

district last meeting, where we had an excellent meeting, with many faithful testimonies, Soren Jensen being the presiding Elder in Draper ward. To add to my many pleasures, the following evening was enjoyed at the anniversary of our highly esteemed Sister Elizabeth Wells's sixty-seventh birthday, with many happy greetings, feasting, and closing the entertainment with prayer and thanksgivings, and remarks by Patriarch Joseph Horn, Edward Stevenson, C. G. Wells and Sisters Zina D. Young Horn, Bathsheba Smith and many noted ladies. It was a surprise gotten up by the children of Sister Wells.

E. SEVENSON.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 10, 1894.

ST. GEORGE STAKE CONFERENCE.

On Sunday and Monday, the 9th and 10th of December, the regular quarterly conference of this Stake was held under the presidency of President D. D. McArthur in St. George Tabernacle.

On Saturday, the 8th inst., the Stake Priesthood meeting was held; also the quarterly conferences of the High Priests, and of the Relief Society of the Stake.

Sunday evening, 9th inst., was occupied by quarterly conference of Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations and of the Sunday schools combined.

We have not had any of the general authorities of the Church with us this time. The attendance was very good, notwithstanding the rainstorms which for several preceding days prevailed in different parts of the Stake. The Spirit of the Lord was strongly manifest in the deliberations, counsels and instructions of the members of the priesthood who took active part in the proceedings. The chief themes dwelt upon were: the keeping of the Word of Wisdom, Temple labors, prompt and regular attention to family and secret prayer, payment of tithes and offerings to support the poor and to aid in erecting the Pioneer memorial, the prompt payment of indebtedness, and the encouragement of home industries, that we may be more self-sustaining. The wisdom and pecuniary advantage of combining our efforts in sorting, drying and putting up our fruits, and more perfectly classifying our agricultural, horticultural and stock-raising interests, received practical attention; as also the production of cotton in such of our districts as are adapted to the raising of this staple, so as to fully furnish employment to our cotton machinery in the Rio Virgen Manufacturing Co. mills.

The General and Stake authorities were sustained by the votes of the people without dissent.

JAMES G. BLEAK, Clerk.

ST. DAVID, ARIZONA.

ST. DAVID, Ariz., Dec. 10, 1894.

Our little town has been treated to quite a pleasant surprise, for on Sunday morning we saw two belated travelers wandering about in the mesquites opposite the town, and upon investigation they proved to be President L. Farr and Elder W. W. Fife of

Ogden, Utah. The Saints were all pleased to see them and were highly delighted with the good instructions they imparted during the afternoon services. They found the Saints in excellent health generally, and enjoying a goodly portion of the Spirit of God.

Our ward contains about thirty families, and although not in affluent circumstances, we are blessed with sufficient of this world's goods to keep the wolf from the door. There are not so many families here now as were here seven or eight years ago, owing to the trouble we have experienced with our lower water ditch. It seems we have had the same disadvantages that the people of Kanab, Little Colorado and other places have had, namely, that of dams in the river. This year there is a concerted effort to take the water from further up the river and bring it through a large cut, and do away with such high dams; and everything points to success in that direction.

But we have other means of water supply now, and it seems that the words of President John Taylor were speedily to come to pass, in that "this valley will be settled with Saints from one end to the other, and that water would gush forth from places now dry and desolate." Two flowing wells have been struck; one is a two-inch hole and 278 feet deep, and flows about 28,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. The other is a six-inch hole and 206 feet deep and flows about 70,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. These wells may be small when compared with wells in other parts of the country, but when you take into consideration that they are the only flowing wells in the territory, and that a depth in some places of 1,370 feet has been attained, it seems to me they are something grand.

People generally seem to be afraid of Arizona, but we have one of the finest climates in the world, and as some of our local physicians have said, "If it were known all over the United States that we had such a healthful climate, our country would be made of one-lunged people."

More anon.

Your brother in the Gospel,

J. A. McRAE.

P. S.—Parties wishing to know more about the country, will receive full information by addressing the writer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Salt Lake Stake Sunday school officers and teachers met last evening, Dec. 17, 1894, in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms, Superintendent T. C. Griggs presiding. Most of the city schools were represented, as also were the schools of Big Cottonwood, South District, Union and Farmers wards.

The musical exercises were furnished by the Union ward Sunday school choir, under the direction of Brother William E. Cox.

Opening prayer was offered by Superintendent Charles Denny, of Union.

Superintendent Griggs expressed his pleasure in noting the ready response in filling appointments made for the interchange of visits of superintendents in the city schools.

He continued in a brief address urging that officers and teachers be at their

post of duty; and where impossible to get there, a written excuse be sent; also the importance of holding regular teachers' meetings, for consultation and arrangement of work. The organization of branch schools has not as a general thing decreased the attendance at the original school of the ward, but has mainly added to the general school population; but when they are strong enough, such branch schools should be fully organized and recognized as independent schools. The response to the nickel donation had been very good throughout the Stake, but the following wards had not remitted: Thirteenth, Fifteenth and West Twenty-second city schools, and Butler, Dry Creek, Eldorado, Granite, Pleasant View and West Taylorville of the county schools.

Stake Secretary Joseph H. Parry followed on the subject of "Order in the Sunday School." The lack of it was due generally to the lack of orderly habits with the superintendency and teachers. While it was not the superintendent's duty to do the deacon's work, it was expected of him to be present in good time to see that everything is properly arranged for the conduct of the school. The teachers too should be the first ones in their places in the classes to greet each pupil as he takes his place. There should be a system of signaling with the call bell and all should understand the meaning of the different signals. In passing to and from the classrooms the children should be trained to go in order, while the organist plays a march on the organ while the children are moving.

Elder Charles M. Cannon said he wished all Sunday school workers realized the importance of their work. Outside the home the first instruction the children receive in the Gospel is given in the Sabbath school, and it had become to lay the greatest institution of the Church. In visiting various schools of this Stake he noticed some were more successful than others, and in seeking for the cause he discovered that it resulted from the earnest, systematic work of the officers and teachers. A successful teacher must take a personal interest in the members of his class and go out of his way to show his regard for and interest in them. The speaker related several interesting incidents illustrative of the esteem that Sunday school pupils have for their instructors.

Assistant Superintendent Horne thanked the singers, who had come a distance of over nine miles to discourage sweet music. The Big Cottonwood school will furnish the music at the next meeting. He also stated that Professor Willard Done would lecture before the January meeting of the union upon the subject of "Uniformity and Individuality in Sunday School Work."

Benediction was pronounced by Counselor Joseph E. Taylor, and the meeting adjourned for one month.

J. H. PARRY,
Secretary.

There is great complaint by farmers on the Heppner (Or.) branch road, because cars cannot be had to ship their grain. A complete deadlock has existed for some time. The warehouses can receive no more and can't ship what they have.