

# SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS IN OGDEN

## DISTRICT CONVENTION YESTERDAY IS VERY WELL ATTENDED.

Interesting and Instructive Programs Are Rendered at Each Session.

The first meeting of the district Sunday school convention of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was held at the Tabernacle in Ogden Saturday evening. The building was full to overflowing and all were well entertained by the eloquent and instructive addresses. After the set program of the evening the Tabernacle choir, under the direction of Prof. Ballantyne, rendered a few pleasing musical numbers.

The meeting was opened with a song by the general assembly, after which L. John Nuttall led in prayer.

The first speaker of the evening was David O. McKay, whose subject was "The effect of the new outlines in our stake and the changes they have wrought in the methods of teaching and home efficiency of Sunday school work." Prof. McKay said in part:

The effect of our new "outlines" have produced a concentration of effort. The outlines furnish the means of giving the teachers an opportunity to center all their efforts upon the presentation of the subject. They have brought about a better adaptation of the lessons to the children and made the course a progressive one. The principal change of class work is the outlining of the lessons and the selection of alms. This is illustrated by reference to the old condition as compared with the present.

One of the greatest benefits derived is the establishing of a connecting link between the parents and the Sunday school, thus bringing about better home preparation on the part of the pupils. In general efficiency they have united the teachers to one another to their superintendents and to the stake workers, thus raising the standard of Sunday school work to a plane never attained before.

Mrs. Bradford then rendered a beautiful soprano solo, which was well received by the large audience.

The next speaker was Nathan J. Harris, whose subject was "How we receive our pupils and teachers on the Sabbath morning in Ward Sunday schools." Mr. Harris gave an outline of an ideal Sunday school program, the opening exercises, the teachers' work and the duties of the superintendent. He stated that in their Sunday school they had inaugurated a 9:30 prayer meeting for the school, which the teachers attended very punctually and about 50 per cent of the scholars. This increased the punctuality of the 10 o'clock Sunday school proper. It gave all a feeling of reverence for the house of God and over and above all it brings down the spirit of God upon the gathering.

He said further: "We aim during all these exercises to exhibit a spirit of cheerfulness. We are pleasant with the school and we find we accomplish better results."

Dr. James E. Talmage then addressed the assembly on "How to promote the physical comforts of the school by its heating, lighting and cleanliness." He said in part:

This subject may seem somewhat tame to you after the more inviting topics.

I am unable to separate the physical comforts from the spiritual benefits as the body and spirit work together. The health of one depends upon the health of the other to more or less extent. But no one can tell how. For instance, the physical body is affected by alcohol. Physiologists tell us it changes the cells and creates a different cell formation, but none of them can tell why or how it makes a brute of a kindly dispositioned man. They know how it changes the body, but do not know how it affects the spirit.

Too little attention is given to pure air. No small part of the disturbance in Sunday schools and day schools is due to foul air. I pity the man who has become so inured to bad air that he can breathe freely in a poorly ventilated room, so I pity the man who can live in the foul atmosphere of sin and crime and rebel not against it. Nature has been provident. She gives us the means of telling when we are in a foul place. Bad odors are always significant of poisons. These are warning signals which we cannot afford to pass by. Expensive or complicated apparatus is not necessary to give good ventilation to a room, but one thing is absolutely required and that is attention. Attend to the ventilation, but be careful not to allow a sudden change. Maintain a uniform temperature. There must be an inlet and an outlet. I have seen janitors when requested to give a little cool air open all the windows and freeze the people until protests arise. Then he would close the windows again until it got so warm the people could stand it no longer, when up would go all the windows again. Thus between these alternate freezings and roastings the meeting is worried through, and if we are not careful we must learn some lessons from the Gentiles whom, I believe, are ahead of us in the matter of ventilation and cleanliness.

Concerning cleanliness, I would say be clean in mind, clean in body, clean in soul, in wish and desire and we will not be far from the kingdom of heaven.

Emella Madson was the last speaker, whose subject was "How to cultivate the aesthetic nature of the child by means of flowers, pictures and personal appearance." She said in part:

The aesthetic is said to be the philosophy of the beautiful. Let us call it the love of the beautiful. Let us have a deep abiding reverence for at least one thing. Who has not heard the ranting of a child at some simple gift or their henny about at some pleasing view? Have you not felt a joy when every bird is melodious and each budding flower fragrant and beautiful? Feelings are the real things of earth, but they are something we cannot get at. Job says: "The morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy." Let your souls absorb this scene. It is the golden key that bind our hearts together—a song without words.

Some day we shall return to the father's home. Shall we then say:

"Father, I did not have time to nourish thoughts of the beautiful."

Shakespeare says: "To thine own self be true, and it must follow as night and day, thou canst not be false to any man." If you have not this love of the beautiful, cultivate it, encourage it. The Sabbath morning is the most beautiful of all days. Be careful then, teachers, in your dress, be tasty, refined and you will add greatly to your influence with your class. Then we have the flowers. Weave them into sermons for the children. Use them in the Sunday, and the pictures also. What an influence good pictures have! Get reproductions of the great artists. And let us stand together to have all evil put away and only encourage the good.

After a song by the assembly W. D. Owens dismissed the meeting with prayer.

## YESTERDAY'S SESSION.

All day yesterday the delegates and workers to the Sunday school convention held possession of the city as the guests of Weber Stake. The first meeting of the day was held at the Tabernacle at 9:30 a. m. After half an hour's service the workers divided themselves into their different departments, from the primary teachers to the bible classes. These division meetings were held at the Tabernacle, the Third Ward Meeting house and the Weber Stake Academy. Here papers were read upon practical subjects assigned by the program committee, after which the time was devoted to the discussion of the papers and to other discussions upon questions asked by the delegates. In the afternoon a like meeting was held and much good was derived at these smaller gatherings.

At 5:30 in the afternoon the Weber Stake Academy girls, under the direction of Mrs. David Eccles and Miss Clara P. Eldredge, entertained the visitors at the Academy building. An exceptionally enjoyable time is reported by all those present. The rooms were decorated in the academy colors, purple and white, with the stars and stripes artistically arranged along the walls. A profusion of flowers were placed around the room. Three long tables, extending the entire length of the room, were heavily laden with a sumptuous repast of many delicious viands.

The guests present were the members of the general Sunday school board, First Assistant General Superintendent George Reynolds, Joseph W. Summerhays, L. John Nuttall, Seymour B. Young, Dr. James E. Talmage, William P. Morton, Henry Peterson, William D. Owen, Horace Cummings and George M. Cannon. Other visitors present were the presidencies from Summit, Morgan and Weber, visitors from Salt Lake, including superintendency and stake workers, stake workers from Weber, Boxelder, Summit and Morgan. Many of the visitors complimented the young ladies upon the perfect appointments of the reception. Great credit is due Mrs. Eccles and the committee representing the girls of the academy. The whole affair reflected the unity and energy that characterize the students of that institution. It was a great relief to the workers after the mental work of the day to meet one another in a social way and partake of the good things to eat.

At 7:30 in the evening the last service of the convention was held in the Ogden Tabernacle. The building was more than full of interested listeners. The music for this service was furnished by the Tabernacle choir under the direction of Prof. Ballantyne, and the numbers were well chosen and exceptionally well rendered. The solo work is also worthy of especial mention.

The meeting was called to order promptly on time by Joseph W. Summerhays, who presided very efficiently. After a selection by the choir President C. F. Middleton offered the opening prayer. By special request then the presiding officer called upon Prof. McKendrick to read an article which appeared in a recent number of the Juvenile Instructor. It was an instructive article upon methods of work and was listened to attentively.

The choir then rendered "Oh, Italia, Beloved," after which William A. Morton addressed the meeting upon the subject originally assigned to Apostle A. O. Woodruff, but who was unable to attend. The subject was the juvenile instructor as a Sunday school aid. Mr. Morton spoke of the work that the instructor was doing and the place in Sunday school work it was intended to fill. He urged every family to have one copy in their home. It was good reading. He said further: "Read good books and good articles in the magazines. Cultivate the desire for good reading. How many thank their mothers that they planted in their hearts when young the desire for good books. Good books are the best of friends. They do not abuse one or say an unkind word. They will fill the soul with good desires."

"Take a little money each year and invest it in good books for your children and in the years to come they will rise up and call you blessed. I remember a young man coming to Salt Lake on a visit just before he was going to leave the state for a new home in the north. It became my duty to show him about the city. I did so for a while and then, as I had some letters to write, I gave him a comfortable seat and selected half a dozen books for him to look at. He amused himself for about five minutes, then arose, stretched himself and said: 'I could not read a book like that if I was paid for it.' I really pitied the young fellow for his lack of cultivation of good reading. I thought what kind of a man is that and, girls, how would you like to tie up to that kind of a telegraph pole? Cultivate these tastes while you are young and when you are old they will not depart from you."

Priscilla L. Evans then rendered a beautiful contralto solo entitled "Salve Regina," after which, in the absence of Henry Peterson, George M. Cannon spoke upon "Co-operation of children and parents in home preparation." Mr. Cannon said in part:

"The Sunday school is the best place for children to go on Sunday, and the parents can do very much toward attaining a punctual attendance among the children. The influence of the parents is perhaps more potent for good or bad than all other surroundings that the child meets in his early life. Then let the parents be careful that their influence is for the good, for they are making men and women out of their children. Tell your children good stories listen to them when they ask questions and answer them patiently. Encourage them to read and observe and investigate." Help them with their Sunday school lessons and their day

lessons. Be a companion to them and they will not be so prone to leave home at an early age."

Prof. W. Nichols gave an excellent selection upon the clarinet. Mr. Summerhays then, on behalf of the convention, thanked the committees who had the convention in charge for their efficient work and the people of Ogden for their hospitality and the choir for the excellent music, and then gave a few parting words to the convention in general. The choir then rendered "The Spring Time Is Come," after which President N. C. Flygar dismissed the convention with a closing prayer.