

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The conference and priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake opened in the Assembly Hall at 10 a. m. Friday morning, March 2nd, Elder Angus M. Cannon, Stake president, presiding.

Opened by singing:

Redeemer of Israel, etc.

Prayer was offered by Elder Alonzo H. Raleigh.

Singing:

How firm a foundation, etc.

Following was the attendance of officers: Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, the Stake presidency; three High Councillors, five Patriarchs, seventeen presidents of Seventies, fourteen home missionaries; representatives of all wards of the Stake excepting Mountain Dell, South Cottonwood, Draper, Riverton, Bluff Dale and Herriman; and of the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-second quorums of Elders; a good representation of the lesser Priesthood, and Stake officers of the Relief Society, Sabbath schools and Mutual Improvement Associations.

On the recommendation of their respective bishops, twenty-three young men received certificates recommending their ordination to the office of Elder, on condition of promising faithful performance of duties.

The following bishops presented reports of their wards: Wm. A. Bills of South Jordan; Joseph Warburton of First ward; L. G. Hardy of Second ward; and Counselor John Y. Smith of Third ward.

In general the reports of the wards and their auxiliary organizations were very favorable. Few cases of destitution were reported, and the Saints were spoken of as faithful in the performance of their duties. The Bishops expressed themselves as pleased with affairs as at present existing, and anxious to see such conditions continue. The poor are well provided for and dilatory members are being prompted to greater faithfulness.

Elders Edw. W. Davis and James Malin, presidents of the First and Second quorums of Elders respectively, reported their quorums in good condition, the members manifesting great improvement in the performance of their duties. In some instances, however, there has been a lack of faithfulness in fulfilling the obligations which the Elders have taken upon themselves.

Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, laid great stress on the necessity of receiving all instructions through the channel of the Priesthood, according to perfect order. Confusion is bound to result from any other course than this. Elder Cannon stated that instructions had been sent to the Bishops of the wards to labor with those who had been recommended to the Temple dedication, and had not shown great faithfulness since that time; not requiring rebaptism, but permitting it if the person so desires. In the case of rebaptism, according to the instructions of President Woodruff, the regular form of the ceremony is changed by the insertion of the words "for the renewal of your covenants."

These instructions are to be followed by men officiating in the Priesthood, who are not to substitute their own interpretation of the ceremonies performed. The follies indulged in by many in the Church were spoken of and denounced by Elder Cannon, and all were exhorted to depart therefrom, and to manifest greater faithfulness in the discharge of their responsibilities. Sent from the presence of God to lead His people, men sometimes turn from their high callings and allow earthly cares and pleasures to interfere with their great responsibility.

The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder C. W. Penrose.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing:

Glory to God on high.

Prayer by Elder A. W. Winberg.

Singing, choir and congregation:

Our God we raise to Thee.

The report of the Stake organization of the Y. L. M. I. A., was read, and showed a marked interest in the work of this organization. Sister Mary A. Freeze, Stake president of the Y. L. M. I. A. testified to the increased faithfulness and spirituality of the young ladies, as manifested in their testimony bearing and special fasts, as also the encouragement they are giving to all their associates in the performance of their labors.

Sister M. Isabella Horne, Stake president of the Relief Societies, presented an encouraging report of this organization, calling attention to the work being done in the direction of relieving the wants of the poor, especially of those who, through delicacy of feeling, do not make their wants known. The sick were spoken of as receiving great blessing through the ministrations of the sisters, who thus add to their own blessings and become valuable assistants to the ward authorities.

Bishops Harrison Sperry, of the Fourth ward; S. M. T. Siddon, of the Fifth; Wm. Thorne, of the Seventh; J. C. Watson, of the Sixth; D. B. Brinton, of Big Cottonwood; and John A. Egbert, of West Jordan, gave verbal reports of their wards, agreeing in essential points with those presented in the forenoon session, special mention being made of the efficient work of the auxiliary organizations.

Patriarch John Smith testified to his observation of a marked improvement among the people of the Church, and to the blessings attending the ministrations of the sisters among the sick by the power of faith and prayer; for the prayer of faith is always effectual. The tendency toward the procrastination of labor is marked and unfortunate; all should drive their work instead of allowing it to drive them.

Speaking of the local patriarchs, he stated that their duty is to bless the poor and their own kindred, Elders called hurriedly on missions and others who wish that administration, but each should, as a rule, confine his ministrations to his own district.

Elder C. W. Penrose expressed his gratitude for the testimonies borne regarding the equality of all in the Church of Christ. The poor and the rich need equal instruction, and in some cases the rich are in special need

of this, that they may appreciate the value of the society of their faithful, humble brethren and sisters, and that pride and vain-glory in their mingling in "society" may be discouraged.

The necessity of freedom in the bestowal of patriarchal blessings received especial emphasis, as also the bestowing of suitable blessings on the patriarch by those who receive his ministrations. Each member of the Church should learn his duty and perform it, always remaining in his own sphere.

The choir sang the anthem:

Jerusalem, my glorious home.

Conference adjourned to 7:30 p. m. with benediction by Elder George Goddard.

EVENING SESSION.

The choir sang:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray.

Prayer was offered by Elder Milano Pratt.

Singing by the choir and congregation:

Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning.

Elder Thomas C. Griggs, Stake superintendent of Sunday schools, was the first speaker. He reported the Sunday schools of the Stake as being in excellent condition. The growth of some of the schools has necessitated the organization of three new ones in the Stake since the last report. Some few of the schools were not reported as the statistical reports had not been handed in, but would be before the close of the conference. A corps of sixteen missionaries are engaged in visiting the different schools in the Stake, and they are men of honor and integrity, as are also the officers and teachers in the various schools. Great good was being done in teaching the rising generation. A Sunday school has been organized for the benefit of the deaf mutes, and much good was being accomplished thereby. There are about 9,000 pupils enrolled in this Stake and 1,000 officers and teachers, a total of 10,000 souls.

Elder Joseph H. Felt, Stake president of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement associations, reported that there were forty-nine of these associations in the Stake. All in a prosperous condition, they have taken up the Manual in earnest, and it is proving a great benefit to the young men who take an interest therein. It provides for home reading as well as the regular lectures, and is creating a desire for learning among young people. A lecture bureau had also been established under the direction of Elder A. S. Geddes.

Elder George H. Taylor, bishop of the Fourteenth ward, reported that the different organizations in that ward over which he presided were in good condition, and particularly the Relief Society, which was doing a great deal in relieving the wants of the sick and needy.

Elder Charles H. Hyde, president of the Fourth quorum of Elders, reported marked improvement in the attendance of members. On account of the growth of the quorum it was found necessary to divide it. The Sixth and Seventh wards only are now included in the Fourth quorum. The presidency had taken up a personal labor with the wayward members, which, together with the labors of a corps of