

will be no difficulty in collecting these funds."

Elder Horace S. Ensign then sang the sacred solo, Jerusalem, and his magnificent baritone voice charmed the large and appreciative audience.

General Superintendent George Q. Cannon said:

"I have been informed that there is an indifference, a growing indifference, noticeable in different places in relation to Sunday schools, and that there is not that interest apparent that has been and that should be. Of course, every movement of this kind must be sustained by energy and by those who are engaged in the movement taking an interest in it and giving it their attention and bestowing thought and labor upon it. Various suggestions have been made as to how this shall be remedied and what steps should be taken to infuse, shall I say new life, to infuse life a little more than we have at present, into every department of our Sunday schools. I need not dwell before this audience upon the importance of Sunday school work. It lies, it may be said, at the foundation of every association we have among us. The children that go to Sunday school soon become young men, and join the Mutual Improvement associations; and the girls grow to be young ladies and they have their functions to attend to, and they are more efficient in the path of success, if they are trained in the Sunday school as they should be.

"Now, I have in my hand some memoranda regarding Sunday school work, and the holding of a convention for Sunday school workers. My proposition is that we should hold a Sunday school convention during the latter part of November or the beginning of December next; that we should have this not too near the Christmas holidays; that the last two days be Monday and Tuesday; that three meetings be held each day; that the Stake delegates be guests of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board apportioned among the Sunday schools of this city while they stay here; that badges shall be prepared for the visitors, for we want our brethren and sisters to come and visit us and take part in this convention; that President Angus M. Cannon and his counselors, the presidency of this Stake, be asked to give the preceding Sunday evening to the Deseret Sunday School Union, and that the board divide the visitors among the various wards to speak on Sunday school matters and help vivify the Sunday schools of the city. I trust that the presidency of this Stake will see their way clear to permit this and that it will not interfere with anything they may have in mind. The speakers chosen should be notified as soon as possible, to give them time to prepare, so that in the event of any being unable to attend, the opportunity may be given to the board to select others. That is, if some are selected to prepare for this and they cannot fulfill the expectation or requirement, the board shall receive notice in time that others may be selected for the purpose; and a committee of three should be chosen from the members of the board to arrange the details of the convention and take charge of the preparatory work. Now these are points that I have written, so that you might get a clear idea of the object of the move. Here is a suggestive program for the Sunday school convention:

"Monday morning, address of welcome; the objects of the convention; the Sunday school treatise; Sunday school teacher's meeting; how to reach delinquent scholars.

"Monday afternoon, subjects: How to best maintain order in the school; how to use the Leaflets; the use of the Nickel Fund; home reading in connection with the Sunday school.

"Monday evening, how to grade the Sunday school; the relationship of the Church to the Sunday school; the Sunday school as an auxiliary to the home; the home as an auxiliary to the Sunday school.

"Tuesday morning, Kindergarten and infant classes in the Sunday school; punctuality—how best secured; the Sunday school superintendent; the Sunday school teacher.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sunday school choirs and their relationship to congregational singing; lesson on the presentation of the authorities; how to conduct Stake Sunday school conferences; the program for 1899 Stake conferences.

"Tuesday evening, how best to prepare a Sunday school lesson; the Bible in the Sunday school; the Book of Mormon in the Sunday school; the administration of the Sacrament in the schools. Each meeting to be opened by a half hour's singing practice of such songs as will be recommended to be sung at the 1899 Sunday school conferences, and such to be closed by remarks from the general superintendent and his assistants, as we may wish.

"Now these subjects we would like to have treated upon. If the committee can see where some improvements can be made in this, of course I shall be in favor of their having latitude to change or to suggest additional subjects."

Elder Seymour B. Young moved that the suggestions be adopted by this meeting. Carried. General Superintendent George Q. Cannon then appointed Elders George Reynolds, Joseph W. Summerhays and George D. Pyper as the committee to arrange the details of the convention and take charge of the preparatory work.

Continuing General Superintendent Cannon said: "I would like you to take hold of this energetically and let us have something that will be creditable and interesting, that all who attend may go away instructed and infused with life and with a determination to lift the Sunday school and make it what it should be. This committee can take the necessary steps to invite such persons or brethren and sisters from afar as they may deem proper; but it is a general invitation and we would like you all to come, and we will do the best that can be done to entertain you, and give you a chance to teach us in our wards. Give us your ideas and tell us what you do, so that we may get a mutual benefit in mingling together in that manner.

"I may say that Brother Heber J. Grant's remarks about the nickel fund are in strict accord to my feelings. I do not want our Sunday schools to become begging institutions, or to become burdensome to our children. Do not make the poor children who cannot give the nickel feel badly. Avoid that, because the feelings of children are very delicate. We should not do anything that would make them feel that they are inferior in any way to anybody else. I hope that what has been said will be remembered by all the teachers and superintendents."

Second Assistant Karl G. Maeser said: "Members of the Sunday School Union board have occasionally visited annual Sunday school conferences when they have felt disappointed in some measure in not getting that kind of information regarding the condition of the Sunday schools, which they desired, and I have been requested, therefore, to speak in regard to the way and manner in which the Sunday school conferences should be conducted. Now, the nature and object of an annual Sunday school Stake conference is three fold. The first object is to present to all the Sunday schools, in that stake

pattern and model exercises. Upon this subject I need not speak now. I refer to the instructions that were given upon this point at the last April Conference, when we met here. The second point or object of our annual Sunday school Stake conference is to give the visiting members of the Sunday School Union Board an opportunity to obtain as much information in regard to the condition of the Sunday schools in the Stake as time and circumstances will permit. That can be obtained in two ways: These visiting members of the Sunday School Union Board witness the class exercises, according to the instructions given upon that subject at the last April Conference. These are the best class exercises upon the various subjects that have been selected by the Stake superintendency—the best class exercises that can be found in the Stake. That gives the visiting brethren the opportunity of seeing the condition, or judging of the condition of the Sunday schools. Eight class exercises of the best kind should be given, two on Saturday morning and afternoon; two Sunday morning; two on Sunday afternoon. Then there is always something from a Primary, first intermediate, second intermediate, and theological, class, and concert recitations of some kind; the next point at which we can get our information about the conditions of the Sunday schools comes from the reports of the superintendents of the different schools. The Sunday School Union Board have drawn up twenty-one points upon which they would like to have answers given. A copy of this will be sent to every Sunday school superintendent throughout Zion. Each superintendent should prepare himself for this and not come up and talk a 'goody goody' talk for five or six minutes or more and then sit down without saying anything about his Sunday school. This is the second point that gives us necessary information in regard to the condition of the Sunday school. The third point is to give the visiting members of the Sunday School Union Board an opportunity to give instructions. These instructions are based upon the answers which the superintendents give in reporting their Sunday schools. The Sunday School Union members will note conditions and the different points, based upon the observations which they have found and made during the class exercises, which is the second point about which we can base our instructions. The third is the questions which should be handed in by Sunday school officers and teachers, questions which have arisen on Sunday school work and the principles of the Gospel, which are expected to be taught in the Sunday schools. Suppose now, we get six of these questions in every one of these meetings, then we have twenty-four questions handed in during the conference, twenty-four important Sunday school points under consideration. And if there is any point that we may not have the authority or capacity to answer, we will take it home and report it to the Sunday School Union Board, where it will be disposed of; and if the board has not the authority to answer it, our general superintendent, George Q. Cannon, is a member of the First Presidency, and there we can get it from the fountainhead, and you get your answer in due time.

"And then the next point that I would like to have called your attention to, that it is not our mission to talk merely to the comparatively few Sunday school workers that are attending our annual Sunday school Stake conferences. It is not very likely that we shall have all the officers and teachers