

(Continued from Page 613.)

Singing:

The Seer, the Seer, Joseph the Seer! I'll sing of the Prophet ever dear, His equal now cannot be found, By searching the wide world around.

The General Authorities of the Church were presented by Apostle Franklin D. Richards, to be voted upon by the Conference, as follows:

Wilford Woodruff as President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, as one of the Twelve Apostles, and of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Council of the Twelve Apostles: Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Joseph F. Smith, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John H. Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant and John W. Taylor.

Counselors of the Twelve Apostles: John W. Young and Daniel H. Wells.

The Twelve Apostles as the Presiding Council and Authority of the Church, and, with their Counselors, as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch to the Church: John Smith.

First Seven Presidents of the Seventies: Henry Herriman, Morace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates, Abram H. Cannon, Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted and John Morgan.

Wm. B. Preston as Presiding Bishop, with Robt. T. Burton as his First and John R. Winder as his Second Counselor.

Wilford Woodruff as Church Historian and General Church Recorder, with Franklin D. Richards as assistant.

Truman O. Angell, General Church Architect, and W. H. Folsom, assistant.

Clerk of Conference: John Nicholson.

Church Reporters: John Irvine and Geo. F. Gibbs.

The following were also presented as the general officers of the Ladies' Relief Society organization: President, Eliza R. Snow Smith; First Counselor, Zina D. H. Young; Secretary, Sarah M. Kimball; Assistant Secretary, Romania B. Pratt; Treasurer, M. Isabella Horne.

Brother Richards said he had not before him the names of the officers of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations and therefore could not present them. He, however, presented the following as the superintendency of the Mutual Improvement organizations: Wilford Woodruff, Joseph F. Smith and Moses Thatcher.

The vote to sustain the authorities was unanimous.

ELDER JOHN T. CAINE

addressed the congregation. He had rejoiced in the instructions received during Conference, and was glad that it had convened in Salt Lake City, as there were greater facilities here for the purpose than elsewhere. The work we are engaged in is pressing onward. Although we have been told what would be our experiences in the development of the Church, we could not realize their character until they were upon us. The object for which we gathered should always be kept before us. It was not to better our temporal condition, but to obtain our salvation. Also to prepare a people for the coming of the Savior when He shall appear. The world have formed mistaken opinions regarding this work and its object. They do not understand it to be the revelation of the Gospel of Salvation. Much prejudice exists regarding the Latter-day Saints for this reason. A certain class of men, on account of their ulterior notions, have purposely misrepresented this community. One of those errors is that there exists in Utah a union of Church and State; the leaders have established a polity outside the genius of the government of the United States. This is a grave mistake. The Saints came here as a religious community, led by their spiritual leaders. The latter had, of necessity, in the first settlement of these valleys, also to advise and instruct the people in relation to temporal matters. The exigencies demanded this. The people needed instruction upon the subject of sustaining themselves physically as well as otherwise. The chief men had shown their ability in that direction in guiding them to this place. This is all there is in the idea of Church and State. And even if a man hold an ecclesiastical office and an office in the State as well, it does not follow that there is an amalgamation of the two branches. When they have been selected for those political positions it was because of their fitness and the confidence the people repose in them. This community is not alone in this regard. Because a man becomes a Methodist, a Catholic, or any other kind of religionist, he does not relinquish any of his rights as a citizen of this republic. He still has a right to use his influence in favor of sound politics as well as in religious matters. There never has been a disposition to establish a union of church and state. One of the first leading acts of the people who came here and pioneered the settlement of this great region was to call a convention, send delegates to Washington, the seat of the general government and ask admission into the Union as a state. All the people have ever found fault with here has been the character of the laws passed applicable to them and to the manner in which they have been frequently

administered. This has been caused by a belief that they were not compatible with the fundamental principles and institutions of our country. There is no disloyalty in protests of that character. The people who have come here from distant lands have not continued their allegiance to the countries of their nativity. They have identified themselves with this Republic by securing citizenship in it.

This is essentially a democratic community. It may be said you vote all one way. Well, if the people wish to vote one way they have a right to. They have a right to vote for their friends in preference to their enemies. Although we meet with men who administer the laws, yet we love and cling to the principles of this great government, because in them there is liberty. They inculcate the right of local self-government and we must cling to them.

The speaker said he embraced the gospel forty years ago. He had never seen any reason to regret the step he then took. The principles he accepted had initiated him into the Church of Christ. He hoped to continue to adhere to them. He was grateful for the faith and confidence of the people, and felt that he had been sustained by them in the trying position he had occupied, and hoped to still be worthy of such support.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

read the 11th verse of the 3rd, and 10th verse of the 4th chapter of Exodus. Asked an interest in the faith and prayers of the Saints. When first called to do that which the Lord required of him, Moses felt his weakness and dependence upon the Lord, and therefore asked, "Who am I that I should be called to do this mighty work?" He felt that it was a labor that he was not equal to, and he besought the Lord to call some other person. One of his pleas was that he was not eloquent, but slow of speech. So it was with the Elders in this day when called to go as missionaries to the various nations. They felt their inability. In looking at what has been accomplished in the valleys of the mountains as well as by the Elders abroad, one must acknowledge that God had assisted his humble followers in their efforts. The Elders as a rule were lacking in scholastic education, but the Lord had made up unto them by the outpouring of His Spirit what they were deficient in that respect. Jeremiah felt likewise humble and inadequate when he was called of the Lord; but he was told that the Lord had known him before he was formed in mortality and had ordained him to be a prophet unto the nations. So it was with Enoch. He became great, but when he was called to be a prophet he felt like a child. The Lord's plans and doings were very different from those of man. Paul said the Lord had called the weak and foolish things of the world in his day to confound the wise and the mighty. Then, as in the days of Moses and other prophets, the glory and honor of what was accomplished had to be accorded to the Lord, for the instruments chosen could not claim the credit themselves. Looking at the condition of the Latter-day Saints today, comfortable as they were in the possession of this world's goods, it was also apparent that the credit for the marvelous change which had come over them since the Gospel found them in poverty scattered throughout the world, was due to the Lord only.

The hopes of the Saints had been extended immeasurably by the light of the Gospel. They know that when they depart this life, if faithful here to what the Lord has revealed to them, their salvation was secure. The Lord was entitled to the credit of this, for this blessing had not come from man. When Elders asked in arising to speak, an interest in the faith and prayers of their hearers, it was not as a matter of form, but from a sense of their weakness and dependence.

The speaker expressed his pleasure with what had been said and done during the Conference thus far. Was assured that the Saints were advancing and becoming more fully established in the principles of life and glory. While there was still much room for improvement it was apparent that advancement had been made. Exhorted the Saints to try and be more faithful, to do unto others as they would have others do unto them. The Saints were the friends of the Lord. They must learn to extend their charity to all mankind. As Brother Caine had said, God demanded of the Saints that they labor in the interest of all mankind. The examples of Joseph of old and the Prophet Daniel illustrated how the Lord blessed those who were true to principle and would do right under all circumstances. They labored for the good of the nation in which they lived. As their influence was finally increased with the people among whom they dwell as well as with God by their fidelity and disinterestedness, so would that of the Saints. The case of Jonah going to Nineveh and proclaiming the destruction decreed by the Almighty and the result of the repentance of the people, also conveyed a valuable lesson to the Saints. He hoped it might be so with this generation, to whom warning voices of the Saints had extended. He invoked the blessing of the Lord upon the assembly.

The choir sang the anthem—

The Lord will bring again Zion. Benediction by Elder Horace S. Eldredge.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At a quarter before 2 o'clock Presi-

dent Wilford Woodruff entered the building, accompanied by Apostles Lorenzo Snow and Franklin D. Richards, and Elder George Reynolds. Brother Woodruff entered the upper stand and facing the immense throng, waved his hand. The people returned the salute by waving of hands and handkerchiefs. Then arose a murmur of applause, which was increasing to a veritable shout of welcome when the venerable Apostle signified his desire, by raising his hand, that the expression of feeling be suppressed, and it subsided.

At 2 p. m. the meeting was called to order and the choir sang:

Come, thou glorious day of promise, Come and spread thy cheerful ray, When the scattered sheep of Israel, Shall no longer go astray; When hosannas, With united voice they'll cry.

Prayer was offered by Apostle John W. Taylor.

Singing: How sweet communion is on earth With those who've realized the birth Of water, who the Spirit's powers Receive, in genial, quick'ning showers.

The sacrament was administered under the direction of the Bishopric of the Twelfth Ward, Salt Lake City.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

delivered the following discourse:

My brethren and sisters and friends: By way of introduction I desire to say that I feel to thank God and all my friends for the blessing I enjoy at this time—for the privilege, once more, of entering this Tabernacle and beholding the faces of the Latter-day Saints. And I feel a good deal as Mark Antony did when he went to bury Cæsar. "I come to bury Cæsar," said he, "not to praise him." I come to see the Latter-day Saints, but not to preach to them. You have plenty of Apostles and Elders to preach the word of the Lord unto you. But I have long desired to again enter this Tabernacle of the Lord and see the Latter-day Saints. It has been some three years, I think, since I have met with the Saints of God in this house; and I will tell you how I felt about coming to Conference. I felt that it would not be doing our great and mighty nation any harm—a nation of sixty millions of people—for two or three old men, seventy-five or eighty years of age, to come into this Tabernacle and look at the Latter-day Saints, and at the faces of their wives and children. I do not know that I have a wife or child here. If I have they will be able to see how old I have grown since we last met. Some of us have tried to keep the law to such an extent that we have almost forgotten how our wives and children look. I feel, however, to say, God bless the Marshal and officers of the government as far as they can exercise mercy, charity and humanity toward the Latter-day Saints in fulfilling their duty as officers of the government. I feel thankful to-day for this privilege, and I feel at peace with all mankind. I am at peace with all my friends. As to my enemies, I do not know that I have any. If I have, I hope that we may be at peace upon the principles of the Gospel of Christ, of righteousness and of truth.

Now, with regard to preaching to you, my brethren and sisters, that is a subject I have thought very little about. I have preached this Gospel for some fifty-four years, and have learned by experience a great while ago that it is no use for an Elder in Israel to decide in his mind what he is going to say to the Saints of God. This is the way I feel to-day. And I will say this, that there are times in a man's life when he cannot help reflecting upon the past. That is my condition to-day. Since I have entered this Tabernacle, and looked upon this congregation, my mind has reverted to my life from the time I became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and this engenders in my bosom some very solemn reflections. Fifty-four years ago this last spring I traveled a thousand miles with the Prophet Joseph, and his brother Hyrum, Brothers Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, George A. Smith, and a great many other men—some 205 in all—mostly Elders in Israel—for the redemption of our brethren—to assist them in the midst of persecution. Our Prophets and Patriarchs, many of them, have passed away. They are on the other side of the veil. Since we came into these valleys forty years ago the twenty-fourth of last July—I drove President Young into this valley in my carriage, and he was sick at the time—eleven of the Apostles have passed away. They are in the spirit world mingling with the Gods, where they can plead for their brethren. These are reflections that rest upon my mind as I occupy this stand where I have met day after day and year after year with these noble men. President John Taylor, who was our last President and Apostle has also taken his departure. The last time I was in this house I met here with him. His work is finished. He has gone into the spirit world, where we shall all go very soon. Sometimes, in my reflections, I feel somewhat lonesome when I think these matters over. I feel as if I had lived two or three generations since the days of Kirtland and Nauvoo, or since the establishment of this Church and Kingdom with which I have been associated for so many years. I realize myself that I shall not dwell a great while upon the earth. I do not expect to dwell a great while longer

with the Latter-day Saints. I have lived to the age of four score years, and when I contemplate the multitude that has passed away since we entered these valleys of the mountains, I can only expect to take my turn with the rest. But I will say this. I rejoice in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; I rejoice in the work of God; I rejoice in the principles of eternal life, light and truth, which have been revealed to the Latter-day Saints.

We have been called as a people to pass through a great deal of affliction in our day and time. But this eternal truth remains on earth and in heaven—that the God of Israel has set His hand to establish His Church and Kingdom upon the earth, and to fulfil the revelations contained within the Holy Bible, the Old and New Testament, as well as other records which have been given concerning the last dispensation and fullness of times.

We are all of us, brethren and sisters, dependent upon God our Heavenly Father for all our blessings, both temporal and spiritual. Indeed, while I contemplate our progress, our advancement, and the signs of the times in which we live, I feel that we, as Latter-day Saints, should try to fully realize and comprehend our responsibility before God, before each other, before the heavens, and before the earth.

I have for a long time had a desire to mingle with the Latter-day Saints, and to take part in their institutions—the Sabbath schools, the Mutual Improvement Associations, and with the various organizations of the Church. But for several years I have been laboring in other portions of the country, and have been deprived of the privilege of meeting with the Saints so far as this portion of the Territory is concerned.

I have desired from my youth up to become acquainted with the truth as contained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From my youth up I have had a desire to live and find the people of God on the earth. I have lived to see that day. I have lived to see Prophets, Apostles and inspired men. I have associated with them for many years of my life. This has been a great pleasure to me, and a great satisfaction to my own spirit.

And I desire to say to the Latter-day Saints, that we should remember that we are sent here on a mission; that we have been born in the flesh in this last dispensation of the fullness of times. We have been called to labor in the vineyard of the Lord, called to preach the Gospel, called to warn the nations of the earth, and many of them have been warned. We have traveled by land and by sea; have visited many foreign nations, also almost every part of our own nation, and some of us are drawing our missions to a close.

I have a desire that the Latter-day Saints should try to live their religion, and endeavor to do what is right; that they should have faith in God, and in the revelations of God, and in the principles which have been revealed to the Saints for the salvation of the human family.

We have a great many organizations in the Church and Kingdom of God, and have had almost from the beginning. They are so organized that all men and women, whether young or old, have a place of usefulness. We should try to improve our time, our talents and our opportunities while we are here upon the earth. I realize that this world is not our abiding place. We have an evidence of this every day of our lives. We are called to bury our Prophets, Apostles, Elders, fathers, mothers, wives and children, all of which shows us that we have no lease of life. We should therefore improve our time to-day.

I have felt to give the Latter-day Saints my faith and prayers in all their labors and exertions to build up the kingdom of God. I try to build it up to the best of my ability in accordance with the light and truth and knowledge which God has given me.

This is the first time that I have endeavored to speak in public for a good while. I have not been laboring in the midst of congregations like this. I have just passed through a week of sickness, which laid me prostrate. I feel the effects of it in my lungs, and in my system, yet I feel all right in my spirit. I felt as though I desired to look upon the faces of the Latter-day Saints, and hear the testimonies of my brethren. They have heard my testimony in years past.

I have the same testimony to bear to-day. I hear record before God, angels and men, that the fullness of the everlasting Gospel has been revealed in these last days through the Prophets of God; and that Joseph Smith was raised up by the power of God as a Prophet, Seer and Revelator. He laid the foundation of this Church and Kingdom in its perfection, as it is at the present time. He brought forth the record as contained in the Book of Mormon, in fulfillment of the predictions of the Prophets of God; also the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which contains those grand and solemn revelations, and those principles of eternal truth, so precious to the Latter-day Saints. These things are true. We should study them; lay them up in our hearts, and practice them in our lives. This is the kingdom of God, and the Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord Almighty has set His hand to carry out the great programme of the last dispensation and fullness of times. If this had not been true Utah to-day would have been in all probability a desert as we found it in 1847, when first we came here. God has been watching over this

people, and will continue to, so long as we continue to do our duty. So long as we humble ourselves before the Lord, so long as we keep His commandments, so long will the hand of God be over the Latter-day Saints; Zion will arise; Zion will be clothed upon with the power of God. The Lord is watching over her; the heavens have been from the beginning. We have the blessings of God with us. They manifest in our temporal and spiritual affairs.

As I said in the beginning of my remarks, I realize that the voices of those we were accustomed to hear in the past are hushed in death. We shall hear them no more. The rest of us will follow in their train. We shall all pass away in our time, and have a long eternity before us in the world to come. Those that have passed away have closed their eyes here and are laboring to-day on the other side of the veil.

You have had laid before you, during this Conference, some things pertaining to the redemption of the souls of temples. These, brethren and sisters, are important works. These are works which we do for others, they can not do for themselves. It is what Jesus Christ did when He laid down His life for our redemption, because we could not redeem ourselves. We have fathers and mothers and kindred in the spirit world, and we have a work to perform in their behalf. As an individual I have had great interest in this work of redeeming the dead, and so have my brethren and sisters. This is a labor we must continue as far as we have opportunity. This principle was taught by Apostle Paul. He asks, "If the dead rise not at all, why are they buried for the dead?" This is a work that rests upon the Latter-day Saints.

Do what you can in this respect so that when you pass to the other side of the veil your fathers, mothers, relatives and friends will bless you for what you have done and inasmuch as you have been instruments in the hands of God in securing their redemption you will be recognized as Saviors upon Zion in fulfillment of prophecy.

I hope that our institutions—that have been referred to in the Epistle—the Relief Societies, Schools, Mutual Improvement Associations, etc., will continue in good. They have done a great deal of good, and still have the power to do more. These institutions belong to the organizations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The brethren and sisters should continue to labor in them in behalf of the rising generation of this people. Mutual Improvement Associations are good schools in which to prepare our young men for the vineyard of Christ. So also are the various rooms of the Priesthood, and we must all labor to the best of our ability to fulfill the duties devolving upon us.

I feel the effect of my sickness upon my lungs, and do not think necessary to continue my remarks. I am glad to see you, and say God bless you, and I pray that God may grant His Spirit upon you, that we may glorify our calling, do our duty, keep the commandments of God, so that we may get through our work we are satisfied with our history, and feel to bless this congregation as far as I have the privilege to bless, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Latter-day Saints have been trying to do their duty, but there is room for all to prove; let us walk uprightly and strive for the truth, and for the assistance of Almighty God to assist us in our endeavor to accomplish. I pray Heavenly Father to uphold and sustain you, to bless you and your wives, to bless you as husbands, wives and children and as Latter-day Saints, or any other capacity in which we are called to act. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

APOSTLE H. J. GRANT

said it was very gratifying to hear many of the Latter-day Saints joined beyond his powers of expression to hear the voice of President Woodruff. While he was but a young man had not had the privilege of looking upon the face of his own father, seeing many others of the noble leaders of the Saints, he rejoiced in the heritage which they had left their testimony of the truth, and pray always for the preservation of such men. The feeling of this life and the honors that strive for perish, but the Gospel will live. The Saints had received the Gospel of Christ, but if they did not live up to its light, great would be their condemnation. If they were virtuous, sober and industrious, were not living up to the light of the Gospel. Besought the Saints to live that the light of the Spirit should be their constant companion, and that no labor that the Saints engage in would bring the peace and happiness as keep the commandments of the Almighty.

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON

was next called. He said he was expected to this position was a great gratification expressed in relation to the gratification afforded to us in being the face and listening to the voice of our venerable President. It is not proper for me, under the circumstances, to occupy your attention for any length of time. It is to be the desire that