

test of their lives. And if we will not be willing to give our lives to the Lord for the advancement of His cause and kingdom in the earth, we would not be worthy of Him, neither would He acknowledge us as His. It is true, He may not put us to that test, but he will test us sufficiently to know whether we would be equal to the occasion or not. It is, I say, to pass these ordeals that we came here; to prove our integrity and worthiness to come back into His presence to inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, powers and dominions that are prepared for the righteous. This is not a thing of a moment; it was in the programme before we came here. We are called to-day, the time of choosing will come by and by, when Christ shall make up his jewels. If we are faithful over a few things, He will make us ruler over many. You see it is upon the principle of faithfulness, and upon the principle of endurance. I have no fears in regard to the Latter-day Saints, as a people, passing these ordeals and remaining faithful to the trust reposed in them; although many will drop out by the way side and be lost, for a time at least in the gulf that will receive them. You take those that do not live their religion, those who swear a little, and who do a great many naughty things, who never think of uttering prayer; and let the enemy come against us in formidable array, and even that class would be found ready with their guns to protect the lives and liberties of their friends, this people; they would not flinch either. Yes, these wild boys would be ready to walk up to the cannon's mouth in defence of the Latter-day Saints. I have seen it in times past, and I have no doubt they, if called upon and it were necessary, would do it again. But does that excuse them for not living their religion? No. They should quit their evil practices that they might be useful in building up the kingdom of God upon the earth, and receive a greater reward, and be saved in the world to come, and receive glory and exaltation which they might otherwise not have. Because a man may clip his own glory and exaltation by taking an unwise course; in fact, he would be sure to do it. Blessed is that man that grows up without sin from the purity of his youth, who lives and dies a fit temple for the abode of the Holy Spirit. A man may in an hour, in an unguarded moment say and do things that would affect him throughout the never ending ages of eternity. We should, therefore, be the more careful of our course and conduct in life, and hold fast to that which is given unto us, and progress and go on from perfection to perfection, and try to become as godly in our lives as it is possible for us to be in this probation. Be pure then in your sphere as God is pure in His. And purity does not consist in going around with a long drawn face mourning over the sins of the world, which is something that you cannot particularly help; but with purity of mien, with a joyful countenance going forth performing your duties, and keeping yourself pure and unspotted from the world, from their wicked and abominable practices. God will have a pure people, for the Zion of God must be pure in heart. There is plenty of material to carry on this great and glorious work, and God will find it through the instrumentality of His servants, and if we wish to have part in it, we should be pure ourselves, working the works of righteousness, proving day by day our faithfulness and our integrity to Him. And that we may stand firm and faithful to the end, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### SPECIAL STAKE MEETINGS.

The first of the special meetings of the Saints of this Stake, called for December 12th and 13th, convened in the Assembly Hall this morning at 10 o'clock, President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

There were present on the stand—Of the First Presidency of the Church, President John Taylor.

President Wilford Woodruff, Apostle H. J. Grant, and Counselor D. H. Wells, of the Twelve Apostles.

Counselors David O. Calder and Jos. E. Taylor, of the Presidency of the Stake.

H. S. Eldredge and W. W. Taylor of the First Presidents of the Seventies.

Counselors Edward Snelgrove and Elias Morris, of the High Priests Quorum.

Also a number of Patriarchs,

members of the High Council, and others.

The roll was called; there were present four Patriarchs and 37 Presidents of Seventies' Quorums. All the Elders' Quorums were represented by presiding officers excepting the 6th and 8th Quorums, and all of the Wards of the Stake were represented.

The Priests' Quorums of Salt Lake City, Mill Creek and Draperville; the Teachers' of Herriman, and the Deacons' of the 7th, 11th, 21st, Farmers', Draperville, Herriman and West Jordan Wards were represented.

President A. M. Cannon said there were 38 Wards, 16 Elders' Quorums, 3 Quorums of Priests, 4 of Teachers and over 40 Quorums of Deacons in this Stake, and it was impossible to hear reports from all at the Semi-Annual Stake Conferences, the time being so limited and there being so much business to attend to. Hence it was deemed advisable to call special meetings, that the presiding officers of the various organizations of the Stake might have an opportunity of reporting verbally.

Counselor Edward Snelgrove reported that though the High Priests Quorum meetings were not as generally attended as could be desired, they enjoyed a good spirit and received interesting and profitable instructions.

Counselor Elias Morris corroborated the report of Edward Snelgrove, and suggested in addition that in view of the fact that many of the brethren were aged and infirm, it would be well to have meetings in central districts throughout the Stake, to give such an opportunity of attending quorum meetings.

President H. S. Eldredge said that general meetings of the Seventies were held in the Council House twice a month; the attendance was small, however, and he was sorry to have to report that the conduct of some of the brethren was a disgrace to their calling. "The Council of the First Presidents of Seventies, consisting of the First Presidents of the Seventies and Elders Edward Stevenson, Enoch B. Tripp and Aurelius Miner, who acted as alternates in council, met weekly for the transaction of business pertaining to the Seventies. The Seventies Quorums had been greatly depleted by the ordination of the brethren as High Priests, who had been called to act in local positions.

Reports of their respective Quorums were made by presiding officers of the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10th Quorums of Elders. There was an average attendance generally of about one-third of the members enrolled. They enjoyed an excellent spirit at their meetings. Those who attended meetings were alive to their duties and devoted to the work. They sent Teachers to visit those who were negligent, with a view to awakening them to a sense of the necessity of being more faithful. It was especially remarked that many of those who had lately been ordained and who had promised in the Priesthood meetings to be faithful to their duties, from various causes, justifiable and otherwise, did not attend their meetings.

President John Taylor said he could appreciate the remarks of President Angus M. Cannon in regard to the difficulty of obtaining verbal reports from the different departments, and he felt to endorse the steps that were now being taken. The First Presidency and Apostles were engaged in visiting among the settlements of the Saints and their meetings were crowded everywhere. It was designed to fill up the vacancies existing among the Seventies with just as faithful men as could be found; men who were willing to devote their lives to the service of God in time and all eternity. The High Priests' Quorum was instituted to prepare men for presiding positions in the various Stakes, but as suitable men could not be found to fill these positions among the High Priests, they had been taken from the Seventies Quorums. All who fulfilled the duties devolving upon them would have the spirit of God attending them according to their respecting callings. Bishops and Presidents of Quorums should deal with those who manifest their unworthiness of our fellowship that we might not be found fellowshiping iniquity. He invoked the blessings of God upon all who were faithful in the service of God.

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

Dec. 12, 2 p. m.  
The Saints of this Stake again convened.

The 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th Quorums of Elders were then reported respectively by presiding officers. The reports being similar to those of the Quorums previously represented.

President Wilford Woodruff in listening to the reports given to-day, was reminded of the parable of the ten virgins. He felt that the time had come for the Priesthood either to magnify their callings or repudiate them, for if there ever was a time when the Priesthood should be faithful, it was the present. They possessed the keys and authority to minister in the ordinances of the Gospel for the living and the dead, and such men had too much to do to lend themselves to evil practices. The Priesthood should be clothed upon with the spirit of revelation to direct them in the performance of their duties. It was important that all should be faithful in attending their meetings and in the performance of all other duties, for this work did not devolve alone upon the leaders of the Church, but each one had a work to perform. Those who had passed through the early scenes of our history as a people were passing away, and it was important that the Priesthood should qualify themselves to carry on the work. He felt especially impressed with the importance of building temples that ordinances for themselves and thousands of those who have passed away without an opportunity of receiving the Gospel might be performed. He feared that we did not realize the importance of our callings. The power of God that would exist in the last days would be manifested through the Priesthood. Joseph was endowed with the spirit of his calling which was also enjoyed by those who succeed him. The Priesthood should be selected from those whose lives were devoted to the building up of the kingdom. He illustrated the mournful condition those who denied the faith after once partaking of the spirit of life, while there were no happier people on earth than those who were faithful, no matter what their circumstances were, this was exemplified in the indifference that was manifested concerning the efforts that were made to destroy this people. He felt that there would be an awakening among the people and that the work of God would increase until it prevailed in the earth.

President Joseph F. Smith said: There was sufficient authority and power in those assembled to accomplish the work of God in the earth, if all were faithful, both in bearing the Gospel tidings to the nations and in the performance of the duties devolving upon them at home. He feared however that there were many who were indifferent and careless in regard to their duties and who instead of being teachers and leaders, needed to repent of their own sins. There were examples set by men of years that were a disgrace to their callings. Men would be held accountable for the examples they set. We all had weaknesses and hence should be charitable to our brethren and seek rather to aid and strengthen than to crush them, and if we could by such a course induce the erring one to reform we would save our brother. This was the way Presidents should deal with those over whom they presided, especially would this apply to the young and thoughtless who might not otherwise be wickedly inclined. Their judgments should be appealed to in kindness and patience that perchance they may be won from their evil ways, for it was better to suffer much wrong than to cast off one that might be reclaimed, for there were times when even merited harshness would drive a young man away and set his heart against the work. But he could not understand how men of experience who held the Priesthood and visited dens of vice could claim to possess the favor of heaven, such persons should be dealt with and shown that these things cannot be countenanced by the Lord or His Priesthood. There might be some excuse for the young but even with them there was a time when patience would cease to be a virtue.

Adjourned until 7 p. m.

Dec. 12, 7 p. m.  
Meeting again convened.  
President Angus M. Cannon said that the Bishops of the several Wards would now be called upon to report the condition of their several Wards, as to their spiritual and financial condition, their manner of providing for the poor, how they conducted their dances; whether

their Quorums of the Lesser Priesthood, Relief Societies and organizations for the benefit of the young were in good condition. And requested the Presidents of the Quorums of the Lesser Priesthood to report the condition of their respective quorums.

Reports in response to President Cannon's request, were then made by presiding officers from the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th Wards. The Teachers were generally faithful. The majority of the Saints paid their tithing and were doing well. The Relief Societies were doing a good work, greatly aiding the Bishop in his care of the poor, and with the aid of the fast offerings they were generally able to care for their own poor.

One or more Deacons' Quorums were organized in most all of the Wards and were generally in a good condition.

The Young Men's and Young Ladies' and Primary Associations and Sunday Schools were generally organized, and were accomplishing good in their respective spheres.

The dances were conducted either personally or by appointment of the Bishops. The lists of names invited being submitted for his approval. As a whole, the Wards were generally in a fair condition, and the brethren reported that they were determined to improve their condition as far as they could.

President Wilford Woodruff said the Church and kingdom of God were organized permanently, as also the various aids pertaining to it. If the associations organized to improve the young were a benefit to one they would be a benefit to all, hence the young should avail themselves of their advantages, and he would advise all the young to identify themselves with these institutions, that they might grow up under an influence that would enable them to avoid the evils that existed among us. He felt to encourage the sisters of the Relief Societies, especially referring to their labors to store up grain, for the day of the Lord was at hand. The sisters were also doing much good in many other respects. The judgments of God, of war, of famine and pestilence were at our doors, and it behooved us to prepare for those times.

Those who held the Priesthood should be enrolled in some Quorum. There was a mighty host in Israel holding the Priesthood, and they should be alive to their duties, that the power of their callings might attend, and Zion would continue to grow and increase in the earth. It was especially important that the young should grow up in the fear of God. He concluded by invoking the blessings of God upon the Priesthood and all of the institutions of Zion.

Apostle F. M. Lyman said: The work of God in all its departments was performed by a certain class and when the cry was heard "to the bridegroom cometh" he would be met by a certain class and to them it would be said, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord." The Lord had revealed that the various quorums of the Priesthood should be organized and set in order, and that every man discharged his duties, those in presiding positions should be acquainted with those over whom they were called to preside and should see that all were in good working order, and if this was generally done the numbers of the faithful might be greatly increased. All should be anxious to perform their share of the work as they would be anxious to obtain their reward; and the various organizations among us were for the purpose of stirring us up to faithfulness and diligence. A person who held the Holy Priesthood should be an exemplary man in all respects, that he might enjoy the spirit of his calling and power to minister under the blessings of God in the departments of his calling, and had no right to take a course that would be detrimental in any way to God's cause, either by precept or example. And the time would come when those who had not heeded the voice of the servants of God, would be astonished to find themselves shorn of the blessings promised to the faithful. It was important that we should abide in the laws of God, it was not enough that we should receive them. We had no time to waste, as it would require all of our lives, well devoted, to obtain a celestial glory.

Adjourned until 10 a. m. to-morrow.

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 10 a. m.

The 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th Wards were reported respectively by presiding officers.

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

December 13, 2 p. m.

The West Jordan, Draperville, and South Cottonwood Wards were represented by their respective Bishops.

Apostle George Teasdale said he was reminded of the parable of the ten virgins by the reports that had been made. There were always a certain proportion of the people who did not avail themselves of the blessings and privileges of the Gospel. We had many opportunities of receiving instructions. How long would it be before we would become converted and perform the works of righteousness? We should not expect anyone else to do our work for us, but obey the Gospel ourselves, and in our every day lives; rejoicing in the privilege of obeying the commandments of God, instead of regarding it as a burden. A person who embraced the Gospel and lived the life of a Saint would never be disappointed in the promises of the Lord. The Lord had affection for all and we should reciprocate His affection and seek to accomplish His purposes. Our testimonies as to the truth of the Gospel would not benefit us unless we exhibited Gospel fruits in our lives. We would grow into the knowledge and likeness of God by our unfeigned love for Him and our obedience to His law. It behooved us to repent of our sins and places ourselves in His hands that He might use us for the accomplishment of His purposes.

President John Taylor said he was pleased with the interest manifested by those who had reported concerning the Saints placed under their charge, but it was painful to hear that so many were indifferent to their duties. The great majority of the people in the surrounding Stakes were striving to live their religion, perhaps a larger proportion than had been reported here. In view of the importance of our callings, meetings of this character were of great significance. We were not sent to condemn, but to save the world. The Lord had in great mercy restored the Holy Priesthood for the purpose of teaching in the will of God unto men and to minister in the ordinances of the Gospel and by its restoration all the purposes of God concerning the last days would be accomplished. To this end we were operating with those who had lived on the earth in past ages, and who were more interested in the work than we were. The gospel would continue to spread and grow through the ministrations of the Holy Priesthood and Zion be fully established. He felt to bless the Bishops and prayed that they might be endowed with ten fold greater power to do good in the midst of the Saints. It was true we had some knowledge that the world did not possess but we were indebted to God for it. If we did not listen to God there were no people on the earth that would. Those who were led by the spirit of God were the sons of God, and by living up to the principles of the Gospel we would become even as He is. It behooved us then to magnify our callings. The sentiments contained in the Lord's Prayer were appropriate and full of meaning to the Saints. We had been gathered together to be taught and organized as the Lord directed, and perform the labors and receive the blessings promised to the faithful, and it was then important that we should seek to learn our duties and then perform them. We were called to build temples and then administer in them; to repent of our sins and make restitution for wrong and then draw near unto God and learn of His will concerning us. It was the privilege of each to receive revelations for himself, appropriate to their callings, though there was but one appointed at a time to receive revelations for the Church. If we were faithful and interested as a people we need not fear the efforts of the wicked. It was our duty to begin to do the will of God on the earth as it is done in heaven and we would then have a heaven of our own, and if we would labor with God and men fought against us, He would fight against them, and Zion would triumph and the glory of God rest upon her.

Adjourned until 7 p. m.

7 p. m.  
The Granite, Herriman, South Jordan and Farmer's Wards were reported by their respective Bishops.

Counselor D. H. Wells said he believed the great majority of the people were striving to live their religion which gave us encouragement to believe the Lord would still own us as His people, although it would