

DEATH OF PRESIDENT WOODRUFF.

San Francisco, Sept. 1, 1898.

President Jos. F. Smith:

President Woodruff's condition very serious. It is the opinion of experts this may terminate his mission. He is not very sudden—suppressed urine the sensible at this time. The attack was cause. His advanced age against him. GEO. Q. CANNON.

San Francisco, Sept. 2, 1898, 10:05 a.m.

President Jos. F. Smith:

President Woodruff is dead. He left us at 6:40 this morning. Break the news to his family. He slept peacefully all night, and passed away without movement. GEO. Q. CANNON.

San Francisco, Sept. 2.

President Jos. F. Smith:

We start tonight. Will reach Ogden Sunday morning 6:45 mountain time. GEO. Q. CANNON.

The Remains.

President Woodruff's death continues to be the chief theme of discussion and subject of thought throughout the city and State. Telegrams and expressions of condolence and sorrow were received from far and near Monday.

Every man who spoke his name or referred to his memory did so with a reverence which plainly showed the high esteem in which he held the honored dead.

Nothing definite is yet known as to the time of holding the funeral. President Joseph F. Smith stated this afternoon that that was something that could not be determined before tomorrow and perhaps not then. Several members of the family are at distant points. Apostle A. O. Woodruff, his son, is in Canada. Newton, another son, is in the Southern States on a mission. David is in the Big Hole country and some other members are at Ashley. Attempts have been made to communicate with all of them, however, and responses to the telegrams sent out may be speedily looked for.

The members of the Council of Twelve Apostles who were in the city held a meeting at the President's office at noon today and discussed the President's death and funeral arrangements so far as it was possible at this time. Those who were in attendance at the office were President Smith, President Snow, and Apostles F. D. Richards, Brigham Young, Heber J. Grant and Matthias Cowley. A telegram was received from Apostle Lyman saying that he was on the way home, while a dispatch from Apostle Teasdale said he would arrive here at 6:20 this evening.

It was decided that the members of the President's family, President Smith and the members of the Twelve who are in the city should go up to Ogden over the Rio Grande at 5:30 tomorrow morning and meet President and Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Woodruff who are coming home with the remains which are due to reach Ogden at 6:45. The funeral car and party will be attached to the east-bound Rio Grande train at Ogden and brought to this city, arriving here at 8:20.

A LOSS TO THE WORLD.

F. A. Wardleigh, general passenger agent of the Rio Grande Western, in behalf of that company, dictated the following letter to W. C. Spence, Church transportation agent:

My Dear Sir:—We will arrange for a special train to leave Salt Lake City for Ogden at 5:30 Sunday morning for the accommodation of President Smith and party. On the return trip the car will be attached to the train with a funeral car.

In tendering this slight accommodation we express to the Church officials our sympathy with them in the great loss to the Church and the world at large of one who has so thoroughly commanded the respect and fidelity of those who were fortunate in knowing him. Sincerely, the Rio Grande Western Railway company, by F. A. Wardleigh.

SHORT LINE'S COURTEOUS OFFER

President Joseph F. Smith received the following letter this morning from General Manager W. H. Bancroft, of the Oregon Short Line:

"Dear Sir—If the Short Line can in any way aid you in bringing home the remains of President Woodruff, we will be glad to furnish a train to take you and such others as you might desire to have go to Ogden, and return special at such hour as you might designate. Would also be pleased to furnish a private car for your personal use."

FROM THE UNION PACIFIC.

General Agent H. M. Clay of the Union Pacific sent President Smith the following:

"Dear Sir—Beg to advise you that I am just in receipt of the following telegram from Mr. Lomax, general passenger and ticket agent of the Union Pacific, at Omaha, in the sentiment of which I earnestly join:

"Kindly convey to the officials of the Mormon Church and the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their loss of President Wilford Woodruff, with respectful tender of any services we can render."

President's Death and Burial.

Many years ago President Brigham Young observing the tendency of the people towards expensive funerals and strongly deprecating such a custom requested the members of the Twelve Apostles to state in writing to him how they would like to have their own bodies laid away. Most of the Apostles did so and their letters are still on file. Some time subsequent President Woodruff in a signed but undated document wrote this regarding himself:

"Concerning My Death and Burial—I wish to say that at my death I wish the historian of the Church to publish a brief account of my life, labors and travels, as an Elder and an Apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I wish my body washed clean, and clothed in clean white linen, according to the order of the Holy Priesthood, and put into a plain, decent coffin, made of native wood, with plenty of room. I do not wish any black made use of about my coffin, or about the vehicle that conveys my body to the grave. I do not wish my family or friends to wear any badge of mourning for me at my funeral or afterwards, for if I am true and faithful unto death there will be no necessity for anyone to mourn for me. I have no directions to give concerning the services of my funeral, any further than it would be pleasing to me for as many of the Presidency and Twelve Apostles who may be present to speak as may be thought wisdom. Their speech will be to the living. If the laws and customs of the spirit world will permit, I should wish to attend my funeral myself; but I shall be governed by the counsel I receive in the spirit world. I wish a plain marble slab put at the head of my grave, with my name and age, and that I died in the faith of the Gospel of Christ and in the fellowship of the Saints.

(Signed) WILFORD WOODRUFF, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles."

A Remarkable Career.

Wilford Woodruff, fourth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was born March 1, 1807, in

Farmington, now called Avon, Hartford county, Conn. He was the son of Aphek and Buelah Thompson Woodruff. Most of his ancestors were possessed of strong constitutions, and lived to a good old age. They were among the earliest settlers in that region. Until he was twenty years of age, he assisted his father, who was a miller.

In April, 1827, he took charge of a flouring mill himself, and continued in that business until the spring of 1832, when he went to Richland, Oswego county, New York, purchased a farm and saw mill, and settled in business at that place. His mind was exercised on religious subjects at an early age, but he did not become connected with any religious denomination, because their doctrines and practices were not, as he viewed them, in consonance with those of the Church established by Christ and His Apostles. He prayed earnestly that if God had a true Church on the earth he might become acquainted with it. On December 29, 1833, he and his brother Azmon heard Elders Zera Pulsipher and Elijah Cheeny preach the Gospel as proclaimed by Joseph Smith. They also read the Book of Mormon. Being convinced of its truth, he was baptized two days afterwards by Elder Zera Pulsipher and confirmed the same evening. He was ordained a Teacher in the Church, January 2, 1834. On the 11th of April he started with a team for Kirtland, Ohio, where he arrived on the 25th and met Joseph Smith, with whom he made his home for a week, and heard many discourses from the Elders of the Church. He started on the 1st of May as a member of "Zion's Camp," and traveled with that body to Missouri. He remained in Clay county until the winter. On a Sunday evening he went into the woods alone and prayed to God that he might preach the Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. He received a witness from heaven that his prayers should be answered. The same evening Elder Elias Higbee met him and said, "Brother Wilford, the Spirit of the Lord tells me that you should be ordained and go on a mission." He replied, "I am ready." November 5th he was ordained a Priest, and on January 13, 1835, he started without purse or scrip on foot for Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky, in company with Elder Harry Brown. They walked through swamps and forests where they were in danger from wild beasts, and passed through Jackson county, where they were in danger from mobs. Their first opportunity to preach to a congregation was on January 24th, at the house of Mr. Nathan Tanner, in Green county, Missouri. On arriving in Arkansas they were vehemently and bitterly opposed by one Alexander Akeman. On bearing testimony to him of the truth of Mormonism, he followed Mr. Woodruff in a rage, as if to do him some bodily harm, but fell dead at his feet as though struck by lightning. This was on February 14, 1835. He made his way to Little Rock, part of the journey in a canoe, which he and his companion made from a cottonwood tree, with which they rode down the Arkansas river 125 miles. They waded through mud and water 175 miles on foot. Mr. Woodruff was left by his companion alone in a swamp, while traveling from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Memphis, Tennessee. He continued his journey, preaching by the way, and on April 4th, in the middle of Tennessee, he met with Elder Warren Parrish, with whom he labored in the ministry over three months. They baptized forty persons. On the 28th of June, Wilford Woodruff was ordained an Elder by Warren Parrish. He ex-