

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference and monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake convened in the Assembly Hall Saturday at 10 a. m. There were present President Geo. Q. Cannon, Apostle John W. Taylor, J. G. Kimball and Edward Stevenson of the first council of Seventy, Patriarch John Smith, Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose of the Stake presidency.

The choir and congregation sang

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Prayer was offered by Elder Stevenson.

Singing,

Praise ye the Lord, my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

The roll call showed the following attendance: Three patriarchs, five high counselors, Elias Morris and Wm. C. Dunbar of the High Priests' quorum presidency, fifteen presidents of Seventies, eighteen home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented excepting Mountain Dell, Herriman and Granger.

The presidency of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Twentieth and Twenty-fourth quorums of Elders failed to respond to the roll call. Representatives of the Lesser Priesthood were present from the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Mill Creek, Riverton, South Jordan, East Jordan, West Jordan, Sugar House, Center, Sandy, East Mill Creek, Herriman, Granite and North Jordan wards.

The Stake organizations of Relief Societies, Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A., Sunday schools and Primary associations were represented by their presiding officers. On recommendation of their respective Bishops, 121 brethren were authorized to be ordained Elders. A report of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake was read and ordered filed.

President George Q. Cannon addressed the congregation.

Choir and congregation sang:

Do what is right.

Benediction was pronounced by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

Afternoon Session.

Singing by the choir,

Lord, thou wilt hear me when I pray,

Prayer by Elder Geo. B. Wallan.

The choir sang,

Glory to God on high.

The annual report of the Stake Y. L. M. I. A. was read and ordered filed, as also the totals of the charity report. While some improvement was manifest in the latter returns, as compared with former reports, yet the discrepancy between the last offerings and the demands of the poor was very marked. The financial and statistical reports of the Relief societies, High Priests' quorum and primary associations were read and ordered filed.

Elder Angus M. Cannon deprecated the fact that last offerings were so meager. He urged that wards without any poor should collect last-offerings for the ben-

efit of wards less fortunately situated. He reported with pleasure the general good feeling of the people of the Stake, manifested especially in the way in which the home missionaries are received. He announced that the home missionary list had been reduced, to keep the Elders more active and to admit of frequent change. The reduction had been made for various causes, and not out of adverse feeling to those whose names had been eliminated.

The system of caring for the poor and of the payment of tithing he looked upon as of benefit for those who give as well as those who receive. As a means of judging of the circumstances of the people, rich and poor alike, an honest tithing would be of great benefit to the bishops. Neglect of this principle, under any circumstances, would lead to the gradual withering up of the spiritual power of the neglectful one. Dedicated to the Lord and his work every man, for his own and his children's sake, should see to it that his professions are lived up to. No man would be justified in giving the Lord's portion of income for any purpose, in his own name.

Brother Cannon reported that but few trials have been held of late before the High Council, an evidence of the increased good feeling of the people. Elder John W. Taylor was the next speaker. He spoke of increase and prosperity in the outlying stakes of Zion. Designed for the salvation of humanity, the Gospel should be practically carried out in each man's life, for the benefit of himself and others. Different degrees of faithfulness are apparent in the various Stakes, as such differences show themselves in individuals. The work of bringing the people to a better condition is being performed by the Apostles and others, much improvement becoming manifest as a result of their labors.

The speaker referred to a prophecy uttered by President Woodruff at the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, to the effect that from that time Zion would begin to prevail. References were made by the speaker to events since that time, going to prove the fulfillment of that prophecy, the favorable change in the feeling of people toward the Latter-day Saints being particularly commented upon. In all this the hand of God had been manifested, for His glory, and not for the conceit of the people. The destiny of the Latter-day Saints in dominion and authority was depicted, as shown in the events beginning at the present.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

We thank the O God for a Prophet.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder J. G. Kimball.

At the morning session of the conference, Sunday, March 8, the choir and congregation sang the hymn:

The time is far spent, there is little remaining.

Prayer by Elder Jos. E. Taylor.

Choir and congregation sang the hymn:

How firm a foundation.

Elder Lorenzo Snow was the first speaker. He said that we had learned through the revelations given from heaven that we had passed successfully through a former probation or first

estate and that we were now passing through a second estate in order to more fully prepare ourselves for our future destiny, to receive a fullness of knowledge and intelligence and be able to enjoy all that our natures were susceptible of enjoying. It is absolutely necessary to pass through a school in this life to qualify us for the enjoyment of a high position in the life to come. Yet there are some of the Latter-day Saints who continually complain because of the hardships and trials which they are called to pass through. These trials are for their good, and they should learn to endure everything that is required of them. God will have a tried people. Even Job, who was considered to be almost a perfect man, was very much tried, not because of sins committed but in order to strengthen and perfect him. The Saints should endeavor to endure each day the trials and difficulties placed in our way, in order that they might be prepared to enter successfully into the future estate.

Elder J. G. Kimball was the next speaker. Said he felt that the Latter-day Saints were improving. While he found in his travels among the people that many had been carried away by the spirit of Babylon, there was a tendency on their part to repent of their sins and to sustain the Priesthood. The bitterness that had existed against this people in years past was almost obliterated, and the speaker believed that we were going to be tried with peace, wealth and luxury; and he felt that the people were throwing down their safeguards. Some do not respect the Priesthood as they ought to do. One of the greatest lessons that this people have got to learn is to honor the Priesthood. The Presidency of the Church have spent their whole lives in the Lord's service, and if it were necessary for this Church they would even lay down their lives. Yet there are many of the Saints who doubt their integrity and faith and willingness to serve God and bless this people. When Latter-day Saints hear men speak against the authority of God, they should in kindness and persuasion show them the error of their way, and they will then be performing one of the greatest missions that is being performed on the earth.

Elder George Teasdale was the next speaker. He said in substance: The conditions that lead to everlasting life are very simple—that we love the Lord God with all our might, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. If we do this we will be redeemed from the darkness that covers the earth, and will have the privilege of walking in the light as God is in the light. This is promised to those who will love Him and keep His commandments. Our Father is kind and indulgent to his children, and will listen to us if we desire to be led by His counsel and will. It will cause a great deal more happiness for us if we seek to do right and avoid what is wrong, than for us to do otherwise. The reason for all the trouble in the world is because people prefer darkness to light. We should turn to God, worship Him and walk in His paths, that we may eventually become like Him.

The choir sang the anthem,
Light and Truth.