

were all urged upon the Saints in a kind yet powerful manner.

The Saints were also instructed to observe the change lately arranged by the First Presidency concerning the fast day, as well as to allow the Sunday schools to hold their regular sessions uninterrupted.

The general and Stake authorities were sustained by the unanimous vote of the conference.

Reports of the Bishops showed that the people of the entire Stake were in a fair condition, both spiritually and temporally.

L. M. SAVAGE,
Clerk of Conference.

SECRETARY FRANCIS'S REPORT.

An advance copy of the report of the secretary of the interior, Hon. D. R. Francis, is at hand. It is a comprehensive document.

On the subject of irrigation he says in part:

"I can not too urgently impress upon Congress the necessity for legislation upon the subject of the reclamation and disposal of lands within the arid region. When it is considered that five-sixths of the vacant public lands lie within a region where the rainfall is not sufficient to produce agricultural crops without artificial irrigation, that a comparatively small percent of this territory can be utilized by reason of the limited supply of the water subject to control, and that existing laws are ineffective to secure the reclamation of the lands susceptible of irrigation, the demand for congressional action comes to us with irresistible force. It is assumed by persons familiar with the subject that of the 500,000,000 acres of arid lands, about 100,000,000 acres might be reclaimed by the most conservative use of the water and by the judicious selection of the lands to be irrigated. But unless some plan is adopted "by which the waters of the perennial streams which are wasted during the winter months could be stored and reservoirs constructed upon appropriate sites to impound the storm waters," the percentage would be very much reduced.

It is impossible under the laws now in operation, to control the reclamation of lands in the arid region so as to prevent the improvident use of water over which the general government has no control. This can only be accomplished by a system which contemplates the reclamation of the entire territories from a common source of supply and the utilization of that supply."

The following information concerning Utah is incorporated in the report:

"The report of Caleb W. West, late governor of Utah Territory, covers the fractional part of the year 1895 from the date of his last report up to the admission of the Territory into the Union of States, on the 4th day of January, 1896, and the inauguration and installation of the Governor and other State officers two days later.

"The season of 1895 brought good crops to the farmers, an ordinary volume of business to the merchants, and, considering the continued financial depression all over the Union, a fairly good output from the mines. The population steadily increases, educational facilities improve, and statehood has brought the different

sects and creeds into a much closer relation to each other and the State than ever before.

"The all absorbing topic among the people, was the campaign, which involved not only the adoption of the State Constitution, but the election of all the State officers, a congressman, and a legislature charged with the duty of electing two United States Senators. The result showed the adoption of the State Constitution by a vote of 31,305, while but 7,657 votes were cast against it. Upon the certification of the facts to the President of the United States, and his intimation that if the Constitution complied with the requirements of the enabling act he would issue the proclamation of admission on January 4, extensive preparations were made for the inaugural ceremonies. As the Constitution provided that the State officers should enter upon their duties on the Monday following the date of admission, it became necessary for the Territorial officials to continue in office, as provided in the enabling act, until that day.

"On Saturday, January 4, 1896, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, the telegraph brought the word that at 10:03 a.m., Washington time (3:03 a.m., Salt Lake City time), the President had signed the proclamation admitting Utah into the union of states. The national salute was fired, flags were hoisted, business was generally suspended, and the people contented themselves with general heartfelt rejoicing.

"On Monday, January 6, 1896, after imposing ceremonies, the new State officers were duly installed in office. Immediately thereafter, the State Legislature met and organized, the Supreme court and district courts began to transact business, and the new State government was in perfect operation in all its departments."

"The Uncompahgre Indian reservation has been the subject of continued discussion in the department as well as in the halls of Congress during the past three years or more.

"The Uncompahgre Utes of Colorado, by an agreement made with the Ute tribe, and ratified by Congress June 15, 1880, were removed from their reservation in that state to lands in Utah set apart from the public domain by executive proclamation for their use. Subsequently deposits of "gilsonite" or asphaltum were discovered in paying quantities within the boundaries of the reservation, and application was made to the department to throw the same open to entry. The agreement of 1880 provided that a sufficient sum, or its equivalent in bonds of the United States, be set aside (say, \$1,250,000) in the treasury of the United States, which, at 4 percent interest would annually yield \$50,000 for the benefit of the Utes as part consideration or compensation for the Colorado lands relinquished by them. It was estimated that the area of these Colorado land was in excess of 10,000,000 acres. The agreement further provided, as an additional consideration for those lands, that the Uncompahgres should be given agricultural lands on the banks of the Grand or Gunnison river in Colorado, or in the Territory of Utah. The Uncompahgres were removed to

the last named section and are now located there.

"The Indian appropriation act of August 15, 1894, provided in sections 20, 21 and 22 that agricultural land should be allotted in severalty to the Uncompahgre Indians, but that they should be required to pay \$1.25 per acre for the same. A commission was appointed to allot the lands, and was instructed to inform the secretary of the interior what portion of the Uncompahgre reservation in Utah was not required for allotment or was unfit for agricultural uses, in order that the same might be restored to the public domain and opened for settlement. That commission was duly appointed, but had difficulty in finding sufficient agricultural lands within the reservation to make the allotments and was totally unsuccessful in persuading the Uncompahgres to agree to pay \$1.25 per acre for the same.

"It appears from an examination of the agreement of 1880 that the Colorado land relinquished by the Utes was to be sold for their benefit and the proceeds to be applied, first, to reimbursing the government for the expense incurred in removing the Indians from the reservation to the lands assigned them and for the farming implements furnished them; second, to reimburse the government for the \$1,250,000 above mentioned; third, to paying the government \$1.25 per acre for the agricultural lands allotted to them; fourth, the remainder as a trust fund for the Utes, to be held by the government. The charge of \$1.25 per acre, therefore, for the agricultural lands allotted is not to be paid by the Indians until sufficient money is realized from the sale of their Colorado lands to permit such payment without interfering with their trust fund of \$1,250,000, bearing 4 per cent interest.

"The commission sent to negotiate with the Uncompahgres seems not to have understood the terms of the agreement of 1880, as in its report it is stated that the Uncompahgres declined to pay \$1.25 per acre for their new lands because they had sold their former lands, which were of better quality, to the government at 12½ cents per acre. If the Indians understood that \$1.25 per acre for the new lands allotted them was to be taken out of their interest-bearing trust fund, they were justified in declining to accept such a proposition, as the agreement clearly stipulates that the trust fund is a permanent one from which the Indians shall receive \$50,000 per annum forever.

"The records of the land office give the Colorado lands relinquished by the Utes as containing 12,467,200 acres. Of this 698,086.57 acres have been sold, realizing \$1,323,870.10. The cost of removing and settling the Utes and providing agricultural implements, buildings, stock, etc., was \$429,557.25. Consequently \$1,879,557.25 must be realized from the sale of the Colorado lands before the Uncompahgre Utes can be required to pay \$1.25 per acre for the lands allotted them and to pay \$1.25 therefor when sufficient shall have been realized out of the sale of their Colorado lands to permit such a payment without interfering with their trust fund.

"The commission segregated from