

## BOX ELDER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of Box Elder Stake was held at Brigham City, Jan. 26 and 27th, 1896. There were present, as visitors, Elders Geo. Teasdale, Seymour B. Young, Lorin Farr, Barnard White, Leroy Snow and Wm. Palmer.

The Brigham City tabernacle was filled to overflowing at all the meetings.

Sunday, at 10 a.m.—After services were regularly commenced by singing and prayer, President Rudger Clawson gave a brief report of the condition of the Stake; said there were many in this Stake who desire to promote a spirit of charity and brotherly love; the various organizations are in active working order and are fairly complete; in the quorums the presiding officers are always present at the regular meetings; the brethren who preside over the Stake are united in all their operations, as is also the High Council; the titling record is favorable for the past year; had observed that the wards that are doing the most by way of building meeting houses and the like pay the best titling; felt that he had been well paid for every good deed that he had ever done for the work of God. Elder Seymour B. Young felt that conferences in this Stake are times of refreshing. We have had experiences in the past and it is hoped that we are growing in intelligence and wisdom. Every Elder in Israel must understand his position and letters of inquiry in regard to missionary work should awaken a desire to fulfill any requirement that may be made of us. Zion is filled with all pleasurable allurements and in the midst of these lurk the powers of the evil one; young people are called upon to think and act for themselves to see if they can rise above these evils and take upon themselves the armor of the Gospel.

2 p.m.—Elder George Teasdale said those who accept responsibilities in the Priesthood should be as clay in the hands of the potter for this is the covenant they have made. The Gospel has been restored and there is no reason why a person who desires to know the truth should walk in darkness. Life and death are placed before us and we can choose whichever we desire. It is our mission to call all human beings to repent of their sins. Young men can manifest the dignity of their character by refusing to partake of evils. If parents do not exercise righteous dominion over their children they come under condemnation. We should sit in judgment on ourselves and not so much on our neighbors.

10 a.m. Monday.—Remarks were made by A. Madison, Chas. Kelly, B. M. Young, Wm. Palmer and Leroy Snow who gave some excellent testimonies and experiences.

In the afternoon Bishop Barnard White gave some interesting incidents which he had witnessed. The faith and knowledge of the Gospel he had attained had been by a life-long effort. The Gospel is so easy to understand that it is almost impossible to err if we have the spirit of God. Had been a member of the Church about forty years and had passed through some of the hardships incident to the settle-

ment of this country. Looked upon Utah today with pride for the Lord has blessed the land for our sakes. Elders George Teasdale and Crandall Dunn occupied the remainder of the time in exhorting the Saints to works of righteousness.

On Sunday evening an interesting, well-attended Priesthood meeting was held.

At the close of the conference all seemed to feel they were well paid for attending. NELS JENSON, Clerk.

## MUNICIPAL REFORM.

In these days when the public mind is kept in a state of agitation by cries from various quarters, of reform, retrenchment, repeal and while voluminous reports containing the status of the various municipal departments are filed with the Mayor and City Council to be subjected to the relentless pruning knife of the judicial analyst; who in his wisdom selects therefrom such parts as may be most calculated to advance the cause nearest and dearest to his heart; is it not a fact that but little of the real contents of these reports will ever reach the common people, and is it not the duty of the public press, as far as possible, to enlighten them as best it can?

Suppose fellow citizens (who read this communication) we take up Mayor Glendinning's message, and look it over briefly; and subject it to the criticism which we have the right to. We shall all agree on the need of proper retrenchment, the wisdom of bona fide reforms, and the necessity for adopting any other good thing suggested by his honor. I choose more particularly in this brief article to refer to his proposed system for the reorganization of the municipal machine.

First—He speaks of a board consisting of five heads of departments, with the Mayor as its chairman, who shall hold daily sessions. He then proceeds to enumerate the duties, substantially, of each member of said board, and in the estimated expense of this board, in comparison with the present expenses, he includes the salaries paid the chiefs of the police and fire departments; also the secretary of the fire department. The latter officer he probably does not know performs, at present, in addition to his duties as secretary the indispensable duty of operator for the fire alarm system. In no place in the detailed duties of the respective board is any mention made looking toward the handling and control of those two important departments. But further along the Mayor says that these two departments might be managed by one superintendent, thereby saving the salary of one chief. Whoever heard of such a thing? Even in the wildest imagination of the most radical socialist, the thought was never before conceived.

About a year ago we had a riot in Ogden that the chief of police could not control, and at the same hour incendiary fires were blazing in three or four different parts of the business center of the city requiring the best efforts of the most skillful fire chief, but his honor would have this unborn man a kind of omnipresent individual who could command police and quell riots in one end of the city, and at the same time take charge of

great conflagrations at the other end of town.

One thing in particular worthy of note in this message is the recommendation for the establishment of a new bureau, an electrical department. People generally will admit this as one of the "good things" in the message. But why start a new department that will involve a great deal of expense and that is by no means a necessity at this time when we are all trying to retrench? This part of the recommendations takes almost a half column of fine print in itself. Oh, yes; I heard a man say, "There is one of the McKay family not yet provided for and he is an electrician by profession," and he knows.

The police department seems to come in for a good share of rough handling, those of us who have lived here for some time know that is hardly fair, for the present mayor must know that never in the past six years, have we had such efficient police service as during the last two years. Who can say that they have been held up by any member of the present police force (under its present head) and blood money demanded from them, as was a common occurrence four or five years ago? Sunday liquor selling, prostitution and gambling were much more common then than now, but the city attorney is pledged to reform and he will doubtless have the co-operation of the present chief of police in this laudable work; but speaking of the city attorney in connection with this matter, he acting as the mouthpiece of the Mayor, it is fair to assume he has been consulted in regard to the policy of this administration. The cry of the Mayor and his attorney is Reform! Retrenchment! Repeal! It strikes this writer, who is not very conversant with political methods, as a little strange. Who echoes the cry of Reform? Why, the supporters of the administration in the Council, led by a prominent member who runs three or more saloons in town one of which was raided by the police last Sunday.

Tuesday night when the vote was taken in the Council he voted with the administration minority to abolish the present police and fire law, and not enact the Sutherland bill. Oh yes, he is one of the reformers who have it in for the chief and commission for enforcing the Sunday closing law.

Of course he is a "repealer." Oh, am again reminded that some of the city attorney's late clientele, are also in favor of "repeal" ever since they have been driven from their uncanny haunts. It, of course, follows they are also "reformers."

As one whose interests are in the Fourth precinct I have a right to criticize the Mayor for refusing to give us a fire station there. If he was not pledged to his constituents in that locality to work toward that end, the members of the City Council elected from that precinct are, and we shall look to them. As a taxpayer I have taken some interest, since the Legislature convened, in watching the fight for and against the proposed police and fire bill, introduced by Senator Sutherland, and my attention was particularly attracted, from the fact that the News, Tribune and Herald all supported the measure.

In closing I would say I have not