

rejoiced with the Saints during the sessions of the Conference thus far, and had profited much by the words which had been spoken, by the dictation of the Holy Ghost unto us. There was a great work devolving upon God's people in their daily life, and the speaker here pointed out the vast importance of strictly keeping the sacred records of the Church. He then referred to statements in the Bible, Pearl of Great Price, and Book of Mormon, showing that God had, in various ages, commanded men to write the things which were profitable to be preserved for history. Since the temples had been constructed, he said, and the ordinances therein had been administered, there had begun to be a better understanding of the importance of keeping family records, history and genealogy than existed before among this people. There was one among us who had from the time of his earliest connection with the Church taken an especial interest and care in this regard, and in his labor therein he had shown much wisdom—he referred to President Woodruff. He had from the outset of his public career kept journals of all passing events, and the Saints were especially indebted to his exertions, as well as to those of other brethren, for the sermons which the Prophet Joseph delivered in the city of Nauvoo and other places on different occasions. To these brethren they were deeply indebted for those precious things which were now preserved on the pages of the Church's history, and which served to so refresh us at this day. Some of the most important matters instituted by the Prophet Joseph had been brought down in history to the present time, and we were thereby the happy recipients of those blessings and ordinances. While we had been limited in our efforts to write up much in the history of the Church in these times, because of our records being in a scattered condition, and our inability to obtain the requisite information, yet one of the brethren had been going around from ward to ward, from Stake to Stake, from mission to mission during the last three or four years, hunting up the early happenings in the various settlements of Utah and the surrounding territories. He had succeeded in gathering the information necessary to produce a good and faithful history of all the Stakes of Zion, and from the report which he had made to the speaker, as Church historian, he learned that there were wards which had been organized quite a length of time in which no semblance of a record had been yet kept.

The speaker earnestly directed the attention of the presidents of Stakes and Bishops of wards, as well as the heads of families, to the importance of this matter, and counseled them to remember that it was quite time they were turning their minds in this direction. Let parents, he urged, teach their sons and daughters to devote their attention to this subject and instruct them in their school days how to keep notations of the general doings around them. In future generations it would be interesting for children to know what part their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers played in the Church's history of the past. Not only were records wanted of what

happened at home, but of the happenings in foreign countries, and he hoped soon to see that matter also earnestly taken up. Presidents of Stakes and Bishops of wards should go around among their people at least once every year, inspect the records which were made, and see that these were being thoroughly kept, and thereby a complete history could be assured. In conclusion Elder Richards commended his suggestions to the thoughtful consideration of the Saints.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON briefly supplemented the remarks of Elder Richards upon the subject of record keeping, and urged the importance of the Saints employing the best quality of paper and ink in the compilation of their private records and journals. He offered some pertinent suggestions in that regard.

President Cannon also reminded the congregation of the concert to be held in the Tabernacle this evening, the proceeds of which are to be divided between the choir fund and the widows and orphans of the unfortunate men who were killed in the recent mine disaster in Wyoming.

The choir sang the anthem, "Wonderful Counselor."

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

Conference adjourned till 2 p.m.

#### Afternoon Session, 2 p.m.

##### Singing by the choir:

Though in the outward Church below  
The wheat and tares together grow.

Prayer by Elder Seymour B. Young.  
The choir sang:

Truth reflects upon our senses,  
Gospel light reveals to some,  
If there still should be offenses,  
Woe to them by whom they come.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON presented the general authorities of the Church to the Conference, as follows:

Willford Woodruff, as Prophet, Seer and Revelator, and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world.

George Q. Cannon as First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Joseph F. Smith as Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

Lorenzo Snow as President of the Twelve Apostles.

As members of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriuer W. Merrill, Anthon H. Lund and Abraham H. Cannon.

The Counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch to the Church—John Smith.

First Seven Presidents of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells and Edward Stevenson.

William B. Preston, as Presiding Bishop, with Robert T. Burton as his First and John R. Wiinder as his Second Counselor.

Franklin D. Richards as Church Historian and General Church Recorder, and John Jaques as his assistant.

As the Church Board of Education: Willford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow,

George Q. Cannon, Karl G. Maeser, Willard Young, George W. Thatcher, Anthon H. Lund, James Sharp and Joseph F. Smith.

As Trustee-in-Trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Willford Woodruff.

John Nicholson as Clerk of the General Conference.

All the voting to sustain the authorities as presented was unanimous.

An annual report of Sunday schools was read. With other information it showed the following: Number of schools, 690; officers and teachers, 10,055; pupils, 81,921; total officers, teachers and pupils, 91,976. Cash on hand at last report, \$2,380.94; amount collected during the year, \$9,638.48; total cash receipts, \$11,069.42; disbursements during the year, \$9,618.31; balance on hand, \$2,451.11.

The annual report of the Young Ladies' M. I. Association showed as follows: Number of associations, 408; number reported, 380; number of members reported, 14,468; increase, 1,098; Stake organizations, 36; reported, 35; books in library, 5,884. Cash on hand, \$3,044.68. Property on hand, \$3,209.67.

The report was signed by Elmina S. Taylor, Maria Y. Dugall and Martha H. Tingey, who constitute the presidency of the organization, and by Ann M. Cannon, secretary and treasurer.

#### PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW

was the first speaker. He began by reading from the first chapter of the Revelations of St. John and the 110th section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. The two testimonies herein referred to, he said, were given—the first about 1800 years ago; the second about fifty-nine years since; the vision of the Savior, mentioned in the latter book, having been made manifest by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on April 3, 1836. He was well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and partially so with Oliver Cowdery. While engaged in establishing the principles of the Gospel no fault could be found with Oliver Cowdery. He was a good and faithful man and always had a faithful testimony. But he grew jealous of certain parties and after a time apostatized. He remained in that condition for many years, but just before his death he came forward and requested to have the privilege of being baptized and becoming again a member of the Church. During all the period of his apostasy he always maintained the truth of the testimony which he first bore in regard to the principles of Mormonism and the various manifestations which he had previously received from the Lord.

Elder Snow then proceeded to speak upon the subject of baptism and other vicarious work for the dead, and said that in our temples we were now accomplishing a great and mighty work for our ancestors who had passed behind the veil. Extraordinary manifestations had been witnessed from time to time which clearly showed that God approved of the labor of His people in that direction. The speaker remarked that the object sought was the salvation of those of our kindred who in the past had died without a knowledge or testimony of the true Gospel. We ourselves