

Church headquarters, the Stake presidency called a district two days' conference at Randolph on Saturday and Sunday, the 8th and 8th instant. The Saturday forenoon meeting was attended only by the county bishops, counselors, home missionaries and other Elders. Elder James H. Hart, of the Stake presidency, was present and conducted the exercises throughout. The condition of the people of the several wards was reported to be very favorable indeed, temporally and spiritually, and peace, good health, and integrity prevailing among the people. The Bishops were admonished to set in order and fill up as fast as possible and consistent the quorums of the lesser Priesthood and to feel after the young people and see that they are properly and faithfully instructed in the principles of the Gospel; also that Elder Lyman's counsel to set out plenty of trees in the various towns, and, particularly, in and around the meeting house lots, and regarding the appointment of suitable persons as local historians, be adopted.

On Saturday afternoon a general meeting was held, at which Elders William H. Lee, of Woodruff; Joseph Irwin, of Lake Town, and President J. H. Hart spoke, the two former treating upon what great and glorious things have been wrought out for the Latter-day Saints, temporally and spiritually, by reason of their adhesion to the principles of the Gospel and the overruling providences of our Heavenly Father, and the latter on the power, prerogatives and limits of the Priesthood, as laid down in the "Prayer and Prophecies" of Joseph Smith recorded in the Book of Covenants, etc. Elder Hart gave us many items from his elaborate and interesting experience in the Church, showing that the people of the Latter-day Saints have made no mistake whatsoever in accepting and carrying out in their lives the principles revealed through Joseph the Seer. Many matters relating to Church history and organization, its trials and triumphs, were also related by this speaker.

The Sabbath morning meeting was addressed by Bishop John M. Baxter, of Woodruff, who reiterated Paul's assertion that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, knowing it to be the power of God unto salvation. The subjects of the free agency of man, the blessings flowing from obedience to God's laws—the need of charity to all, and of speaking all the good we can of each other—were capably outlined by this worthy brother.

Elder Hyrum Grant, of the presidency of the Davis Stake of Zion, and, by the way, enjoying, with a number of his local friends, an out in our country, addressed the Saints on the efficacy of the faith and prayers of the Saints in aid of the Elders addressing them; the opening of the minds of the people of the world concerning our people and their acts, religion, and manner of life, the softening of the hearts of our fellow citizens toward us, and the effective working of the leaven of the Gospel in the souls of mankind. He complimented our people on their integrity and expressed his opinion that the Saints in the country Stakes and wards were living nearer to our God than the people of the cities are. He thought there is as great a work

necessary in behalf of our young people as there is to go to the nations of the earth, both of which are essential, and we should not cease to teach them by precept, and especially by example, the principles of the Gospel. Elder Grant's remarks were chiefly directed to the younger people, in whom he has great interest, and upon whom an excellent impression was evidently made. He spoke favorably to our keeping the Sabbath day holy, not making it a day for excursions, etc; of the duty we all have to store our minds with useful knowledge and to rely upon God's added help, that we may be able to use it to the best good and for the enhancement of God's glory in the salvation of mankind, at home as well as abroad.

Bishop A. McKinnon, of Randolph, elaborated upon the necessity of thorough organization of the lesser priesthood—of the duty incumbent upon parents to train their children so that, when they become eight years old, they will be intelligently ready for baptism into Christ's Church and subsequently to receive and magnify the responsibilities and Priesthood of the Church. He said though we may have been born in the Church we must not forget that it is not a hard matter to grow out of the Church. By continued diligence only can we maintain our integrity, always, of course, relying for help upon our Heavenly Father.

On Sunday afternoon, Elders J. W. Satterthwaite, of Lake Town, and J. H. Hart were the speakers (after the administration of the Sacrament)—the former on the outpouring of the calamities spoken of by God's ancient and modern servants and fulfilled in our age of the world; the superiority of the Gospel to the doctrines of men—and the presence of God's hand over His people in affliction and trials, many of which may well be truthfully said to be blessings in disguise; and the latter upon the power and comprehensiveness of the Gospel, the blessings poured out upon us in the way of a bounteous harvest, and the moderating of our climate for our good. Also on the order of the Church regarding the adjustment of difficulties, the great good done for us in the Stake recently, by the heavenly counsels imparted by Elders Lyman and Merrill; the necessity of our building up and beautifying these settlements; of our being diligent in our Temple work for the living and the dead, and upon our earnestly laboring for the salvation of the youth of Zion. Elder Hart concluded by invoking God's choice blessings to rest upon the people of the district, Stake and Church.

The meetings were very fully attended. The Spirit of the Lord was liberally enjoyed, the remarks of the brethren were admirably adapted to the occasion and, last, but by no means least, we must compliment the Randolph choir upon its very excellent musical renderings. President Hart told them it was the best he had heard outside of the Tabernacle, truly the best we have had the pleasure of listening to in Rich county. We trust that the other ward choirs will not be jealous at this compliment, but that it may be an incentive to increased diligence and capability throughout our

county and Stake in this praiseworthy and useful branch of our education.

Clouds hover o'er us just now and the wind blows, but our experience justifies our trusting that all will be well, and that we can gather our crops O. K. Our crops have been excellent—never better. Our people are experimenting, very encouragingly, with winter wheat, some of which has already been threshed.

The visit last week of Elder B. H. Roberts to all of the wards, save Round Valley, in the county was a very welcome one. The Seventies were appropriately admonished and encouraged, and the public meetings, though not attended fully on account of the drenching rain, were seasons of great rejoicing, and much food for long and studious reflection was found in the logical and soul-inspiring discourses of the brethren.

The steamer J. C. Rich is getting more used to the lake and the passengers therein pronounce it an unequalled success. A movement is on foot to get up cheap excursions for the Sunday schools and thus take advantage of our lovely moonlight and our beautiful Bear Lake during the present month. In fact Bear Lake valley, as the years go on, increases in popularity as a resort for ye Salt Lakers and denizens of other crowded centers.

Our county teachers' examination was held at Randolph a few days ago. The candidates did well, and the district schools are opening up for the school year throughout the county.

Politics are beginning to be largely discussed, of course. The Democrats and Republicans have held county constitutional conventions and elected their delegates to the respective Territorial gatherings. C. E. Allen made a proselyting trip through the county for the Republican cause and he will be soon followed by Attorney Weber, from Weber county, in the interest of Democracy.

We Bear Lakers are enjoying (some of us) home raised corn, plums, pears, apples, and many other things—at one time thought impossible of culture here. And, as we often sing in Church and Sunday school, in Bear Lake we can, with great thanksgiving to the Giver of all good, say truthfully, "Zion prospers, all is well."

Your Brother,
JOSEPH IRWIN.

MALAD STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion convened in Portage on the 9th inst.; present on the stand O. C. Hoskins and John M. McCray, of the Stake presidency, Elder Heber J. Grant, of the Council of the Apostles, Elders Seymour B. Young and C. D. Fjelsted, of the First Seventies, Presidents of Seventies, members of the High Council and Bishops of the various wards.

The teaching and counsel of the speakers was good practical every-day talk, calculated to benefit the Saints temporally and spiritually and unite them together in the Gospel.

Our Stake choir did themselves credit under the able leadership of Professor David P. Jones.

O. MERRELL, Clerk pro tem.