

present. The president of the Stake asked if the Saints would be satisfied with the selection that they might make of the two, and on motion it was agreed that the brother chosen by the authorities would be sustained. There was a good spirit and the Saints were well pleased with the methods adopted by the visiting brethren.

The next Sabbath being our quarterly conference at Provo, the matter of our bishopric came up before the High Council of the Stake, associated with President Joseph F. Smith and Elder Abraham H. Cannon, when Counselor Wm. T. Tew was chosen Bishop of Mapleton ward and ordained by Elder A. H. Cannon. Bro. Edwin M. Snow was set apart as first counselor. The promise was given that shortly another counselor would be selected to complete the organization of the ward authority.

We have just cause for pride in our ward affairs, as we have just completed a good brick meeting house 84x56 feet, nicely papered, well seated, and not one dollar in debt. On Arbor day the brethren assembled and built a floor board (surfaced lumber) fence around our meeting house lot and replaced the trees on the lot that had died, and they also plowed and arranged to plant grass on the yard around the house and among the trees; thus this memorable day was employed to good advantage.

Our Sunday schools are well attended under the efficient management of Superintendent Wm. P. Fuller of the north and Superintendent James T. Williams of the south school. There is an enrollment of some 300 in the two schools, of officers, teachers and pupils. Both schools are graded and also have normal students at Provo, in the Brigham Young academy.

Our district schools have just closed—we have three—on account of lack of funds to pay teachers. We hope to see the time when we can run these schools somewhere near the full year.

We have rejoiced greatly at the wonderful downfall of rain this spring, which indicates a bountiful harvest.

The fruit trees are now in full bloom, and if we don't have any killing frost, will certainly have plenty of fruit.

The bees are nearly all in. We have some 400 acres—about 100 acres more than last year—and should we have no mishap will greatly bless us.

The health of the people is exceptionally good, although this is a very healthy place.

We have expended several hundred dollars this spring in trying to complete our reservoir, as also a new canal, and we now have a nice large stream of water filling the reservoir, from which we anticipate great benefit this year. We also contemplate tunnelling in the mountain for water that we are sure is there to be had by digging for it, as there have been several parties demonstrating that fact.

Now, Mr. Editor, there is just one more point I want to speak of, and that is in relation to the laws made by our last Legislature. I see you have published some of them in the last paper. Now, I would please suggest that if not too late you publish the estray law, and also the law in relation to leasing the ranges or public domain, as people are very anxious to see the provisions that are made in these directions.

When there is a new law, as is usual with the estray law, it is generally operative at once and the old is annulled. It usually is a long time before the new one is sent out to the precinct officers. As to the law leasing the range, people are now taking their stock off in the canyon, as is customary, not knowing the provisions of the law in relation thereto. Please tell us where to make application for leases and amount to be paid for land, that is if the law does not make it plain.

S. D. FULLMER.

[The particular laws referred to go into effect June 1. The NEWS readers will be informed of their contents.—ED.]

TOOELE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Tooele Stake of Zion convened in the Tooele ward meeting house at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 26, 1896. There were present on the stand, Elders Francis M. Lyman and John W. Taylor of the Twelve Apostles; Hugh S. Gowans and George F. Richards of the Stake presidency; Bishops of wards and others of the presiding Priesthood. A notable feature of the conference was the assembling of the Tooele ward Sunday school on Sunday morning in its regular order going through a program of exercises; administering the Sacrament to the children and everything the same as in a regular Sunday school, excepting that instead of the classes dispersing to their various class departments they remained congregated in one assembly and the time usually allotted for class study was occupied by Elder F. M. Lyman in speaking in the interest of the Sunday school, endorsing this new departure from the usual custom of Stake conferences, by allowing the Sunday school of the ward in which conferences are to be held, to occupy the Sunday morning in the interest of the Sabbath school work; he said this practice (although this, he thought, was the first instance of it being done) will no doubt become universal in all the Stakes of Zion wherever practicable.

At the Sunday afternoon meeting, after the administering of the Sacrament, Elder John W. Taylor occupied the time, speaking in regard to the attitude of the Latter-day Saints with the religions of the world; referred to the recent concave of Presbyterian ministers at Spanish Fork, at which they issued a manifesto excommunicating the Latter-day Saints from the fellowship of Christians. This should not discourage the Saints of God. It is one of the signs of the times, as spoken by the Prophets of God. The speaker read from the Book of Mormon, chap. 27, II Book of Nephi, setting forth clearly the awful condition of those who raise their hands against the work of the Lord; the judgments of God await them and unless they repent they will be destroyed. He exhorted the Saints to live to the truth and thereby have a claim on the blessings of the Lord.

After the opening exercises of the meeting on Monday morning, the "declaration," as presented and voted on at the late general Conference of the Church, was read by Elder Hugh S. Gowans, after which Elder F. M.

Lyman occupied the remaining time of the meeting speaking in regard to the document, its scope and general bearing, saying that those who mostly come under its requirements are the First Presidency, Twelve Apostles, Presiding Bishopric, First Seven Presidents of Seventies, Stake Presidencies and the Bishops of wards. He said the Saints must use their own agency in voting to sustain the document; it is a true declaration and is the word of the Lord.

It was then put before the conference, a majority confirming and sustaining it, some voting not at all, and four hands being raised against it. The general and Stake authorities were then presented to the conference and sustained unanimously.

At the Monday afternoon session the Bishops reported their respective wards as being in a fair and prosperous condition; of course none were perfect but generally the people were trying to live up to the principles of the Gospel.

Elder F. M. Lyman (Elder Taylor having returned home this morning) occupied the remainder of the time, speaking of the situation a man places himself in when he is in opposition to the word of the Lord, as proclaimed through His servants, showing forth that such were on the road to apostasy. He exhorted such, if any there were, to repentance, and to put themselves in harmony with the principles of the Gospel of Christ. He said in regard to the "declaration" that it was a true declaration and was from the Lord and that it had come to stay.

Altogether the conference was a most remarkable one, making plain in many instances that members of the Church who have covenanted to keep the commandments of God, cannot pin their faith to the arm of flesh, and expect to keep faith in the kingdom of God.

The singing during the conference was excellent and assisted to inspire the Saints with a higher and nobler ambition toward a life of purity and goodness.

JNO. W. TATE,
Stake Clerk.

SANPETE VALLEY ITEMS.

MANTI, April 29, 1896.

Two very sad deaths have occurred here in the last week. One was the wife of Brother Parsons, an old resident of this city; the gentleman left home to go up town for a short time, leaving his wife in apparently her usual health; on his return two hours later he found her stiff and cold, between the barn and the house, where she had evidently gone to feed the chickens. They have had a family of seven children, all of whom they have lost except one. Brother Parsons is covered down with grief over this his latest affliction.

The other case is that of Peter Christofferson, who some time ago had his leg broken through his team running away. At first it was hoped his leg could be saved, but later on it was decided to amputate it. While lying sick his little girl was carried off by an attack of pneumonia and last Saturday death put an end to his sufferings. Mr. Christofferson has not been a resident of this country many years and he