

dency to slackness which was becoming apparent. For this purpose this convention had been called, and the speaker hoped that the fullest freedom would be enjoyed during its labors. He hoped that questions regarding Sunday school work would be asked freely, and suggested that they be submitted in writing. He referred briefly to the great necessity and value of Sunday school work, and considered that it was one of the most important features of the Church. He repeated the remarks made many years ago by an Episcopalian bishop to the effect that the different sects could make no headway among adult Mormons, but might among the young by giving to them opportunities for gaining education. He showed how our Sabbath schools aid in fortifying the children of the Saints against the errors and sins of the world, and urged that every effort be made to secure the attendance at Sunday school of all the children of our people.

He invited delegates who lack accommodation to report at the stand, urged that questions concerning Sunday school work be freely asked, and advised delegates to take notes of the proceedings of the convention.

Elder George Reynolds then delivered an address on "The Objects of the Convention."

Elder Karl G. Maeser then addressed the convention on "The Sunday School Treatise and Its Effects."

For a long time the board had been impressed with the need of a published guide in Sunday school work, because workers were at a loss in regard to its proper organization and the details of it. Much difference in views and methods existed, which it was necessary to correct. After great deliberation and consultation with leading Sunday school workers, the Treatise was prepared and published. The result has been a more complete and uniform organization and conduct of Sunday school work, though the Treatise leaves abundant latitude for the individuality of teachers and pupils, and the varying circumstances surrounding them. Some teachers have failed to understand the intent of the Treatise, but this is largely due to the fact that they have not sufficiently studied it. The first edition is exhausted and a new one, embracing improvements and new points, has been issued. In future editions of the work new points, growing out of experience, will be embraced, for there is no standing still.

The speaker urged that teachers become familiar with the Treatise and the instructions it conveys, and that the latter be carried out. Every teacher should have a copy and it should be considered and discussed at teachers' meetings, so that every teacher will understand where his or her work fits in, in connection with the whole work of the school.

Teachers should work to a plan covering a specified period of time, a term of months. The speaker illustrated this proposition at some length and in a manner to show its truth and force and explained that the Treatise provided for this need. The speaker explained the need of grading the schools, and placing each pupil in the proper class. Changes from one class to another should be recommended by the teacher to the superintendent, and be made by him. Teachers' meetings should be held often. The speaker laid great stress upon this. He urged that superintendents should be familiar with the statistics, studies and students in their schools and described how questions should be framed in order to elicit proper answers.

The speaker dwelt at some length on various portions of the Treatise explaining how the same should be complied with, and showing how much

time was often wasted by teachers and classes in "thrashing straw."

The question "How would you prepare a plan for a six months' course for the first intermediate department," was asked by Delegate Sorensen, and a query covering the same subject was put by Delegate Horne, and the following were appointed a committee to prepare a reply in the form of a model plan: J. M. Tanner, Karl G. Maeser, Lars E. Eggertson and Natham T. Porter.

The question was asked "How may a person become familiar with the Treatise?" General Superintendent Cannon replied, "Study it." (Laughter.)

Prof. McClellan then rendered upon the organ with exquisite taste, a version of the air, "O My Father," arranged by himself.

In answer to questions the following replies were given: If teachers are capable of drawing plans for class work, they may do so, and submit the same to the superintendent; but when teachers are not qualified to do this, the plans should be prepared by the superintendent.

The following question was put:

"Should the subjects in the Treatise be followed as the subjects of the class work in the respective departments?"

The answer was: "No. That would depend upon the general plan according to instructions Pres. Cannon gave us. When the plan has been agreed upon, the subjects as given in the Treatise are suggestive only, but not in the order given in the Treatise."

Elder J. M. Tanner read an address prepared by Elder Seymour B. Young, who, because of duties elsewhere, was unable to be present.

The following question was asked:

"Would you require a complete answer in all cases, or would not a conversational manner of discussing the matter be better in the higher classes?"

Elder Maeser replied that full answers should be required for disciplinary purposes in the lower grades, but that conversational discussion was well enough in the higher grades.

Elder James W. Ure spoke on "How to secure the attendance of delinquent pupils." He recommended a committee of good men and women to visit the delinquent young people and labor with them. He also recommended that a committee of the class to which the missing pupil belonged visit the latter immediately after the close of the school to inquire into the cause of absence. There should be no compulsory methods adopted, no forcing of children to go to Sunday school. It is a good thing for the teacher of the class to visit the parents of the absent pupils at their homes, to learn why the latter do not attend.

Often boys, from 15 to 19 years old, will stand upon the streets in groups instead of attending Sabbath school. The committee would do well to visit these gatherings, and by the use of tact and wisdom, seek to prevail upon them to attend Sunday school. Members of this convention should be men and women chosen for their tact in approaching and winning over young people. Sunday school workers needed the co-operation of parents to secure attendance of the children at the Sunday school.

General Superintendent Cannon said the question had been asked: "Should the Word of Wisdom be made a test of the qualifications of Sabbath school officers and teachers," and that the subject would be discussed later on in the convention.

In reply to the question, "Is order possible in the absence of a clearly defined plan?" Elder J. M. Tanner said that a plan contributes to good order, but is only one contribution to this end. "Should the teacher, to maintain order center his attention upon the conduct of the pupil, or the subject

matter of the lesson?" and Elder Tanner answered that the teacher should be so familiar with the lesson that he could give his whole attention to the pupil.

Elder George Goddard sang "Hold the Fort," and then briefly referred to the first Sunday school opened in the Church, which was forty-nine years ago, lacking a few days. He also spoke of the inception of the construction of the Assembly Hall, one of the last acts of President Young.

Elder T. C. Griggs asked what is the visiting book in securing the attendance of delinquents, and at the suggestion of General Superintendent Cannon answered the query himself by saying that the visiting book gave Sunday School officers the information in compact form, which enabled them to reach the young persons sought after.

One delegate recommended social meetings of the class at the home of the teacher as a means of promoting a full and regular attendance of its members, a suggestion heartily endorsed by President Cannon, who remarked that visits paid to pupils by the teachers had a most excellent effect in reaching the hearts of those visited.

A delegate asked "If parents and older children would attend Sunday school, would it not encourage the younger children to do so too?" Pres. Cannon replied affirmatively, and advised that efforts be made to secure the presence at Sunday school of parents and older children. He said it was a mistake to suppose that members of Mutual Improvement Associations had no need to attend Sunday school. There was or should be perfect harmony between the two, but neither superceded the other.

Delegate George A. Smith asked if it would not be proper, when unable, to personally visit a delinquent pupil, for the teacher to write to him a kind letter, and President Cannon replied in the affirmative.

In reply to the query, "What can the superintendent of the Sunday school do to secure the cleaning and warming of the house when the deacons are under the exclusive control of the Bishop?" President Cannon advised that the superintendents make kind and respectful representations to the Bishop of what was necessary for the comfort of the school, and thought that Bishops would generally comply with reasonable requirements, or give all necessary authority to the superintendents.

Adjourned until 2 p. m. Singing. Benediction by Elder Heber J. Grant.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Promptly at 2 o'clock the convention was called to order by Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard. Singing. Prayer by Elder F. M. Lyman.

Some time was devoted to singing practice after which Elder Hugh J. Cannon spoke upon the "Nickel Fund." One reason why this fund be supported was to teach the children that they will receive a blessing by donating means to the work of the Lord. Another reason is that the Deseret Sunday School Union board needs funds for the carrying on of its work. Prior to the establishment of the "Nickel Fund" means for the work of the board were obtained by giving an entertainment occasionally, but as the work grew a secretary had to be employed, an office rented and other expenses incurred which required a regular and definite income. With means obtained from this fund leaflets, charts and other publications for the benefit of the schools had been issued. It is desired that five cents be contributed by each officer, teacher and pupil of every Sunday school, but it is hoped that no child will ever have its feelings hurt, or that it will be impelled to remain away from