

General Semi-Annual Conference.

The Sixty-fifth Semi-annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m., on Friday, Oct. 5th, 1894, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

Conference called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The following were on the stand: Of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith; of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch John Smith; of the Presidency of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjelsted, B. H. Roberts and George Reynolds; of the Presiding Bishopric—William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder. There were also a number of Presidents of Stakes and other prominent Elders from different parts of Utah and surrounding territories and states.

The choir and congregation sang:

The time is far spent, there is little remaining
To publish glad tidings by sea and by land.

The opening prayer was offered by President Lorenzo Snow.

Singing by the choir:

Praise ye the Lord! My heart shall join
In work so pleasant so divine.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

announced that President Wilford Woodruff had been suffering from a severe cold, which had almost prostrated him for a number of days. He had sufficiently recovered, however, to be able to attend the Conference, though his voice was in such a condition that he would not be able to speak to the congregation this morning. President Cannon referred to the present comparatively satisfactory conditions in Utah, remarking that the Lord had wonderfully blessed and preserved all those who dwelt in these mountain valleys. This was, indeed, a land favored of the Lord, one of the most choice spots on the whole continent of America. In every direction the protecting hand of God was seen over this people. In the northwestern and southern states the Elders had been of late greatly favored and encouraged in their labors. It should be the aim of the presidents of stakes to call young men into the ministry and put upon them the burden of preaching the true gospel. In the islands of the sea a great work was being accomplished and many were being brought into the fold of Christ. The speaker incidentally adverted to the successful labors of the Elders in Australia, Tasmania, Sweden and elsewhere, and said that other fields seemingly remote and impenetrable were being opened to the missionaries. At present the presidents of the European and other missions had been instructed not to rush the people who joined the Church out

here too fast, because many had arrived in Utah before they had become thoroughly rooted in the faith and prepared to meet the vicissitudes which they had necessarily to contend with on coming to a strange land. They did not want people to join the Church, come out and join the general body of the Saints and then apostatize. Looking over the entire field, the prospects of the Latter-day Saints were now most encouraging, and God and the heavenly host were doing their part in the furtherance of this great work which our Father had established.

Many other important points were mentioned and treated upon in President Cannon's opening discourse.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG,

of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said it was always a pleasure to him to hear his brethren bear testimony to the importance of this great latter-day work, and he trusted that the words just uttered by President Cannon would be firmly sealed upon all our hearts. He referred to the responsibilities resting upon the Saints. If these were the last days, if the coming of the Son of Man was nigh at hand, if the calamities and judgments of the Almighty were to follow our testimony to the people, just as the judgments followed the testimony of Noah, then it was all-important that we be upon the watch-tower. All who sought God earnestly might find Him, if they only prayed to Him with a pure and undivided heart. The speaker deprecated the craving of the people for luxuries, and said he believed the Lord had amply provided for our sustenance in this mountain region, independent of other places. Elder Young called upon the Saints to observe the Word of Wisdom more steadfastly than heretofore, that their children, the succeeding generation, might be healthy and strong, and said we could not enjoy the peace, inspiration and Spirit of God if we indulged in those things which God had commanded we should not use. When he heard read statistics setting forth that more tea, coffee tobacco, and other articles deleterious to health were being used now than ever before, he wondered whether the floating population of Utah, of Salt Lake City, was responsible in part for such increase. He believed not. The ark of safety was offered to us; would we not renounce the things of this world and accept a place in it? The judgments of God were increasing and we must be prepared for them if we desired to be saved hereafter.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

spoke of the numerous calls from abroad for more Elders. Occasionally it was difficult to meet those demands, although when Elders were called they were generally willing to go. A few wished time to settle up their affairs and pay their debts. The speaker deemed a time of stringency suitable for the settlement of financial obligations and the forming of a resolution

not to get involved again. He enumerated different parts of the world from which calls for Elders had come, and then dwelt upon the fact that the Word of Wisdom was associated with the missionary field, as young men who used tobacco were not in a condition to go into the world to preach the Gospel. The necessity of selecting men for this calling who are honest, pure and consistent was insisted upon. The financial benefits of refraining from articles that are detrimental to health formed a part of the discourse. The saving would amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The speaker made many profitable remarks upon the subject of the Word of Wisdom in its various features, the benefits of observing and the evil results of disregarding it.

The choir sang:

Jesus, I my cross have taken.

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

Afternoon Session.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

Prayer by Elder John D. T. McAllister.

Singing by the choir:

Zion stands with hills surrounded—
Zion, kept by power divine;
All her foes will be confounded,
Though the world in arms combine.

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW,

of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was the first speaker. He said that the remarks made by those who addressed the congregation at this morning's services were full of instruction to the Saints and most profitable for their future guidance. There were promises made to the Saints in former days as well as in the latter-days, by revelation, which were most precious, and they would all be fulfilled in the Lord's own time. The Latter-day Saints had many obstacles to overcome, and their faith would be tested in many ways. The Lord had placed before us incentives of the grandest character, and these we found in the revelations of the present day as well as those of ancient times. The speaker then proceeded to explain the heights of exaltation to which man could attain by constant and undeviating faithfulness to and progress under the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He showed that such could, in eternity, become like God, who is the Father of the intelligences who inhabit the earth. These matters were explained in ancient revelations and God had also revealed them in this age, he having had a divine communication upon this subject to himself. Elder Snow then dwelt upon the course necessarily pursued by those who have this hope in them—to follow righteousness always, whether under the eyes of their fellow-beings or when beyond their observation. He adduced reasons in support of what had been revealed by God upon this great subject. He assured the Saints that by a course of faithfulness and self-sacrifice they would attain to their highest possible ideals of increase, glory and honor in the future life.

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN

of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles,