SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Results of the Semi-Annual Meeting April 3rd, 1892.

The semi-annual meeting of the Deseret Sunday School Union convened in the Tabernacle Sunday, April 3rd, 1892. Present on the stand were President Joseph F. Smith, General Superintendent George Q. Cannon, Assistant General Superintendents George Goddard and John Morgan, all the members of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board, and many of the Stake superintendents.

The vast assembly was called to order by Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard, and the juvenile choir of Sunday school children, numbering 1000, sang:

"Do unto others as you would, etc.

Prayer was offered by Elder William Fotheringham, superintendent of the Beaver Stake.

"Come, let us live in love,"

was rendered by the juvenile choir.

Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard said it would be a source of gratification of all Sunday school workers in the immense congregation would rise on their feet, whereupon about 1000 adults arose. The roll of Stakes was called by the general secretary, showing representatives from all excepting Malad, Summit, Bear Lake and San Luis.

Commencing, Superintendent Cannon said: Nineteen years ago the first Sunday school statistical report showed 143 schools, 1,000 teachers. Today we will see from the statistical report an increase in each year of about twenty schools, three hundred and twenty-eight teachers, and two thousand five hundred scholars.

By these figures we immediately see even year has been gained, and today the Sunday school organization continues to increase more than thousands of the Latter-day Saints—it is the largest organization in Zion. The speaker call to glorify God for this great and grand movement and the wonderful prosperity which has attended the labors of the General Superintendency and Deseret Sunday School Union Board.

General Treasurer George Reynolds said that last fall a call was made upon all Sunday school teachers, superintendents and pupils, for a dollar donation from all Sunday School workers, the result of which has brought in great liberal.

A few days ago, October, a grand concert was given by the Sunday School Choir, which added to the Union excess nearly $75.

This means has been expended in the publishing of one thousand Book of Mormon charts and twenty sets of small charts, one single Book of Mormon chart similar to those of Bible charts and cards. These charts illustrate the Life of Nephi from the time he left Jerusalem. (Now Brother Reynolds showed one of the Book of Mormon charts to the conference.)

As the Sunday School have so generously responded to the called donation call, the Deseret Sunday School Board decided to give gratuitously to each Sunday School in the Church one Book of Mormon chart, and twenty-five sets of the small cards. If schools desire more than one chart it is hoped the superintendents will purchase enough to supply the primary classes, and it is also hoped that parents will purchase for their families one or more Book of Mormon charts.

These charts cost the Union more than three dollars each, but in order to get them before the people, the Union Board has decided to sell them for two dollars each. This is but the first of a series of charts to be published on the Book of Mormon and History of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The leaflets which were out of print are now republished and can be obtained by writing the Juvenile Instructor. These leaflets are found to be one of the best means ever adopted for the education of the youth, so intimate are they that the Church Board of Education have adopted them in the Theological classes.

Assistant Superintendent John Morgan spoke upon the important movement inaugurated last fall in regard to sending out Sunday school missionaries through the various Stakes of Zion. The rapid growth of the Sunday school work has been so remarkable that the General Superintendency and members of the Union Board find it impossible to visit all the ward schools, and hence, last fall, about fifty of the leading, active and zealous Sunday school workers were called upon to go through the various Stakes, visiting every Sunday school and also endeavoring to arouse an interest among the Saints in the Sunday school cause. These brethren were requested to furnish a written report to the Deseret Board. This they have done. It is a matter of regret that notwithstanding all that has been done, there is only 23 per cent of the Latter-day Saints' children who are not now attending at Sunday school—in some places a still greater percentage perhaps fall to attend.

This movement of the Sunday school missionary work has been decided by the Union board to be made a yearly work, and each Stake or officiated in Zion is expected to furnish yearly teams of zealous Sunday school workers and forward their names to the general secretary in time for the brethren to be organized and set apart at the October Conference of each year for their various duties.

The school question has also been decided by the Union board to be a permanent yearly move, and the collection should be made on the 2nd Sunday in September of each year. Each ward organization should immediately after October forward the same to the Stake secretaries, who should forward to the general treasurer, George Reynolds. All officers, teachers and pupils are expected to donate at least one cent, and any wishing to do so should have the privilege of donating larger amounts.

By being prompt in these important matters and the collection of correct and complete statistical reports, keeping careful records, especially of the number of children from six to eighteen years of age, and forwarding promptly all information, means, reports, etc., to the general officers, 412 and 413 Construction Building, Salt Lake City, they will greatly aid in accomplishing the great object in view, viz., the salvation of the youth of Zion in the principles of the religion.

We have a complete statistical report for 1891—with the exception of one Stake. We have reports from all the islands and from the European mission and desire from each year hereafter.

The Juvenile choir sang "The God of Our Nations."

Assistant Superintendent George Goddard said that from the stationary reports received from those who visited the various Sunday school organizations, in some schools, attendance lacking. Where this is the case, the superintendent should consult with the Bishop, and have active Sunday school workers selected for the lead in this work in each ward. The Bishops are very slow in sending the brethren to this important work. There should be a monthly brethren' meeting at the close of the school, in which all notice for the improvement of the school should be discussed.

Brother Goddard said a matter referred to by Brother Morgan is very important—the vast number of children who should themselves from Sunday schools. The Union Board have adopted a memory for those who have published the "Coming Back," in which every eligible Sunday school child in the ward should be member. Visitors should be appointed for certain districts, in order to acquaint the whereabouts of absentees—and in this way we may get nearly every child into the Sunday schools. Where this work has been tried, there has been, in one instance, an increase of 50 per cent.

The speaker admitted all parents and friends of truth to assist in furthering this great work.

Apostle F. M. Lyman

was very amply interested in the good Sunday school cause. From the report, he thought there were many who did not attend Sunday schools as they should do.

It is expected that Sunday school workers by living examples of what they teach—they should teach by precept—not by example. Especially should this be the case in the morals and principles of the Word of Wisdom, and the administration of the Sacrament.

The Word of Wisdom should be emphasized in all Sunday school gatherings.

Example is the very best and strongest means of teaching the Word of Wisdom. It is a pleasure to the minds to find those who strictly adhere to this principle, they should be selected as superintendents and teachers. The children, seeing their superior in schools teach what they live upon, are apt to follow such examples, and become great and good men and women.

The speaker said it was a very sacred and important ordinance which should be administered every Sabbath without exception. The speaker admonished the Saints to live up to this ordinance, for unless we do so, the blessings to be administered to every Sabbath.

The speaker said he wished to emphasize the importance of teaching by example the Word of Wisdom and the administration of the Sacrament to our Sabbath schools every Sunday. There is no more sacred ordinance given to the Temples, than that of the Sacrament. Parents should encourage their children to be prompt in attending the Sabbath school and uphold the hands of the superintendents and officers.

GENERAL AUTHORITIES.

The general authorities of the Sunday school cause were presented by the general secretary, as follows: President George Q. Cannon, general superintendent; George Goddard first assistant; John Morgan second; general officers Sunday School Union Board, George Q. Cannon, George Goddard, John Morgan, George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, Thomas C. Griggs, Joseph W. Summons, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman and Heber J. Grant; George Reynolds, general treasurer; John M. Whitaker, general secretary.

All were unanimously sustained.

The secretary then read the totals from the Deseret Sunday School Union statistical report for 1891.

Apostle H. S. Grant

was gratified to meet such a vast audience of Sabbath school workers. It reminded him of an article which appeared some years ago in the North American Review written by a gentleman who had for about thirty or forty years been connected with Sunday school work in New York; and this gentleman gave the statement that one thousand or fifteen hundred highest church members on Fifth Avenue could not number one hundred Sabbath school children. The Scriptures tell us that "by their fruits shall ye be known" and the promise here tonight, as also the vast number of children in these valleys spoke of the virtue of the Latter-day Saints. The speaker said the greatest crime a human being could commit was sinning against their own flesh and blood, drying up the fountain of life, failing to fulfill the commandments of God in multiplying and replenishing the earth. He was thankful for the showing made by the Latter-day Saints in this direction, that they recognized and prove to God's laws that they are willing to keep the commandments of God. The speaker rejoiced in the glorious work being accomplished by the Sabbath schools and invoked the blessings of heaven upon all efforts made to advance the youth of Zion and assist in redeeming the souls of men.

President George Q. Cannon

then addressed the congregation. He bore a strong testimony to the good work done by the Sunday schools and said he heartily appreciated every interest for the advancement of the great cause of the Church.

Assistant Supt. Geo. Goddard

then said: "I am going to offer up a prayer—I would like response from the whole congregation: Let bless the boys and girls that constitute the juvenile choir, said Brother Stephens to their leader. All who feel to back up that prayer, say amen"—and then the vast hall echoed the hearty response from the congregation—"Amen."

The juvenile choir rendered "The Pilgrim Chorus."

Benediction by Apostle Abraham H. Cannon. Jno. M. Whitaker, General Secretary.

From this time on there will be no more interest in Kentucky. The question has signed the anti-cigarette and it has broken loose.

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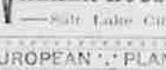

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