

FIRST OVERFLOW MEETING

An overflow meeting of the conference was held in the Assembly Hall at 10 o'clock a. m., Sunday, April 4, 1926.

Elder J. Golden Kimball, of the First Council of Seventy, presided.

The combined choirs of Murray First ward and Mill Creek ward, of the Cottonwood stake, W. F. Robinson directing, Tracy Y. Cannon at the organ, provided the music.

The choir sang the anthem, "Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell."

The opening prayer was offered by Elder Nicholas G. Smith, bishop of the Seventeenth ward, Salt Lake City.

The choir sang, "In our Redeemer's name."

ELDER J. GOLDEN KIMBALL

Of the First Council of Seventy

As I approached the door of the Tabernacle this morning, though I had ample time if I could have gotten in, I was caught in a jam and I could not get one way or the other; and finally I heard my name announced by President Grant. I was to take charge of the meeting in the Assembly Hall. I did not take time to find out who was appointed with me; my difficulty was to get out. You know, sometimes you cannot get in and other times you cannot get out; that was my case his morning. So I rushed over here, but was somewhat disturbed, as it is a little unusual for me to preside over any of our general conference assemblies. Brethren and sisters, I do not know much, but what I do know, I know well; I am a well-trained soldier; I have been laboring in the Church under the direction of the general authorities for over 35 years; I have seen a whole council of the Twelve fill their missions and pass over, and still live, and I know from my missionary experience in the world and at home, that we are the servants of the living God; that we hold divine authority; that every member in this Church, from the least unto the greatest, is entitled to revelation and inspiration and the spirit of prophecy for his own guidance. If it is otherwise, the only answer we have is that since the Holy Ghost was conferred upon you by the laying on of hands, you have not had faith and kept the commandments of God. That is the inspiration that gives life to this Church, and as long as the members of this Church, together with the general authorities, are under the inspiration of Almighty God, there is no use of being non-plussed or overcome, for God will put it into our mouths what to do, what to say, and will guide and lead us into all truth. I thought I would like to say that to you good people. Several of the brethren named by President Heber J. Grant to speak at this meeting have failed to receive word of their appointment. Up until now only three of us have arrived. But we are here, and we are dependent upon the Lord to guide

and direct us. I would like to ask you good people if you are in the habit, in our assemblies and places of worship, of offering a few words of prayer in your heart for those who are to speak to us? Very few know just who is going to be appointed; and I am a believer that our people are very careless about those things and place the whole responsibility upon the speaker. My experience has been that there is a great responsibility resting upon the Saints, and that we need to call in the wanderings of our minds and centralize them upon God the Father and upon his Son Jesus Christ, in behalf of God's servants—not only to pray for them, but to ask God to give them inspiration, so that they will open their mouths and use the talent which the Lord God has given every one of us. I am getting somewhat timid myself, because once in a while I make a mistake. But if God ever created a man, aside from the Savior, who has not made any mistakes, I would like to have him pointed out. We make mistakes, hence, when we speak in the name of the Lord and when we prophesy, we need the Spirit of God.

I saw an old gentleman yesterday whom I met way down in Arizona, years and years ago, when our people were in poverty and were about to disorganize the stake, because everything had gone to pieces for the time being; and he said, "Brother Kimball, I want to call your attention to something that happened years ago. You were in the little one-horse town, as I called it then, with the presidency of the stake, and you were there alone representing the brethren of the Church." The presidency of the stake presented the name of a man to be bishop of that ward. I said to them, "That bishop will not remain long." "Well," they said, "Brother Kimball, whom would you choose?" "Well, if I were choosing, I would choose that fellow over there sitting on the end of the seat; he will make you a good bishop." But they put the first man in, and he did not hold out two years, and afterwards they put in the other man, whom I suggested, and he is one of the best bishops they have had. I merely speak of this to impress you that God can inspire his servants, and they can prophesy and it will come true.

Now, brethren, pray in your hearts; you need not make any to-do about it, but ask the Lord to inspire his servants to say things that will answer the questions and doubts that are creeping into the hearts of God's people; for doubt and uncertainty is creeping into the hearts of a number of our people. I want to say to you, in the name of Israel's God, that if we do not live the right life and keep that light burning in our hearts as a living fire, so that you may know always that Jesus is the Christ, we may lose that knowledge on the morrow or during the year—if we are careless and indifferent. My father said before he died, and kept saying, "O the test, the test, the test; who will be able to stand?" He came to his home on the Kimball block at the south door, where my mother lived, and where I was born, and said, "O the test, the test, the test; who will be able to stand?" It was but a very

short time after repeating this statement that he was stricken with paralysis and never spoke a word afterward. My mother said, "Brother Kimball what is the test?" and he said, "I don't know, but only those who know that Jesus is the Christ will be able stand."

Now, brethren, you can judge yourselves. Do not bother about me. Be concerned about yourselves, and I will get along the best way I can. If I do not make it, there is no reason why you should not; and if I can make it, anybody can make it. That is my personal idea. I do not know whether that is an encouragement to you or not.

ELDER JAMES H. ROBINSON

President of the South Davis Stake

I feel very humble, my brethren and sisters, and very much dependent upon our heavenly Father. This is the first time in my life that I have been called upon to address the people of God in one of our general conferences, and I can assure you that, while I feel very grateful for this opportunity, I feel very humble and very dependent upon our heavenly Father. I realize most fully that we are engaged in the work of our Father, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and the Father of our spirits; and I know, too, that to speak to his people, who have listened to the servants of the Lord and obeyed the promptings of the spirit, who have embraced the faith and are endeavoring to carry out the work of our Father upon the earth—to feed you people—a man must be inspired of our Father. This is his work, and we know and understand the things of God only through the Spirit of our Father. It is not the elegant words spoken by masters of the English language, or the learning of men that can send that prompting and that inspiration and conviction to the hearts of God's people. It can only be sent there through the inspiration of our Father. And while I know, too, that we as individuals are not permitted to have inspiration or revelation for the Church, I know by experience that we are entitled to that revelation and that inspiration for our own guidance, and to help us in the discharge of all the duties and responsibilities that rest upon us. And if we are not in communion with that spirit, it is because our receiving instrument is out of tune; for our Father in heaven will never neglect his people, will never fail to do his part; and if I am not receiving the inspiration of the Father, it is because of some act in my life or some neglect, or something, that has gotten the instrument God has given to me in his Spirit out of tune with the sending instrument of our Father. Our Father has told us, through the Prophet Brigham Young, that every spirit is born pure into the earth, and it becomes contaminated only as the spirit is subject to the tabernacle of flesh in which it is encased; for our tabernacles are earthy, and made up of the earth and are subject to death. And just as our spirits are overcome by the weaknesses of that body, are we out of harmony with our Father.