

## SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE

The monthly Priesthood meeting and quarterly conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly hall on Saturday, Sept. 5th, at 10 a. m. There were present at the opening session, President Joseph F. Smith, of the First Presidency; Elder George Teasdale of the Council of Apostles; Elder Seymour B. Young of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies; Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, of the Stake Presidency; two High Councillors; thirteen Presidents of Seventies, two Patriarchs, Elders Elias Morris, George B. Wallace and Wm. C. Dunbar constituting the presidency of the High Priests quorum; seven home missionaries. All the wards of the stake were represented except the Fifth, Tenth, Buff Dale, East Jordan, Hunter and Pleasant Green. The Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third quorums of Elders were properly represented. There was a good representation of the lesser priesthood.

Choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing:

Come, come ye Saints,  
No toil nor labor fear.

Prayer was offered by Elder John Nicholson.

Singing, choir and congregation:

Redeemer of Israel, our only delight.

On the recommendation of their Bishops, fourteen brethren were authorized to be ordained Elders.

Elder Elias Morris represented the High Priests' quorum of the Stake. He stated that it had a membership of five hundred, and held monthly sessions. He extended an invitation to Bishops, High Councillors and members of all other quorums to meet with the High Priests. He also represented the Fifteenth ward as in good average condition. It had been found necessary to labor and exercise patience with delinquent ones, who still considered themselves as holding a standing in the Church, even when their works did not justify this claim. Such people seemed to lose sight of the object of gathering to Zion, which was to make them more careful and faithful in the performance of their duties. Without this faithfulness exaltation could not be obtained. He spoke in terms of commendation of the ward Sunday school and its work of preparing the young people for their duties.

Elder Willard Young was called upon to represent the home missionary corps. He compared the gathering of the Saints to Zion with the naturalization in this country of foreign citizens, stating that the condition of both could be decidedly improved by the change if they lived up to the privileges given them in their new conditions. While many were satisfied with living as they had before, yet the great majority were ambitious to take advantage of their new privileges. The Saints could gain their blessings only by compliance with the laws of the Gospel. Constant application of these principles would bring about the ultimate perfection of the Saints, for perfection consists in a full observance of all the laws of God. So Jesus, the

Son of God, reached his condition of perfection; the same condition was open to all, its attainment depending upon their faithfulness. Signs of commission and omission were deprecated and deplored, as was also the lack of diligence on the part of young and old in studying the requirements of the Gospel. He spoke in terms of commendation of the Church schools, those presenting the principles of the Gospel in a systematic and thorough manner. If children are to become good, thorough Latter-day Saints, they must be trained in the principles of the Gospel, as a lawyer must receive his training under one thoroughly versed in the principles of law. He commended the Church schools to the patronage and support of the people.

The following Stake organizations were represented: Relief society, by Sister Nellie C. Taylor; primary association by Sister Camilla C. Cobb, kindergarten association by Sister Georgiana F. Young, and Sunday schools by Elder Richard S. Horne.

In general the organizations were said to be in good condition and the work of the officers was explained, their faithfulness being highly commended. The death of Sister Ellen C. Clawson, Stake superintendent of the Primary associations, was feelingly referred to. The benefit of the kindergarten and Sunday school training was emphasized, and the faithful work of the teachers therein received high commendation. The organization of the Sunday School Union into a more efficient condition for training purposes was announced.

President Joseph F. Smith followed, expressing the pleasure he had taken in the proceedings of the meeting, and commending the way in which it had been conducted. He deprecated the tendency toward indifference and negligence on the part of many of the people, while expressing pleasure at the great improvement of the large majority. He urged industry and thrift, as the proper means of bringing about good times.

Elder Penrose asked for the suggestion of improvements in the keeping of ward records, from Bishops, ward clerks, etc., to be sent to him at the Historian's office.

Choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Benediction by Elder George Teasdale.

Singing by the choir and congregation:

We thank Thee O God for a Prophet.

Prayer by Patriarch Wm. Walker.

Singing by choir and congregation:

O say what is truth, etc.

Elder Karl G. Maeser was the first speaker. He said, in part, were are standing upon a pinnacle of learning and science, the highest that the world has ever known, and we should keep pace with the learning in our virtue, truth and morality. The contrary is the case, as we see by the reports in our papers every day. In Zion we have had Church and Sunday schools and other societies established for the benefit of Latter-day Saints in this line, but fathers and mothers should be sure that the home education at the fireside is not neglected; to

see that the ones entrusted to their care are properly trained in the principles of truth and virtue and in the Gospel, that they may have a living testimony presented to them of the divinity of this work. If we fail to do our duty in this respect, we will be held accountable. Faith in God should be the corner stone of all our works.

Elder Jonathan G. Kimball was the next speaker. He said: We read in the scriptures that it is impossible to please God without faith. We should endeavor at all times to have faith in God and not seek so much after the almighty dollar. You have to have faith or you won't be saved. When men get money they sometimes lose the faith and go into darkness and become greedy. When they get faith they have happiness and love the children of men.

Heber J. Grant then spoke. He said: There is nothing so sweet to me as the Gospel; nothing that I value so much as I do the testimony of Jesus Christ, and there is nothing that fills me with greater sorrow than to see the Latter-day Saints careless and indifferent in regard to these things. The Latter-day Saints are so wrapped up in political affairs at this time that they forget the Gospel. Wherever you go you hear the people discussing these matters, but you very seldom hear them talking of the blessings which the Lord has bestowed upon them. If they would pay more attention to the Gospel and would keep the Word of Wisdom they would soon have more money in their midst than you could dig out of all the mines in Utah. Patronize home industries and don't send your money away for the things you need, and then you will be able to get some of it back again.

Elder George Teasdale said true happiness consists in virtue, purity, honesty and in doing right; in making others happy and in being self-sacrificing, and not in being greedy and selfish and in contending with one another. It will keep the commandments of God, and not seek so much after worldly affairs, we will be blessed. God loves those who love Him. If we love Him we should show it by our lives, and He will then manifest His love for us and will fill us with His spirit.

Singing by choir:

Earth with her ten thousand flowers.

Benediction by Elder George B. Wallace.

10 a. m.—Choir and congregation sing:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

Prayer was offered by Elder Eljah Farr.

Singing by the choir:

Praise ye the Lord, my heart shall join  
In work so pleasant, so divine.

The statistical report of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion for the six months ending June 30, 1896, was read by Elder C. W. Penrose. He also read the statement of fast offerings for the same period, showing the fact that only 20 per cent of the amount required for the support of the poor is received from that source. The statistical reports of the Elders' quorum, High Priests' quorum, Relief Society and Primary associations were also read.