

Presidency of the Stake and the people of the ward.

Elder John C. Cutler was then unanimously sustained as first counselor and Elder Mads P. Madsen as second counselor to Bishop Harrison Sperry. They were ordained High Priests and set apart as counselors under the hands of the Presidency of the Stake, viz: Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose.

Elder Heber S. Cutler was unanimously sustained as superintendent of the Sunday school of the ward in the place of Elder Mads P. Madsen, with Elder Edward W. Hunter as first assistant and Elder Charles Worthen as second assistant to the superintendent. These brethren were set apart to act in this calling under the hands of the Presidency of the Stake.

Stake President Angus M. Cannon and his counselors delivered some very interesting remarks suited to the occasion. A good feeling was manifest during the entire meeting.

James R. Dolmer, a resident of 42 Grape street, this city, called on the board of county commissioners on Tuesday and recited a case, sorrowful in the extreme, and in which, if true—as Commissioner Armstrong expressed it—"someone is badly to blame."

Dolmer's story is, that living near him, is an elderly lady named Wallace, her daughter and two children, who came here a few weeks ago from California. They are not only in destitute circumstances, but all are down with sickness of one kind or another, not having received any medical aid whatever. Mr. Dolmer thought it was a case that should receive the immediate attention of the board. Mr. Armstrong was of the opinion that inasmuch as the sickness existed in the city limits, that it was a case belonging to the city and not to the county.

Mr. Hall said that if the case was as bad as represented by Dolmer, he was in favor of notifying the county physician. Assistant City Attorney D. B. Hempstead being present, was asked his opinion in the matter, which was that it was a case belonging to the county physician, for the reason that the city had no physician, but a health commissioner, whose duties were entirely different to that of a physician.

Dolmer further stated that word had been sent to the county physician but it was learned that he could do nothing until the matter had been brought before the board.

On motion, the county physician was notified to give the sick people the attention necessary.

A proposition is now being considered by members of the Legislature, which will, if enacted into law, work a radical change in the manipulation of the municipal machinery of this city. It contemplates a reduction, through legislative operation, of the number of councilmen from fifteen to ten, two from each of the five municipal wards.

The movement has for its strongest supporter Hon. R. B. Shepard of the lower branch of the State Legislature. Mr. Shepard in conversation with a News man today said that he had arrived at the conclusion after a careful study of the question that ten men

could do the business of the city just as well if not better than fifteen, providing, of course, that they are chosen by reason of the ability they are known to possess. Besides this, he argues that the change would be in the direction of economy—an essential feature in these times of financial distress. Specifically a saving would be made in salary compensation of one third over that paid now. While this is not a great sum, says Mr. Shepard, it is worthy of consideration.

Then again it is proposed to have five members of the council retire at a time—the method that now governs in the case of members of members of the board of education. In that way half of the members would always be familiar with their duties. In this connection a consolidation of municipal and school elections is contemplated, together with a change of date from February and December to November.

SIGURD, Dec. 28, 1896.—Thursday evening, Dec. 24th, the people of this place engaging in the pleasures of Santa Claus fun, and were greatly shocked by a fire which caught by accident, in the cotton batting costume used for the representation of Santa Claus. The brave lad wearing the costume endeavored to quench the fire at the first glimpse of the same, but without avail, as instantly the flames flashed to the roof as if an explosion of gun powder had occurred. The blaze covered him so completely that for a moment the people could see nothing but the maddening flame, and hear the voice of a human being therein crying for help, as the torturous fire danced round him like fiends at play. No time was lost in endeavoring to quench the fire, but so quickly was the whole costume in one burning mass that before the blaze could be thoroughly put out, both face and hands of the young man were seriously burned. Only a few days prior to this he left the B. Y. academy at Provo anticipating a pleasant time during the Christmas holidays; but alas! we must confess we know comparatively nothing of our future. Poor Ephraim Dastrop regrets, as do the rest of us, that he will not be able to join the students of the B. Y. academy at the commencement of the school year 1897; but no doubt many a sympathetic word will go from one student to another in his behalf, as he is a worthy and exemplary young man, much loved by the people of this place, who join in hopes that he will quickly recover.

CHAS. JORGENSEN.

"Protestantism has had its day." The above is our epitaph as you published it in yesterday's News. We are sorry to learn that our "sun is setting," but we rejoice that it is a glorious setting. We believe with you that Protestants ought to examine the grounds of their hope. We accept your exhortation to more care and diligence. That is what we believe in. We have many small churches in sparsely settled portions of the country, and many of these are unsupplied with pastors. Of course the fruitage of these churches is small; and last year was a year of great difficulties in spiritual work. We ought to have accomplished much more that we did. But we had the joy of receiving

into the fellowship of the Presbyterian church during the last year 103,295 members, and more than 200 of them came to us here in the synod of Utah. So you see our sun is setting "in glory," to be followed by a morning that shall know no night. Other branches of Protestant churches are doing as successful work. Baptists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and smaller denominations are doing as well, and we hope they are doing better. We rejoice in their success.

From 1870 to 1895, the Presbyterian church in the United States more than doubled its membership, counting out losses by death. This growth is far in excess of the population in our country, despite the immense increase of population by emigration from foreign countries.

The other branches of the Protestant church are making noble progress. Their statistics would indicate an equally glorious success with ours.

Yours, waiting for the morning,
S. E. WISHARD,
Synodical Miss.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 29, 1896.

Among the most interesting holiday proceedings this season were those at Forest Dale, Salt Lake county, on New Year's eve. On that evening the people of the ward assembled at an early hour and partook of a sumptuous repast which had been prepared by the Bishopric and others of the ward. The large table, nine in number, fairly groaned under the good things of this world. Plates were set for 200 people, and they were all there, armed as the law directs—with a good appetite, and the way the meals disappeared was to say the least "a caution." Supper commenced at 7 o'clock. Previous to partaking of it, however, Bishop James Jensen, in some well chosen words, gave an address of welcome. Before the Saints left the table Brother George M. Cannon responded to a toast, "The Banquet," and Brother Chas. Savage responded to a toast on "The Old Folks." Supper being over the tables were cleared away and a program was rendered, consisting of songs, recitations, etc. The floor was then cleared and the folks danced the Old Year out and the New Year in. One curious feature of this part of the proceedings was that while the dancing was in progress the sisters of the ward Relief society washed the dishes. It was hardly the fair thing but the sisters took it as a matter of course. Among the visitors were President Joseph F. Smith, Bishops William B. Preston and Robert T. Burton, Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of Salt Lake Stake and his counselor Elder Joseph E. Taylor, Elders George Goddard and Charles Savage; these brethren were accompanied by their wives. The affair was a grand success in every particular. It was a genuine old time party. Peace, plenty and brotherly love pervaded everything and everybody, making it a time long to be remembered.

In the same ward, last Wednesday, a most enjoyable Sunday school party was held, in which the little ones were regaled with Santa Claus, presents, music, and other good things to make themselves comfortable and happy.