

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Priesthood meeting and semi-annual conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion was held in the Assembly Hall, September 2d, commencing at 10 a. m. Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presided.

There were present of the Council of the Apostles, Elders Brigham Young, John Henry Smith and Abraham H. Cannon. The Stake Presidency—Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and C. W. Penrose.

The choir and congregation sang:

Redeemer of Israel, our only delight.

Prayer was offered by Elder A. H. Cannon.

The choir sang:

Though deepening trials throng your way.

The Stake roll was called and responded to by four High Councilors—three Patriarchs, Elder George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of the High Priests' quorum, and sixteen home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented excepting West Jordan, North Jordan, Hunter and North Point.

The First, Second, Fourth, Ninth, Tenth, Thirteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding officers.

The Stake organizations of the Relief societies, Sabbath schools, Young Men's Mutual improvement associations, Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations and the Primary associations responded to the roll call by their respective presidents.

Upon the recommendation of their respective Bishops, twenty-four young men received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, for promising to honor and magnify the Priesthood if ordained. Action taken by the presidency of the Stake in ordaining one young man to that office was unanimously sustained.

ELDER C. W. PENROSE

called attention to the importance of the Bishops being more careful in the form of the certificates of membership and the recommends to various privileges. If a young man, he said, desires to be ordained to the office of Elder, his recommend should not state merely that he desires this blessing, but that he is worthy of it. There is a form for these recommends published, and this should be used for all such work, that there may be uniformity therein. The speaker suggested that representatives of wards and quorums attending Priesthood meetings bring pencil and memorandum book, and jot down the points necessary to be remembered, that their intentions to carry out the instructions given may not end in failure.

ELDER GEO. B. WALLACE

spoke briefly, as representing the High Priests' quorum. He referred to his ordination to that priesthood by President Brigham Young nearly fifty years ago, and spoke of the joy occasioned him by that event. The monthly meetings of the quorum in this stake were adverted to as being highly interesting and instructive, and the attendance generally good, although

some are negligent in this matter. The speaker mentioned some instances of a reminiscent character, and closed by bearing testimony to the benefits he had enjoyed in the work of God, and the pleasure he always took in it.

ELDER JOS. H. FELT,

Stake Superintendent of the Y. M. M. I. A., reported the condition of that organization. Most of the associations have been closed during the summer months, and it is desired that all shall resume active work immediately after October conference.

The Manual No. 1, which has been used for two years in the Stake, will be the guide for study during the coming season, and it is desirable that it shall be thoroughly mastered, preparatory to the publication of No. 2, which will no doubt soon appear.

ELDER WILLARD DONE,

Principal of the Latter-day Saints' College of this Stake, spoke upon that institution. He spoke of the importance of the training there given, and the intentions of the authorities of the college to spare no pains to make it in every respect a first-class school. The establishment of thorough courses was made particularly prominent and the hope was expressed that as many as possible would enter these courses at the commencement, September 11, and take full advantage of the instructions there given. The enlargement of the capacity of the school to 350 pupils and the re-establishment of the preparatory department, down to the fifth grade, were mentioned. The speaker stated that in the college the important fact is recognized that the spirit of devotion must accompany a technical study of Gospel principles, and theological instruction there is based on this idea.

ELDER W. B. BARTON

of the Eighteenth Ward Seminary board touched upon the prospects of that school. Referring to the great benefits derived from the school by the people whose children have attended there, he stated that the financial outlay was as nothing by comparison. The children have had awakened within them a great interest regarding spiritual things, and the seed thus sown will bear good and abundant fruit. At first all grades from the primary to the intermediate were taken, but for the coming school year, which opens on the 4th inst., arrangements have been made for merely the fourth and fifth readers. Every inducement in the way of superior instruction and careful use of apparatus will be offered students of these grades. The Latter-day Saints must throw all possible safeguards around their children, in order to protect them from evil influences, and this can be accomplished best by taking charge of the young and tender mind and imparting religious instruction consecutively and carefully as the mind develops, until the spirit of devotion has been thoroughly planted there.

ELDER HORACE CUMMINGS,

Principal of the Central Seminary of the Salt Lake Stake, gave a brief report of that institution. It embraces six of the wards of the stake, Mill Creek, East Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, South Cottonwood, Union and Granite, and is supported by the people

of those wards. On account of the unavoidable withdrawal of the General Board's aid, it was feared at first that the school would be forced to close, but the teachers have consented to work as missionaries for one year, without their usual salaries, and the tuition has been made free with an entrance fee of \$5 for the year, to defray the necessary expenses. On account of the school being patronized chiefly by farmers, it has been thought advisable to open on Sept. 25, for the purpose of giving the young men time to gather the crops before beginning work in school. The blessings of God have been with the school, and great good has been accomplished there. The favor of God was invoked on all Church school interests.

ELDER ANGUS M. CANNON

spoke of the establishment of religious classes in the Stake, to counteract the tendency of modern secular education towards infidelity, and expressed the hope that within the next six months the Bishops would establish them in their wards, in accordance with the advice and counsel of the First Presidency.

Conference adjourned till 2 p. m., after singing, "The happy day has rolled on," and benediction by Patriarch John A. Smith.

Afternoon Session.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord.

Prayer by Elder George Goddard.

Singing by the choir:

Earth with her ten thousand flowers.

SISTER MARY A. FREEZE

represented the Y. L. M. I. A. of the Stake, after the reading of the totals of the statistical report of that organization she reported that nearly all of the associations are holding their meetings during the summer, and the Guide is enabling them to do the work more efficiently and systematically than before. Earnestness characterizes all the efforts and desires of officers and members.

The written report was unanimously adopted and ordered filed.

ELDER EDWIN DAVIS,

president of the First quorum of Elders of this Stake, reported the condition of that body of Priesthood as very good. The young men who are ordained Elders make promises to do their duty in that office, but many do not keep this promise as fully as they ought. The responsibility of the office should lead the holders thereof to meet often with their associates, that they may enjoy the spirit of the work of God and become more efficient workers in it. The proceedings of the quorum meetings are of such a nature as to give the necessary training.

ELDER RICHARD S. HORNE

represented the Sunday schools of the Stake; fifty-seven schools, some of them branch schools, are established in the Stake, nearly all being properly graded. The assistance of the Bishops of each ward is very necessary to the success of the schools, and such is given very freely. The workers in the primary grades are very proficient, and those in the higher departments are gaining in efficiency. The organization generally is in good condition.