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Delivered at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 6th, 1895, by

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

President Woodruff has requested me to address you for a few moments, and in attempting to do so I desire earnestly your faith and prayers. Many excellent things have been said to the people during this Conference. The Elders who have spoken have borne their testimony to us of the truths of the Gospel which we have espoused, and I desire to add my testimony also to theirs. I believe that I love the Gospel as much today as I ever did in my life. If possible, I think that I love it more. It is spiritual meat and drink to me. I have often thought of the remark which was made by Peter to Christ on one occasion. Many of those who had followed Jesus had become weary and were departing from Him, and Jesus looked upon them and grieved in His feelings to see those who had been following Him turning away; (for it appears there were apostates from the truth in those early days, while Jesus Himself was yet living and teaching) and He returned to His disciples and said unto them, "Will ye also go away?" And Peter turned to Him and said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." This has been the sentiment of my heart from my first understanding of the principles of the Gospel until now. If I leave this truth, whither shall I go? I pray God that I may never be left to myself nor to the powers of darkness so far as to be led from the path of my duty or to be persuaded to depart from the ways of the Lord.

Very much has been said during this Conference in relation to the spiritual duties of the Latter-day Saints; and while I do not desire to detract from that which has been said or to divert the thoughts of the people from the excellent instructions and counsels they have received, my mind seems led to speak upon something of a different nature; in other words, a little upon the temporal gospel which we have embraced, or at least, which we should embrace. We see a great revolution of feeling on the part of the people of the United States and of the world at large, so far as they have heard anything about Utah, and there is a friendly feeling manifested at this time toward us. Now, I do not apprehend that this pleasant feeling which is manifested by the people of the

world towards us has arisen through their conviction of the truth of the Gospel, that is, the spiritual truths of the Gospel. I do not apprehend that they have fallen in love with our ideas of faith, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. I do not understand that they have accepted our idea of present revelation and the existence among men of the authority of the Priesthood. I do not so understand it. Why, then, are they looking toward us with a more friendly feeling than heretofore? One reason I see for this change of feeling is that our neighbors are looking upon our material prosperity, the effects of our union. They see the fruits of that union, to a certain extent, and they discover that whereas our country was once a barren desert, now it blossoms like the rose. And they understand, too, that the people have made this change upon the face of nature by their united efforts, and not by the use of large amounts of money, their labor having been organized and directed, and utilized to the best advantage to produce the glorious results which are visible; and people are looking upon this and are admiring it. Therefore, they are feeling more friendly toward us than they have been in years past. Some of our neighboring states and territories have pursued a different policy to that which has been pursued by the people of Utah, and now they see that their material interests have not been developed, as those of the people of this territory have been; and are behind Utah in substantial growth and many improvements. While the people of other territories have turned their attention to gold and silver mining and industries of this character, the people of the Territory of Utah have turned their attention to agriculture and to the development of the various other resources of the country, and the result is we are able in part to shoe and clothe and house ourselves. We buy the products of our own labor. We are able to take from the sheep our wool, and out of it to produce cloth with which to clothe the people. We are able, through the herculean effort, I will say, of a few men, who have been left to carry the burden themselves, to produce a few million pounds of sugar to supply the people of the Territory with that valuable article. And we have been able to do a few other little things of this character in Utah. It is this industry and this effort on the part of the people of Utah that is attracting today the attention of our neighbors and friends. Our irrigation of the lands and the subjection of these deserts to cultivation and to the production of grain, fruits and vegetables in vast quantities, sufficient for the necessities of the people and some for exportation—these

things are what are attracting the attention of our neighbors towards us, and causing them to feel that there has been wisdom manifested in the direction of the labors of the people. Therefore, they are moved, as I have said before, with feelings of friendship and regard for us just at present, because their eyes are turned upon these things.

Now, I want to ask this congregation, how many of you feel disposed to patronize these home industries that are the source of wealth, of progress, of strength and of improvement in this Territory? How many of you will patronize the sugar factory at Lehi, and determine within your own minds to purchase Utah sugar and use it to the exclusion of all imported sugar, as long as you can get a pound of Lehi sugar? How many of us will patronize the home product in preference to that which is imported? This is an important question. I heard a lady say not long ago, "Oh, I would not use Utah sugar." Why? Well, because it tastes of the beet!" I suppose the cause of that is that the beets of which Utah sugar is made are raised nearer home than the beets from which the imported sugar is made. The beet taste, of course, evaporates from the beet sugar that is imported into Utah from other countries; hence they do not taste the beet in the foreign article, while they can taste it in Utah sugar. (Laughter) But this is only a pretext, and a very poor pretext, too, not to patronize home productions. Another lady (and this lady that I now refer to is not a Latter-day Saint; the other lady was a Mormon—I cannot say she was a Latter-day Saint) said once to her husband, "What is the matter with my coffee, it is too sweet, and I have only put the usual amount of sugar in it?" "Why," said he, "don't you know that we are using Utah sugar and it don't require so much to sweeten your coffee." (Laughter) Now, these non-Mormons are good patrons of home productions, while many of the Latter-day Saints will not patronize the Lehi sugar because they can taste the beets in the sugar, strange, isn't it, the gentiles don't discover the beet taste also.

We notice that when the Lehi sugar is in the market, importers of sugar into Utah cut down the price, in order to underseil the home product, to, if possible, I suppose, break down the institution and to ruin those who have invested their means in this industry. And there are thousands of so-called Latter-day Saints who will buy the imported article because they can get it for a few cents less or even half a cent less than the home article. Presidents Willford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith have had to stand under the load of this Lehi factory to the