

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The annual Sunday school conference of the Church was held in the large Tabernacle, Sunday evening, April 8, 1894, at 7 p. m. Present: Gen. Supt. George Q. Cannon, Assistants George Goddard and John Morgan; all the members of the Sunday School Union board; President Joseph F. Smith, Elders Brigham Young and George Teasdale, and the largest gathering of Sunday school workers ever assembled in these valleys.

The meeting was called together by Asst. Gen. Supt. George Goddard. The Tabernacle and Juvenile Choir under the able management of Prof. Evan Stephens furnished the music for the occasion and sang: "From Afar, Gracious Lord."

Prayer by Elder George H. Brimhall.

Choir sang, "Hard Times, Come Again No More."

The general secretary called the roll of Stakes, showing thirty-four out of thirty-six represented. Also read the totals of annual statistical and financial reports for 1893, as follows:

Total number of schools of organized Stakes, 581.

Total number of schools of various missions, 86.

Grand total number of schools, 617.

Number of times school held during the year, 26,124.

Number of male officers and teachers, 5,593.

Number of female officers and teachers, 3,842.

Total number of officers and teachers, 9,435.

Average attendance of officers and teachers, 6,020.

Number of male pupils, 36,626.

Number of female pupils, 37,595.

Total number of pupils, 74,221.

Number of pupils in primary department, 29,484.

Number of pupils in first intermediate department, 16,259.

Number of pupils in second intermediate department, 12,883.

Number of pupils in highest department, 15,615.

Average attendance of pupils, 47,045.

Total number of officers, teachers and pupils, 83,656.

Number of books in library, 26,381.

Cash on hand at last report, \$2,663.93.

Cash collected, \$9,961.49.

Cash disbursed, \$9,881.46.

Cash in treasury, \$2,743.96.

The secretary and presented the general Sunday school authorities as follows, who were unanimously sustained by the vote of the conference:

George Q. Cannon, general superintendent of Sunday schools in all the world.

George Goddard, first assistant general superintendent of Sunday schools in all the world.

John Morgan, second assistant general superintendent of Sunday schools in all the world.

As members of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board: George Q. Cannon, George Goddard, John Morgan, George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, Thomas C. Griggs, Joseph W. Summerhays, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman, Heber J. Grant and John C. Cutler.

As general secretary, John M. Whitaker.

As general treasurer, George Reynolds.

Elder George Goddard was grateful to his Heavenly Father to live to see the Sunday school cause grow to be of such magnitude—representing nearly one-third of the entire population of the Church, nearly 84,000 engaged therein. And with the growth in numbers each year there has also been a corresponding growth intellectually and systematically in the presentation of the truths of the Gospel.

Grading has marked a new era in this work, and will be followed by results which time alone can measure. The "nickel day" on the first Sunday in September of each year, with one or two exceptions has been nobly responded to and has enabled the general board to publish works for the free distribution of the schools.

Elder Goddard paid a high tribute to the faithful workers in this great cause and closed by invoking the blessings of heaven upon them and the Sunday school work.

Elder George Reynolds said that in view of the rapid growth of the Sunday school cause the First Presidency of the Church have felt impressed to announce annual Sunday school conferences in each Stake of Zion, having for their purpose the better understanding and closer relations and general advancement of the Sunday school cause.

Elder Reynolds read following portions of the circular:

The instructions given by the First Presidency that in future an annual Sunday School conference shall be held in each stake of Zion, impels us to offer a few suggestions for your consideration.

Saturday and Sunday should be used, as those days will not interfere with the attendance of the children at their day schools, which would be the case if the conferences were held on the Sunday and Monday. But where Sunday and Monday are used the program arranged for Saturday should be rendered Monday. The following suggested programs outline our ideas of their general conduct and the work that should be done therein:

## SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR TWO DAYS CONFERENCE:

First day, 10 a. m.—Officers' and teachers' meeting.

2 p. m.—Review of their classes by prominent teachers of the stake and their methods of teaching them. Reports.

Second day, 10 a. m.—General meeting of members, with instructions from visiting brethren. Reports.

2 p. m.—General instructions and reports. Presentation of General and Stake Sunday school authorities. Administration of the sacrament.

7 p. m.—(Services to be arranged during the preceding meetings.)

The addresses decided upon for the convening of these conferences will be published, for general information, in the same manner as are those of the quarterly Stake conference; and we suggest that the superintendent of each Sunday school call a meeting of its teachers and officers about two weeks before the time appointed for the conference of its Stake and at that meeting:

First—Decide which of the officers and teachers shall attend the confer-

ence. As many as possible should go.

Second—Arrange for the conduct of the school with those officers and teachers that remain so that as little change as possible is made from the regular program, and as little interference occur in the regular studies. Where the usual order of studies is impracticable, a miscellaneous program is suggested.

Third—Prepare report of the condition of the school so that the superintendent may be able to answer the questions of the members of the general board of the Union who may be present at the conference. Among the questions that every superintendent should be prepared to answer are:

How many children of Latter-day Saint parentage are there in your ward or district, under the age of eighteen?

How many of these are enrolled in your Sunday school?

What is their average attendance?

What is the average attendance of officers and teachers?

Have you any attendants at the Sunday school normal course, held in connection with the B. Y. Academy?

Do you use the Sunday school visiting book?

Stake secretaries should be prepared to take minutes of the meetings of these conferences.

Every Sunday school should continue its sessions, as usual, on the date of the Annual Sunday School Conference, except those situated in the town or settlement where the conference is held. But the children should be encouraged to attend from those outside places where the distance or other causes do not render it impracticable or undesirable.

A program of singing exercises should be prepared of songs, etc., well known in the various schools of the Stake, and a leader be chosen by the Stake superintendency for the entire congregation. If the Stake is fortunate enough to have several leaders of ability, one may lead at the first meeting, another at the second, and so on, so that each school may feel that it is remembered and duly honored. In all cases a thorough understanding should be had of what is to be sung (which should invariably be from the Church publications) and the various schools be given time to practice.

Your brethren in the Gospel,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

GEORGE GODDARD,

JOHN MORGAN.

At the meeting of Stake officers, the desirability of the organization of a Normal training course in the Stake, on the same plan as that at Provo Academy, will be decided upon. The dates of these conferences are as follows:

Subject to revision, 1894, Sunday school annual conferences.

April 21st and 22nd, Maricopa.

April 28th and 29th, St. Joseph.

May 5th and 6th, Mexico.

May 12th and 13th, St. George.

May 19th and 20th, Cassia.

May 26th and 27th, Tooele.

June 2nd and 3rd, Box Elder, Sanpete.

June 9th and 10th, Oneida.

June 16th and 17th, Malad, Juab.

June 24th and 25th, Star Valley.

June 30th, July 1st, Bear Lake.