

deavor to secure any advantage not shared in by other religious people. All that we ask is to have equal rights before the law."

"Is it your understanding that the Mormon people differ as to the Republican and Democratic parties, and that they will act in accordance with their convictions in uniting with those parties?"

"That is our understanding."

"Is it your wish that the Republican and Democratic parties should organize and present their principles to the Mormon people, and that they should unite with them according to their honest convictions?"

"Personally we have felt that the time would come when the two great parties would be organized in this Territory, and we have felt that if an attempt of this kind should be made, each should have the fullest opportunity to lay its principles before the people, so that they might have a clear understanding of the issues and be able to decide in the light of facts presented to them, to which of the parties they would belong."

"That being true, could anything be gained by bad faith even if it should be contemplated by any of the former members of the People's party?"

"Certainly not."

"The opponents of party division on national lines declare that they want evidence of the sincerity of the Mormon people. The *Times* would ask you to state whether the declarations of sincerity on the part of those leaders who have been before the public reflect your views and meet with your approval."

"Those declarations express our views and have our entire approval. What greater evidence can be asked than those which have already been furnished? The statement has been repeatedly made that the great objection to us was our belief in and practice of patriarchal marriage. In entire good faith the manifesto was written, signed by the leading men, and adopted by one of the largest conferences of the Church ever held—a conference composed of about 15,000 people. It has been asserted, in addition, that the people were governed by the Priesthood in political matters. This is now disproved by the dissolution of the People's party and the union of its members with the two national parties. What could possibly be gained by the action of the people if they were not sincere? If the elements of sincerity were wanting, such a movement would result in entire demoralization."

### IRRIGATION CONVENTION.

The following self-explanatory circular has been issued and is being mailed by the Chamber of Commerce:

SALT LAKE CITY, July 1, 1891.

To the mayors of cities, presidents of commercial, agricultural, horticultural, industrial, scientific and mechanical associations throughout the States and Territories west of the Missouri river:

On account of the vast and growing importance of the subject of irrigation and of the arid lands which form the basis of agricultural wealth and uniform prosperity in the new States of the growing West, it has been deemed necessary that information regarding these subjects be collected and the proper influence brought to bear, with a view of obtaining just and much needed legislation.

Having that idea in view, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Governor Arthur L. Thomas, of Utah, has called an irrigation convention, to be held on Thursday, September 15, 16 and 17, 1891, for the general purpose above indicated, and as further outlined in the

accompanying communication from the sub-committee of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce to the chairman of the committee on irrigation and the communication from that committee to the governor of Utah, together with the call issued by the governor of Utah to the governors of the several States and Territories indicated.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, June 4, 1891.

To Mr. Fred Simon, ex-officio Chairman of the Irrigation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce:

Dear Sir—The sub-committee appointed to consider and prepare the outline of the call for an irrigation convention in Salt Lake City begs leave to submit the following report, viz:

We recommend that his excellency, the governor of Utah, be requested to call a convention to be held in Salt Lake City on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 15, 16 and 17, 1891, for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to the reclamation of the arid lands of the States and Territories west of the Missouri river; also to petition Congress to donate to each State and Territory the arid lands within its borders, for purposes of reclamation, for the support of its public schools and for such other public purposes as the legislature of such State or Territory may respectively determine, and that the governors of these States and Territories be invited by his excellency to appoint thirty delegates at large from each of said States and Territories to said convention; and that the various commercial, agricultural, scientific and mechanical associations, together with each municipal corporation, be requested to appoint representatives to this convention.

JOHN W. DONNELLAN,

G. W. BARTON,

W. C. B. ALLEN,

Sub-Committee.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,

June 4th, 1891.

At a meeting of the irrigation committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce June 3rd at the office of John W. Donnellan, the report of the sub-committee was adopted as above and the chairman was instructed to confer with Governor Thomas and arrange to have the call for the irrigation convention issued at once as recommended.

W. C. B. ALLEN,

Secretary of the Committee.

In accordance with the above proceedings, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce hereby requests that such city and other organizations above indicated will immediately forward the names of five delegates as its representatives in the convention named. Please kindly send list of delegates immediately. Proper railroad, hotel and other rates will be arranged and notice of the same sent at an early day. It is the intention of the citizens of Salt Lake to make this convention a success in every way and to make the stay of the delegates an interesting one in all possible respects.

Hoping that you may be fortunate in securing as delegates such persons as will attend, I remain, respectfully yours,

FRED SIMON,

President Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Attest:

FRANK K. GILLESPIE,

Secretary.

### SAN JUAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the San Juan Stake was held at Mancos, Colorado, May 23 and 24, 1891.

Conference convened in the Mancos meeting house at 10 a. m., May 23. After the usual opening exercises,

President F. A. Hammond made a few opening remarks, exhorted the Saints to lay aside their worldly cares for awhile, and centre their thoughts upon the worship of the Lord, and if anyone has hard feelings against a brother or sister to become reconciled, that the Spirit of the Lord may rest abundantly upon us.

He was followed by the Bishops reporting their respective wards. They represented the Saints prospering spiritually and financially, Sabbath schools and meetings held regularly and well attended. All the wards and branches were represented with the exception of Moab.

Elder J. Steele spoke a short time upon the spirit of the times.

2 p. m. conference assembled. After opening exercises the reports were continued. Superintendent James B. Decker reported the Sabbath schools; said the Sabbath schools were the best attended, and the greatest interest taken in them of any institution in the Stake.

Superintendent C. E. Walton reported the Y. M. M. I. associations. Meetings had been held regularly during the past season and well attended. Some of the associations had adjourned their meetings until fall, others were going to continue.

President Hammond said he was pleased with the reports; it showed that the Saints were improving. Advised the Saints to keep out of debt and live within their means.

Counselor Wm. Halls was the next speaker. He took his text from the Prophet Isaiah, concerning the last days.

Conference adjourned until 10 a. m. Sunday, May 24th.

Benediction by Elder Kumen Jones.

Second day conference convened as per adjournment. After opening exercises President Hammond spoke a short time. He desired the Stake Presidency to be united and allow no division in their ranks, and they would then be a power among the people. He then called upon members of the High Council present to bear their testimony. Each one bore a faithful testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints.

The general and local authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

Conference adjourned till 2 p. m.

Benediction by Elder Wm. Hyde.

2 p. m.—afternoon session.

After the usual opening exercises the Sacrament was administered, during which Elder J. Steel spoke upon this ordinance.

Counselor Wm. Halls spoke upon the principles of freedom, first principles of the Gospel, and traced a portion of the Church history.

President Hammond made a few closing remarks, and exhorted the Saints to be aware of false spirits, for many were abroad to deceive.

Conference adjourned for three months. Benediction by President Hammond.

The Y. L. and Y. M. M. I. A. held their conference Sunday evening, and the Relief Societies and Primaries held their conference Monday, May 25th. All were well attended and a good deal of valuable instruction was given. CHARLES E. WALTON, Stake Clerk.