

## SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

2 p. m.

The choir sang:

Sweet is the peace the gospel brings,  
To seeking minds and true.

Prayer by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

The choir sang:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON

Read the following report of the Trustee in Trust:

At the last October Conference (1877,) held in this place, an auditing committee was appointed for the purpose of examining, adjusting and verifying all accounts of a public nature, associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

During the administration of my predecessors in office, our late venerable and respected Presidents Brigham Young and George A. Smith, and especially through the many years of the former's laborious and efficient administration, I was aware that complications in property matters must necessarily exist, arising from Indian wars, inimical legislation, and the many onslaughts that had been made upon him by government officials and our Federal courts, as well as many vindictive and bitter assaults from unprincipled private individuals.

I was aware also, that owing to some of those malignant persecutions, and persecutions, some of which were aimed at our public property, that he had taken measures in the interest of the church to transfer certain public properties to his own name, to preserve them from the rapacity and spoliation of unprincipled men who sought to rob and despoil us of our property. These things are well known, as he has frequently mentioned them in public.

When you elected me Trustee-in-Trust, knowing the delicate nature of the position, I desired some assistance to relieve me, in part, from the onerous duties devolving upon me, and, therefore, nominated an auditing committee, composed of Wilford Woodruff, Erastus Snow and Joseph F. Smith, which nomination received the unanimous vote of the Conference. At the last April Conference, Franklin D. Richards was added to the committee. This was considered proper in consequence of the multiplied labors of their investigation, and the necessity of the frequent absence of some of them upon other duties. With the same view, I proposed that the Twelve Apostles and Counselors and the Presiding Bishop, Edward Hunter, should be counselors to the Trustee-in-Trust. That everything might be thoroughly understood and perfect union exist, and also that the Bishopric as represented by its president might be cognizant of all our acts in temporal affairs.

The Auditing Committee immediately entered upon their labors, and pursued with untiring energies the arduous duties which had been assigned them; conferring frequently with me and with the Council of the Twelve, as well as with the executors of the estate of the late President Young, and also obtaining explanations and aid in their researches from the clerks now in the offices of the Trustee-in-Trust, as well as from those who had heretofore occupied those positions. They had not prosecuted their investigations very far before they discovered the facts in relation to the transfer of property before referred to, and in connection therewith a large amount of personal liabilities incurred by the late President Young in preserving public interests from attempted spoliation.

A question arose in the minds of the Committee, as to how far they should go back in their investigations. They at first thought that it would be proper only to go as far back as the commencement of the administration of President George A. Smith, but as there was at that time only a partial settlement, and as many of the accounts associated with some of these property matters ran far behind that time, it was adjudged proper, in the interests of the late Presidents Brigham Young and George A. Smith, as well as that of the Church, to go back to the commencement of accounts in these valleys; and thus, by a full, fair and impartial investigation, preserve undimmed the honor of President Young and his interests, and to do right, deal justly by him,

to accord to his heirs what was their due, as well as to protect the interests of the Church, that the memory of the dead might be preserved sacred, the interests of the living protected, and the Church also be placed on a proper footing.

The course of procedure has been for the Auditing Committee in making their examinations, to submit them to me as Trustee-in-Trust, they were then submitted to the executors, together with the necessary explanations and vouchers, and wherein there were any differences of judgment, they were submitted to the council of the Twelve, whose action has been unanimous; and according to the requirements of the law, they were afterwards submitted, as I am informed, to the action of the Judge Probate.

In those settlements, the feeling of the Auditing Committee, as well as my own, has been to meet, as far as practicable, the views and requirements of the executors; whilst they, in their turn, were always ready to yield to what was considered reasonable from us, a spirit of unanimity and forbearance prevailing, and from a feeling of affection and regard which we all felt for our venerated and revered president, if there was a doubt on any point, we have felt to give it in favor of the President and to deal with him dead as generously as we would were he still living in our midst; and we are persuaded that Saints of the living God, who have so often in this place and throughout the Territory, witnessed his untiring energy, his unwavering fidelity, his burning zeal, and his indomitable perseverance in their welfare, in the defence of truth, in the building up of Zion, and the establishment of truth on the earth, would say amen, and feel, with us, to treat him and his, kindly, generously and magnanimously.

It is but proper here to state, that in all our investigations, neither the Auditing Committee nor myself have interfered in anywise with the public official acts of either the late Presidents Brigham Young or George A. Smith, as Trustees in Trust, nor with any of their settlements or disbursements, our enquiries have been directed to living issues, to unsettled and unadjusted accounts, not only as between President Young's estate and the Church, but also that of many other individuals.

It is true that in a few instances we have been called upon to examine accounts wherein it was alleged errors, or omissions had been made, which, by some, might be considered irrelevant, having been before adjusted; yet it was thought by us that reasonable men can always afford to be just, to answer any proper inquiries and rectify any mistakes, we have therefore yielded to their solicitations; and I take great pleasure in stating that with very slight exceptions, the accounts of the President have been found strictly correct, and vouchers produced authenticating his position and settlements demonstrating the accuracy of his accounts, supervised and adjusted of course by his able clerical aid.

It is very gratifying to state, that long before his demise, our esteemed President made a will, in which ample provisions were made for the adjustment and settlement of all his accounts, whether of a private or public nature, and the executors were fully empowered to adjust said accounts, and make such settlements, as also to make conveyances of all properties held by him in trust, either of a public or private nature; thus evincing that nice sense of honor which is so pleasing to see exhibited by men to whom is committed those sacred trusts.

It is proper here to state, that the executors, to whom was committed the onerous duties of adjusting and settling those accounts, after using the nicest scrutiny and most rigid criticism aided by competent experts, have always expressed a readiness to adjust all matters in question fairly and honorably, and none more so than the one named after his deceased father, Brigham Young.

I also take pleasure in saying that your auditing committee, to whom was committed the unpleasant, yet onerous duty of examining and adjusting such a variety of accounts, extending through so many years, after a laborious, careful and exhaustive enquiry, assisted by the most competent clerical aid, have been enabled to bring their labors to a satisfactory conclusion; satisfactory to themselves,

to the executors and to the Trustee in Trust, and I think, could President Young have been present, he would have said it was satisfactory to him. I hope it will also meet your approval.

In this settlement we have mutually exchanged receipts; the Trustee-in-Trust and the Council of the Twelve have given a receipt in full of all demands to the executors of the estate of the late President Brigham Young, and have in return received from the executors not only the transfer of all properties and claims accruing to the Church, but an acknowledgement of the correctness of those claims. Thus has President Young not only made provisions in his will for the adjustment of these matters, but provided the means of settlement, which the executors have faithfully carried out. Thus has he not only vindicated his own honor, but in this his last act, thrown back in the teeth of his enemies and calumniators the falsity of their allegations.

In this connection, in justice to our Counselor, John W. Young, it may be proper to state, that all accounts against him have been fully settled and paid to the satisfaction of the Trustee-in-Trust, and he now holds a receipt in full of all demands against him, signed by the Trustee-in-Trust.

I am also informed by the executors, that our settlements have been generally satisfactory to the heirs, and that all, with the exception of three or four, not yet settled with, have signed an acquittance to all property claims as against the Church.

The particulars of the settlement can all be found on record in the proper place, as to what property we have, where situated or how secured, can be learned by the proper officers and authorities of the Church, whenever occasion requires; it may be appropriate, however, to say, that we have used our best judgment, aided by the most competent legal advice, in the adjustment of said property, and the protection of the general proprietary rights of the Church, and of all persons and interests involved therein. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN TAYLOR,

Trustee-in-Trust of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We agree in the above:

Wilford Woodruff, Orson Hyde, Loran Pratt, Sen., Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Geo. Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Jos. F. Smith, Albert Carrington, Daniel H. Wells, Edw. Hunter Presiding Bishop, Counselors to the Trustee-in-Trust.

The report was adopted by a unanimous vote.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

Said the Latter-day Saints understand very well that we are dependent on the Spirit of the Lord for any information we may possess, pertaining to the things of his kingdom. We find ourselves here in an infantile state, and have to receive an education until we reach the dignity of the Godhead. We are the offspring of our Heavenly Father, and it is his design to bring us to a fullness of knowledge. The Apostle Paul taught the doctrine that the Saints should have the same mind as was in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, that it was not robbery to be made equal with God. The Saints in those days had to pass through much trouble and persecution, and it was necessary to direct their minds towards the glorious future, when they would come in possession of so great and precious a treasure, when our minds are lit up by the Spirit of God, to see by the eye of faith, the things that are in store for the faithful, we feel perfectly willing to do anything that we may be called upon to attend to.

He then read from the Doctrine and Covenants in regard to the Saints being clothed with garments of their own make, and with a view of impressing this subject upon the minds of the Saints, he recommended every man and woman when going to a store to make inquiry for home made articles, instead of those of foreign manufacture. The success or failure of every home enterprise that was started in our midst depended upon the action of the body of the people. This line of policy was only the beginning of the United Order, and after so much had been said and talked about it, let us now put it into practice and God would bless

us and our labors would be successful.

A list of names of missionaries was read by Elder GEORGE Q. CANNON and unanimously sustained by the Conference as published in the News of last evening.

The following report was then read in relation to the Logan Temple, and adopted unanimously by the Conference:

Donations from June 2, 1877 to September 1, 1877:

By Cache Valley Stake of	
Zion	\$56,284.67
By Bear Lake	20,274.41
Box Elder	13,252.11
New Zealand Conference	36.96
St George Stake	50.00
Salt Lake Stake	22.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,020.76</b>

The following exhibit was then read of the Perpetual Emigration Fund Company for the past six months ending October 5th, 1878, which was unanimously adopted by the Conference:

The entire amount of receipts in cash and other sundries	\$20,361.63
Deduct the cash on hand April 6, 1878	1,079.28
<b>Leaving the total amount of receipts</b>	<b>\$19,282.35</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to DESERET NEWS	\$12.30
Paid for draft No. 2,222 on the Liverpool office for sea fares of the Beveridge family	58.50
Paid to Trustee-in-Trust, for which we have received credit on the Church books, as per T-in-T. orders 211, \$71, 381, \$104, 661, \$200, for cash	375.00
Also in labor, lives, etc., etc.	16,588.53
Cash loaned to the Trustee-in-Trust	500.00
Cash balance on hand, nearly all of which is due to the Liverpool and New York offices for persons ordered out by the P. E. Fund Co. this season, and will be forwarded as soon as we receive returns from the last company	2,826.80
<b>Total disbursements, including cash on hand</b>	<b>\$20,361.63</b>

Elder ALBERT CARRINGTON made some very practical remarks, especially in relation to the indebtedness to the P. E. Fund Co.

President JOHN TAYLOR said the Conference was not yet concluded, as there was some important business to be presented, and he hoped the Saints would be patient until it was brought to a close, and by a continuance of their faith and prayers, seek to bring down the blessings of God upon them. If they would do this they should be abundantly rewarded.

Conference was adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

The choir sang an anthem, The eyes of all.

Benediction by Elder Wilford Woodruff.

## THIRD DAY.

TUESDAY, October 8, 10 a. m.

Conference was called to order by President JOHN TAYLOR.

The choir sang,

My soul is full of peace and love,  
I soon shall see Christ from above.

Prayer by Elder W. H. FOLSOM.

The choir sang,

To Him who made the world,  
The sun, the moon and stars.

Elder GEO. Q. CANNON then presented the following Authorities of the Church, all of whom were unanimously sustained by the Conference:

John Taylor as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as one of the Twelve Apostles, and of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Wilford Woodruff, Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Joseph F. Smith and Albert Carrington.

Counselors to the Twelve Apostles—John W. Young, D. H. Wells.

The Twelve Apostles as the presiding quorum and authority of the Church, and, with their Counselors, as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch of the Church—John Smith.

As the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies—Joseph Young,

Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herri-man, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott.

The Presiding Bishop of the Church—Edward Hunter, with Leonard W. Hardy and Robert T. Burton as his Counselors.

John Taylor as Trustee-in-Trust of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with the Twelve Apostles, their two Counselors and Edward Hunter, as his Counselors.

Albert Carrington as President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund for the Gathering of the Poor, and the following as his assistants: F. D. Richards, F. M. Lyman, H. S. Eldredge, Joseph F. Smith, John W. Young, Angus M. Cannon, Moses Thatcher, William Jennings, John R. Winder, Henry Dinwoodey, Robt. T. Burton, A. O. Smoot and H. B. Clawson.

Orson Pratt as Historian and General Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff as his assistant.

Truman O. Angel as General Architect of the Church, and T. O. Angel, Junr., and W. H. Folsom as his assistants.

As Auditing Committee—W. Woodruff, E. Snow, F. D. Richards, J. F. Smith.

George Goddard as Clerk of the General Conference.

The following report from Morris & Evans was read, in relation to funds collected by them for the benefit of the Welsh Saints, and adopted by a unanimous vote:

Cash received	\$4,319.83
Sundries	130.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,450.55</b>

## Disbursements.

Cash sent to Liverpool Office	\$3,184.00
Cash sent to W. C. Staines	484.00
Cash sent to Pennsylvania	190.00
Cash to incidental expenses	51.75
Balance on hand to be sent to New York to meet the October company	540.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,450.55</b>

The following report in relation to the Manti Temple was also read and accepted.

The monthly cash donations and sundry articles received from the following States aggregate as follows:

Sanpete Stake	\$49,445.29
Juab	4,581.47
Sevier	8,849.62
Millard	6,443.89
Beaver	4,782.49
Parowan	5,482.75
Panguitch	2,515.75
Kanab	1,649.42
St. George	6,267.43
Other Places	146.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,114.11</b>

Of the above amount the sum of \$3,502.94 was donated in cash.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG

Gave an interesting recital of his recent experience in visiting the various settlements of the saints, and rejoiced exceedingly at the gradual but certain growth of the principle of union, noticeable in the midst of the people. He also paid a just tribute to the efforts exerted in our Sabbath school institutions, and the good that had been effected by them. He much regretted the practice of many parents in sending their daughters to this city to live out for the sake of wages, and made many seasonable remarks on the subject. He spoke of the necessity the saints were under to become united, by observing and carrying out the counsel of the servants of God, that we might thereby be prepared for the providences of the Almighty. The growth of this people, and the ultimate possession of the whole land of North and South America, was just as inevitable and certain, as the shining of the sun.

ELDER F. D. RICHARDS

Enlarged very interestingly upon the subject of union, showing its vital importance to us as a people, through all the ramifications of our varied existence. He deprecated the practice of the Saints in sending their children to receive an education at the hands of our open enemies, who repudiate openly some of the precious principles of the Gospel, and upon this subject he gave a faithful warning to those parents who were thus trifling with the best interests of their children, and unless such parents repented, the displeasure of the Lord would