

rible Civil War that swept the land, that filled it with mourning and sorrow for a generation—I hope that the correction will be enough, and that from now on we shall have power to preach the Gospel in such plainness and manifest power of the spirit of the Lord, that we shall keep the nation in the favor of the Lord, and go on from righteousness to righteousness, from peace to peace, until we shall develop more completely than we have yet developed those great underlying principles of civil government that God gave to our nation, and that finally will become the inheritance of the world—God's law that shall go forth from Zion. I pray so, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The congregation sang the hymn:

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.

Elder John L. Herrick pronounced the benediction.

Conference adjourned until 2 p. m.

CLOSING SESSION.

In the Tabernacle, at 2 p. m. President Joseph F. Smith called the meeting to order.

The congregation sang the hymn:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation;
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam,
Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption will come.

The invocation was offered by Elder Samuel E. Woolley.

The congregation sang the hymn:

O, say, what is Truth? 'Tis the fairest gem
That the riches of worlds can produce;
And priceless the value of truth will be, when
The proud monarch's costliest diadem
Is counted but dross and refuse.

ELDER J. GOLDEN KIMBALL.

(Of the First Council of Seventy.)

The short time that I occupy I very much desire to have the Spirit of the Lord. I think possibly it would not be amiss if I occupied the time in talking about the Seventies. I claim to be good authority on that subject, and the information that I shall use comes from the Presiding Bishop's office, and they will vouch for its accuracy.

My object and purpose in speaking of the Seventies is to enlighten the Church as to that great body of Priesthood, who have a special calling as witness of the Lord to the nations of the earth. They are preachers of righteousness and our great effort has been not only to keep up with the organization, but where it has been deemed wise, the quorums have been increased in order to get the benefit that comes out of the class work. For we find where quorums are scattered throughout a stake, one quorum in a stake or one quorum in five or six or eight wards, it is very difficult to hold class meetings. It is understood that in all such cases that they hold a general Seventies' meeting, once each month. Last Sunday, at four p. m., we called a special conference of the Seventies, and we were very happy in finding four hundred and four Seventies in that gathering in the Bishop's building. By a show of hands, I think we could safely

say, that eighty-five per cent of that number were presidents of Seventies. We had a program which was well handled, taking up Quorum Administrative Questions. This body of Priesthood, to give you an idea of the greatness of the number, there are enough Seventies in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to fill this great building to overflowing.

The activities of Seventies as compiled from the stake and ward reports for the year, 1913, are as follows:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Total number of Seventies in the Church..... | 10,968 |
| Total number enrolled in Quorums as reported for the year 1913 | 8,078 |
| Total number enrolled in Seventies Class..... | 9,190 |
| Total number of Seventies not enrolled in Quorums..... | 2,890 |
| Total number of Seventies not performing any duties in Stakes or wards..... | 2,145 |
| Total number who did not attend a Quorum meeting during year 1913 | 1,308 |
| Seventies who are acting as Presidents of Seventies and Instructors of Quorums.... | 1,782 |
| Seventies who are performing Stake duties..... | 704 |
| Seventies who are performing Ward duties..... | 6,933 |
| Seventies who are acting as officers and instructors in Auxiliary organizations | 3,778 |

We learn from this report that the total number of appointments filled by Seventies in the Church is 13,197. If we are correct in our analysis of the above report, the First Council is held responsible for 2,145 Seventies who are not performing any duties in the stakes or wards, and still we find that there are 2,890 Seventies not enrolled in any quorums of Seventy, and it is just possible that they are not mem-

bers of any ward, but are wandering to and fro throughout the Church. They are, no doubt, good men in their way, but must be "billy-goats," and not sheep, but they should belong to the sheep fold.

This report gives information as to the activities of Seventies at home and abroad, and gives proof that 95 8-10 per cent of this body of Priesthood are giving good home service, and performing missionary work, under the direction of the local authorities. The report does not give the condition of Seventies financially, nor does it attempt to speak of their struggles, failures and poverty, and that death sometimes finds its way into their homes. Neither does it give the information that many of these Seventies have sons who are on missions, and the fathers are defraying their expenses. It is not understood that the standard and spiritual measurement of the men is to be found in the report. This report does not attempt to tell of the visits of representatives of the First Council, but it merely shows the activities of Seventies at home. If it be true that 25 per cent of 8,078 Seventies who are enrolled in quorums are not performing any duties in stakes or wards, it leaves 75 per cent of the total number enrolled who are actively engaged in home and foreign service.

We desire, that you may know, that notwithstanding that 2,890 Seventies are wanderers that we are trying to overcome this difficulty. Quorums of Seventies are instructed to receive all Seventies who come in their quorum district, who are received by the Bishops in the wards, and to receive them without recommendation, without trans-

fers, as their transfers can be secured afterwards. It must be understood by the Priesthood of God, in this Church, that there can be no such thing as resigning from a quorum of Priesthood in the Church. When you have made covenant with God and the Church and received the Priesthood you cannot resign. The only way to get out of a quorum of Priesthood is to commit sin, and get disfellowshipped from the Church. As long as you hold that Priesthood we have the right to receive you into the quorums and it is the duty of those who preside to labor with those who are careless and indifferent. Brethren and sisters, we want to show you, what this great body of Priesthood are doing in home service. In 1913, there was only three hundred forty-six Seventies on missions in the word preaching the Gospel, but we have been training and educating and directing this body of Priesthood to labor faithfully and devotedly under the direction of the local authorities.

Now, brethren, with a good deal of pride, I challenge you High Priests and you Elders, and the lesser Priesthood, to make a better showing. We grant you that our quorums are made up of young men and older men of great experience, men who have filled missions, many of them, and they are devoted to the Church. That has been the line of our work in the past few years.

The Lord has truly blessed us in the labor, with the assistance that we have received and the sustaining support that we have had from the brethren of the authorities, the Counsel of the Twelve, the presidents of stakes and the Bishop of wards. If we are correct: take the two thousand one hundred and

forty-five Seventies who are not taking any part in Church duties, and the two thousand eight hundred ninety "billy-goats," that are wandering throughout the Church, that belong to no quorums and are scattered all over the land, there is a great missionary work to be done by the presidents of Seventies; as there are five thousand Seventies in the Church of Christ that need laboring with by preaching the Gospel to them, because of their carelessness and indifference.

In conclusion: I don't know when I have been more delighted for a long time, than when I heard President Francis M. Lyman, the president of the Twelve Apostles, say to the presidents of stakes and the bishops of wards, "When you want missionaries, you are to go to the Seventies instead of any others. As you need them in the missionary field to go with our boys." We have ample proof, ample evidence that we need men of experience to go with our young men, until they get under training.

As to missionary work at home: I need not go but a short distance from here as I happen to have in mind an illustration. We can go to the Jordan stake, as I remember it, they have nine thousand members of the Church; in that one stake alone there are over nine thousand persons who are non-members of the Church. A great missionary work can be done under the direction of the local authorities, the presidents of stakes, and the bishops of wards, in setting apart these Seventies, instructing them, enthusing them, awakening them until they love the souls of the children of men and are willing to give good service in preaching the Gospel.

Now, my brethren and sisters,

I hope it goes without saying; that I have unflinching, unwavering faith in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—it is the great thing in my life. If I fail in this one object—salvation—I have failed in everything. I sustain the authorities of the Church; I sustain President Joseph F. Smith and the Council of the Twelve. I have an abiding faith in Joseph Smith as a prophet of God. I believe all that has been revealed unto this people, whether I can live it or not; I believe it all; I swallow every bit of it, I don't sugar-coat it, either. Brethren, I am willing to place all that I have and am upon the altar. It does not amount to very much, but you are welcome to every bit of it. The Lord bless you. Amen.

ELDER RULON S. WELLS.

(Of the First Council of Seventy.)

I too, am a man of peace. I believe in peace and love to walk in the paths of peace. If there is anything that is contrary to my nature, it is to be in the midst of strife. I desire peace in my home, peace in my country, peace in my own soul. But notwithstanding my native love for peace I find myself continually involved in war, in what may be termed a universal war. Across the waters a great war is being waged in which many nations are engaged; in this struggle, to which I allude all nations are involved, indeed, every human being has a part.

It is the war again sin, against weakness and imperfection. It is God's battle for the right against the powers of evil which are everywhere arrayed against Him. It is a sanguinary war. Many there be who fall upon this battlefield, and when

they thus die they are dead indeed, and well may those who love them shed tears of sorrow. Some are only slightly wounded and others are wounded mortally. The Lord has provided His Red Cross Society—the ministry of His Church, and supplied it with a healing balm—the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it should be applied to all alike for all have been wounded and need his healing balm. None have escaped the darts of the adversary but all may be healed by the application of this remedy—even the dead may be brought to life again.

Then let us fight on for the cause of truth; let us labor for the salvation of human souls, that all may be delivered from this enemy, the arch enemy of God, the adversary of the souls of the children of men. Let us march on under the capacity of our Redeemer; let us march under His banner, on to victory, for eventually victory will be perched upon His banner, and every foe shall be overcome. This is a battle to the bitter end; this is a battle that means the utter rout of the enemy.

My brethren and sisters, you and I are engaged in this struggle; we are fighting under the banner of Christ; we are endeavoring to bring comfort and relief to those that are wounded and to those that have fallen upon the battlefield. Let us, be untiring in our efforts, then, to save the souls of our fellow men, of our brethren and sisters throughout the world, until peace be restored and established in all the world. Let us draw nigh unto the Lord that we may have power and strength; for the sword of truth is the weapon with which we fight; it is a two-edged sword that cuts in both directions; let us learn how to wield it, and let none lay down his arms, but