

The name of Matthias F. Cowley was presented to the Conference to fill one of these vacancies.

The nomination was unanimously sustained.

The name of Abraham Owen Woodruff was presented, he having been designated to fill the other vacancy in the same quorum.

The vote to sustain Elder Woodruff in this office and calling was also unanimous.

The name of Joseph McMurrin, who had been designated to fill a vacancy existing in the quorum of the First Seven Presidents of Seventy created by the death of Elder Stevenson was presented.

The vote in this instance was also unanimous.

President Cannon stated that the mind of the Lord had been sought for and obtained in the making of these selections.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF said: I want to say to these two young men—Elders Cowley and Woodruff—that they are called to occupy a very important position, a position of very great responsibility. And we hope and trust that these young men may have the spirit and power of their calling, and Priesthood and Apostleship. That they may be enabled to magnify and fulfill the duties required at their hands.

We will give our brethren an opportunity to express themselves now with regard to this subject, their views of the kingdom of God, and the Priesthood unto which they have been called, and their purposes in magnifying the duties now resting upon them by the vote of the House of Israel.

Elders Matthias F. Cowley and Abraham Owen Woodruff, on invitation of President Woodruff, expressed their willingness to accept the responsibilities placed upon them, and to magnify the calling of the Apostleship. They had not sought such preferment, although their advancement to that position had been predicted by the servants of God. Each asked the assistance of the Saints in their labors, and here a strong testimony to the truth of the work of God.

PREST. WILFORD WOODRUFF related some of his experiences when first called to the Apostleship, recounting the difficulties he encountered, and their good effects upon him. He also spoke approvingly of the discourses of the brethren who had spoken during the Conference, and gave profitable instructions on a variety of subjects.

The choir and congregation sang: "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

Benediction by Elder Seymour B. Young.

THIRD DAY.

October 6th, 10 a. m.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn which begins:

"Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam.
Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption will come."

Prayer by Elder James H. Hart.

"We're not ashamed to own our Lord,
And worship Him on earth,"
was sung by the choir.

ELDER C. D. FJELDSTED, of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies, addressed the Conference. He felt thankful for the guidance of a living Priesthood, and all could testify that the work was prospered and

blessed of God. He counseled the Saints to renew their faithfulness and diligence in the divine labor they had undertaken.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS, of the same Council, followed. He had felt the influence of the Holy Spirit in all that had been done and said during the Conference, and was imbued with a still stronger faith in the divinity of the work. He desired for himself and all the household of faith, strength to endure to the end.

ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS, of the same quorum, expressed his joy at being associated with the people of God, and to know that this Church is of divine origin. Had it been the work of man it would long since have failed. No earthly power could have accomplished what had been done through the agency of the Latter-day Saints. The results, both direct and indirect, were wonderful. The history of this community was marvelous and its future would be still more marked. He rejoiced to be connected with a work destined to regenerate the world. He took no pleasure in contention and unrighteousness, but desired that love and true brotherhood should abound. The ratification of the affairs of mankind would be accomplished by the work of the Lord, under the direction of those who held the keys of His kingdom. He testified that all the keys and authority necessary to perform this labor existed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

ELDER J. G. KIMBALL of the same Council testified to his own weakness and inefficiency, unless assisted by the Spirit of God, which he declared had manifested itself to him on many occasions. He realized the need of missionary work at home, in view of the great number of young people who were not diligent in the service of God. Many parents had neglected teaching the Gospel to their young children, and their neglect was now producing its fruit. Missionary labor would perhaps be necessary among the Saints to stir them to renewed diligence.

A neglect in reading the Church works was manifest. In some places where in past years thirty or forty copies of the Juvenile Instructor were taken, comparatively few were now to be found. The speaker read from a revelation in the Doctrine and Covenants, given to Oliver Cowdery, telling him to labor for the gift of knowledge and not to depend entirely upon its free gift from God. This lesson he would apply to all the Latter-day Saints. He deprecated all tendencies toward mental laziness and stupor of thought, and sounded a note of warning against insidious evils.

ELDER MATTHIAS F. COWLEY of the Quorum of the Twelve, addressed the assemblage. He spoke upon the benefits of the Mutual Improvement movement, which was an organization of great magnitude. It gave opportunities to the youth of the community to exercise and develop their talents. The Saints had not only been enjoined to read and study the revelations, both ancient and modern, which had been given to man, but to learn wisdom and correct principles from all good books. They should become acquainted with all useful information. But above all the youth should become familiar with the operations of the Holy Spirit, which guides into all truth. It is the medium of communication between Deity and humanity. To enjoy the fellowship of that Spirit is was necessary that the requirements of our Heavenly Father

be complied with. This was the basis of its bestowal upon the Saints by the laying on of hands in the beginning of their career in the work of the Lord.

The speaker then dwelt briefly upon what are designated as the first principles of the Gospel—faith, repentance and baptism (immersion) and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. His concluding remarks related to the necessity of purity and rectitude of conduct among the Saints, with special reference to the young. While he placed a high estimate upon the value of education which was merely secular, it did not follow that those who had attainments of this character were necessarily showed to good. Criminal statistics showed to the contrary. No man was fully educated who did not subject himself to the operation of the Spirit of God, and whose moral and religious nature had been neglected.

ELDER ABRAHAM OWEN WOODRUFF

of the council of Apostles, addressed the congregation. He stated that many who had performed faithful missions abroad, neglected the duty of proper precept and example at home. Habits of faithfulness, instilled in early life would bear fruit in subsequent life, and lead the people to live according to the principles of the Gospel. These truths should be inculcated in connection with a full faith in God, by which they would be more fully impressed upon the mind. The speaker urged the necessity of individual and community reformation in various directions.

ELDER JOHN D. T. McALLISTER was the next speaker. He testified that the Spirit of the Lord had been made manifest during the Conference. The mission of the Saints, he said, was to elevate mankind. In the ordinances of the House of God there was power unto salvation, for they related to things pertaining not only to this sphere, but also reached beneficently into eternity. He had great respect and esteem for the servants of God who, under the Lord, lead the Church of Christ. Elder McAllister said he felt to bless these men, and if the congregation felt as he did on this subject, let them say Amen. Accordingly there was a hearty response to this invitation.

CHURCH SCHOOLS AND RELIGION CLASSES.

President George Q. Cannon made the following presentation in relation to the Church schools and religion classes:

During the school year 1896-7, there were open

Colleges.....	3
High schools.....	3
Academies.....	6
Seminaries.....	1

Total..... 13

Of these there were located

In Utah.....	8
In Idaho.....	4
In Mexico.....	1

13

The teachers therein numbered 105, teaching 2,938 pupils in 702 classes.

Of these pupils 117 were not members of the Church, while 84 had not yet been baptized. Of those in the Church 168 held the Melchizedek and 1,012 the Aaronic Priesthood.

RELIGION CLASS REPORT.

Reports have been received from classes in 86 wards in 11 different Stakes. These reports show:

Classes.....	208
Instructors.....	399
Pupils.....	8,447

Brother Maeser has visited 24