

STAKE CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Davis Stake.

The quarterly conference of the Davis Stake convened at Farmington on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10th and 11th, 1898. There were present on Saturday Elder Heber J. Grant, Elder John W. Taylor and Elder M. F. Cowley, of the Council of the Apostles; the Stake presidency, members of the High Council, Bishops of wards and their counselors.

Saturday, 10 a. m.—After the usual exercises, Elder James A. Lee, formerly of Taylorsville, Elder Ezra Robinson and Elder Jeffs of Farmington, addressed the congregation. These brethren, who have recently returned from missions, spoke of their experience while in the missionary field, and bore strong testimonies to the truth of the Gospel. Elder H. J. Grant was the next speaker. He referred to the labors of the Twelve Apostles amongst the people. He said the Apostles did not labor for their own individual benefit, but for the good of the Saints; for the building up and the strengthening of the Church of Christ, and their desire was the same as Nephi's (1st Nephi, 6th chap. 4th verse). Elder Grant also spoke of how the Spirit of the Lord strove with the children of men.

Saturday, 2 p. m.—Elder George F. Richards of the Tooele Stake, was the first speaker. He expressed his pleasure in meeting with the Saints of the Davis Stake, especially with those of Farmington, the place of his birth, and the home of his boyhood. Elder Richards related many incidents that happened at the time he lived in Farmington and while he was laboring as a ward teacher, in which marvelous mercies were wrought through faith. He spoke of his desire to overcome all evil; to walk uprightly while here in the flesh and he testified to the truth of the Gospel. Elder M. F. Cowley spoke on the authority of the Priesthood and how it should be exercised in righteousness. He also spoke on the paying of tithes and offerings. Tithes should be paid in kind, and if it was too far to bring to the storehouse of the Lord to be turned into money and the money brought in.

Elder John W. Taylor related some of the experiences of the Elders on missions in Colorado. He said the Elders laboring in that mission were doing a good work, and in their heart desired to save the children of men. Elder Taylor also spoke on the plan of the Gospel, and of the way the Lord pours out his spirit upon his servants.

Sunday—The Sunday schools of Farmington met at 9 a. m. At 10:30 a. m. the conference reconvened. Elder John W. Hess reported the condition of the Stake. He said although there are some things that are not as they should be, the majority of the Saints are attending to their duties. And with the exception of a little political feeling the people are at peace one with another. The Stake presidency, the members of the High Council, and the Bishops of the various wards were united. All of the Stake and ward organizations and associations were doing a good work; especially was this the case with the Sunday schools. Elder H. J. Grant said he regretted that so few were present on Saturday to hear the strong testimonies of Elder Cowley and others. As for himself he enjoyed listening to the testimonies of his brethren, more so than to listen to a sermon. Elder Grant spoke very strongly about the way some of the Saints break the commandments of God. He said nothing would give him more joy than to see the people turn unto the Lord, keep His command-

ments, keep the Word of Wisdom, pay an honest tithing, be honest with God and honest with one another.

President George Q. Cannon was present at the afternoon meeting. After the opening exercises the Sacrament was administered. The general and Stake authorities were unanimously sustained. Elder M. F. Cowley delivered a short but interesting discourse on self-denial necessary to salvation; the guarding against evil spirits and false doctrines.

President George Q. Cannon read some extracts from the Pearl of Great Price against the doctrine of re-incarnation. He spoke in regard to those who kept their first estate, the object of our tabernacled here in the flesh, and the keeping of our second estate. He also spoke of the promises of the Lord to His faithful Saints, and exhorted the Saints to care for one another—to feed the hungry and administer to the poor.

Through the general small attendance at the Saturdays it was thought best to make a change in the days of holding conferences and in the future the Davis Stake quarterly conferences will be held on Sunday and Monday instead of Saturday and Sunday. Conference adjourned for three months to be held at Kaysville.

The Stake superintendency of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association was reorganized, with William O. Lee of West Bountiful as superintendent, Elder Daniel H. Walker as his first, and Elder David C. Hess as his second assistant.

JOHN J. SMITH, Stake Clerk.

St. Joseph Stake.

Thatcher, Ariz., Sept. 16, 1898.

Our regular quarterly conference just closed was one of love, peace and good will. On the stand were Elder Andrew Kimball, William D. Johnson, Charles M. Layton, and Patriarchs Philemon C. Merrill, Samuel Claridge and N. W. Birdno, while on either side of the stand sat the High Council, Bishops and the presiding officers of the various Stake organizations. The principal feature of the conference was the memorial services Sunday morning in honor of our beloved departed President, Wilford Woodruff. The speakers on the occasion were Elders Andrew Kimball, W. D. Johnson, and Patriarchs Philemon C. Merrill, and Samuel Claridge; although no instructions had been received, it was deemed an opportune time by the Stake presidency to pay our last tribute of respect to a Prophet of God who had labored so long and faithfully in the cause of truth and righteousness.

Every ward in the Stake was represented, and the Bishops' reports showed that the Saints are on the improve temporally and spiritually. By a unanimous vote of the Saints there is to be moderation and retrenchment in dancing and higher grades of amusement to be established.

The health of the people is generally good; the abundant grain crops have long since been harvested and garnered, second crops planted, and they, too, are almost ready to reap. The fourth crop of lucern is almost all in the stack. The sweet potato crop is being gathered, and there is nothing small about them, either. Twelve to fifteen potatoes will fill a bushel measure, something different to the sweet potatoes put on the market in the north.

A. J. CURTIS,
Stake Clerk.

St. George Stake.

The quarterly conferences of this Stake began by the sisters of the Relief societies of the wards meeting in St. George lyceum at 10 a. m. of Saturday, 10th September, under the presidency of Ann C. Woodbury. Another

session was held in the afternoon. The necessary business was transacted; among other things was the nomination and choice of a successor to Sister Mary L. Judd, deceased, who was second counselor in the Stake presidency of the Relief societies.

The Stake Priesthood meeting convened the same day at 2 p. m. under the presidency of Daniel D. McArthur and counselors. The usual business was disposed of, and valuable instruction given to the acting Priesthood.

At the close of the conference of the Relief societies, the conference of the Primary associations was held under the presidency of Sister Mary G. Whitehead, Stake president of those organizations.

At 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. of Sunday, the 11th, and of Monday, the 12th, the sessions of the Stake quarterly conference commenced.

The meetings without exception were attended by a free out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, profound attention being paid to the speakers and unabated interest being manifest up to the closing benediction.

We have not been blessed with the presence and counsels of any of the general authorities of the Church, but we had several visitors from other Stakes; conspicuous among them being Elders John D. T. McAllister of Manti Temple, and Patriarch Henry Lunt, from Old Mexico. We also had Elder John E. Heppel from Sevier Stake; each of these administered freely of the Word of the Lord to us.

The general authorities of the Church and the Stake authorities were sustained without a dissenting vote.

JAMES G. BLACK,
Stake Clerk.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCES.

Beaver Stake.

The annual Sunday school conference of the Beaver Stake was held at Adamsville on Saturday and Sunday, the 10th and 11th of September, 1898, presided over by Stake Superintendent Wm. Forhterlinham. Elder L. John Nuttall and W. B. Dougall of the general Sunday school union board were in attendance, and gave much valuable instruction on Sunday school topics.

There was a good representation of superintendents, officers and teachers, also a goodly concourse of children, with their parents, present.

The reports of the superintendents of the schools in the Stake indicated a general effort to comply with the rules laid down in the "treatise," and the exercises of the different classes evinced careful and efficient work on the part of the teachers, and aptness by the pupils.

One beautiful feature of the exercises was the recital of the Articles of Faith by the congregation, led by a class from Minersville Sunday school.

At the teachers' meeting held at noon on Sunday, Elder Dougall made some expressive remarks on the subject of marriage, showing the necessity of extreme caution on the part of young people in the selection of husbands or wives, not only for the good of this life but that salvation in the life to come may also be secured. Elder Dougall spoke upon the same subject in the afternoon.

Elder Nuttall spoke at some length upon the importance of early training of the youth, and the necessity of surrounding them with moral influences.

Elder Dougall enlarged upon the responsibility of a teacher's calling, and claimed that a call to that office should not be ignored or treated lightly. He also strongly deprecated the practice of many theological classes taking up and discussing subjects utterly beyond their capacity, and which are entirely irrelevant to the study of the Gospel.

The Lord's Prayer, Ten Command-