

the old law wherever its provisions did not co-flict with the new policy adopted, and in doing so, it may have been that the words "the treasurer" crept in, inadvertently.

I am of opinion, considering the whole law upon this subject together, that it was the intention of the Legislature that county treasurers should perform all the duties respecting the collection and disbursement of the State and county school funds under the compensation provided, and that no extra charge should be made against the said funds for this purpose prior to their apportionment by the county superintendent.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,

A. C. BISHOP,
Attorney General.

CHURCH AND STATE.

STERLING, Sanpete County,
January 19, 1897.

As the United States of America is a country having a Republican form of government, entitled to the blessings of free speech, free thought, and free press; and as my mind is considerably hampered and wrought by the situation of affairs in our new State, I beg leave to express some of my thoughts and feelings through the medium of that organ, which by persisting from one year to another, I have learned never gives an opinion or answers a question without due consideration, THE DESERET NEWS.

Firstly, relating to the counsel or suggestions from the First Presidency of the Church, commonly called the "manifesto," I would draw a comparison. Suppose I with others should form a company or firm whose purpose would be for accomplishing a certain end or object and for the accomplishing of which we of the said company were ready and willing to pledge our lives and most sacred honor, it being a matter of conscience. And again, suppose one of our company should incidentally or otherwise be offered a lucrative and honorable situation on the outside of our company.

Would it not be reprehensible, yea, unjust and unbusiness-like, in said member to walk out of our firm and accept the proffered bonanza without first counseling with the other members of the firm and thus ascertain whether or not such acceptance would be detrimental or disastrous to the interests of our company? It appears to me that such a member, under such circumstances, would be promptly suspended, if not entirely dismissed from all claims upon the company, i. e., paid off and discharged. Yet the above figure or drawn comparison is scarcely to be compared to a quorum of men who have covenanted to give their time and best talents to the sacred cause of building up the kingdom of God as have the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Now my dear brethren of the News I am far from a desire to prevaricate or extenuate, as the subject I am here discussing is one nearest my heart. I am constrained to add that I absolutely believe that some of our leading Democrats and news organs would never have grasped a certain man and held him up as a sweet morsel and the

coming Democrat had the said man not crossed swords with his brethren and assumed a platform which threatens the doctrines and principles of a church. For well they know what church is meant. But it seems to be intuitive in some men and some papers to be eternally on the watch for a club with which to attack the church. As to the "manifesto," some of our eastern editors have expressed the opinion that it was a move both wise and politic, saying that others of the East would do well to make a similar move as it would have a tendency to keep church meddlers out of state affairs.

I will close this already lengthy epistle or showing or whatever name best suits it by saying that I further opine that had the First Presidency and Twelve, and some others of our leading men, came out boldly at the division on party lines and announced themselves ready to take office or hold office in any of the vacant places to be filled, there would have arisen a hub and cry of Church dictating State by the same element that are this day making all the noise they can under the present uncalled-for circumstances.

With a warning to the Latter-day Saints to beware how they side with the few who are raising their voices against the Lord's anointed, I herewith subscribe myself.

B. T. KENNER, M. D.

WEBER STAKE CONFERENCE.

OGDEN CITY, Utah, Jan. 19, 1897.—The quarterly conference of the Weber Stake convened in the reconstructed Tabernacle, Ogden City, on Sunday morning, January 17, 1897. Before the time for meeting arrived the beautiful edifice was filled to its utmost capacity with Latter-day Saints from the several wards in the Stake. On the stand were President George Q. Cannon of the First Presidency; Elder F. D. Richards of the Twelve Apostles; Elder A. O. Woodruff of Salt Lake; the Presidency of the Stake; members of the High Council; bishops and many other leading Elders of the Stake.

The new organ was in position, beautifully draped, and over which was placed a magnificent star, inside of which was a number of incandescent lights, which gave to it a brilliant effect when illuminated.

After the opening exercises President L. W. Burkhoff reported the condition of the Stake which he said was good, generally. With few exceptions the Priesthood of the wards was laboring for the good of the wards. For some time past the people had not been able to hold meetings in this Tabernacle, but he thought that in a short time the work of the re-construction would be complete. The presidency of the Stake is in perfect union, and the members of the High Council are in full harmony with the presidency. The Bishops are laboring to strengthen the faith of the members of their several wards.

Elder Brigham Young addressed the meeting. He was delighted to meet the Saints here in this delightful building. He was much pleased with the report of the condition of the Weber Stake. He contrasted the present condition of Ogden with the

condition it was in when he first visited this section of country in 1849, when there was not a house to be seen here only one hut containing a white man and two equines. The land looked barren and forbidding, and it was said that not a spear of wheat nor ear of corn could be raised here. Look at the changed conditions today and see what God has done for the people. He has blessed them with abundance of good things. He then spoke of the proper course to pursue to obtain a continuation of the spirit and blessings of God.

President George Q. Cannon was the next speaker. He spoke of prophecies uttered by the servants of the Lord in relation to the prosperity of the Saints and noted their fulfillment.

At the afternoon meeting President George Q. Cannon again addressed the congregation, taking for his text part of the eighth chapter, First Nephi—concerning Lehi's vision.

At the evening meeting another vast congregation assembled. Elder A. O. Woodruff addressed the congregation on the first principles of the Gospel. He related some interesting incidents of his experience while on a mission to Europe.

Elder B. Young then gave a volume of rich instruction on subjects specially suited to the occasion and circumstances of the people.

At 10 a. m. on Monday the Saints again assembled.

Superintendent R. Ballantyne reported the condition of the Sunday schools of the Stake. There were 27 schools in the Stake; there was an enrollment of between 5,000 and 6,000; nearly 600 officers and teachers. There is an efficient corps of teachers well qualified to instruct the pupils in the various departments. The work is executed systematically, and the Sunday school work is progressing fairly well.

Elder Angus T. Wright reported the condition of Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake. There are twenty-four associations. Good order is preserved, the attendance though fair, is not quite as good as is desirable. The members follow a systematic course of manual instruction which is very beneficial. On the whole the associations are in fairly good condition.

President George Q. Cannon said the reports were exceedingly interesting. He then spoke at length of the importance of the Sunday schools and the Y. M. M. I. A., and the duty of the Saints to encourage and sustain them. He gave a great deal of valuable instruction to parents in relation to training children.

In the afternoon Elder B. Young addressed the meeting. He spoke of the light and intelligence which our heavenly Father has revealed to His people through obedience to the Gospel.

Prest. Geo. Q. Cannon then read part of the 7th chapter of Matthew, and imparted much excellent instruction, encouraging the Saints to cling to the truth and serve God.

After benediction by Elder B. Young the meeting adjourned till 7 p. m., at which hour the building was again crowded to its utmost.

President Cannon then read from the 76th section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, from which he