DESERET EVENING NEWS.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1894.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Of the Salt Lake Stake, Held Sunday, December 9th, 1894.

MORNING SESSION—10:30 O'CLOCK.

The city schools and all their respective ward assembly halls and wards in a body in the Tabernacle, and nearly filled the body of that vast assembly hall, presenting a very gladdening and inspiring sight. The schools of the Stake outside the city were represented by their superintendents and officers. There were present on the stand, Elder Heber J. Grant of the Apostles, Assistant Superintendents George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser, Stake Superintendents Thomas C. Griggs, R. S. Horne and W. C. Burton, and Sunday school missionaries.

The conference commenced with singing, "When the Day Light of Morning," from the Deseret Sunday School Song Book, by the entire assembly, led by Prof. E. Stephens and accompanied on the grand organ by Miss Kate Romney. Prayer was offered by Elder A. H. Cutler. The congregation sang, "We are Sowing, Daily Sowing," etc.

The roll of Sunday schools of the Stake, also of Stake officers and missionaries, was called by the secretary.

Superintendent Griggs stated that Sunday school conference was here held in nearly all the Stakes of Zion. The conference of this Stake had been deferred until the present to give the general Sunday school officers an opportunity to attend the conference of Utah Stake while the good weather lasted.

The Articles of Faith or the Latter-day Saints were repeated in concert by the combined schools under the direction of Superintendent R. S. Horne.

Lille Swift, Mamie Young and Pearl Ash, three little girls beautifully dressed in white, members of the Deaf Mute Sunday school, recited in unison in the deaf-mute sign language the song, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," while the words were sung by Miss Maude Pratt.

Supt. Griggs explained the connection with the Sabbath schools of the Stake was one for the deaf mutes who were attending the Deaf Mute Institute of the University. The Sabbath school was presided over by Bros. H. C. Farrell and Aaron Peck.

"Welcome, welcome, Sabbath morning!" was sung by the congregation.

Supt. George Goddard addressed the little children in his peculiarly attractive way, relating some little incidents of his childhood and sang "The Cold Water Song," in which the children joined heartily in the chorus. Brother Goddard closed by encouraging the children and teachers to observe the Word of Wisdom.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in the sign language by the Deaf Mute Sunday school scholars in a body, led by Miss Libbie DeLong, and the words uttered audibly by Instructor H. C. Farrell.

Asst. Gen. Supt. Karl G. Maeser said it was very pleasing to him to witness the exercises this morning. He never before had seen so many children gathered together at one time. The Sabbath school work was a great one; it is increasing in importance and growing in numbers year by year. The chief aim of the Sunday school teacher was to impart lessons and instruction to the youth that will lead them to seek and obtain a testimony for themselves of the work of God. Teachers should understand the lessons they wish to present to their classes by preparing themselves beforehand. It was not, however, our learning, but the influence of the Holy Spirit that made our labors effective for good. Teachers will realize at some future day the good they are doing in Sunday school. Their efforts will be "like bread cast upon the waters to return after many days."

Elder Heber J. Grant observed that the time was well spent, and invoked the blessings of God upon the children and teachers, that they may be instructed to be good, kind and do right always.

Supt. Goddard wished the children to remember this the first Sunday school conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion.

The congregation sang, "My country, 'tis of thee," etc.

Benediction was pronounced by Brother Joseph Rodgers.

Conference adjourned till 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent T. C. Griggs and the choir sang:

Hail, thou to us the foundation,
Thou and the Prophets.

Prayer was offered by Assistant Stake Superintendent R. S. Horne.

The choir sang a communion hymn (selected):

Behold the great Redeemer die,
A broken law to satisfy.

The sacrament was administered by the Bishops of the Nineteenth ward.

Stake Superintendent Griggs reported the number of the various schools of the Salt Lake Stake. There are at present sixty-two schools in the Stake, an increase of five during the year. There were at the last report over 11,000 children enrolled in the schools, who were being taught and instructed in the principles of Christ by nearly 1,100 teachers. The officers and teachers were warned and faithful in their efforts and the interest in the Sabbath school work was increasing in all directions. As an aid to the work in this Stake, a model Sunday school was recently organized in connection with the Salt Lake Stake academy, under the direction of Prof. Willard Done, which was made up principally of representatives from each of the Sunday schools of the Stake. The school was fully graded, and each department presided over by efficient instructors, the children being from the classes immediately being drawn from the two wards situated contiguous to the college buildings. It was desired that each school send three representatives to this school, and after leading a course in this normal school, it was expected that the representatives would give the schools the benefit of their experience. The speaker expressed the pleasure enjoyed in by some Sunday school workers in attending themselves from the regular Sunday meeting after they had finished their labors in the Sabbath school.

Asst. Gen'l Supt. Karl G. Maeser next addressed the conference. He stated that the Sunday School Union board held its regular meetings every Wednesday afternoon, at which meetings connected with the management and conduct of the various departments of the schools were earnestly canvassed and considered. At present, the organization of model Sunday schools, one in each stake, was being instituted for the purpose of harmonizing and simplifying the work done in all the schools in the Church, in this manner the best methods of work could be introduced in every school—large or small. Model Sunday schools were organized already in Weber, Utah and Salt Lake Stakes. The principal, teachers and heads of departments were urged to make occasional visits to their Stake model school, take notes of the work done there and endeavor to bring the work in their own classes in harmony with the work they observed in their visits to this model institution. In regard to the work of discipline in the Sabbath school, so important to the success of every school, it could not be maintained except upon the principle of example. The teacher could not exert good discipline unless he himself set the example of reverence, respect, order, worship, punctuality. The golden rule of teaching was that "no teacher could give that which he did not himself possess." The inference was that the teacher must first be what he desired the pupil to be. The speaker urged teachers to give particular attention and care to the neglected and "love-starved" children. They are the ones who should be favored in the class, and encouraged for all the arts of the teacher. The children that are loved, helped and encouraged at home, do not need the special efforts of the teacher; but the poor, the neglected and the unfortunate ones do need all the love and encouragement that the teacher can bestow.

The song, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," was beautifully and pathetically rendered in sign language, as in the morning session, by the little deaf-mutes, Misses Libbie Swift, Mamie Young and Pearl Ash, accompanied with the words beautifully sung by Miss Maude Pratt.

Asst. Gen. Supt. Goddard stated that this completes the holding of Sunday school conferences in the thirty-four Stakes of Zion. These conferences were held for the purpose of encouraging the workers in this institution, and creating greater interest in the minds of the people. The Sunday school was the largest organization in the Church, and was growing in numbers and importance every year. In 1872 the Sunday school enrollment was 55,125; in 1893 it had increased to 83,651—an increase of 27,527 in twelve years. The speaker urged the importance of observing the Word of Wisdom; if the vast Sunday school population would keep and observe this, the moral reformation that would result in a few years could not be estimated. In the conducting and government of Sunday schools, nothing conduced more to the order and discipline of the school than punctuality.

Elder Heber J. Grant, of the Sunday school board, was the next speaker. As the Sunday school was the largest institution of the Church, its success depended upon the officers and teachers possessing and adopting the Spirit of the Lord, and teaching under its influence. The instruction of the youth of Zion was of far more importance and more far-reaching in its effects than the fulfilling of a foreign mission. No one could be engaged in a greater work—either at home or abroad; and it should be the ambition of every worker in our schools to become an efficient, interesting teacher, so that he or she could have influence in shaping the lives and character of the youth of Zion.

The choir sang the anthem:

Jesus's side, with one accord,
Raise a song of joy.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder C. W. Penrose.

EVENING SESSION—7 O'CLOCK.

Choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Opening prayer was offered by Asst. Stake Superintendent Willard C. Burton.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

Elder Willard Done, of the Latter-day Saints College, was the first speaker. He touch upon the work so long done in the model Sunday school, recently organized in connection with the college. Nearly all the schools of this Stake, and one or two outside, had sent representatives to receive special training and instruction in department work and class teaching. The representatives are shown the methods of teaching adopted by successful and professional teachers, and are expected to take notes, ask questions, offer suggestions and otherwise qualify themselves to do similar work in their own schools. After the session of the normal, a normal teachers' class or session is held for thirty minutes, where more direct and technical instruction is given, in order that the visiting representatives may become familiar with the aim and purpose of the school and the principles governing the work of the institution. As superintendent of the model school the speaker extended an invitation to all interested in Sunday school work to visit the school and become acquainted with its work and operation, and make its facilities for bettering the condition of all the schools in this Stake through means of intelligent representatives.

The secretary then presented to the conference the general officers of the Sunday schools, and they were unanimously sustained by vote of the conference as follows:

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

George Q. Cannon, as general superintendent of the Sunday schools of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world; George Goddard as first and Dr. Karl G. Maeser as second assistant superintendent of Sunday schools in all the world.

Members of the General Sunday School Union board: George Q. Cannon, George Goddard, Dr. Karl G. Maeser, George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, Thomas C. Griggs, Joseph W. Summerhays, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman, Heber J. Grant and John C. Cutler. As general secretary, John M. Whitaker; as general treasurer, George Reynolds.

STAKE OFFICERS.

The following officers and missionaries of the Salt Lake Stake Sunday School Union:

Thos. C. Griggs, superintendent; Richard S. Horne and W. C. Burton, assistant superintendents; Joseph B. Parry, secretary; E. F. Parry, assistant secretary and treasurer; L. W. Roberts, A. S. Geddes, Miles A. Romney, Wm. Bradford, Wm. M. Stewart, Chas. M. Cannon, W. H. Chamberlin, A. W. Brown, B. A. Cox, B. W. Ashton, John M. Whitaker, A. S. Ryer, G. M. Musser, Frank Y. Taylor, Ezra Taylor, W. T. Cannon, Clarence Taylor.

Elder Angus M. Cannon followed in an excellent address directed to teachers and parents. The speaker was a member of the first Sunday school organized in the Territory, by R. M. Ballantyne, in 1851, in the Fourteenth ward at this city. He urged the importance of teaching by example; parents and teachers should be what they profess to be, and what they desire their children to become. Early impressions were lasting, and it was very important that those impressions be good ones. Teachers were urged to love their children, and show their love and care for them by manifesting an interest in their welfare.

Elder George Goddard reminded the superintendents that they should see that the sacrament was administered regularly in their schools; to get every young member of the Church to become identified with the Sabbath school, and visit occasionally each every family in the ward and make the acquaintance of every child therein. Those who neglect this ceremony had forfeited their attendance more than fifty per cent. The Articles of Faith of our religion should be familiarized by the children of the Sabbath schools, and often repeated. These exercises would be need anxiously, but a more propitious season would be chosen next year. The speaker closed by singing "Hold the Fort."

Elder K. G. Maeser was the next speaker. In the exercise of their calling as teachers, the speaker said, much of the power and spirit of the Lord was required. While individuality in teaching was beneficial, yet the work of each teacher should harmonize, and be consistent with and have a proper bearing upon and relation to the work done by his co-laborers. The faculty of each school should work harmoniously to carry out the plan laid out by the general board, or by the superintendent of the school. Teachers' meetings should be frequently held, and methods and plans for the accomplishment of certain results should be discussed and arranged, and all should work harmoniously in their departments to carry out a united purpose. Teachers should ever be sent in short new methods and means for the accomplishing of their work. The teacher that is not himself learning is a fossil, and should no longer attempt to teach. The true teacher should be a live student, ever desiring new ideas, and who uses the different steps of his organ to accomplish different effects, but would not dream of using one tone or one set of steps every time he performed. Every school should have a plan or system to work to, and if fully sufficient adhered to, success will follow. Teachers have no right to set up their own opinions against the plan or method adopted by the school. The first law of the Gospel—obedience—should be early learned by the children; if the exercises the superintendents should not be master in their schools but should kindly lead, and set their contrasts and leaders to follow. Both the superintendents and the teachers should be able to say "Follow as I do and say," consistently. Prayer was a great aid to the work of Sunday school instruction; and no teacher should come before his class unless well fortified by prayer to the throne of grace for aid and assistance; if they do this they will not appear in vain, however difficult the labor may be.

Elder Heber J. Grant regretted that so few parents were present at the morning session of this conference, that the children might be the more encouraged to keep up their interest in the Sunday schools. They ought to be encouraged, and the Sunday school should be more frequently visited by the parents. He referred to the aid in the work of Brother Goddard, now in his 70th year, who during the past year had visited and held Sunday school conferences in nearly all the Stakes of Zion, from Canada to Mexico and yet many Elders in Israel had not so much as crossed the street to visit the school attended by their own children. The speaker did not believe in the testimony of many who protested that they knew this to be the work of God, because they knew it they would be keeping the commandments of God. Every incumbent should see that he would not be afraid to have every member of his class follow his example fully and perfectly.

Stake Supt. Griggs made a few closing remarks and the conference adjourned without date, and the congregation sang:

For the strength of the hills we bless thee,
Our God, our fathers' God.

Benediction by Elder Edward Stevenson.

JOS. HYRUM PARRY, Sec'y.
EDWIN F. PARRY, Asst. Sec'y.

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AN OPINION GIVEN.

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