

MISCELLANEOUS.

BEAVER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of Beaver Stake was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20, in the ward meeting house in Beaver City, Utah, commencing at 10 a.m., Elder Charles D. White of the Stake presidency, with his counselors, M. S. Shepherd and J. F. Tolton, presiding. There were present four Patriarchs, a majority of the High Council, and the Bishops and counselors; presidency of the High Priests' quorum, and a fair representation of the Saints from all the wards of the Stake; Elder F. M. Lyman of the Council of the Apostles, and J. G. Kimball of the first council of Seventy were also present. The organizations of the Stake were well represented.

The first meeting was opened by the choir singing, "O, Jesus, the Giver of all we enjoy. Elder Wm. Fotheringham offered prayer and the choir sang "Be it my only wisdom here."

Elder White offered some remarks appropriate to the occasion and the spirit of the times.

Bishops Munford, Morris, Eyre and Gunn, gave favorable reports of the condition of their wards.

Elder White spoke favorably of the Frisco and other branches he had visited since last conference.

Elder F. M. Lyman reviewed the reports, offered some counsel and direction calculated to awaken a deeper interest in duties of the Saints. He recounted some of his travels and labors among the people of the Southern Eastern and Northern states and Mexico during the past four months, bearing testimony of his acquaintance and knowledge of the great Prophet of this last dispensation, Joseph Smith.

The afternoon services were occupied by the presentation of the statistics of the Stake, the names of the general authorities of the Church and the local authorities, all of whom were sustained by unanimous vote.

Counselors M. L. Shepherd and J. F. Tolton and Elder Kimball occupied all of the remaining time with remarks of deep interest, instruction, counsel and reproof of evil doers.

At 7:30 a meeting of the Priesthood was held in the assembly hall. A general representation from all the wards was present. The meeting was turned over to the Seventies and was addressed by Elder Kimball, who occupied some time in giving good instruction as to the duties and requirements of presiding officers as well as the members of the quorums. The name of each of the seven presidents was presented and sustained. The members were urged to be more energetic and punctual in the discharge of the duties of their calling. The names of Richard Smith and Andrew Olsson were presented and sustained for promotion to the High Priests' quorum.

Elder Lyman occupied the remaining time explaining many principles pertaining to the different branches of the Priesthood. The proper method of ordaining men and the difference between that and setting men apart to some special calling. He gave counsel as to the correct mode of presenting a Bishop or other officer before the ward conference; the right manner of dealing with transgressors and those who may be overtaken in a fault by submission to evil surroundings and unnatural propensities. The importance that should attach to Bishop's courts and High Council trials. Cautioned against the too frequent use and vain repetition of the names of the Deity.

Elder Walter S. Tolton was ordained a High Priest and set apart to be the

first counselor to Bishop Munford of Beaver ward. Richard Smith was ordained a High Priest. A number of questions were asked and answered and the meeting adjourned.

The Sunday school assembled in mass in the meeting house on Sunday morning at 9:25 and a very interesting session was held resulting in satisfactory presentation of the exercises of the exercises of the school. Suitable instruction from the visiting brethren. Adjournment was taken at 10:25 a. m.

At 10:30 a. m. the conference was resumed and Elder Kimball was the first speaker. His subject was the difference between the people of the Latter-day Saints and the people of the world. The speaker also portrayed the effect caused among the people by their giving way to some serious evils that have been introduced among the people of God in late years, showing the effect such things produce in time as well as in eternity upon the persons who are overcome and give way to them.

Elders Andrew Olsson and John Thomas Joseph were ordained High Priests and the latter was set apart to be the second counselor to Bishop F. T. Gunn of the Adamsville ward by Elder Lyman.

The names of D. M. Muir, John H. Stoney, Oliver M. Gale, Robert Le Roy Shepherd, Geo. L. Benson, John K. Williams, James H. Wood, James E. Tanner Jr. were selected for missions abroad.

The gathering was so extensive that it was necessary to provide a place for an overflow meeting and both houses were filled to full capacity. Counselor Shepherd had charge of the overflow meeting and Elder Kimball was the principal speaker.

At the regular meeting the opening exercises over and Sacrament administered. Elder Lyman read from the New Testament and Doctrine and Covenants and delivered a discourse on general principles and doctrines pertaining to the work of the Gospel in this dispensation and concluded by bestowing his blessing upon all the people from the presidency of the Stake to the children of the Sunday schools.

A list of names of home missionaries for the ensuing quarter was presented and unanimously sustained.

Conference was adjourned for three months. Benediction by Counselor J. T. Tolton.

W. G. NOWERS,
Stake Clerk.

IF NOT A MIRACLE, WHAT?

Elder L. A. Stevenson, writing to the "News" from Middleburg, Florida, encloses an article from one of the leading papers of that state, The Banner, published at Ocala, Fla., and adds:

The editor also made us welcome to his hospitality. He gave us free subscription to his paper while in town, and told us to leave our addresses, and the journal would follow us. Handing us the key to his office, he told us to use it at our leisure.

This is what we had petitioned our Heavenly Father for, and we gave Him the honor, praise and glory for this boon.

The article referred to is as follows:

"For the first time in her history Ocala is visited by missionaries of the Mormon Church. The names of the two young evangelists are L. A. Stevenson and W. F. Tanner. They are the first two missionaries to visit this section of Florida. Their purpose is to establish Sunday schools and churches. Mr. Stevenson is superintendent of Sunday school work in Florida, and

Mr. Tanner his assistant. We learn from these young men that the Mormon Church has about five hundred missionaries in the Southern States. It has forty-four in Florida. Last year they baptized two hundred and seventy-three converts, and organized eight Sunday schools and six churches. They baptize by immersion and ordain their ministers by the laying on of hands. They except the Old and New Testament scriptures, but only as part of revealed religion. They believe that the prophecies are not yet fulfilled, and until Christ shall come again and reign in His own personality He will have His inspired Prophets to perform this wondrous work.

These young men, besides organizing Sunday schools in various sections of the state, have canvassed and distributed literature in Tallahassee, Thomasville and Jacksonville while in Tala. They said they called on Governor Bloxham and are loud in their praise of the very gracious and kindly treatment received at his hands; and speaking in this connection, they say that only in one or two instances have their missionaries been treated unkind in any of the Southern States.

"Among their converts in Florida is Mr. George P. Conova, of McClenney, and in southern Georgia a Mr. Fley, a wealthy and prominent citizen, but usually their converts come from the ranks of what are known as 'the plain people.'

"Just now the Mormon converts are more numerous in Baker county, and that vicinity is being visited by two Apostles, viz: F. M. Lyman and M. F. Cowley. The missionaries from this Church go about preaching as did the early Apostles and disciples, 'without money or scrip,' and although only the unfavorable part of their religion seems to be understood, they depend upon the voluntary offerings of the people among whom they visit. One of these young men, Mr. Tanner, has traveled more than ten thousand miles a-foot over the sands of Florida, and says he lacks a good deal yet of starving anything like as long as his illustrious namesake, and is dressed every way as well as were the early Apostles. To us it seems that if ever there was a miracle performed in modern times and in sight of all the earth, the history of this Church furnishes the proof of it. In the full sun light of the nineteenth century; in the empire state of the Union; in the very midst of learning and eloquence; under the very shadow of churches and schools, and within the hearing of the steam presses of the daily newspapers, an obscure and ignorant man finds golden plates bearing a peculiar inscription which no man could translate."

Here follows a brief historical sketch of the rise and progress of the Church. The Banner then says:

"Years in advance of the 'Iron Horse,' this peculiar people were led across the mountains and plains far beyond the confines of civilization by Brigham Young, who succeeded Joseph Smith as Prophet. Coming to the beautiful basin near Salt Lake the Prophet stuck his staff in the ground and said: 'Upon this spot we shall build our temple.' Years afterward, it is claimed, that in digging down to lay its foundations the point of the staff of the Prophet was found in the center of the plot. They not only founded a city but attempted to organize a state which was called Deseret, 'The land of honey-bee.' But Congress refused to recognize it and conflicts with the federal authorities ensued, which lasted until a very recent period and until polygamy was denounced. The lands where they pitched their tents was considered so arid as to be almost totally unproductive. But under the direction of the Prophet, a system of irrigation was begun by the frugal and industrious be-