

Don't Buy a Stove Until You Have  
Read the Stove-ads. You Might Go  
to the Right Place—But it Would Be  
Lucky.

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

If it is Better to Know Things About  
Prices Than to Guess and Wonder  
and Fret, Then it is Worth While to  
Read the Ads.

16 PAGES—LAST EDITION.

## CONFERENCE OPENS MOST AUSPICIOUSLY

Splendid Attendance at First Session Held This Morning in The Tabernacle.

## PRESIDENT SMITH'S WELCOME.

Reports Conditions Generally in the Church Quite Gratifying and Gives Advice.

## "GET OUT OF DEBT AND STAY OUT."

Says Saints Were Never More Conscientious Than Payers Than They Are Today.

## PREST JOHN R. WINDER.

With an attendance of fully 5,000 men and under the most favorable conditions, the sixty-sixth semi-annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened in the Tabernacle this morning at 10 o'clock. There were present of the First Presidency, Joseph F. Smith, John B. Winder and Anthon H. Lund; of the council of the Apostles, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, Rutherford Smoot, Hyrum M. Smith, George A. Smith and Charles W. Penrose; of the First Council of Seventies, Seymour B. Young, Christian D. Fielding, R. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, J. Golden Kimball, Ruden S. Wells and Joseph W. McMurrin; Presidents of stakes, Bishops of wards and other officers.

The first session of the conference opened with the singing of the hymn, "Come, come ye saints, no toil nor labor fear," which was rendered in an impressive manner by the choir and congregation, with organ accompaniment by Prof. McClellan. Prayer was offered by Elder John T. Caine, after which the great assemblage joined in singing the hymn, "Redeemer of Israel, our only delight." The opening address was made by President Joseph F. Smith, who, for nearly three quarters of an hour, commanded the undivided attention of all present. His remarks were in the nature of a report of conditions generally in the church, which, he said, were most gratifying. He admonished the saints to get out of debt, to live within their means and to pay no attention to false charges circulated for the sole purpose of defaming the church. President Smith referred to the payment of tithing and made the significant statement that at no time in the history of the church did the saints pay their tithing more honestly or conscientiously than today. The remarks of President Winder, who followed, were along the same lines, the speaker declaring that the saints need have no fear concerning the church funds; that they were perfectly safe in the hands of the trustees-in-trust. President Anthon H. Lund spoke on missionary work and expressed pleasure with the success attending the efforts of the elders. An interested listener at the morning session was Joseph Smith, son of the prophet and president of the reorganized church, who occupied a seat well to the front and paid strict attention to every word that was said.

## PREST JOSEPH F. SMITH.

In his opening remarks President Joseph F. Smith extended a welcome to the saints and strangers present. He expressed his gratitude for the numerous blessings that the Lord had bestowed upon him and the saints during the past six months. He felt thankful that God had given him a desire to do good. The saints generally, he was glad to note, had the same. They had the spirit of life, of love, of honor, and of virtue, which inclined their hearts to good.

Since the last conference, President Smith said the general authorities had been active and delighted in their duties without exception. They had attended conferences in all parts of the country and brought home most encouraging reports of the condition of the saints. The only exception to this general statement was that the demands of the presidents of missions for funds were greater than the supply, the presidencies took occasion here to point out the great necessity for the brethren to give generously from their pockets in order that there might be no hindrance to missionary work in the world. This concern the authorities had given now increased for the past three years, but unfortunately many of the saints were still burdened by debt. "Live your own means," he said, "have nothing to do with your own hands, instead of having it in the hands of others. I repeat to you confirmation of my injunctions—the mission of my beloved apostles. Get out of debt and stay out, so that there may be no obstacle to the progress of the work of God. We do not care what the world may say respecting the sending out of young men to preach the gospel. Ninety-nine out of every hundred of those who are sent to take missions go cheerfully, and a small amount of ridicule or false charges will change their minds on the matter, because they see that it is to their advantage to do so." The only work generally is, that which cannot fill the demands made upon us. President Smith therefore urged young men to qualify themselves financially, mentally, especially spiritually, for carrying the gospel to the world.

Large sums of money, the saint also said, had been expended for school houses, and amusement halls, places for amusement, a part of the work of the latter-day saints. The demands made upon the schools of the church are now so great that it seems impossible to furnish buildings sufficient to accommodate the young people.

This appears, therefore, to be a movement on the part of the saints to send

their children to schools where the Bible can be taught. In all the work of erecting buildings the finances of the church have been liberally used. In addition, there had been numerous mission houses purchased for the establishment of headquarters.

The work of God was making gigantic strides both here and in the missions. There is a great contrast between what this world is and what it is said to be by the enemies of any one. President Smith said, who had no desire to do might easily see through the slanders which are being sent abroad concerning the people of the Lord. Those who come among us are surprised to see that "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" are not what they thought to find here. And this is natural.

The speaker expressed the conviction that there had been no period in the history of the church when the people paid their tithing more honestly and conscientiously than they do at the present time, and this notwithstanding the calamities that had occurred in some parts or the country. The tithing books were open to the saints—those who were tithe payers. "If you want to see what is done with the money you pay in tithing," said the president, "come and see the books that are kept in the tabernacle at the time of any hand. He urged the saints to do what is right, paying no attention to the works of darkness. No power can hinder or prevent the accomplishment of God's purposes respecting man. We need have no concern whatever respecting the matter. Our only care should be that we keep pace with the work of the Lord.

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