

large is crying hard times, we know very little about it. We have none, neither Mormon nor Gentile, that lack the necessities of life. Most all live in their own homes, milk their own cows, drive their own teams, and till their own farms. When I hear our elder brethren talk and preach about the great sacrifices they made in leaving homes (which they never owned), kindred and friends, and all that was near and dear to them, to come to Zion, I am led to think, how long would they have to live in the Old World before they could say as they do here, this is my home, farm, cows, horses, etc.

On Saturday last, the 21st, Randolph put on its holiday attire, an invitation having been sent to our sister town, Woodruff, to come in a body and spend the day with us, to partake of our hospitality, that we might meet and mingle together, and so strengthen the bond of brotherly love and friendship—the Woodruff people to furnish one-half of the program to be given in the evening. Committees were appointed, and when I say that the sisters of the Relief Society and Young Ladies' association were the committee on picnic and refreshments, you will know that that part of the program was a success—I never knew the sisters to fail. The reception committee, accompanied by Bishop McKinnon and our brass band, met the 25 vehicles loaded with the good people of Woodruff at the south side of town. As they approached the band struck up, which soon brought the train to a stand. Our Bishop gave a short address of welcome, when all marched to the ward hall to the music of the brass band.

Teams all taken care of and everybody seated, the exercises commenced. Prayer was offered by W. H. Lee; singing by our choir (by the way, we have some of the best and sweetest singers in the Stake, Sister Comfort Pead being the Agnes Olsen of the Bear Lake Stake); five minute speeches were next in order—Bishops J. M. Baxter and McKinnon, Bros. Charles Dean Sr., A. C. Call, W. H. Lee, E. Lee, William Rex, J. C. Gray all answering promptly to the call. The scene changes, the curtain rises, when out come dozens of young men and women each carrying a tray loaded high with ham sandwiches, pie, cake, and in fact everything good to eat; more young men pop on the scene, dispensers of the liquid part of the feast, pure cold water. The hour spent in eating and drinking was one of joy, mirth and merriment, everybody seemed to want to eat, laugh and talk at the same time, and they all appeared to do it. After picnic came more speeches, singing and band music, when recess was taken until 7:30 p. m. The 150 or more guests from Woodruff were taken to our homes, where supper was provided, including tea, but I am happy to say that not many of the Latter-day Saints drink tea.

At 7:30 the evening exercises commenced: songs, duets, music, recitations, etc., were rendered by members from each ward or town, when up goes the curtain again, and the waiters appear with the same trays, but this time loaded up with oranges, candy and nuts, plenty for everybody and the remnants of the loaves and fishes put away for the younger children, those

under fourteen not being allowed to join with the older people.

Monday following was their day, and none over fourteen years allowed to join them in their dance and picnic except the committee. The youngsters met 300 strong. There were plenty of eatables and dancing for all. After dismissal each went home with a paper bag of nuts and candy, as happy and bright a lot of children as ever met together.

I will close by saying, as we always say when returning home from Conference, it was the very best we ever attended. Ecclesiastically we are in good working order. The health of the people is very good. Success to our paper, the DESERET NEWS.

Yours very truly, J. S.

BOX ELDER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Box Elder Stake was held in Brigham City, April 22nd and 23rd, 1894.

There were present on the stand President Lorenzo Snow and Elder F. M. Lyman, of the Council of the Apostles, Elder Seymour B. Young, of the Presidency of the Seventies, the Presidency of the Stake, the members of the High Council, and the bishops of the various wards.

After singing and prayer, Elder Rudger Clawson reported that the Stake Presidency always visited all the wards in the Stake, except the three outlying wards, between the quarterly conferences, to become familiar with the interests of the Stake. Had visited numerous Sunday schools, and Young Men's and Young Ladies' associations and had noticed many improvements after the grading of the schools and the introduction of the Manual and Guide in the associations. Sunday school and association work has been systematized and advancement has been the result. Those who have children should give much attention to their training and education. Care should be taken to guard against bad habits. Had also visited several quorums of the Priesthood and had found that their attendance was not as it should be; this was perhaps due to a lack of understanding of the obligation the members had taken upon themselves. He gave instructions to the Bishops and Teachers as to the manner in which they should conduct their labors to secure the utmost harmony in the wards.

Elder Seymour B. Young said he often asked himself how he realized the privileges and blessings placed within his reach, and if he came short of the blessings promised, who was to blame? The arm of the Lord has not been shortened nor have His promises failed. He had faith in the promises of God and in the development of the conditions to bring about Zion. Referred to the building of Temples from the early organization of the Church and to the great works therein performed, in turning the hearts of the children to their fathers and the hearts of the fathers to their children.

The general authorities of the Church and the authorities of the Box Elder Stake were presented and sustained by the unanimous vote of the conference. The statistical report for

the three months ending Dec. 31st, 1893, was also read.

Elder F. M. Lyman spoke very extensively on Church discipline and how the officers of the Church, Stakes and wards should be voted for and sustained. All the Church officers should be presented at all conferences of the people in order that every member of the Church may have an opportunity of voting for or against them.

The Twelve Apostles are going to continue, for the authority of God will not be taken from the earth, but the keys and authority will continue with the Twelve. Everything that is done by the authorities should be done in a kind and brotherly manner. No person should be ordained to an office in the Church until he has first been presented before the branch or ward where he belongs, and if he be accepted by the people he may be ordained. Records of all proceedings in each ward should be kept and the Bishops should be familiar with all blessings, baptisms and ordinations in the respective wards. Every Bishop should also keep a history of his ward, showing the doctrines taught in each meeting and of the various administrations and ordinations that take place.

APRIL 23—10 A.M.

After the usual opening of the services President Lorenzo Snow said that obedience referred not only to this life but also to the life hereafter. More light gives us knowledge of our failures and mistakes in the past. Mistakes in our daily life cannot be avoided. God so understands it and is willing to forgive; The Saints feel that as their light increases, their failings appear plainer to them; instead of feeling discouraged they should take courage, profit by the lessons and improve their lives. Referred very extensively to temple work and the principle of adoption. There are about seventy persons laboring in the Salt Lake Temple every day, free of charge. Every one should see that his temple work is done for the benefit of the living and the dead. If the Saints are faithful the desires of their hearts will be fulfilled.

The choir sang the anthem, "Come, listen to a trumpet's voice."

Elder Seymour B. Young referred to the testimony of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon and bore his testimony to the divinity of that work. These witnesses denied the Prophet Joseph Smith and apostatized from the true faith. It could not be otherwise, as these men chose the road of apostasy and God could not interfere with their agency. The speaker saw Oliver Cowdery in Iowa in 1848, and he was true to his testimony to the Book of Mormon; so also was the testimony of Martin Harris ever the same although he also fell from grace. Spoke of the translation of the book and the attacks made by reverend gentlemen who endeavored to show that such a book could not have come forth in the manner in which it did.

2 p.m.—Elders A. Madison and Chas. Kelly, of the Stake presidency, spoke of the Primary and other associations of the Stake and of the feeling of the people in general; also of the necessity of instructing our children in the principles of the Gospel before they are eight years old in order that they