

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The combined Conference and Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake opened in the Assembly Hall, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m. There were present, President George Q. Cannon, of the First Presidency; Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and C. W. Penrose, of the Stake Presidency; five Patriarchs, six High Councilors, the three members of the presidency of the High Priests' quorum, twelve presidents of Seventies, twelve home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented except Farmers, North Jordan, Brighton and Pleasant Green.

The presiding officers of the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders were present. A goodly representation of the Lesser Priesthood was in attendance from various wards.

The following Stake organizations were represented: Relief society, Sunday schools, Y. L. M. I. A., Primery association and Kludergarten association.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

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

Prayer was offered by Elder Alonzo H. Raleigh.

Singing:

How are Thy servants blessed, O Lord.

On the recommendation of their respective Bishops, and their promise to magnify the calling, seventeen brethren were endorsed for ordination to the office of Elder.

Elder Angus M. Cannon instructed the Bishops not to recommend persons to the Temple to witness marriage ceremonies who had not received their endowments. He also explained that Elder Jos. H. Felt had been released from the position of superintendent of Y. M. M. I. A. in the Stake, after long and faithful service, performed to the entire satisfaction of the presidency of the Stake. A vote of thanks was extended to Brother Felt for his zeal and energy in the position he had occupied.

Elder C. W. Penrose read a letter addressed to the president of the Stake from the First Presidency, announcing the holding of the Irrigation Congress at Lincoln, Nebraska, September 28-30, and inviting the attendance of prominent brethren, that Utah might be represented. Elder Penrose urged that so many as possible attend the Congress, to give and receive new, broad ideas on the important subject of irrigation.

The statement of fast offerings and charities was read by Elder Joseph E. Taylor, showing a proportion between the offerings for charity and the support received from the tithing office, of nine to thirteen. It was stated that the change of the fast day from Thursday to Sunday had resulted in somewhat enlarged fast offerings. Elder Taylor expressed the hope that in the near future the poor would be supported in full out of the fast offerings and Relief Society donations. There was no begging in the Church, all the indigent being provided for by their

respective Bishops. The inclination of the poor to congregate in Salt Lake City was referred to, and the attempt to secure for them employment outside of the city, was recommended. The speaker called upon the people to come to the aid of the Bishops in supporting the poor, and relieving the general officers of the Church from this responsibility.

Elder Penrose followed on the same subject, stating that Salt Lake City had been made headquarters for the poor, and that active measures were being taken by the bureau of public employment to relieve the city of some of these poor people, and provide them employment elsewhere. The responsibilities pertaining to this condition would rest directly upon the Aaronic Priesthood, as they are in charge of the temporalities of the Church.

President George Q. Cannon spoke on the same topic, explaining the position of the Church in former and in present times, with reference to the support of those dependent upon it, and urging the principle of requiring, wherever possible, an equivalent in labor for all help extended. He recommended, however, that due diligence be exercised to seek out the helpless, worthy poor, and kindly and ungrudgingly provide for their wants.

The choir sang the hymn, Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning.

Benediction by Elder Samuel A. Woolley.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The choir sang the hymn:

Come all ye sons of Zion,
And let us praise the Lord.

Prayer was offered by Elder William Eddington.

Singing:

Let the mighty God appearing.

Elder John Henry Smith of the Council of the Twelve was the first speaker. He referred to the spirit of inquiry arising in the various foreign mission fields and the consequent increase of the missionary force; this placed a grave responsibility upon the brethren and sisters, to prepare themselves to expound the Gospel to inquiring ones. Great opportunities were frequently presented for the sisters to do missionary work both at home and abroad, and they were usually successful and earnest in this labor. He thought greater influence would be secured by both brethren and sisters, by an increased attendance on their part in Sunday schools and other religious gatherings, the attendance at these being frequently too meagre. He thought much could be done by the visiting brethren and local officers to correct this tendency toward negligence, if they would be earnest and efficient in their labors. Parents might frequently be unable to exercise a full influence over their children in this matter, and in such cases the labors of the Priesthood would be found a valuable aid. The great number of foreign missionaries who were but poorly prepared for ministerial labors, was an evidence of serious deficiency in enthusiasm for religious teaching. While there might be a danger of over-doing this work during this peculiar period of young manhood and womanhood, it appeared that at present the tendency was in the other direction.

The speaker had frequently been

struck by the course taken by some parents in this direction, because of the success which had attended their labors in instilling faith into the hearts of their children. Great judgment mingled with a full possession of the Holy Spirit, was absolutely essential in parental training for the holy obligations of the Gospel of Christ. It was doubtless true to a great extent that children, even if careless in early life, would meet and discharge the main duties of life when these should devolve upon them, especially where the parents were careful to set an example of faithfulness. It was to be hoped that greater breadth and wisdom would be given to the Latter-day Saints with reference to this parental control, that in old age parents might receive due honor and pleasure in the respect of their children to them and to the Priesthood. In conclusion the speaker urged upon parents the advisability of applying these counsels to their own family circles, and striving in every way to overcome the lethargy at present so prevalent.

President George Q. Cannon followed. He referred to the subject treated by Elder Smith, emphasizing his remarks, and adding many valuable suggestions regarding the proper training of children to meet the conditions developing among the Latter-day Saints.

The choir and congregation sang: "How firm a foundation." Benediction was pronounced by Elder Geo. B. Wallace, and conference adjourned to meet in the Tabernacle tomorrow at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.

The choir sang the hymn:

Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell.

Prayer was offered by Elder David L. Davis.

Singing:

Great God attend while Zion sings.

Elder John W. Taylor of the Council of Apostles was the first speaker. The things of God were to be understood only through His Spirit, and hence the need of the companionship of that Spirit among the Latter-day Saints. Elder Taylor rehearsed some of his missionary experiences in Colorado. His first impressions concerning that work had been formed under peculiar circumstances of testimony and prophecy, where the mission to be performed in Colorado was strikingly predicted. The prophecies had since been fulfilled in part, and indications were that further fulfillment would manifest itself. During the eight months of the continuance of that mission one hundred and six had been baptized into the Church; this fact, in view of the value of the human soul, was a precious gift of the Spirit of God.

Great power had accompanied the labors of the young missionaries in Colorado in their ministrations and their travels without purse or scrip.

This method of traveling and ministering was in accordance with the commandment and example of Jesus. In spite of rebuffs and rejections of entertainment, these Elders had kept up their courage, depending upon Christ's saying, "He that receiveth you receiveth me." Many supposed ministers of Christ in the cities of