

## NORMAL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

PROVO CITY, Nov. 14.—The Normal Sunday school, notice of the organization of which by the General Superintendency of the Sunday School Union has already appeared in the News, was inaugurated today in the Brigham Young Academy.

The rooms were well warmed and ventilated by the superior warm-air system of heating, and everything was clean, commodious and comfortable.

The congregation, composed of children, normal students, Sunday school teachers, visitors, the members of the faculty, and Sunday school authorities, assembled in room 4, and at 10 o'clock were called to order by Superintendent Benjamin Cluff, Jr.

On the stand were Elders George Goddard and George Reynolds, of the General Board of the Deseret Sunday School Union, President A. O. Smoot and Bishop J. E. Booth, of the Stake Board of Education, the members of the faculty, and a few prominent visitors.

Copies of the Sunday School Union song book had been distributed and the congregation sang "Beautiful Zion."

Elder Reynolds opened with prayer, invoking the blessings of heaven upon this "new departure."

"Did you think to pray," was then sung, and Brother Cluff arose and gave the following outline of the work designed in this department of the academy:

The school is divided into three grades, viz.—a Primary, an Intermediate and a Higher. Over each grade there will be placed a head-teacher, and as many assistants chosen as may be necessary, the design being not to give more than about ten pupils to one teacher. Normal students will be present at the recitations of the classes as observers of the methods of teaching, and these in their turns will be chosen to conduct classes (Here the Normals present were divided into classes of observers for each grade.)

Each grade will have three sub-grader or classes as follows:

## PRIMARY.

- (a) Stories from the Bible with charts.
- (b) Stories from Book of Mormon with charts.
- (c) The Primary Leaflets.

## INTERMEDIATE.

- (a.) Readings from the Old and New Testament.
- (b.) Reading from the Book of Mormon with dictionary.
- (c.) Study of Leaflets.

## HIGHER.

- (a.) A Study of Principles as arranged in Compendium.
- (b.) Reading of Orion Pratt's and similar works.
- (c.) Normal Instruction: Theory of Teaching adapted to Sunday School work.

Following are officers: Superintendent, B. Cluff Jr. Assistant Superintendent, Geo. H. Brimhall. Musical Director, H. E. Giles. Head teachers, Higher Grade, N. L. Nelson; Intermediate Grade, Walter M. Wolfe; Primary Grade, Miss Amy Brown. Librarian, Edward Holt.

The daily program will be as follows:  
9:30-10:15—Lecture on Teaching.  
10:15-10:30—Intermission.

10:30-11—Opening exercises and administration of the Sacrament.

11-11:50—Class exercises in the various rooms.

11:50-12—Closing exercises.

Brother Cluff announced that the musical director would spend every Sunday ten minutes in each grade in teaching songs appropriate to the age of pupils. Singing would be specially emphasized.

The last remark pleased Supt. Goddard, who now arose to address the meeting. He had been connected twenty-five years with Sunday school work. No prouder or nobler position could be held by any man or woman than that of teacher and especially teacher in a Sabbath school. Weighty results had been accomplished in the past with inadequate facilities. What might not be hoped for in the future, now that he had lived to witness the organization of a school, especially for the training of Sunday school teachers. He congratulated the young people before him and asked God's blessing on the new movement.

Brother Goddard was brimming over with the joy of being a Latter-day Saint, and as usual did not fail to communicate happiness to others.

Brother Reynolds stated that this movement had the fullest approval and support of the general authorities, and much would be expected from this school in systematizing and harmonizing the work throughout Zion.

Prest. Smoot declared that no greater or more glorious feature had been or could be added to the work of the B. Y. Academy. He thanked God that the work had been begun, and promised it all his influence. It cannot fail to do great good in Zion.

"Brother Goddard has just told us" began Elder James E. Daniels, "that President Brigham Young, wishing to begin an important home industry, called him from the position of leading merchant in this city, to the humiliating office of paper-rag gatherer. He obeyed, and I think did well to obey. If the office did not confer honor on him, he conferred honor on the office. God has since rewarded him sufficiently in the position he now holds. I cannot help thinking that Brother Goddard's experience finds a parallel in the cases of early Sunday school teachers as compared with the present or at least future teachers in this great cause. Twenty-five years ago it was hardly considered an honor to be a teacher in a Sabbath school. It was generally thought men conferred honor on the office. I distinctly remember how President Smoot wishing to elevate this popular feeling, consented, in addition to his numerous other duties, to become our superintendent. Since then what a stride forward we have taken. No man can now, in the estimation of the people confer honor on any office in a Sunday school. At any rate if this is not fully true today, it will be when such schools as the one opened here today shall have had their full influence."

Superintendent M. H. Hardy, of the M. I. Association, pledged the new move all the support in his power, and the countenances of all present reflected back the worthy sentiment.

The grades now went to the various rooms for class organization and in-

formal instructions. On reassembling many other good things were said, but enough has been reported to convey the general spirit, purpose and prospects of this new organization.

N. L. N., Secretary.

## RELIGIOUS CONGRESSES.

[BY J. M. S.]

One of the grandest conceptions of the age will be embodied in the series of religious conferences to be held in Chicago in connection with the World's Fair next year. They are part of the organization known as the Auxilia Congress, which is under the management of the directors of the Columbian Exposition and comprise conferences of the leading men of the world interested in agriculture, engineering, commerce and finance; education, philosophy, literature; philanthropy, reform, temperance; municipal, national and international laws, peace arbitration, jurisprudence; labor problems; medicine; music, architecture, and other arts, and finally religion. It is safe to say, that of all the brilliant assemblages that will be gathered for the discussion of the various subjects here enumerated, none will surpass in popular interest those that will gather in the interest of religion.

The religious congresses are to comprise, first, a great parliament with representatives of all the religions of the world. Here Christians and Jews, Mohammedans and Hindoos, Brahmans and Confucians are to fraternize in the friendly exchange of thoughts and ideas. Second, a Christian congress composed of members of the various denominations that profess to follow the great Nazarene. Here Roman Catholics, Greek, Orthodox, Armenians, Lutherans, Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, etc., etc., will be represented. Third, between twenty-five or thirty special conferences of different churches. There will thus be a Catholic conference, a Baptist conference, a Presbyterian conference and so on. There will further be great conferences of various missionary organizations and an international session of the Evangelic Alliance. In brief, there will be such an exhibition of religious thought that probably never before entered into the mind of man as a possibility.

And all this is no wild project, no plan on paper only, but a conception to be realized in a near future. As soon as the plan was mentioned it met with hearty response all over the world. The great prelates of the Catholic church responded cordially. Protestants became eager and enthusiastic and even Jewish rabbis expressed their willingness to take part in the programme. A marvelous phenomenon. Can it be that the world at last has become conscious of its helpless condition and is willing to investigate the possibility of saving the various fragments of religion from total destruction? Has the time come for the "warriors of the cross" to transform their swords into implements of peace, preparatory to the dawning of the day of universal brotherhood?

The purpose of these religious gatherings is stated to be a friendly exchange of opinions. There will be no debates of controversial or polemic nature. No denominations will be expected to aban-