

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH,

Saturday, October 8, 1892, at the General Conference, held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I pray for the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit to enable me, while I stand before you this morning, to speak the truth, and to do it in a manner that will be plain and simple, so that we can all understand. I am grateful to see the good attendance that we have had at our Conference thus far, and I am also thankful to our heavenly Father for the rich outpouring of His Spirit which we have enjoyed while we have been together. I hope that the good counsels and the excellent instructions which have been imparted to us may find ample lodgment in our hearts and in our memories, that we may profit by them. We have had a little said upon a variety of subjects, all of which are necessary for our guidance and for our observance in order that we may prosper and be what we should be—the people of God.

Brother John Henry Smith, in his closing remarks, touched upon a subject which is of vital importance to the Latter-day Saints, and that is, the subject of home employment and home industry. It should not be that any of our people are without employment in this country; and some efforts ought to be made by the leading men in the various settlements, where men are unemployed, to devise means by which employment may be given to them, that they may not be necessarily idle. In connection with this subject it may not be amiss to state at this time and to this congregation the fact that during the lifetime of President Young he was very earnest in his desires and efforts that home industries should be established among the people. I remember distinctly when he called upon President Smoot, Bishop R. T. Burton and others to unite their means together and build a woolen factory up here on Parley's canyon creek; and they did so. President Young himself also had a factory there about that time. I also remember that President Young called upon Brothers Lorin Farr, Pugsley and others at one time to establish a woolen factory near Ogden, and they did so. I remember President Young was very eager that a factory should be established down in our "Dixie" country, and certain brethren were called and commissioned to go down there to establish a factory in that vicinity. Then he was very anxious that employment should be given to some of our people in the direction of planting, cultivating and raising cotton, and people were called and sent into our "Dixie" country to raise cotton, in order that the factory established at Washington might not be idle, and that cotton might be produced by the labor of our Utah people.

Yesterday I was in the Fair, where I saw some excellent specimens of cotton that had been raised in the

south, and prepared as batting, by the industry of our people. I saw a very fine display of woolen goods—flannels, blankets, and other cloths—marked "John C. Cutler, agent for the Provo Woolen Mills," and my eyes were gladdened by the sight, my heart was rejoiced to see such a fine display of home products exhibited at the Fair. I believe in this kind of industry. I believe it to be a good thing for any community, to branch out in every kind of industry that will give employment to the people, and that will produce at home every article needed for home consumption, as far as possible. It is the principle upon which communities become self-sustaining, independent and wealthy. If the Latter-day Saints ever expect to become wealthy, it will be after they have established all the industries that are necessary to make them independent, and to provide for themselves every commodity of life that they need. I also saw in the Fair some specimens of blankets and other goods produced by the Deseret Woolen Mills, owned and managed by some of the late Brother William Jennings' family, and situated in the lower part of this city. I saw some goods as fine, I believe, as I have seen in any country—the result of the labor of our own people and the products of our own country. How much better this is than to have to buy all our blankets from abroad and to import everything that we wear that is needful for our comfort. Let me exhort my brethren and sisters who are assembled here today to remember these institutions that have been established among us. If you want blankets, where will you go to get them? I would advise you to get them from where those manufactured at home can be obtained. I would exhort you never to spend a dollar from this time forth, if you can avoid it, for anything that is produced abroad which is produced at home, even though you may be under the necessity of paying a little more for that produced here. I advise you to patronize home industry, because it helps to give employment to our home people, it helps to build up our own country, it helps to keep the wealth within our own community, and it builds us up better, faster, and more permanently than any other course can possibly do. Here is our sugar factory in Lehi. Some of our brethren are groaning under the weight of responsibility that rests upon them in connection with the establishment of that sugar factory. If I recollect right, President Willford Woodruff, President George Q. Cannon and your humble servant, and others of the Apostles, are today carrying tens of thousands of dollars in order that that industry might be established among the people, and in order that some of the sugar that is consumed by them might be produced at home by their own industry and skill, and that some of the money that we pay out annually for the sugar we consume might be kept at home and distributed to those who produce the article here. I want to remind my brethren and sisters throughout Zion that it is a portion of their duty to patronize these home industries and to sustain them by their patronage. For it is a good and wise policy. It is the policy that was inaugurated by President Young in the

beginning of the settlement of this Territory. It is the policy that is today the wisest and the best for this community. We are still far separated from the centers of manufacture and in a comparatively new country; this should not be forgotten. It is not perhaps consistent with modern ideas to suppose for a moment that there could come a time of pinching, of poverty and of necessity in the tops of these mountains, connected as we are with the east and the west, with the north and the south, by these lines of railroads which run into and through our country. I know it is not orthodox now-a-days to consider or admit the possibility of a famine coming upon the inhabitants of North America. Do we not possess the richest country in the world? Are we not blessed with all the products of the temperate and the torrid zone? Are we not blessed with the greatest mineral, agricultural and stock-raising country in the world? Yes; and yet I read in the revelations which the Lord has given to us that a day of famine will come upon the land, a day of drought, a day of necessity, a day of pestilence, and a day of deep sorrow. When that day shall come we will learn, if we do not learn it before, that the community which is the nearest self-supporting will be the most independent and the most prosperous that can be found anywhere in the land. There is another little factory in Franklin, Idaho. It is really a Utah industry, owned and carried on largely by Utah people, and they are producing some of the finest home-made blankets, linsey, flannel and yarn that can be produced anywhere in the country. I want to make honorable mention of it, as I have of the other mills. I am told also that Brother Whitehead, at Springville is manufacturing some goods. I desire to make mention of these things. What for? That I may induce you, my brethren and sisters, if I possibly can, to patronize these institutions, and to sustain by your works as well as by your prayers home industries, which give to the people employment, and put bread in their mouths and clothing upon their backs, and give them homes to shelter them, developing the resources of our country, and making it what it is today—the superior of any of its sister territories or states in this inter-mountain region. There is no state or territory in this inter-mountain region that can compare in material prosperity with the Territory of Utah, and it is largely due to the policy inaugurated by President Young, that is still in vogue, or ought to be, among this people to foster home industry. A little while ago I gave an order for some home-made blankets. I can go to Z. C. M. I., or any of these stores which import foreign made goods and I can buy blankets for considerably less than I expect to have to pay for those that are made at home; but I would rather give a little more to our own workmen for the product of their labor than to purchase the imported article. But the fact of the matter is, I expect to get the worth of my money. Even if I do have to pay a little more for it, I believe the article will be that much better and more durable.

In times gone by we used to exhort the people to patronize our co-operative institutions. Here is Z. C. M. I. Pres-