

Y. M. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The General Conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of the Latter-day Saints opened in the Assembly Hall this morning (Saturday June 4th) at ten o'clock. President Joseph F. Smith conducted the meeting, and there were present, besides President Smith, Apostle Moses Thatcher, President Angus M. Cannon and Joseph E. Taylor of the Salt Lake Stake, four of the general officers and thirteen Stake superintendents.

The Taylorsville brass band played "The Spirit of God" and the Union Glee Club sang "Hark Ye Mortals." Invocation was offered by Apostle Moses Thatcher.

The Union Glee Club sang the "Temple Ode."

The roll of general officers and Stake superintendents was called and also the names of the missionaries appointed to visit the Y. M. M. I. Associations last winter.

Dr. M. H. Hardy spoke regarding the business of the Conference, and also made a report of the committee on compilation, composed of himself and Geo. H. Brimhall, concerning the issuance of the Y. M. M. I. A. Manual. Two editions, the first of 2500 and the second of 10,000 had been issued, at a cost of \$559.87, which had been met by donation.

Reports were made by Thos. Hull, Geo. H. Wallace, Thos. W. Sloan, H. C. Iverson and Geo. A. Smith, young missionaries who labored in the Y. M. M. I. A. for three months last fall.

After singing by the Union Glee Club of "Oh, my Father," and benediction by President Angus M. Cannon, the Conference adjourned until 2 o'clock.

SATURDAY, 2 P. M.

Assembly Hall. President Jos. F. Smith presiding.

The Harmony Glee Club sang "Like the Woodland Rose."

Glee Club sang "Invocation to Harmony."

Elder Geo. W. Thatcher, Jr., gave an account of his missionary labors last fall in the Panguitch, Kanab and St. George Stakes.

The "Young Recruits" band from Taylorsville played "Red, White and Blue."

Elder Douglas M. Todd addressed the meeting on the use and benefit of the M. I. Manual. He believed it to be the one thing the Associations needed. Under it the Stake superintendents, the ward presidents, and every member received instructions which showed them how, what and when to study. It was a grand system, and had already, by its plainness, turned the tide in the habits of study in many young men.

Elder Geo. M. Cannon gave a lecture on the subject of civil government, as treated by Townsend's analysis. He believed every young man should study the political history of our country, that the honest men might take control of the government and the better element govern.

Geo. Islaub, of Weber Stake, then addressed the conference on the subject of "Economics; acquiring and using means."

Payson Silver Band rendered "Fantastic."

Elder A. S. Geddes reported his mission to the Northern Stakes of Idaho.

The Harmony Glee Club sang "The Linden Tree."

Benediction by Elder Willard Young.

Sunday Morning.

Conference opened at 10 o'clock, President Joseph F. Smith presiding. There was a very large attendance, quite a number of visitors occupying seats in the galleries.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

Our God, we raise to Thee
Thanks for Thy blessings free.

Prayer was offered by Counselor Joseph E. Taylor.

The choir then sang the anthem:
God of Israel.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

announced that as the time yesterday did not allow of the entire programme being carried out, they were under the necessity of omitting the lecture by Brother Thomas Hull on "Hymnology," which, however, would be now given.

The lecturer described hymnology as the science of hymns, treating of their history, classification, criticism and use. The real object of hymns was the praise of God, and that should be the real object of our singing. He quoted various passages from the Scriptures proving that the singing of hymns and spiritual songs was acceptable in the Courts of heaven, and laid special stress upon the fact that in this dispensation the Lord has spoken on this subject—quoting from the 25th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, wherein the reference is made. The speaker warned his hearers against becoming too mechanical in their hymnal services, remarking that mere "lip service" was never welcomed by God. He advocated congregational singing, and said the song should always come from the heart. In conclusion, he urged upon choir leaders to exercise care, seeking the guidance and inspiration of the Lord in their selection of hymns for the services of the Saints.

"Our Country" was the subject of an extempore lecture by Bryant S. Hinckley. It was a brief but eloquent effort, and in the course of his observations the speaker quoted many interesting examples from past and present history. He drew a vivid picture of the desolating wars which this country had witnessed, and spoke of the freedom which the people of America now enjoyed. The spirit of America made liberty commensurate with and inseparable from American soil. We revered the works of our forefathers, who built wisely and well, and their temples still stood with undiminished glory. The past had brought us its lessons, the present had its duties and the future its hopes.

The next item on the programme was a lecture on "Male Singing," by H. G. Whitney, but as he was not present, Elder George F. Felt was called upon to give a brief report of the home missionary labor of himself and other brethren in connection with the M. I. A. in the San Louis and San Juan Stakes. The results of their experience were satisfactory.

Elder Andrew Jenson next offered some useful suggestions as to the keep-

ing of minute and record books in connection with the Y. M. M. I. A., gleaned from what he had observed in the course of his travels in the different Stakes of Zion. He took occasion to mention that among some of the associations in the various Stakes there was not that care exercised which should be in the keeping of records for future reference, and said that retiring secretaries should not take away the books or records with them, but hand them over to their successors, unless they did this they were robbing the Church or the association of a great deal of valuable information.

Elder Willard S. Burton, general treasurer of the Y. M. M. I. A., was the succeeding speaker. He endorsed the remarks of Brother Jenson as to the importance of a strict and careful keeping of association records, and emphasized the fact, in referring to the work of the Y. M. M. I. A. of this Stake, that the association had not received that financial support in certain matters to which it was entitled from those who shared in its benefits and advantages.

President Joseph F. Smith urged the Saints to look after the wants of the visiting brethren at this conference, and see that those who needed food and shelter were not forgotten.

The choir sang the anthem "Untold, ye Portals Everlasting;" the benediction was pronounced by Counselor Charles W. Penrose, and conference then adjourned till 2 p.m.

Afternoon Session.

The Conference was called to order at 2 p. m.

The Utah Stake choir, under the direction of Prof. H. E. Giles, sang the hymn commencing:

With joy we own Thy servants, Lord,
Thy ministers below.

Prayer was offered by Elder Joseph H. Felt.

The choir sang:

Behold the great Redeemer die,
A broken law to satisfy.

The Priesthood of the Fiftieth ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

DR. JAMES E. TALMAGE

addressed the large congregation. His heart, he said, was moved with emotion as he looked round on the many thousands present. When he saw the fidelity with which the people come together, he was led to believe that there was much sincerity among the Saints. He had heard that about 800 members have come from one Stake alone and he knew that large delegations were present from other Stakes.

In the prayer offered this morning, thanks were given to God who had acted upon the heart of Brigham Young to organize the Mutual Improvement Associations. These are not man made organizations established for human purposes only. Their aim is holy. It is mutual improvement. It is to help us that we may be better today than we were yesterday and become better tomorrow than we are today. All around us in nature we see this spirit of improvement, growth and advancement. It is true, the seasons follow each other in their order; night follows day. But no day is an exact repetition of the previous ones. Each day has something that