

Written for this Paper

## DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The knowledge of the interest that your numerous readers take in Sunday school matters must be my apology for again trespassing on your columns. Since the inauguration of holding annual Sunday school conferences (near two years ago) in every Stake of Zion, the entire number (thirty-four) were visited last year, by some members of the Deseret Sunday School Union board. In February of this year commenced our second annual visits. Karl G. Maeser and myself having held conferences in Maricopa, St. Joseph and Mexico, an account of which was published on our return. Since then, March 30, Levi W. Richards and I visited Juab Stake. Conference was held at Nephi, where a large gathering of parents, children and Sunday school workers assembled. Some interesting exercises by the children were very creditable, the most prominent being one by the Levan theological class, which was much appreciated by the whole congregation. We held five meetings besides an interesting officers and teachers' meeting.

Thomas C. Griggs also honored us with his presence on Sunday morning. Elder William Paxman is the Superintendent of Sunday Schools in Juab Stake, and a most energetic worker. There are seven Sunday schools, 1,074 pupils, and 135 officers and teachers. The latter and most of the pupils are observers of the Word of Wisdom.

On April 7th the annual conference of the Sunday School Union was held in the large Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at which the following statistics were read by the general secretary, John M. Whitaker: There are 690 Latter-day Saint Sunday Schools with 81,921 pupils and 10,055 officers and teachers. These figures include, not only those from the 34 Stakes of Zion, but also of the various missions throughout the world. The congregation was very large, numbering many thousands, and remaining remarkably quiet until after the benediction. The speakers were George Goddard, Karl G. Maeser, Heber J. Grant, Francis M. Lyman, Abraham H. Cannon and General Superintendent George Q. Cannon.

April 13—Karl G. Maeser and myself left at 7:45 a.m. on the Utah & Nevada Railway to hold a two days' conference at Grantsville, Tooele Stake. We were met at the half-way house by Stake Superintendent Johnson, who quickly conveyed us to Grantsville in time to attend our first meeting at 10 o'clock a.m. We held four Sunday school meetings besides a teachers' meeting and a joint meeting of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association. Elders Gowans and F. Anderson (besides Elder F. M. Lyman (a member of the S. S. Union board) also favored us with their presence and influence. In addition to Sunday school work Karl G. Maeser has special supervision over religion classes, Latter-day Saint colleges and academies wherever they are established. A few exercises by the children, reports by the superintendent, instruction by the visitors, and remarks by local authorities constituted the leading features of

the conference. There are 8 Sunday schools in Tooele Stake with 944 pupils and 115 officers and teachers; total, 1,059. A. G. Johnson is the Stake superintendent. My colleague, Karl G. Maeser (being a delegate to the Constitutional Convention) had to return by team at an early hour on Monday to be at his post on time. I remained to return by rail in the afternoon. During the morning, in company with Superintendent Johnson, who is also a district school trustee, we visited the various departments of the school and made remarks to encourage the pupils.

April 19th—On Friday, at 7 o'clock a.m., I left by the U. P. railroad for Coalville, Summit Stake. On arrival I was met by Stake Superintendent John Boyden, at whose house I was welcomed. On Saturday morning, Levi W. Richards came, and on Sunday, about 11 o'clock, Karl G. Maeser also arrived—in time to make some interesting remarks on Sunday school work. Public meetings in the afternoon and evening, and a teachers' meeting constituted the balance of our labors.

On Saturday evening Brother Richards and myself were invited to a sociable gathering of the members of the East Coalville ward, where songs, recitations and addresses were volunteered, to compensate and make happy both the old and the young who had responded to a very hasty notice of the meeting. This ward is situated in the mountains, about one mile east from Coalville proper and has the advantage of a canyon breeze which shields the people from late frosts sufficiently to enable them to raise beautiful fruit, which is very difficult to do in other portions of the Stake. As at most other conferences we held fine meetings, besides one for the officers and teachers, at which many questions were asked and much instruction given. Bishops and other local authorities delivered short addresses. Stake President Cluff and counselor attended most of our meetings. After the Sunday evening meeting Brother Maeser, Richards and myself were taken by team six miles to Echo station, and there waited over an hour for the midnight train, arriving in Ogden at 1:30 a.m.; we left there at 2 o'clock and reached Salt Lake City about 3:15 a.m.

Summit Stake has 16 Sunday schools with 1,765 pupils and 284 officers and teachers; total, 2,049, showing an increase of 220 over the previous year. Superintendents and teachers are wide awake and desirous of training the children to become faithful Latter-day Saints.

Friday, April 26th—Left home on the Rio Grande Western railway by the 2:30 p.m. train for Manti, Sanpete Stake. Levi W. Richards left Saturday morning and Karl G. Maeser on Saturday afternoon, the latter reaching Manti in time to address the evening meeting on the important subject of religious education. He also addressed the congregation on Sunday morning on Sunday school work, and had to leave for home at noon to secure his prompt attendance at the Constitutional Convention on Monday morning. Our meetings in Manti were characterized by a large attendance of Sunday School children and a good repre-

sentation of officers and teachers from the surrounding settlements. The superintendents, in reporting the condition of their schools, did so sufficiently loud and distinct to be heard by the whole congregation. The holding of an officers and teachers' meeting is becoming a very important feature in our Sunday School conferences, many questions being raised and instructions given to meet the growing needs of progressive and intelligent Sunday School work. George Christensen is the Stake superintendent of Sanpete Stake Sunday Schools. Stake President Peterson and counselors were present and made encouraging remarks to parents, teachers and children. The president of the Manti Temple, Elder J. D. T. McAllister, was also present. An exercise from the primary class at Manti, and the theological class from Ephraim were very good, and also renditions by other pupils. Excellent singing by the Manti choir, led by Prof. A. C. Smyth, on Sunday afternoon, was much appreciated. Seven Sunday schools were reported though several more were represented. There are in Sanpete Stake twenty-four Sunday schools, with 498 officers and teachers, and 4,229 pupils, making a total of 4,727, an increase during the past year of 366.

Levi W. Richards and myself having to stay till Monday noon, were kindly invited by Elders J. D. T. McAllister and J. B. Maiben to go through the Temple, which we very much appreciated. Our kind, heavenly Father having sent a beautiful rain during the past night, we were escorted to the Temple in a conveyance of our worthy host John Whitbeck, at whose house we had sheltered during our stay. We arrived home safe that night.

GEO. GODDARD.

## ELOQUENT LADY SPEAKERS.

Miss Susan B. Anthony and the Rev. Anna Shaw, whose coming has been previously announced in the NEWS, are expected to reach Salt Lake City on Sunday morning's train, May 12th. The people of our city who have never listened to the speeches of these eloquent and gifted women have little idea what a treat is in store for them. It is nearly twenty-five years ago (in 1870) that Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony visited this city and gave two or three jubilee lectures on the topic of woman suffrage. The women of Utah then had just been enfranchised, and now, after three-quarters of a century, have in the new Constitution of the State of Utah an equal suffrage section.

In 1852 Miss Anthony became identified with the suffrage movement and has ever since labored with zeal and determination for the ballot which she believes will in the hands of women do away with much of the evil now existing. She says she has "no time to stop out even with a teaspoon while the wrongly adjusted forces of society are pouring it in by the bucketful." But one must see her and hear her to be convinced of her powerful personality. She is certainly one of the most striking characters the country has produced.

Dr. Anna Shaw, who accompanies Miss Anthony, is vice president of