

BEAR LAKE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

ST. CHARLES, Idaho, July 8, 1896.—Minutes of the Sunday school annual conference of the Bear Lake Stake of Zion, held in the tabernacle at Paris, Idaho, Sunday and Monday, July 6 and 8, 1896. Present on the stand of the general superintendency, Elders George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser; of the Stake superintendency, Elders A. Galloway and Assistant Superintendents John Sorenson and Joseph Hodges; also Presidents Wm. Budge and J. H. Hart of the Stake presidency and Elders J. U. Stucki, C. W. Nibley and others.

Conference was called to order by Stake Superintendent A. Galloway. The schools united in singing. Opening prayer was offered by Elder C. W. Nibley. Singing, Hope of Israel.

Superintendent Galloway made a few opening remarks. He felt pleased to meet with so many present and under such favorable circumstances. The Stake superintendency had visited every school in this Stake a number of times during the year, and although this entailed a vast amount of labor, still the results were very encouraging. The annual report of last year showed an average of 90 per cent of the children of Latter-day Saints attending Sabbath school, and the prospect of an increase of attendance was very favorable. The program prepared was very short, in order to enable the brethren who were with us from Salt Lake to devote as much of their time as possible in instruction.

Supt. W. N. B. Shepherd, representing the Paris Second ward; Smith Woolley, the Paris First ward and the Bloomington ward, reported their schools to be in excellent condition.

The list of questions that the superintendents were expected to answer were all very satisfactorily replied to.

Class exercise of the Wardboro Sunday school, The Ten Commandments, was conducted by Sister Dalrymple.

Second Assistant Superintendent Joseph Hodges addressed the congregation and expressed himself as very much interested in Sunday school work and that he enjoyed the Spirit of the Lord to a great degree in performing this labor required of him.

The schools and congregation united in singing My Sabbath Home.

Elder Karl G. Maeser spoke at some length on the necessity of officers and teachers leading pure lives so that they could enjoy the Spirit of the Lord at all times, that they may be qualified to teach correct principles to the children.

Elder Geo. Goddard spoke encouragingly to those who had taken part in the exercises and counseled the parents and teachers to train the children in the right path while they were young. Cited instances that came under his especial notice where children who had been students of the Sunday school had grown up and were filling honorable positions in the Church and in the State. Referred to the new hymn book that will soon be published; and as singing is going to be an important qualification in the training of young men for missions, he wished all the children to learn to sing. Brother Goddard sang, "In Our Lovely Deseret."

Benediction by Superintendent Sorenson.

A special meeting of the officers and teachers was held immediately after the morning session, at which Elders Goddard and Maeser gave good instruction regarding the duties of officers; also spoke on the Word of Wisdom, and the importance of teachers' meeting, and the conducting of the theological departments.

2 p. m.—Called to order by Superintendent Galloway. Prayer by Elder Jacobson. The Sacrament was administered. The Misses Williamson of St. Charles rendered the quartette, Be joyful in the Lord.

Superintendent Bowen of Montpelier, and Superintendent Hoff of Georgetown, reported their schools as being in an excellent condition. Model lesson entitled Gratitude, by the Paris First ward Sunday school, by Elder Emil Maeser.

Elder J. R. Shepherd, recently returned from California, addressed the conference and spoke encouragingly to Sunday school workers and exhorted them to faithfulness; gave a short and interesting account of his labors in the missionary field and bore his testimony to the truths of the Gospel.

The remainder of the time was taken up in remarks from Elders Goddard and Maeser and President Budge exhorting the young to lead pure lives, to be honest in all their dealings to be truthful at all times; speaking of the nickel fund and its objects, and of the necessity of all being able to recite the Articles of Faith, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's prayer and the Sacramental ordinance. Brother Goddard closed his remarks by singing "Water is the Drink for Me," and meeting was brought to a close.

Monday 10 a.m. after singing and prayer reports were called for from the following schools: Supt. Bryson of Woodruff, Supt. South of Randolph, Supt. West of Lake Town and Supt. Gardner of Fish Haven, all reported their schools to be in good condition.

Class recitation on the Articles of Faith by the Fish Haven Sunday school was conducted by Superintendent Gardner.

The schools united in singing Love at Home. Remarks were made by Elders Hart, Emil Maeser, J. U. Stucki and Superintendent Maeser on the management and discipline of the Sunday schools in general; they also referred to the Sunday School Treatise and explained the benefits to be derived from the study of this work.

Superintendent Galloway presented the names of the general superintendency, members of the Union board, general secretary and treasurer, all of which were unanimously sustained.

Elder Budge presented the names of the Stake superintendency and Sunday school missionaries, which were also sustained unanimously.

Brother Goddard sang, Good Girls Rally.

The afternoon was taken up by Elders Goddard and Maeser on general instruction in Sunday school work and the answering of several questions that had been handed up. Before closing his remarks Brother Goddard sang the beautiful song, Scatter Seeds of Kindness. Brother Maeser in his remarks counseled the mothers to

teach their children to pray while they are young, for the impression for good will never leave them; also spoke of the various institutions in our midst for the good of our children and of the good influence exerted over students in the church academies.

President Budge was well pleased with the instruction that had been given and prayed for the blessing of God to rest upon all present.

Supt. Galloway tendered a vote of thanks to Brother W. Shepherd and Greenhough, and to all the schools for the beautiful music, and the exercises given in this conference. The vote was unanimous. He also felt honored for the kind expressions given him and his assistants by Brothers Goddard and Maeser and the Stake presidency. He had spent many years in the missionary field and thirty-three years in Sunday school work, and never felt better than when engaged in this labor.

Conference was brought to a close by singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Benediction by Pres. J. H. Hart.

Adjourned for one year.

GEO. E. GARDNER,
Stake Secretary.

A LESSON TO ENDEAVORERS.

Dear Endeavorers:

I am writing this letter in one of the most remarkable buildings in the world. I have just heard the drop of a pin at a distance of 200 feet. I have listened to a whisper at the same distance. This building has a seating capacity of 11,000. When it is completely filled every auditor is in good view and easy hearing of the speaker, if every soul keeps perfectly still; but if a dozen persons, or half that number, sneeze or move their feet, or even wave a Chautauqua salute, that settles the speaker, for every sound is heard, remember. Then the building is a marvel of architectural skill, as well as a display of genius and perseverance in overcoming difficulties. The roof is an ellipse, 150 by 250 feet, and not a post or pillar, an iron bolt, stringer or nail in the whole magnificent arch. It is a wooden roof, and was built when this whole wide country was a desert, when iron for building was not to be had here, and nails would have cost a dollar a pound. Now, let me tell you, this is the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake. Here is a plot of ground forty rods square, surrounded by a high wall, within which enclosure is this tabernacle, an assembly hall of smaller dimensions, and the great Mormon Temple, costing \$4,000,000, and used especially for ceremonies. They are, today, "baptizing for the dead." Something like 1,000 persons are to be recognized today.

I do not gather these facts from the "tourist's guide," although it may contain them, but from the gentlemanly junitor, who seemed to take great pleasure in answering my questions.

The Mormons, with a population of 26,000 have many other houses of worship in this city. The Gentiles now considerably outnumber the faithful in Salt Lake, although the latter claim a majority in the State. There is nothing in this city to especially interest except the buildings mentioned above and the situation. The elevation of this valley is nearly one