

I was chosen president of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing society in 1862, and acted as such ten years. I was a member of the Utah Legislature twenty-two sessions, twenty of them to the Council.

I have been a member of the Church sixty-three years and two months, and have held the Apostleship fifty-seven years and ten months.

President Woodruff cites the following from his journal as some of the instructions given by that great Pioneer, President Brigham Young, upon the first Sabbath day after the Pioneer company established itself on the present site of Salt Lake City:

"On arriving here July 24, 1847, he expressed his full satisfaction in the appearance of the valley as a fitting place for the Saints, and declared that he was amply repaid for the journey.

"On the next day, Sunday, in public meeting, though sick with mountain fever, he addressed the Saints for a short time, and said that the brethren ought not to work on Sunday; that if they did they would lose five times as much as they would gain by it; that they ought not to hunt or fish on that day; that he did not wish anybody among us who would not observe the Sabbath; they might as well where they pleased but we did not want them to dwell with us. He thought that no man that came here should buy any land, we had no land to sell; that every man should have his land measured off to him for city and farming purposes; and he might till it just as he pleased, but he should be industrious and take care of it.

"He also warned the Saints not to keep anything that did not belong to them; that if they did so it would leak out and they would become a stink in the nostrils of Jehovah, angels and the Saints, and though they might live with the Saints and die with them, they would come under condemnation at last and go to hell, for they were thieves, and nothing but burning would cleanse them. There would be a meeting every Sabbath wherever we might locate."

SUNDAY AFTERNOON'S CELEBRATION.

Perhaps the largest number of people that ever assembled in the large Tabernacle was present Sunday afternoon on the occasion of the celebration by the Sunday schools of President Wilford Woodruff's ninetieth birthday. Not only were the seats all occupied, but the aisles were packed in every part of the immense building.

From the time of the opening of the doors at 1 o'clock until after 2 the Sunday schools and others continued to pour into the Tabernacle en masse, and when the time arrived to commence the services, all seats were taken, and many people were still outside of the building, while several entire schools were turned away, the general public having crowded into the reservation intended for the children. While there was some confusion caused by the gathering of such a large number of children and getting them seated properly, it must be said that altogether they did well and flew in in as orderly a condition as could reasonably be expected.

A brilliant effect was produced when the electric current was turned into the globes forming the beautiful

double star and the word Utah in front of the organ. The latter and the large star were composed of clear lights, while the small star within was made up of red lights. The decorations were very tastefully arranged throughout and added greatly to the imposing scene.

On the stand were the following: President Wilford Woodruff, Presidents George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, Elders Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, M. W. Merrill and Anton H. Lund of the Council of Apostles, Patriarch John Smith, Elders Seymour B. Young and George Reynolds of the First Council of Seventies, Elders George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser of the general superintendency of Sunday schools, Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, presidency of Salt Lake Stake, Elders Thomas C. Griggs, Richard S. Horne and Willard C. Burton, Sunday school superintendency of Salt Lake Stake, Elders J. W. Summerhays, Elias Morris, Henry Dinwoodey, H. P. Richards, Levi W. Richards and George A. Smith, and Sisters Rose Wallace and Sarah A. Gill.

The services commenced at five minutes after two by President George Q. Cannon calling the vast assemblage to order and announcing the opening hymn, We Thank Thee O God for a Prophet, which was rendered by the entire congregation, under the leadership of Professor Evan Stephens. Its rendition visibly affected President Woodruff, and made it necessary for the honored veteran to wipe the tears from his eyelids.

An appropriate and feeling prayer was offered by Elder George Teasdale, after which the Sunday schools rendered the hymn, God Speed the Right, under the leadership of Prof. E. K. Baseett.

Elder George Goddard, of the general superintendency of Sunday schools, addressed the congregation. He stated that it was the largest assemblage that had ever been within the walls of the Tabernacle. Notwithstanding this, however, he felt that if desired, he could succeed in restoring order such as to hear the dropping of a pin. He requested of the children present to note in a book after going home the exercises which they had taken part in today. Children should learn to keep a history of their lives and incidents connected with the experiences which they had passed through, that in after years they might recall those pleasant days which they had seen while here upon the earth. The speaker then sang the Sunday school hymn In Our Lovely Deseret, the children present joining in the chorus. At the conclusion of the song the speaker called upon all those assembled to pray for President Woodruff and prophesied that if they paid attention to the words of the song just sang, many would live eighty years hence and be able to testify to taking part in the exercises of today.

Under the direction of Elder George Teasdale all the Sunday school children present recited in concert the Articles of Faith.

Prof. Joseph J. Daynes rendered in

pleasing style an organ solo entitled My Father's Growing Old.

Elder George A. Smith gave a short epitome of the life and labors of President Wilford Woodruff. He spoke of President Woodruff's acquaintance with Robert Mason, familiarly termed the Prophet Mason, because of his peculiar religious ideas and predictions. Mason told President Woodruff in an interpretation of a dream of the latter's that in a few years to come he would ally himself with a new church organization which would spring up in due time. This came to pass and made of Mason what he had been frequently termed—a prophet in so far as President Woodruff was concerned. Later on President Woodruff became associated with the Prophet Joseph and others who were afterwards prominent in the Church.

The speaker related many instances connected with the experience of Wilford Woodruff. He told of his connection with Zion's camp, and of the persecutions that followed many of the Saints in early days. He also called attention to many miraculous occurrences during the life and labors of President Woodruff. The Father had been with His servants in the ministry and they escaped many things which were intended for their injury. President Woodruff was the first missionary to the Isles of the sea and was likewise one of the Pioneers of 1847. At two years of age, said the speaker, Wilford Woodruff was scalded nearly to death but recovered. At the age of twelve he was drowned, and after being under twenty feet of water for some minutes, was taken therefrom and resuscitated. When fourteen years old he was bitten by a mad dog, but it had no particular effect on him. In his lifetime he had traveled 175,000 miles to preach the Gospel; he had baptized 2,000 souls into the Church and had written a journal of 7,000 pages covering his work for a period of sixty-two years.

Two verses of the song Is There Anything that We can Do? were sung by the congregation, after which Sister Rose Wallace in a felicitous speech presented President Woodruff in behalf of the Deseret Sunday School Union, with a beautiful basket of ninety roses. Sister Wallace used these words:

President Wilford Woodruff, our beloved Prophet and leader: (In behalf of the Deseret Sunday School Union, I greet you on this the ninetieth anniversary of your natal day, and congratulate you that you have reached this advanced age, and rejoice that you are preserved unto us in all the power of your glorious manhood and of your high and holy calling.

We hope and pray that your life will still be precious in the eyes of our Father for years to come; that you may be a blessing and a comfort unto His Saints; and that they shall fill your soul with joy unspeakable by their faithful, earnest efforts to do God's will; and that you shall live until every holy desire in your heart is satisfied.

We love you, we bless you, Brother Woodruff, with all our soul, and thank you for your gentle guidance; for you have been to us "as a gentle shepherd leading us through the gloom into the bright and glorious day."