

WEBER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Weber Stake conference convened in Ogden City on Sunday and Monday, April 21 and 22, 1895. In one respect it was a sad disappointment to many of the Saints, from the fact that the limits of the building are too circumscribed to admit all who desired to participate in the worship during the conference. The result was that hundreds could not gain admission and had either to stand on the outside and crane their necks and catch what little of the proceedings they could or return home. Many chose the latter alternative.

Long before the time for opening the services every foot of seating and standing room was occupied by the Saints from every part of the Stake and some from other places.

On the stand were Elders Franklin D. Richards and George Teasdale, of the Twelve Apostles, the presidency of the Stake, members of the High Council, Bishops, Elder Kelley, of the Box Elder Stake, and many others. The meeting was called to order by Elder L. W. Shurtliff.

The choir sang "Hail to the bright-

ness of Zion's glad morning," followed with prayer by Elder W. R. R. Stowell, of Mexico. After another by Elder Shurtliff reported the condition of the Stake, which, he said, was excellent; there had been but few difficulties to settle since last report, and there are none now, and the High Council had no appeals to engage their attention. The Saints in the Stake have been greatly blessed of the Lord, and they are now, for the most part, living in peace. The presidency of the Stake are united and are working together in harmony, and the High Council are working in unison with the presidency to promote the best material, moral and spiritual interests of the entire Stake of Zion. The Bishops are active and, as a rule, are watching over with fatherly solicitude the people of their several wards. There are some vacancies, created by death or removal, in several of the wards and some of the quorums. These, however, he expected, would be filled in due time, as it was the intention of the presidency of the Stake with the High Council to hold conferences, when everything that was necessary would be again placed in full working order. He was pleased to be able to state that the condition of the Weber Stake is good.

Elder George Teasdale then delivered a highly interesting and instructive discourse on general subjects pertaining to the duties of the Saints—faith in God, that will enable them to obtain the promises which He has made to those who truly believe in Him and obey the commandments. He referred to the great blessings enjoyed by the ancient people of the Lord as recorded in the Book of Mormon and other scriptures, and said there are no blessings, however great they may be, but the Saints may obtain through fidelity to God and obedience to His laws. He reminded the people, however, that faith and works must invariably go together—"faith without works is dead." To show their implicit faith in the promises of God they must do so by fully complying with every law which He has given them. He spoke on the subject of tithing, offerings and donations for the poor, the necessity of living pure and virtuous lives, of being honest and truthful in all their dealings with all men—in fact the religion of Jesus Christ is a practical religion, and we must live it practically in order to obtain eternal glory and exaltation in the Kingdom of God.

Superintendent R. Ballantyne reported the condition of the Sabbath schools of the Stake, all of which are prosperous; the school population is rapidly increasing each year and it requires more talent, energy and industry on the part of Sabbath school workers to meet the requirements of Sunday work. In some places the increase has been so rapid that it has been found necessary to build new and enlarged houses for the accommodation of the classes which are multiplying in the schools. Quite a number of young men and young women have been sent from this stake in the Provo academy and who have acquired a thorough education in the higher Sunday school instruction, and they are now engaged in instructing teachers in the several ward Sunday schools.

The choir sang an anthem and the meeting closed with benediction by Elder Lorin Farr.

At 2 p.m. the services were resumed, but notwithstanding the building was packed with people in every part of it, including the vestry, still hundreds were on the outside. An overflow meeting was held in the Third ward meeting house, which was also filled to overflowing. The speakers were Elders C. F. Middleton, Joseph Parry, E. Stratford and W. R. R. Stowell.

After singing by the choir and prayer by Elder Charles Kenny, of the Box Elder Stake presidency, the Sacrament was administered in the Tabernacle by the Priesthood of the Second ward. "Holy Sabbath," a composition by Squire Coop, was beautifully rendered by Brothers Hagbert Anderson, R. F. Tout, and Sisters May Driver and Bessie Dean-Allison—the solo by the latter lady. The general authorities of the Church were then presented by Elder John Bluth and sustained by a hearty unanimous vote of the people.

The authorities of the Weber Stake were next presented and sustained without a dissenting vote; thus showing the perfect union and harmony that characterize the people and the confidence they have in those who have been appointed to preside over them in the Lord.

The statistical report of the Stake is as follows: One Apostle, 1 Patriarch, 559 Seventies, 243 High Priests, 922 Elders, 106 Priests, 174 Teachers, 580 Deacons, 6,971 members, 9,557 total officers and members, 3,625 children under eight years of age, 13,182 total of souls; 2,473 families, 5 marriages, 241 births (males), 223 births (females), 487 children blessed, 280 members received, 296 removed, 53 new members baptized, 874 children baptized, 8 excommunicated, 77 deaths (males), 68 deaths (females), 752 individuals drawing support.

Sabbath schools in the Stake, 27; pupils, 5,200; officers and teachers, 500.

Elder Franklin D. Richards then addressed the congregation. He referred to the great volume of teaching that we had received during this conference, and said still we are never satisfied, but we continue to crave for more. But in all our desires for knowledge we should seek after truth, and not for that which is foolish and unprofitable. He had heard recently of some one in a Sunday school giving a young pupil the question, "What was the probable age of Adam when he was driven out of the garden of Eden?" The pupil was required to answer this question. Of course she could not. This was an extreme question, and was foolish, and instead of such unprofitable procedure we should turn our attention to things that we can understand, and thus become doers of the word of God and not hearers of it only. He reminded the Saints of their duty to love each other—their neighbor as themselves. To look after the poor and provide for them, and see that they do not lack for the necessary things to sustain life. When we are comfortably cared for ourselves we are apt to forget our less fortunate brethren. He referred to the trying experiences the Church has passed through during the last decade, but as

we recover from them other things occurred, and still others will transpire until we have been tried in all things. He then called attention of Bishops to the great increase of the children of Sabbath school age, which are growing in numbers every year, and many of whom are not yet enrolled. He exhorted the Bishops to look after these precious little ones and see that not one of them are lost. The Sabbath school is the first institution where our children are taught of God and His ways. From thence they go to the Primary associations, to the improvement associations, to the quorums of the Priesthood; the young men become in time missionaries to carry the Gospel to the nations of the earth and the young women were preparing to become wives and mothers in the midst of Israel. The Bishops must not fail to look well to the interests of this part of their flock over which they have been made shepherds. He next referred to the sacred ties that exist between parents and children, and reminded the former of their duties toward the latter. He said parents will not enter into eternal glory while their children are scattered about through the world. They must be searched after and brought to the fold of Christ, for without our children we cannot be made perfect. In conclusion he called attention to the records that are kept in the various wards and institutions of this Stake. They are of great importance. He urged upon the Stake and ward authorities to give strict attention to this matter and to see that they were kept in a correct and proper manner. He also said it was important that every Elder in the Church should keep a journal of the events of his life. These things will be sought after and appreciated in after years.

An anthem was rendered by the choir, the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Winslow Farr and meeting adjourned.

By ten o'clock Monday morning the house was again filled. The opening prayer was offered by Elder D. M. Stuart.

Elder John W. Taylor (who was prevented from being present on Sunday) addressed the meeting. He spoke of the difference that exists between the Latter-day Saints and the people of the world. The former believe in asking God in faith for the things that they need and obtaining them from Him in answer to their prayers, while the latter petition for what they do not need and never get it. We have come together today expecting a blessing from God, and if we live for it we will get it. He explained the principle upon which the Lord gives revelation to men in His Church. Holy men of God speak and write as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost takes of the things of God and reveals them unto His servant for the benefit and instruction of the people. He referred to Moses, Abraham, Joseph the Seer, and others who stood at the head of the several dispensations as revelators to the people. Thus it was not necessary for the Lord to reveal Himself in person to every man on the earth. We should never forget God. He is our Father and when we go astray He strives with us to

bring us back into His fold. We also should be kind to our children and teach them the principles of the Gospel by precept and example, and when they go astray, reason with them and plead with the Lord to bring them back to the path of rectitude again. He also spoke of the order of prayer and urged attention to it. He reminded the Saints that each one is making a record for him or herself, and counseled them to be sure and make such a record that they can look back upon hereafter with satisfaction and that will be approved of God.

Elder W. R. R. Stowell made a few instructive remarks and the meeting closed with benediction from C. F. Middleton.

After the opening exercises in the afternoon, prayer was offered by Bishop R. McQuarrie.

Elder Middleton was the first speaker. He referred to Elder Richards's remarks in relation to the necessity of building a new tabernacle. He said all present fully appreciate the great need of this. Many are asking President Smith when we are going to get a new building to meet in. The speaker said we can have one just as soon as we can and will furnish the means to erect it, or he said it will require money to purchase material and to pay mechanics and others who will be required to engage in the work. He said we are looking for great blessings in the future world, but he assured his hearers that we will receive glory and exaltation only in proportion to our good works in keeping the commandments of God, for all blessings are predicated on obedience to the laws of God.

Elder George Tesson then delivered another impressive address. In doing the remarks of Elder Middleton, he said if all present will follow this counsel we will soon have a tabernacle large enough to seat all who desire to come to it. He then spoke at length on the law of tithing and consecration. We must consecrate ourselves to the building up of the Kingdom of God. We must do this in faith. Faith is sanctified fear—the fear of the Lord. He read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants showing what the law of consecration and tithing is, and said this is a requirement of God from us, and not of man, and urged a strict compliance with it; and urged all the Saints to comply with it fully and thus secure the blessings of obedience to this command. He also spoke at length on the family relations of the Saints and the sacred ties that bind the hearts of children and parents to each other, and urged upon parents to cultivate a degree of that love for their offspring that He has exhibited to us as His children. This appeal was earnest, fervent, eloquent and impressive, and was listened to with deep attention and interest by the vast audience.

After an anthem by the choir the benediction was delivered by Elder F. D. Richards.

This closed two days of the most interesting conference meetings that have been held in Ogden City.

JOSEPH HALL.

OGDEN, UTAH, APRIL 22, 1895.