

Valley Stake of Zion convened in the Afton meeting house on May 14th and 15th, 1898. Present on the Stand were Elder Abraham O. Woodruff, of the Apostles, Elder C. D. Feldjsted of the First Council of Seventy, Bishop Wilford Clark of Montpelier, Idaho, the presidency of the Stake and a goodly number of High Priests, Seventies and other brethren.

The wards of the Stake were reported by their respective Bishops, who reported that there was a marked improvement among the Saints, the majority of whom are desirous of keeping the commandments of God. The health of the people is good with the exception of the whooping cough among the children, five little ones having succumbed to the dread disease, but it is abating as warmer weather approaches.

Elder C. D. Feldjsted addressed the Saints, and explained how we should live so we could acknowledge the hand of God in all things. He advised the Saints to be kind and charitable to each other, and care stewards over that which was entrusted to their care.

Elder Wilford Clark spoke a short time, exhorting the Saints to live in obedience to that prompting of the Holy Spirit, and attend to their duties as becometh Saints of God.

Elder A. O. Woodruff read from the words of King Mosiah in the Book of Mormon, and spoke on the necessity of obedience to the laws of God under all circumstances.

Elder George Osmond felt it a great privilege to meet with the Saints and be instructed in the plan of life and salvation, and hoped all the people would put into practice the instructions they receive from the servants of God.

On Sunday morning Elder Anson O. Call explained to the youth what great responsibilities were resting upon them, and advised all to live pure lives so the work of God would advance.

Elder William W. Burton spoke strongly on the Word of Wisdom; also exhorted all to set an example worthy of imitation.

Elders Orlando Barrus, C. D. Cazler and A. Gardner bore faithful testimonies to the truth of the Gospel.

At the afternoon session Elder Call presented the general authorities of the Church and Stake, and all were sustained by vote.

Elder Ed McLatchie gave an excellent report of the Sunday schools of this Stake.

Elder Feldjsted spoke on the many privileges enjoyed by the Saints which the world did not enjoy.

Elder Woodruff read from Timothy: "Men shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables." He reminded the people to be diligent in the payment of their tithes and offerings, and spoke on the union that should exist in the homes of the Saints.

Elder George Osmond made a few closing remarks, exhorting the Saints to renew their efforts to live their religion; thanked the congregation for their kind attention and exhorted them to put into practice the things they had heard.

Thus closed as good a conference as was ever held in this Stake. The attendance was good and a good spirit prevailed throughout the conference.

WM. H. KENNINGTON,
Stake Clerk.

YOUNG FOLKS' CONFERENCE.

The Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement conference came to an end Sunday night 3 interesting sessions having been held in the Tabernacle yesterday. The morning session opened at 10 o'clock, Elder H. J. Grant presiding. After singing by the choir, prayer was offered by Elder B.

H. Roberts. The choir sang a second selection after which Elder Grant referred briefly to the progress of Mutual Improvement work during the year. It had, he said, been successful beyond the most sanguine expectations. President Joseph F. Smith also spoke on the great good accomplished by the Mutual Improvement associations and that which they would yet be able to do. A pleasing quartet selection was rendered by James T. Dunbar, John James, Thomas Butler and Heber Sharp. Reports of the Juarez, Washington, Oneida and Kanab Stakes were made respectively by Elder D. E. Harris, Miss Mary Morris and Miss Meda Nelson. The choir then sang and the benediction was pronounced by Sister Marie Y. Dougall.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The choir sang the hymn:

O God Thou great, Thou good, Thou wise,
Eternal is Thy name.

Prayer was offered by Elder F. M. Cannon.

The choir and congregation sang:
America.

Elder Thomas Hull, general secretary and treasurer of the Y. M. M. I. A., read the statistical and financial reports of the Y. L. and Y. M. M. I. A., the same showing there to be 430 young ladies' associations and 518 young men's, the former with an enrollment of 17,493, the latter with 26,828; increase in young ladies during the past year, 1,314; young men's, 10,256; average attendance of young ladies, 8,200; young men, 12,434; increase in average attendance of ladies, 779; young men, 3,529.

The general officers were voted upon and sustained unanimously. They are as follows:

Y. M. M. I. A.

Wilford Woodruff, general superintendent; Joseph F. Smith, Heber J. Grant, B. H. Roberts, assistants.

Aids, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, Mathias F. Cowley, Abraham O. Woodruff, J. G. Kimball, Julius F. Wells, Milton H. Hardy, Rodney C. Badger, Geo. H. Brimhall, Wm. S. Burton, Edward H. Anderson, Douglas M. Todd, John E. Hepler, Edward H. Snow, Nephi L. Morris, Richard W. Young, Horace G. Whitney, Willard Done.

Thomas Hull, secretary and treasurer; Evan Stephens, music director.

Y. L. M. I. A.

Elmina S. Taylor, president; Maria Y. Dougall, Martha H. Tingey, counselors.

Aids—Aggie Campbell, Adella W. Eardley, Sarah Eddington, Lillie T. Freeze, May Booth Talmage, Minnie J. Snow, Emma Goddard, Rose W. Bennett, Alice K. Smith, Elizabeth A. McCune, Ruth M. Fox, Julia C. Brixen, Helen Winters Woodruff.

Ann M. Cannon, secretary and treasurer; Mae Taylor, corresponding secretary; Joan Campbell, recording secretary; Susa Y. Gates, Editor of Journal.

A duet, Love Divine, was then rendered in very pleasing style by Mrs. Lizzie Thomas Edwards and Thomas Ashworth.

Elder Heber J. Grant of the Council of Apostles addressed the conference. His remarks were replete with gratification to the Lord for the health and strength which he enjoyed on the first year's anniversary of the day upon which he underwent a very dangerous surgical operation. Elder Grant was also gratified at being connected with the Mutual Improvement associations. He noted with much satisfaction the gratifying increase in the enrollment and felt that great good was being accomplished among the young people. These institutions, said Elder Grant, were calculated to make of the young

men and women of Zion, noble fathers and mothers, the parents of dutiful and obedient children. It was the duty of all to be patriotic to the Mutual Improvement associations, that they might roll on successfully, and be indeed valuable and indispensable adjuncts of the Church of Jesus Christ. Elder Grant spoke of the success attending the publication of the Mutual Improvement Era and in behalf of the General Board heartily thanked all who had contributed to its support.

President Wilford Woodruff next spoke. His remarks dealt with the great blessings of the Lord towards His people and the work which was expected of them in years to come. He felt to rejoice in the progress that was being made by the Mutual Improvement associations and by all the organizations of the Church; and was was thankful to know that the Lord was working among the young people and that they were fast coming to a realization of the duties and obligations devolving upon them, and the great mission it was their duty to perform. President Woodruff referred to his boyhood days and the desire of his heart at that time, to not only hear the Gospel but to have the privilege of proclaiming it and of mingling with Prophets and Apostles. He was thankful he had had the privilege of seeing these things and of rearing children who had followed in their father's footsteps; and his desire was that the sons and daughters of Zion would follow in the footsteps of their fathers and mothers and help roll on the Church and kingdom of God. The Church had been established by the Father and would remain, and grow and flourish until the purposes of God had been accomplished.

Sister Maria Y. Dougall was the next speaker. Sister Dougall also referred to the mission devolving upon humanity, and especially upon the children of the Latter-day Saints. She dwelt upon the necessity of the Saints honoring and sustaining the Priesthood of God and the living oracles upon the earth, and felt that the Lord was richly blessing His people in permitting such a noble and God-fearing man as President Woodruff to stand at their head and deliver unto them His word. The Mutual Improvement associations were progressing and would continue to roll on and do their part in building up the Church and kingdom of God.

Elder B. H. Roberts addressed the conference. He referred to the enrollment of the Mutual Improvement associations and the recent increase therein, and felt that further work in the same direction would add greatly to the already splendid statistical showing read at this conference. There was a better spirit, said the speaker, religiously and morally, among the rising generation, than a few years ago. The people of God were honoring and revering the Priesthood to a much greater extent than formerly, and progress in all proper directions was being made, more so than had been the case in years ago. In order to maintain the present standard of excellence in the Mutual Improvement associations, said the speaker, it was necessary that parents exercise due diligence in the training of their sons and daughters. The objects of Mutual Improvement were, first, the conversion to the truth of the youth of Zion, and second, the preparation and equipment of the young Elders in Israel for the promulgation of Gospel principles and the carrying of the Holy Priesthood. It was intended that the Mutual Improvement associations should fit and prepare the young people of Zion for future responsibilities and for the great work that would devolve upon them in converting the nations of the earth to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare them for a