

# THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

## THIRTY-EIGHTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Thirty-Eighth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened this morning in the New Tabernacle at ten o'clock. The congregation at that hour was a large one, though the vast building was not filled; and as the voices of the choir mingled in harmony with the sonorous tones of the great organ, in the opening hymn, the solemnities of the occasion pervaded the assembled thousands.

On the stands we noticed President B. Young and President D. H. Wells, of the First Presidency; Apostles Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. A. Smith, E. T. Benson, C. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith; John Smith, Patriarch; John Young, E. D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, the Presidency of the High Priests Quorum; George B. Wallace and Joseph W. Young, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, of the First Presidency of the Seventies; Edward Hunter, L. W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presidency of the Bishopric; Bishops, presiding Elders, and leading men from settlements the most remote and those at nearer points of distance, Idaho, Utah and Arizona being represented.

One notable point in connection with this Conference is, that it is the first General Conference of the Church held in Utah at which there has been a full Quorum of the Twelve Apostles present. The nature of the duties and labors of the Twelve causes one or more of their number to be nearly always absent in some parts of the earth, aiding to build up the Kingdom of God; but this October, through the recent arrival of Elder Franklin D. Richards, all are in the Territory and all are assembled at Conference. The communion and counselings of President Young, President Wells and the full Quorum of the Twelve, with their united wisdom, wide experience, and the spirit and inspiration which accompany them, will, beyond doubt, give birth to much most valuable instruction and counsel to the people, and the adoption of such measures, under the dictation of the Spirit of God, as will be of incalculable benefit to the interests of the community. We record this meeting together of all the Twelve at Conference, as most noteworthy.

The meeting was called to order by President B. Young, and the Tabernacle Choir sang the opening hymn: "The morning breaks, &c." Elder George A. Smith offered up prayer; and the 20th Ward Choir, which occupied a position on the left of the stand, sang the hymn, "Father, how wide thy glory shines, &c."

Elder Orson Hyde first addressed the Conference, reasoning at some length on the principles of temporal and spiritual salvation. As many followed the Savior for the loaves and fishes, so, many seek the home of the Saints for mere sordid and pecuniary motives, caring for nothing higher than the accumulation of this world's goods. But the Saints have to work out their salvation, to build up the Kingdom of God, and further the cause of human redemption. The feeling which many have, that now is a season of scarcity of bread, and from which they are led to shut up their bowels of compassion, is not one that should be indulged in. We should succor the needy and do good to all. The approach of the railroad toward completion, and the spirit which animates those engaged in its construction, are evidences of the manner in which God is working for the accomplishment of His holy purposes. When that road is completed it will be found to be a mighty instrument in the hands of the Lord for furthering His work. The speaker exhorted the Saints to labor diligently to build up the Kingdom of God; and learn to become saviors before the Lord.

The Brigham City choir, under the leadership of R. L. Fishburne, which occupied a position to the right of the stand, sang the anthem, "I will lift up mine eyes!"

Elder Orson Pratt then addressed the congregation. He noticed the reasons why we came here—not because we wanted to, but because we were compelled to, and could not help ourselves.

The spirit of opposition, which drove the Saints beyond the Rocky Mountains and compelled them to seek a shelter in the then almost unknown wilds of this mountainous country, has operated against the Church and its leaders, from the time the Prophet Joseph obtained the plates up to the present. The same spirit has ever manifested its opposition to the people of God, whenever He has had a priesthood and power upon the earth and communicated His revelations to His people. The Saints have been called upon to gather out from the nations of the earth, that they may be separated from every thing unrighteous and corrupt. We have toiled and labored here to make ourselves homes. We were compelled to labor by the force of circumstances and the exigencies of our situation. No other people have toiled as we have done, for no other people have been placed in such untoward circumstances? Who has done all that is to be seen in this Territory, in changing it from a wilderness to a beautiful, well cultivated and productive country? The old settlers have done it. They pioneered this region and gave to government a country which would have been unsettled perhaps for another century, for they made a base of supplies for the exploring parties, prospectors and mining camps, which have been the birth of several surrounding States and Territories. We were refused our rights in Missouri and Illinois, because the people there said we were not the old settlers in those regions. We are the old settlers here; and we have come here to enjoy freedom and the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution of our country. With our religious rights and liberties, we have many others and among these is the right to trade with whom we please and where we please, so long as we do not break any law nor infringe upon the rights of others. We have fostered here men who have used all the influence in their power to injure us as a people; we have given them our grain, paid them our money and impoverished the Territory by putting millions and millions in their hands, to be carried away. Did they profess friendship? Yes. But as an individual, unless men repent and keep the commandments of God, the speaker said he would not trade with them to the extent of one dime.

Elder Pratt reasoned on this principle at some length, and dwelt in a plain and forcible manner on the course pursued by merchants who openly professed friendship for the "Mormons," but secretly did everything in their power to injure and if possible destroy them; and said he would rather go into the mountains, kill the wolves and dress in the skins thus obtained, than put money in the hands of those who would destroy him, his brethren and the institutions of the Kingdom of God.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir; prayer by Elder E. T. Benson.

Conference adjourned till 2 o'clock.

2 p.m.

The 20th Ward choir sang "My soul is full of peace and love," with Hallelujah by Bro. J. J. Daynes.

Elder Erastus Snow prayed.

The Fishburne choir sang a quartette—"Pray for the Peace of Deseret."

Elder John Taylor spoke of the character of our Conferences, and the objects for which we assembled together in such a capacity. The subjects dwelt upon at such times are not confined to that which is usually called religious by the sectarian world, but comprise everything that relates to man's welfare, happiness, prosperity and existence all of which is embraced in our religion. The subject of trading, spoken of in the forenoon, would bear considerable investigation. It had been a principle acted upon by all nations to adopt measures calculated to further the general good. Our position is such a one as many nations have been placed in at some period of their existence. Nations make treaties of commerce, appoint consuls and take other steps to protect their trade and commercial relations. Special advantages are conferred upon various industries; protection is extended to home manufactures and prohibition is exercised to a greater or less extent against imported goods. No one questions the right to do thus; no one thinks of bringing charges against any people or nation who try to further their own interests in such a manner. We are not a nation, but as a part of this Republic and in our Territorial condition we hold political relations with the general government. We are somewhat different from other communities. Our religion has brought us together; our faith unites us; yet we have rights which we cannot neglect

and be justified. Numerous and strong reasons were adduced by Elder Taylor why we should not trade with those who have tried and continue to try to injure us; and why we should support ourselves, do our own trading, our own merchandising, and build up the Territory that is our home. This is done by political organizations and by religious societies all through Christendom, and we have an equal right with others to protect ourselves and our own interests.

Yesterday Afternoon.

After Elder John Taylor closed, several rules for the guidance of the moral course of the Saints were then read, and submitted to the vote of the congregation, who unanimously agreed to sustain and live by them.

Elder Joseph W. Young testified to the truth and importance of the doctrines advanced to-day. The question is, will we sustain ourselves? He quoted the words of Jesus, "He that is not with us is against us," and urged the necessity of our being united and faithfully acting upon the principles advanced touching this matter.

The Tabernacle choir then sang the following hymn, composed for the occasion by Sister Eliza R. Snow:

O God of life and glory,  
Hear Thou a people's prayer:  
Bless, bless our prophet Brigham,  
And let him, Thy fullness share.  
He is Thy chosen servant,  
To lead Thine Israel forth;  
Till Zion, crown'd with joy, shall be  
A praise in all the earth.

He draws from Christ, the Fountain  
Of everlasting truth,  
The wise and prudent counsels  
Which he gives to age and youth.  
Thyself in him reflected,  
Through mortal agency—  
He is Thy representative,  
To set Thy people free.

Thou richly hast endow'd him  
With wisdom's bounteous store;  
And Thou hast made him mighty,  
By Thy own almighty power,  
O, let his life be precious—  
Bless Thou, his brethren, too,  
Who firmly join him side by side—  
Who're true as he is true.

Help him to found Thy kingdom  
In majesty and power:  
With peace in every palace,  
And with strength in every tower.  
And when Thy chosen Israel  
Their noblest strains have sung:  
The swelling chorus then shall be,  
Our prophet, Brigham Young.

Bishop E. D. Woolley offered up prayer, and the Conference adjourned till Wednesday morning, 7th, at 10 o'clock; a meeting of the priesthood being called for half-past six o'clock in the evening.

6½ p.m.

Pursuant to call, the bishops, their counselors, with the priesthood generally, convened in the Old Tabernacle, Presidents B. Young and D. H. Wells, the Twelve Apostles, and over three thousand elders being present.

"Softly beams the Sacred Dawning" was sung by Elders J. D. T. McAllister and G. Goddard; and Elder Orson Hyde offered prayer.

"Glorious things are sung of Zion" was then sung.

Bishop Edward Hunter made some remarks, recalling personal reminiscences of his early history in the church, and touching on some scenes through which he had passed. He said we are here and in the right place to build up the kingdom of God. When he came here the country was a barren desert, and there seemed to be no natural soil that would produce sustenance for human life; but the Lord blessed the land and the elements, and now the country is productive and our labors are blessed. He called attention to the negligence which some manifest with regard to paying their tithing. He said some evaded doing their duty in this respect when they should rejoice in the privilege; and he urged the brethren to do their duty and act like men of God; to pay their tithing and realize the blessing which accompanies obedience to the commandments of the Lord.

President B. Young said that he thought he could be able to make the congregation hear without injure to himself, if the brethren would keep very still. We have a great work to perform to save the house of Israel and gather the honest-in-heart. Much was done since the last Fall Conference to bring the poor Saints from the nations. And while the disposition was manifested by the brethren to do everything in their power, much faith had to be exercised to accomplish what has been done. At the first of February last there had only been received

\$9000 towards gathering the poor this season; yet when Elders H. B. Clawson and William O. Staines were sent east on the 17th of the same month, there was \$27,000, to send with them. Over \$70,000 had been received for this purpose. There had been 3197 persons emigrated from Liverpool; and as on a calculation it was found that it would cost about sixty-five dollars a head, or \$65,000 for one thousand adults, to bring them from Liverpool to the terminus of the U.P.R.R., it would be seen that the agents had been greatly blessed in furthering the immigration, although a number of those brought on were able to help themselves in part. He said we have still much to do to gather those who remain; and after he had related what had been done by some last year, he proposed that we should re-commence our efforts in the same direction. He offered a donation of another thousand dollars this year; and Captain W. H. Hooper proposed also to give a thousand. He spoke of the railroad as one of the greatest blessings, of a temporal character, which had ever been conferred upon the Saints; and referred to the honorable manner in which those connected with it had dealt with us; and said they should be blessed of the Lord. He spoke in a calm, clear and impressive manner on the subject of trading with those not connected with the Church. A report of his remarks will be published, to which we refer our readers.

Elder George A. Smith urged the brethren on a subject which he has often dwelt upon—the importance of those who have not done so taking out their naturalization papers, that they may be in a position to assume the responsibility and claim the rights of citizenship. He also advocated the importance of educating our own teachers, by sending young men and women to normal schools where they can be qualified for successfully taking charge of schools.

An expression of opinion was called for relative to the subject of trading, when it was unanimously voted that we sustain ourselves and those who sustain us.

Elder Joseph F. Smith offered the closing prayer.

Wednesday, 7th, 10 a.m.

The Tabernacle choir sang the hymn commencing on the 67th page—"Praise ye the Lord." Prayer by Elder Jacob Gates. Singing by the 20th Ward choir, the Anthem, "Zion Awake."

President B. Young then said the authorities of the Church would be presented to the Conference; and Elder George Q. Cannon presented them in the following order. It will be seen that Elder George A. Smith was called to fill the position of President H. C. Kimball as First Counselor to President Young; and Elder Brigham Young, junr., was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Quorum of the Twelve thus created. Every vote, was, as usual, unanimous.

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, George A. Smith his first and Daniel H. Wells his second counselor.

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, and Brigham Young junr., members of the said Quorum.

John Smith, Patriarch of the Church. Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion, and George B. Wallace and John T. Caine his counselors.

William Eddington, John W. Young, John L. Blythe, Howard O. Spencer, Claudius V. Spencer, John Squires, William H. Folsom, Emanuel M. Murphy, Thomas E. Jeremy, George W. Thatcher, Peter Nebeker, and Charles S. Kimball, members of the High Council.

John Young, President of the High Priests' Quorum, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards his counselors.

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Harriman, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates, and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop, Leonard W. Hardy, and Jesse C. Little, his counselors.

Samuel G. Ladd, President of the Priests' Quorum, Robert Price and Wm. McLaughlin his counselors.

Adam Spiers, President of the Teachers' Quorum; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenzi his counselors.

James Leach, President of the Dea-