

assistant secretary of war. The reasons for this action are of a private nature, and are no doubt known to your brother."

As soon as Sergeant Blank became acquainted with these facts he wrote to the adjutant general asking for the reason of his reduction and transfer. In reply he received a letter which stated that as the incidents connected with his reduction and transfer had been closed by his "honorable discharge by way of favor" it was not deemed necessary to inform him of the reasons for the action of the department in the matter.

Soon after receiving this reply, Sergeant Blank addressed a letter to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, setting forth the facts in the case and expressing a desire to have the matter investigated, as he has never been told what he was accused of or who his accusers were.

The papers were sent to the *Chronicle's* Washington correspondent, who visited the department and endeavored to learn the reasons for the reduction, but without success. The adjutant general positively refused to make known the facts in the case.

In conclusion the *Chronicle* sums up the case as follows: "There is one significant fact in all this: If Sergeant Blank had done anything so scandalous as to warrant his reduction and transfer, anything so scandalous that it could not be made public by the department, he should have been court martialed or drummed out of camp. This is not the first time there have been ugly stories about the military post at Fort Wingate, and every time there has been the same suppression of facts. There are scandals in army settlements as in all others, but when an officer is concerned, publicity is the thing to be avoided and the war department apparently cares more for the reputations of its titled servants than for justice and morality. If Sergeant Blank has told the truth there would seem to be need for an investigation, not only of his grievance, but of affairs in general at Fort Wingate. Possibly there might appear as the culprit not a non-commissioned officer with a sick wife, but somebody who wears the badge that Uncle Sam awards to his most trusted military servants."

Since coming to Salt Lake Sergeant Blank has been out of employment until a short time ago, when he obtained work at paper cleaning. He feels that a great injustice has been done him, and says if this is the justice of the United States government, it is nothing to be proud of. What he wants to know is the names of his accusers and the nature of the crime with which he is charged. This certainly appears to be his right.

TOOELE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Tooele Stake convened in the Tooele ward meeting house on Sunday and Monday, April 28th and 29th, 1895. There were present on the stand Elders Francis M. Lyman, George Teasdale and Abraham H. Cannon, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles; Hugh S. Gowans and George F. Richards, of the Stake presidency, Bishops of each

of the wards of the Stake and members of the High Council.

After the opening exercises on Sunday, President Hugh S. Gowans briefly reported the condition of the Stake as he and his counselors had found the Saints in their visit. His report showed to be encouraging, peace and harmony prevailing in the wards, and the great majority of the Saints striving to perform their duties.

The Bishops reported their wards in good condition, the organizations of the Sunday schools, Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual and Primary associations having performed a good work during the past winter. An improvement was apparent in some of the wards by many of the Saints who have been addicted to the use of tea and coffee, overcoming the same.

The Saints were greatly favored in having three of the Twelve Apostles attending the conference. The instructions of these brethren were replete with good and timely exhortations. Those subjects principally dwelt upon were: Temple work for the salvation of the dead, the Word of Wisdom, and the law of tithing. Great interest was manifested by the brethren in regard to the young men. The indifference shown by many in regard to the Gospel was a serious matter and should be properly considered by the ward authorities. The quorums of the Lesser Priesthood should be thoroughly organized, giving the young men the responsibility of bearing their portion of the work of the Lord. They should be taught to know their duties and the necessity of magnifying their callings. Give the young men something to do; teach them that it is wrong to grow up with indifference to their salvation, and wrong for them to waste their time in idleness on the street corners, smoking cigarettes, making themselves slaves to the ways of the evil one.

The Saints were enjoined to put away worldly things and seek the true way to salvation. Round dancing should not be indulged in by members of the Church. These with many other duties and requirements of the Gospel were enjoined on the Saints to carry out.

The general authorities of the Church and of the Tooele Stake were unanimously sustained by the conference.

The singing by the choir was an item of comment and a pleasing feature of the conference, inspiring each heart to joy and gladness in the blessing of the Gospel.

The conference was largely attended by many from adjoining wards. A good spirit prevailed throughout and all felt well paid for the time spent in meeting to hear the work of the Lord from His living oracles.

JOHN W. TATE, Stake Clerk

PARTING SHOT FOR PROHIBITION.

The Constitutional Convention now in session in this city was petitioned by 15,000 citizens, about one half of whom were legal voters and the other half will be voters under the Constitution, to submit to the legal voters of the proposed State the question of the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a separate article; these petitions were supplemented by a like request signed by the heads of every

church organization in Utah. No member upon the floor of the Convention dared stand up and say a word in defense of the traffic, or attempt to deny the terrible impeachment made against it by the friends of submission. Nor could a single valid reason be given by the members of the committee who signed the majority report against submission, or by many member of the Convention why the prayer of the petitioners should be denied; and yet out of that body only twenty-two members stood up to be counted in favor of submission of the question.

That a majority of the committee to whom the article was referred, as originally constituted, were in favor of submission; that an unfair scheme was worked through the Convention by which the membership of this committee was increased by the addition of two members known to be opposed to submission; that even after this was done, six of the eleven members voted for a favorable report; that at least two members of that committee, after giving written assurances that they would support the submission of the question, without any satisfactory reason given therefor, changed their minds and voted against it, is a part of the unwritten history of this matter in the Convention.

But these noble twenty-two need have no regrets for their action and will have no explanations to make to their constituents. Time will demonstrate that they were right and the majority wrong. The people of Utah are an intelligent people; their demand to be allowed to vote upon this question was based upon the eternal principles of right and was clearly in accord with the principles upon which our government is founded; the demand was made with unselfish motives and in the interests of good government; and although justice has been denied them by the Constitutional Convention, this question will continue to be agitated until the saloon with all its pernicious influences shall become an outlaw in the fair new State of Utah. Too much honor cannot be accorded the twenty-two members of the Convention who, in the face of such opposition and in spite of all the influences brought to bear upon them, stood up like men for the rights of the people.

GEO. F. GOODWIN,
JOHN NICHOLSON,
SALT LAKE CITY, May 3, 1895.

ELDERS' WORK IN WEST VIRGINIA.

ONA, Cabell Co., West Va.,
April 27th, 1895.

Many thanks for the paper you send us; it is not only appreciated by us, but by many of the kind people among whom we are laboring. The matter it contains is a great aid in the spread of truth. We take pleasure in reading the letters and accounts of the various Elders in their respective fields and desire to add our mite.

A description of West Virginia is not necessary as it has been given through your paper by two of the Elders some time ago. It is indeed very rough and the climate is about the same as our Utah climate, only a little more changeable. The prospects for fruit this year are very good, other crops are looking fair.