

Council, Bishops or representative brethren, and a good representation of Saints from all of the wards except Moab, which ward was unrepresented. Owing to the fact that the annual Sunday school conference of this Stake was held on Saturday, the 14th, and the time of the visiting brethren being limited, but one day was devoted to the Stake conference.

The usual business of sustaining the general and local authorities was transacted. The reports from the different wards showed the Stake to be in a fairly prosperous condition spiritually and temporally, although some of the wards were suffering considerably for lack of water to mature their crops, and the range for stock was never known to be in as poor a condition as it is at the present time.

The time was mostly occupied by Elders Young, Lyman and Smith and Bishop Preston. The main topics were the proper observance of the fast day, payment of tithes and offerings and the settlement of difficulties arising between the Saints. The brethren were especially exhorted to settle their own difficulties between themselves and not allow them to be placed on record by carrying them to the High Council or to the Apostles; none but the parties concerned should be required to assist in the settlement of difficulties.

This was one of the best attended conferences ever held in the Stake.

Relief society, Y. L. M. I. A. and Primary conferences were held on Monday, the 18th.

PETER ALLAN,
Assistant Stake Clerk.

BLUFF, Utah, July 20, 1894.

A RAILROAD TICKET EXPOSE.

Union Pacific tickets have been sold at cut rates, but it is a question says the *San Francisco Chronicle* of the 29th inst. whether the cut was sanctioned by the Union Pacific or came out of the commission of the agent who sold the tickets. The expose of the cut created quite a sensation in local railroad circles yesterday, and among the agents along Montgomery street very little else was talked about all day. A rate war has been built on a more fragile foundation, and as a natural consequence the agent who sold the tickets has been perspiring copiously ever since the news of the expose reached his ears.

It is said that C. H. Speers, assistant general passenger agent of the Santa Fe system, caused six second-class tickets from San Francisco to New York, and one second-class ticket to Chicago, to be purchased from the Union Pacific agent. The regular price of a second-class ticket to New York is \$66.50. The six tickets were purchased at \$53 each, a cut of \$13.50 on each ticket. The regular price of a second-class ticket to Chicago is \$52.50, and the ticket which Mr. Speers obtained was secured for \$40, a cut of \$12.50. After the purchase it is said that the tickets were taken to the Southern Pacific company and redeemed at the full tariff rate, making the Union Pacific a loser to the amount of the cut and the purchaser of the tickets a winner in the same sum. The laugh is on D. W. Hitchcock, local agent of the Union Pacific.

The tickets were not purchased from Mr. Hitchcock. Robert Capelle, local agent of the North German Lloyd Steamship company, was the indiscreet person who sold the tickets. He sells tickets for the Union Pacific and other roads on commission. The six tickets to New York referred to were over the Central Pacific, Union Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and the Baltimore and Ohio. When confronted with the proof Mr. Capelle did not deny that he sold the tickets at a cut rate, but he said that the cut comes out of his commission. The other local agents in town discredit the assertion, and say that the tickets could not be sold at a cut of \$13.50 without the sanction of the Union Pacific. They argue that \$13.50 cannot be deducted from a commission of \$2.75 and leave the agent much of a bargain. The only circumstances under which a cut could be made, it is said, would be in pursuance of directions from the general office of the road, and that would be a gross violation of the agreement that binds the transcontinental roads to maintain rates.

KILAUEA IN ACTION.

The great Hawaiian volcano of Kilauea has again gone through its periodic state of activity and breakdown. Minister Thurston and a party of several ladies and gentlemen were present at the grand scene. This is believed to be the first "breakdown" that has ever taken place in Kilauea when anyone was present to witness the scene. An eye witness describes the scene as one of supreme grandeur. He says: "On the morning of July 8th the lake of Kilauea overflowed its banks. The weather was earthquaky, and from that to the 12th, when the breakdown occurred, there was a feeling that something was going to happen.

"On the morning of the 12th we were all startled at the Volcano House by a terrific explosion, followed by immense clouds of dust and smoke arising from all sides of the crater. As soon as possible, with Minister Thurston in the lead, we reached the scene and saw a most wonderful metamorphosis taking place in the volcano.

"The lake had fallen and was still receding and the surrounding lava banks were being hurled into the lake. In less than an hour the floor of the crater had become perpendicular walls and tottering precipices, through which numerous streams of molten lava issued, shining brilliantly until it disappeared in the seething lake now far below.

"Sometimes great portions of these perpendicular walls would topple into the lake 270 feet below, which would cause the lava to seethe and roll from side to side as sea, the billows breaking against the restraining walls. At times the lava would seem to become greatly agitated, and apparently rise in the pit, but observation would show that in reality it remained at about the same level. It was unchanged when I left the next day."

In August, 1892, the lake rose 240 feet, or to about 300 feet below the Volcano House. But in March, 1894, it was 207 feet above that point and only 93 feet below the hotel. The fall

of July 12th, therefore, takes it below the rise of 1892, and about 360 feet below the Volcano House.

Minister Thurston says the falling in of the walls of the crater has ceased and that the lake has receded none since the 22nd of July. The fall of the lava has been definitely ascertained to be 275 feet. As to whether the volcano is rising or not there are two opinions, probably caused by the violent disturbances going on, which are described as a "choppy sea" of fire. When greatly disturbed it seems to be rising, though actual calculations show that it is not.

A HORRIBLE DISCOVERY.

The Wasatch Wave of the 25th inst. relates that a most horrifying condition was unearthed by Marshal Fraughton last Sunday afternoon. Some time since Mr. West's father, a man nearly 90 years of age, came from Brigham City to live with his son in Heber. Stories have been going the rounds that the old gentleman has not been receiving the proper attention that a man of his age should receive, and Mr. Fraughton concluded to investigate the matter. Accordingly on Sunday afternoon he visited the West domicile. The door was locked and the younger West was away to meeting. Peeping through the window, Mr. Fraughton says he saw the most sickening sight he ever witnessed.

Upon the floor was an old straw bed tick, and upon the bare boards by its side, in a partially nude state, lay old man West. His eyes and nose and mouth were filled with flies, and the old man was too weak to raise his hand to brush them off. The place and the aged man fairly reeked in filth.

Knowing that meeting was just out, the marshal repaired to the Stake house, where he found the younger Mr. West, and summoning T. H. Giles, F. L. Clegg and George Carille, members of the town board, he returned to the place of suffering.

Arriving at the house Mr. West said he had lost the key and they could not enter. Think of a man losing the key to the door which made his aged and dying father a prisoner! Forcing his way in through the back way the marshal took the lock off the door and allowed the others to enter. The stenob was so bad that it made one of the party dreadfully sick.

The unnatural son was given a severe tongue-lashing by the officers, and after they had done what they could to relieve the old gentleman's sufferings and directed the son how to clean up the place they retired. Later in the evening the marshal returned and gave further directions as to the cleaning and care of the old gentleman. The old man has but a short time to live, but what little time he does stay with us he will receive better attention than he has in the past.

GULLS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

A gentleman who lives near Lake Point, in Tooele county, in conversation with a NEWS representative to day, stated that myriads of grasshoppers were devouring vegetation in his neighborhood. According to his statement, the air is literally burdened