

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 17.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, APRIL 13, 1895.

VOL. L.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-fifth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 5, 1895. The following authorities were on the stand:

Of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith; of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch John Smith; of the Presidency of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, George Reynolds, J. G. Kimball and R. S. Wells; of the Presiding Bishopric—William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

There were also many Presidents of Stakes and other prominent Elders from various parts of this Territory and contiguous regions.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir sang the hymn:

All hail the glorious day,
By Prophets long foretold.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder George Teasdale.

Singing by the choir:

Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell,
By faith and love, in every breast.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said: I feel that all our hearts this morning should be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving to God, our heavenly Father, for the blessings which we as a people enjoy. A long generation, as men count time, has passed away with all its events connected with the last dispensation of the fullness of times, in our day and generation. The Church of Christ has been organized in fulfillment of the revelations of God, which were given by men who were moved upon by the gift of the Holy Ghost in their day and generation. Many nations and the islands of the sea have heard the proclamation of the Gospel. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been organized, not only here, but among many nations, and tens of thousands of the sons of God have been gathered together, here in the land of Zion. The Gospel has been preached according to the promises of God unto the nations, by men who have been called and sent forth to waru the inhabitants of the earth of those great events which are to come to pass before the coming of the Son of Man.

We ourselves have passed through many of those scenes which have been prophesied of by the ancient Patriarchs

and Prophets called of God, and today we dwell here in the mountains of Israel. The Lord has enabled His people to rear temples to the name of the Most High God, here and in other parts of the earth; here the dead have been redeemed and the living blessed, and the promises of God have been carried out according to His words to holy men from Abraham to Joseph Smith. I feel myself that we should be filled with gratitude for the blessings we enjoy from time to time. I hope and pray that while we assemble together we may enjoy the Spirit of God and our hearts be united together as the heart of one man; that our prayers may be drawn out before the Lord, that His blessings may be with us and that those who speak to us may do so by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and the power of God.

I feel to thank God for myself that I have lived to see this day and have mingled with the brethren for so many years, and my life has still been preserved so that I may endeavor to do something with the Saints for the redemption of the children of men. I hope and pray that the blessings and power of God may rest upon the Apostles and Elders and the Saints of God while we are together upon this occasion. This is my desire and prayer unto the Lord my God in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was the next speaker. He expressed his pleasure at the fact that the Saints were again permitted to assemble in General Conference under favorable circumstances. Notwithstanding all the trials that had confronted them they were still in a comparatively happy and prosperous condition. Some of the greatest of these perplexing conditions were in the nature of financial burdens. He believed that at no distant day the Lord would open the way for deliverance from these distressing surroundings. Progress in spiritual matters was liable to be impeded by the necessity of attention being too much engrossed with temporal subjects. He was specially desirous that the burdens of the First Presidency might be speedily lifted. The Church, however, was not in a critical condition, as its credit was superior to that of anything in the country. It had a great and liberal people behind it.

The requests directed to the Church from the Stakes were too great, and ought to be curtailed. He believed that if the Bishops and other leading officers would look about them and devise means of employment and develop resources, such demands would

be unnecessary, and distress and poverty would vanish. If this course were taken remunerative labor would be plentiful, and the present situation be relieved. The speaker was aware of the fact that some of the unemployed people of this city had pieces of land which are not cultivated. Why should not this source of productivity be utilized. He knew of a man who supported himself and family by the cultivation, for the production of vegetables, from one acre and a quarter of of ground. It was not pleasing in the sight of God for men to spend their time idly upon the streets when such opportunities for labor existed. Why should those located here await the coming of people from the East to establish industries. When they came the residents donate money and land to assist them in inaugurating industrial establishments. Why could not the people here do this independently, of themselves, without awaiting the coming of strangers. The speaker named individual instances of men of thrift and industry removing from this city to other stakes and wresting a livelihood from the fruitful soil. It was not necessary, however, neither was it wise, for the Saints to go to regions greatly distant from here. There were numerous facilities in the immediate vicinity and localities not very remote.

The experience of employers has proved that many men are unable to direct in wisdom their own work, to say nothing of directing the work of others. Every man should be, as far as possible, the master of his own labor; if this could not be done, he should place himself under the direction of one who had ability and the inspiration of God. Every man, woman and child should be a producer. All such, if industrious and capable, would always be able to secure employment. Any honorable work, with any wage, is better than idleness and poverty. The straitened circumstances of capitalists prevent them from engaging in the enterprises which characterized the past few years and hence the duty incumbent upon every man to look after his labor and to avoid idleness and consequent sin.

ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL

followed. He had learned long ago that the system of religion adopted by the Latter-day Saints originated not with man but with the Lord. This testimony came to him in his youth, and he had never doubted its truth since that time. Those who had gathered here from the nations and had become identified with the Church of Christ, should examine themselves, and sit in judgment upon their fellow-