

ter right to their satisfaction. They signified that this arrangement was agreeable to them.

It was then announced by President Cannon that a vacancy had been created in the quorum of the Twelve Apostles by the removal of President Snow from it to assume the position of President of the Church. It had been decided that this vacancy should be filled, and announced the name of Rudger Clawson for the position. The mind and word of the Lord had been obtained upon the selection of Brother Clawson for this office.

A motion was made and put to the several quorums and to the entire congregation, that Rudger Clawson be ordained an Apostle, be one of the Twelve Apostles and a member of that council. The voting was unanimously affirmative.

The following authorities were then presented to the entire congregation to be voted upon in the usual way which obtains at ordinary General Conferences, and were unanimously sustained:

The counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch to the Church—John Smith.

First Seven Presidents of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells and Joseph W. McMurrin.

William B. Preston as presiding Bishop, with Robert T. Burton as his first and John R. Winder as his second counselor.

Franklin D. Richards as Church historian and general Church recorder, with John Jaques, Charles W. Penrose and Andrew Jenson as his assistants.

As the General Church Board of Education—Lorenzo Snow, George, Q. Cannon, Karl G. Maeser, Willard Young, Anthon H. Lund, James Sharp, Joseph F. Smith, John Nicholson and George H. Brimhall.

As Trustee-in-Trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Lorenzo Snow.

John Nicholson as clerk of the General Conference.

It was stated that the release of the presidency of the European mission had been contemplated, and that one of the number, Elder Edwin F. Parry, had already returned. By unanimous vote of the Conference Elders Rulon S. Wells and Joseph W. McMurrin were also released, and Platt D. Lyman appointed to preside over the European mission, with James L. McMurrin and Henry W. Naisbitt as his counselors.

Similar unanimous action was taken with regard to releasing Brother Lautensock from the position of president over the German mission and the appointment of Arnold H. Schultness to succeed him.

President Cannon remarked that there was no other Church in the world the officers of which were subjected to such an ordeal as had been applied to those who had been voted on here today, and he felt thankful for the unanimity that had prevailed.

#### ELDER RUDGER CLAWSON.

Brethren and sisters, this is a very trying position that I occupy before you this afternoon. It is true, as President Cannon has said, that I have been placed in some trying situations. I was with Elder Joseph Standing at the time of his martyrdom, and was myself exposed for a few moments to martyrdom, but I escaped through the providence of the Lord. I have been placed behind prison bars for the testimony of Jesus, and that was a very trying situation. When I came out of the penitentiary I was told that the Lord wanted me to labor as President of the Box Elder Stake, and I assure you, brethren and sisters, that that was a great surprise to me at that time, and very trying. I had been brought up in Salt Lake City; all my interests, all my associations, and, as I thought, all my expectations were in Salt Lake City, and it was a great trial for me to be called away. No inducements were offered, but I was told that the Lord would bless and sustain me in that appointment, and I testify to you, my brethren and sisters, that I have been sustained in my presidency of the Box Elder Stake of Zion, and I have enjoyed my labors there.

There is a good people in that Stake—a people, I believe, who are trying to serve the Lord. They have sustained me and I have felt blessed and prospered in my labors there. This later call that has come has proven to be a very great surprise. I had no knowledge of it; I had no notice of it whatever, only as it has come to me today in this meeting. My patriarchal blessing, that was given a number of years ago, indicated that I would be called to a high appointment in the Church in the due time of the Lord, and I presume that this is the appointment now. I feel very weak; I feel very humble. I know that unless I can enjoy the spirit of the apostleship and the faith and prayers and the support of my brethren and sisters of this Church I cannot stand, I cannot succeed in this labor; and therefore I earnestly pray that God will be with me, and that I may have your faith and prayers, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW.

A serious ordeal—A godlike resolve—The Saints increasing in strength—Will have greater power in the future—glory and dominion in eternity.

My brethren and sisters, this to me is, as it undoubtedly is to you, a solemn scene. It is wonderful what the Elders of Israel have succeeded in securing; it is perfectly marvelous the union of feeling and of action, found nowhere else in the world, among such a great number of people as are here this afternoon. I never felt more humble than I do on this occasion. It is, as was said by President Cannon, a serious ordeal through which we have to pass from time to time—to be presented here before the people, and all of our past acts and doings viewed by them, and we depend upon their sanction and approval or rejection. This belongs to them. The Holy Spirit of light, that brings intelligence to us and an understanding of sacred things, belongs to every member of the Church. They have a right to pass their opinion upon those that are presiding over them. The works and the labors that the officers perform in

the presence of this people may be known and understood by every member of the Church—in a general way, at least. There may be some things that the First Presidency do; that the Apostles do, that cannot for the moment be explained; yet the spirit, the motives that inspire the action can be understood, because each member of the Church has a right to have that measure of the Spirit of God that they can judge as to those who are acting in their interests or otherwise.

Now, brethren, this much I say, and I say it in the name of the Lord: I will endeavor to be devoted to your interests and the interests of the kingdom of God. I will serve you to the best of my knowledge and understanding, in reference to that which will promote your interests in connection with the interests of the Almighty. I will do this, the Lord being my helper.

It is an easy thing for us to rise here and raise our right hands in token of our approval of what is presented before us. I can do that without any trouble, and so can you. But there is something involved in this rising here and raising our right hands in approval of the propositions presented; there is a meaning to it; something that ought to be well considered, and that is, acting in the future in accordance with this manifestation of our approval. Now, I know—and I know it well; nobody can know it better—that if this mighty Priesthood and these Latter-day Saints that are before me will act up to that which they have approved by raising their right hands and in accordance with the motives that undoubtedly inspired them, the progress of this Church will be more rapid than it has been in the past. The Latter-day Saints are becoming stronger. They are much stronger at this Conference than they were at the last, as a general thing. There are some, no doubt, that are weaker, that have not the strength and the faith they had six months ago; but the people, speaking generally, are much stronger and, if called upon, could endure more and make higher sacrifices than they could have done