

school because it is not able to pay a donation to this fund.

In reply to questions, President Cannon said no school nor Stake superintendent should divert any portion of the nickel fund from the purpose for which it has been contributed. He added that he was opposed to making of the Sunday schools begging institutions. He was at first opposed to the establishment of this fund and yielded only to necessity. He said no other collection than this should be taken up in the Sunday schools, and advised that superintendents find out what pupils are too poor to donate and contrive to furnish them with a nickel which they can give. The speaker urged that collections be avoided in the Sunday schools as far as possible. So far the Union had paid its own way and had never called upon the Church for help, a fact that gave him great satisfaction. He read a list of the items furnished the schools out of the nickel fund, which included Book of Mormon charts, leaflets and other publications, postage, office rent, secretary's salary, travelling expenses of members of the board, etc.

Elder O. C. Ormsby, superintendent of Cache Stake, in reply to a question as to the proper use of the Stake portion of the nickel fund, said in his Stake it was used to pay traveling expenses. Elder T. C. Griggs of Salt Lake Stake said it was there used for rent, postage, traveling expenses, etc.

President Cannon said it was proposed to give the schools half of the fund, but apposed this idea, citing the uses to which the general board put the means.

Elder J. E. Talmage spoke upon the use of the leaflets. There was a difference of opinion as to their value. Those who thought little of it in most cases felt so because they did not make a proper use of it. The Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants were never intended to be used as text books in schools as others are. It is difficult to follow a given subject through such a volume; hence the need of a publication which would give the outline of a subject to be pursued. Each leaflet has its subject, which it outlines in a manner to aid the student in studying it methodically and in the light of the passages of Scripture bearing upon it. If properly used, the leaflet is a valuable aid, but it was designed to guide, not to abolish study. It is a syllabus of the subject giving references which should be followed up by the pupil. The teacher should be careful not to interfere with the individuality of the pupil in using the leaflet, which should be put in his hands a week beforehand. The Sunday school is not the place for study in the sense of research. With the leaflet in his hands the pupil can study the subject at home and come prepared upon it to the Sunday school. The speaker urged the proper selection and use of Scripture references, and the need of real study as distinguished from mere recitation. The best method of teaching science in colleges was to give the pupil a syllabus and require him to look up references. Keep the class upon one subject long enough to make its members reasonably familiar with it, but not long enough to tire them of it.

The leaflets are best adapted to the intermediate grades, but may be used in lower ones; though in the latter more preparation is required on the part of the teacher. The dates on the leaflets are placed there to comply with the law relating to second class mail matter, but need not be regarded in their use. In reply to questions, the speaker said references of reputable works on profane history might properly be made, though such works were not proper to be used as text books in

Sunday schools. He urged that teachers prayerfully and thoroughly prepare themselves for their work.

Answering questions the speaker said that a reading by course of the Bible was profitable if the object be to study the Bible itself. But if the object be to study a biblical subject the best method is to study the passages relating to it.

In using the leaflet it is a good thing to ask the pupils of the class by turn to state what they learn from the lesson, having each succeeding pupil repeat what the preceding one has said, adding new matter. Thus each member of the class gets the benefit of repetition and receives the stronger impression.

Elder J. M. Tanner spoke upon "Home reading in connection with the Sunday school." The value of home reading cannot be overestimated, in connection with the Sunday school, or otherwise. This habit may be made very beneficial to the Sabbath school, and should be encouraged. In some homes there are noise and confusion which interfere with reading, and where it is possible there should be a separate room for it. Vast quantities of objectionable juvenile literature are every year being spread among our youth and Sunday schools may well seek to encourage the reading of more wholesome matter. Children like to read of heroes and heroic deeds, and hence biographies may be given to them with excellent results, if wisely selected. This is particularly true of biographies of great biblical characters. The story of Joseph, as told in the Old Testament, for example, is one of the most beautiful and valuable ever placed on record, and the story of our Lord and Savior can be read and studied with the highest advantage. There are men in the Book of Mormon whose biographies can be read with the most beneficial results. We have in the Church, living today, men whose characters are being molded in a greater or less degree, by what they read of men of God whose lives are recorded in Holy Writ. The record of the lives of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff, and other men of God of this dispensation can be studied with great profit.

Elder Tanner, in reply to questions, said he could not see how the Sabbath school could encourage the reading of fairy stories; but sometimes it is difficult to tell whether a given composition is a fairy story. But those extravagant fairy stories that excite the mind are undoubtedly harmful. They lead to a belief in the unreal. By all means encourage the founding of Sunday school circulating libraries, but select the books with great care. Such fiction as that of Dickens, Scott and other standard writers should not be read in Sunday school, and there are other books which are quite as entertaining and instructive and which at the same time cultivate the spiritual nature. Standard fiction portrays the evil and morbid in human nature, but the Sunday school should hold up the beautiful and grand, not the deformed and debased. A knowledge of evil tempts to its commission. The reading of fiction tends to encourage the development of the lower attributes of man, to the detriment of the higher.

In relation to this subject President Cannon said that children and grown people who read fiction much are not satisfied with reading works that are true. They are not sufficiently spicy and exciting. Readers of fiction rarely become accomplished scientists; it weakens the memory and the intellect generally. He favored the preparation of a list of books suitable for a Sunday school library.

Replying to questions he thought a latter-day Saint Sunday school superintendent who would encourage his pu-

pils to attend sectarian Sunday schools should be turned out. The practice of reading newspapers in Sunday school is wrong. Such literature should not be read in holy places. If more is donated to the nickel fund than makes five cents for each member of the school, the whole should be remitted to the general board, which should not be deprived of the benefit of the liberality of donors. The meeting of officers and teachers during the week to go over the lessons for the ensuing Sabbath should be encouraged. A record should be kept by the school of the amounts given to the nickel fund.

Singing. Benediction by Elder F. D. Richards.

EVENING SESSION.

After singing practice Elder Angus M. Cannon offered prayer.

Elder George H. Binnhall delivered an exceedingly interesting and valuable address on "How to grade the Sunday school." He advised that it be graded according to the age, size and desires of the pupils rather than their scholarship. In this respect the Sunday school is entirely different from the day school. In the lower grades and the theological class the number of pupils under one teacher may be large, but in the intermediate grades it should not be too great to allow the teacher to give his individual attention to each pupil.

Miss Cooper sang O, Lord, Have Mercy.

Elder Heber J. Grant spoke on "The relation of the Church to the Sunday school." He regarded the Sunday school as the child of the Church, the nursery from which was obtained workers for every other department of the Church.

Elder Nathan T. Porter ably discussed the Sunday school as an auxiliary to the home and Elder Joseph W. Summerhays the home as an auxiliary to the Sunday school.

After the roll call, President Cannon congratulated the convention on the excellent attendance, and Elder George Goddard pronounced benediction.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Singing practice. Prayer by Elder Heber J. Grant.

Miss Donetta Smith read a paper on "The Sunday school," which will be published in full in next Saturday's "News." She illustrated portions of her paper by repeating a number of verses which she uses in her classes and which are accompanied by action. Answering a question Miss Smith said no one book contained all the kindergarten songs she used. She recommended Miss Folsom's "Finger play songs."

Elder Lars E. Eggertsen spoke on "Punctuality, how best secured." Many plans had been tried to secure punctuality. A lack of it causes a waste of time to those who are on time. Sabbath school officers especially should be punctual. How shall we get the superintendent to be on time? By not having a superintendent who will not be punctual.

The chorister must also be punctual, for singing should begin strictly on time. If he will not, a new chorister should be chosen. So with other officers, and also the teacher. Officers who will not be converted to punctuality should be replaced. No man is indispensable to a Sunday school; all may be replaced. The superintendent should urge punctuality at teachers' meetings; he should even make a hobby of it. He may properly call upon negligent teachers and invite them to go to Sunday school. Such a call may be made casually and without apparent missionary purpose. Officers and teachers must be punctual or pupils will not be. The superintendent should express his appreciation of the services of faithful teachers. He should invite them to