

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The monthly Priesthood meeting and semi-annual Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly Hall today at 10 a.m.

There were present: John Henry Smith and Heber J. Grant, of the Council of the Apostles; William B. Preston, the Presiding Bishop; Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, of the Stake Presidency; two High Councilors; four Patriarchs; Elders Elias Morris and George B. Wallace, of the High Priests' quorum; fourteen presidents of Seventies; and eleven home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented.

All the quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding officers or by members.

Members of the Lesser Priesthood were present from the First, Third, Sixteenth, Twenty-third, Mill Creek, Riverton, Sugar House, South Jordan, West Jordan, Mountain Dell and Big Cottonwood wards.

Singing by choir and congregation of the hymn commencing,

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Prayer was offered by Elder John T. Cairns.

The choir sang the hymn commencing,

Truth reflects upon our senses,
Gospel light reveals to some.

On the recommendation of their respective Bishops, fourteen brethren were authorized to be ordained to the office of Elder, on their each promising to magnify the office.

Bishop Wm. B. Preston stated that the Bishops throughout the Church were under a heavy responsibility in the performance of their varied duties. One great aim of these men should be to keep continually before the people the timely duties of each day and season. In consideration of the approach of seeding time, arrangements should be made properly to select the kinds of seeds and trees to be planted; and especially to see that each man is in a position to make work for himself and direct his own energies. More should be done than is usually thought of in the cultivation of the ground, that each man may gain therefrom a sustenance, if he is unable to find other employment. One who depends on another to direct his efforts and waits to be put to work, undervalues his manhood. Yet this is a common fault, caused, the speaker thought, by the fact that parents do not teach their children from the first to do their own work. This deficiency is as great in the case of girls with their housework as in the case of boys with their regular employments. A general discussion of the topics coming under the head of industry and economics, was recommended that practical results may flow from well directed efforts.

Elder Heber J. Grant was the next speaker. He read from the Doctrine and Covenants a passage referring to the necessity of labor. In the same book the employment of one's abilities in the direction of intelligent work is strongly urged. In the speaker's opinion the failure to use talents properly carries with it even a greater punishment than does the commission of

our ordinary sins. Every one is capable of keeping all the commandments of God. The idle are bound to fall into ruin through their own lack of effort; the busy are those who last longest. An example of the latter fact is found in President Woodruff.

One great fault is the assembling of people in cities, instead of their going into the country to take up land, where they can gain independence and proper self respect. The will to do such a thing is the main element of success. This is true in other respects, also. There is a limit, however, to man's ability, but the difficulty is that we place that limit too low. A resolve to keep the commandments of God, if carried out, will give to him who makes it the friendship of good men and of God.

Little things in the life of an individual will often turn its current sometimes in the wrong direction, sometimes in the right. No man can turn the life of another in the wrong direction; only he who lives that life can do so. Upon individual effort alone depends success. Fault-finding is permissible only when one finds fault with himself. Let each one see to it that he does his duty and neither feels envious of the talents of another, nor criticizes his use of them.

Elder Elias Morris endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker with reference especially to the need of employment for the idle. He emphasized the advice that the people go into the country to make homes for themselves. Teams can be procured at a low price, with which the people can strike out especially for the north, where there is ample room for the establishment of homes. By the course some are taking in crowding into the city, they are not only losing their means and their energies, but also their faith in the Gospel.

Reporting the Fifteenth ward and the High Priests' quorum, over which he presides, Brother Morris spoke of prosperity ahead after the difficulties of the immediate past.

Elder Evan Stephens spoke about the Tabernacle choir, stating that action had been taken to avoid a clash between the ward duties and the musical duties of the members, by calling them to a mission in the work of the choir. The usual meeting nights of the choir will be Monday and Thursday for the whole body, with special rehearsals on the other evenings.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Glory to God on high.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Goddard.

Conference adjourned to 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing by the choir:

Behold the mountain of the Lord
In latter days shall rise.

Prayer by Elder Edward Stevenson.

Singing:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.

Elder Thomas C. Griggs reported the condition of the Sabbath schools of the Stake; Elder James W. Eardley, the Y. M. M. I. associations, and Sister Mary A. Freeze, the Y. L. M. I. associations.

The Sunday schools were spoken of as prospering, and it was recommended

that proper facilities be afforded those now in existence, and others be organized whenever necessary, especially where there is any considerable section of country not in easy access to a school already organized. Special attention was called to the work done in the Model Sunday school at the Latter-day Saints' College, hopes being expressed of the benefits to be derived from the contact of the officers and teachers with the instructors there employed. The work of the missionaries was also commended.

Elder Eardley felt to report the Improvement associations as doing good work in spite of discouraging circumstances. A great field for the work of these associations is to be found in the labor of the foreign mission; here their labors are expended to the greatest possible advantage. The value of the Manual was spoken of in its effect in systematizing the work.

Sister Freeze felt proud of the young ladies belonging to the organization over which she presides, and expressed a determination to draw in as many as possible of those who are now outside the associations. In practical work of charity, in the systematic labor of the Guide, and in the increase of the spirit of testimony among the young ladies, these associations are performing their legitimate work.

Bishop Robert T. Burton said that notwithstanding the depression in finances the laboring class are more mindful of their ills than the wealthier classes. And in spite of discouragement and lack of employment, there has been plenty of provision for all in the comforts of life.

Brother Burton emphasized the necessity of greater vigilance on the part of the Lesser Priesthood in visiting the people of their wards and ascertaining their wants and conditions, temporally and spiritually, especial attention being paid to those who are spiritually weak or despondent.

Though charity reports are improving, there are some wards in which very meagre fast offerings are paid. This fact was deprecated by the speaker, who urged that no matter if a ward has no poor, its members should be diligent in the payment of their offerings in the proper way. The bishops were told not to send their poor to the general office, but to apply in person for funds when they are unable to supply the wants of the people.

Sister Camilla C. Cobb represented the Primary associations of the Stake, commending the work of the sisters engaged in this labor, and giving encouragement to them in the beneficial effect of this labor upon the children. She spoke of a need of a system of work in the primaries, and of new hymns suitable to the capacity of the children. Special emphasis was given to the practical spiritual benefits derived by the children.

President George Q. Cannon spoke upon the discouraging temporal condition of many people throughout the Territory, and the necessity and proper means of alleviating this condition.

The choir sang the anthem,
From afar, gracious Lord, thou hast gathered
thy flock
and conference adjourned to Sunday