Mercy is always extended compatible with the claims of justice. This Council is not a court in a secular sense of the term and does not attempt to interfere with any judicial body of the country, as some have erroneously supposed. It has no power whatever, except in an ecclesiastical capacity. It is a Church court with jurisdiction only in Church matters. It is the teaching of the Church that brother shall not go to law with brother, as this is often both expensive and unsatisfactory and contrary to the spirit of the Gospel. Yet, members have their liberty, but, as I said, the Church counsels them to avoid all quarrels and to rather suffer wrong than to do wrong. This Council is therefore not a civil judicial court, but purely an ecclesiastical organization.

The Saints in this Stake as a whole are trying to do their duty and are a good, faithful people. Some are rather indifferent, and this is probably the greatest fault among the people. They have had the privilege of receiving many of the ordinances of the Gospel, and they feel satisfied, think their calling and election sure, and they become inactive. Now, we should remember that we have many duties to perform, and that all blessings are conditioned on obedience to the word and will of God. Ordinances and ceremonies are but means to an end, which is the building up of character. When weighed in the balances we shall appear and be valued for what we are, not what we seem to be.

The President of the Stake is animated by a sincere desire to do good to the people. He labors diligently to this end, and he is sustained by his counselors. May God bless this Stake of Zion and enable us all to do our duty that we may gain the great reward.

The meeting closed by the choir singing the anthem:

Praise ye the Father.

Prayer was offered by Bishop F. Kesler.

Adjourned till 2 p.m.

## Afternoon Session.

Conference again convened at 2 o'clock.

The choir sang the hymn:

How are thy servants blest, O Lord,  
How sure is their defense!

Prayer by Counselor Joseph E. Taylor.

The choir and congregation sang:

Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah;  
Jesus anointed "that Prophet and Seer."

The Priesthood of the Thirtieth Ward officiated in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

## ELDER JOHN MORGAN

addressed the congregation. He said substantially: We have met for the purpose of worshipping God, and to partake of the emblems of the body and blood of Christ, who came in the meridian of time to give His life for the salvation of the world. These are great blessings of which few people are permitted to partake. We have, notwithstanding all trials, much for which to be thankful, for there are no people on the earth who are, spiritually, so much blessed as the Latter-day Saints are. We can look forward toward a time when the earth shall be redeemed and peace and righteousness prevail among men. Our principles are not new. Scarcely one doctrine that we have is peculiar to us, even if the world does not understand those principles as we do. Our peculiarity is not in any new doctrines, as truth always existed and is unchangeable. We have our ideas of religious matters and they have theirs, but they do not agree among themselves. We are a united people, so much so that the world observes it, and wants to know what is the cause of our union. Now, this unity is natural on the basis of self-preservation. We have had so much adversity that we naturally flock together. But besides this, there is the influence of the Holy Spirit, which tends to harmonize. He guides us into all truth, and thereby makes us one, even as the Father and the Son are one. This is the true secret of our union, and is in accordance with the plan announced by our Lord, when He said, "Unless ye are one, ye are not mine."

There is no compulsion in these matters, nor is there anything strange about this oneness. Elders who have traveled with the gospel message abroad will remember that people, as soon as they have received the gospel, obtain a desire to gather and unite with the Saints, and this spirit does not come from man, but from God. The speaker concluded with a powerful testimony to the truth of the gospel.