

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

IONA, Idaho, Aug. 10th, 1897.

The Bingham Stake S. S. conference convened at Iona, Aug. 7th.

The weather was fine and the Saints and Sunday school workers in the best of spirits. We were blessed with the presence of Elder Geo. Goddard, first assistant general superintendent and member of the board of Deseret Sunday School Union, and Joe W. Summerhays, also a member of the same board. Besides these brethren, our stand was graced with the presence of Stake S. S. Supt. Chas. S. Crabtree, Second Assistant E. H. Brown, the Stake presidency and a number of Bishops and ward superintendents of schools. The congregation was not so large during the first day, but on Sunday the house was filled to overflowing.

The conference was presided over by Superintendent Crabtree and the singing was ably conducted by Stake Musical Director Harry Wilson, while Miss Minnie Bybee presided at the organ.

Saturday 10 a. m.—After the devotional exercises Elder Summerhays made a few opening remarks, in which he predicated a good time and the blessings of God upon us.

Supt. Crabtree gave a short address of welcome, and a number of schools were reported by their respective superintendents, or representatives, as in very creditable condition.

The report of the Ammon school is worthy of special mention as all of the questions submitted were answered in the affirmative. Elder Goddard remarked that this was the first time in all of his travels that all of those questions had been answered in the affirmative.

A class exercise, "Good Manners," by the primary department of the Ammon school, reflected much credit on the teacher.

The rest of the meeting was taken up by Elders Summerhays and Goddard, both of whom spoke very encouragingly to old and young on punctuality, order, the Word of Wisdom, monthly Teachers' meetings, tithing, and some other subjects of great importance to Sunday schools. Elder Goddard closed his remarks by singing "In Our Lovely Deseret," which greatly pleased the children as well as the grown people.

2 p. m. A much larger congregation put in an appearance and the Spirit of God was enjoyed to a marked extent. The singing was greatly improved by the presence of a large number of singers. The exercises were similar to those of the forenoon session; reports were heard from various schools and an exercise was given by the first intermediate department of the Iona school.

Second Assistant E. H. Brown spoke of his Sunday school work as a pleasure, and was determined to do his duty.

The annual statistical and financial report of the Bingham Stake Sunday schools was read by the secretary K. E. Fife.

The time was then given to our visiting brethren who encouraged us with their spirited remarks. They spoke of the nickel fund and the necessity of keeping up the same, and

explained what it is for. Elder Summerhays explained the Deseret S. S. Union board and the interest they were taking to develop the Sunday school cause.

Sunday 10 a. m. found the house overflowing with eager hearers. The exercises began promptly by the combined schools singing Do Not Weary by the Way. According to roll call eighteen schools were represented. More S. S. reports were heard, and President R. L. Bybee made a few remarks pertaining to the Sunday school labors in this country. At one time he had charge of all of them and was the first to organize schools in a number of places.

A class exercise, Church History, was given by the Grant school.

Elder Summerhays again occupied a portion of the time; spoke of the small attendance at some of the Sunday schools; said something must be wrong. He spoke of the Sacrament, Sabbath breaking and the tobacco habit.

Elder Goddard made a multitude of good remarks which were instructive to old and young. He closed his remarks by singing, Who's on the Lord's side?

President J. E. Steele made a few remarks and the session closed.

At 12 noon the brethren held an officers' and teachers' meeting, which was well attended. The brethren impressed upon Sunday school workers the importance of their calling; said they must be exemplary, keep the Word of Wisdom, pay their tithing, and keep the Sabbath day holy.

Four missionaries were called to labor in this Stake to the interest of the Sunday schools.

2 p. m., Sunday.—After the devotional exercises the sacrament was administered by the Bishopric of the Iona ward. The General and Stake Sunday school authorities were presented and sustained.

President J. S. Mulliner spoke briefly of the good time we had had and expressed his gratitude for the blessings we enjoy.

The solo, O My Father, by Miss Haycock and choir was much enjoyed.

Elders Summerhays and Goddard again addressed us; spoke in mighty power on our duties as Saints, invoked the blessings of God upon us; and one of the most interesting and instructive Sunday school conferences ever held in the Stake closed.

R. H. FIFE, Secretary.

POWERS OF STATE LAND BOARD.

The State board of land commissioners recently submitted the following to the attorney general:

"Under section 11 of an act providing for the acceptance by the State of Utah from the United States of certain lands, and this board the legal right to fix the maximum of land for which an applicant may apply, to an amount which shall be less than 160 acres?"

Replying Mr. Bishop says:

"This act of the Legislature is an acceptance of the provision, of what is commonly known as the Carey act, the purpose of which was the reclamation of desert land, and which, by its terms limited the amount of land

to be taken by any one individual, to not more than 160 acres.

In accepting the provisions of this act, the Legislature was bound to be governed by the conditions imposed, and thus could not have fixed a greater maximum than that named in the bill.

The Legislature, however, in my opinion, could have fixed any quantity of land less than the maximum prescribed, as the maximum amount which any individual could make application for and purchase.

Section 11 of the act above referred to, being chapter 48 of the laws of 1897, among other things provides:

"Any citizen or any person having declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, may make application to the said board and enter any of said lands not exceeding 160 acres under the regulations of the department of the interior and the rules of the board."

State board of land commissioners, 2.

Section 2 of the same act in defining the powers of the board, provides:

"That the selection, management and disposal of said lands shall be vested in the State board of land commissioners, and said board is hereby authorized to make all contracts necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and may make such rules, not in conflict with this act or the said Act of Congress, as it may deem best."

These are the only provisions pertinent to the inquiry, and from these I think it clearly appears, first: That the legislature intended that any person might make application to enter any of said lands to the extent of one hundred and sixty acres; second: That not sufficient authority is given to the board to reduce the maximum of lands to be so applied for below this amount.

The effect of section 11, supra, is, to extend to every citizen who otherwise comes within the rule, the right to make application to purchase any quantity, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres.

In other words, it gives the citizen the privilege of applying for one hundred and sixty acres or any quantity less than that.

You are therefore advised, that in my opinion, the board does not possess the legal right to reduce the maximum quantity to be applied for and purchased by any citizen of the United States to less than one hundred and sixty acres.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

ST. JOHNS, Arizona,

August 5, 1897.

The people in the St. John Stake of Zion, in Apache county, Arizona, were shocked by the news that Brother Willard Elias Coleman was struck by lightning while working in his field, on July 29, 1897.

He went out in the morning to hoe potatoes, leaving his wife and sister at the house. About 11 o'clock the two women were startled by a vivid flash of lightning, followed by a deafening peal of thunder. The wife jumped from her seat exclaiming: "Oh, I wonder if that struck Will." They looked out but saw nothing of him.

His sister had seen him leaving the