

Grant, who is listening in, that we have missed him, and that we join in prayers that he may be early restored to health and strength.

I should like to thank, on behalf of the First Presidency, of this audience and of all who have listened in, the *Singing Mothers* for their excellent singing.

An anthem, "The Lord's Prayer," (Cecil Gates) was sung by the *Singing Mothers*.

Elder David R. Langlois, President of the Burley Stake, offered the closing prayer.

Conference adjourned until Friday, April 7, 10 a. m.

SECOND DAY

MORNING MEETING

Conference reconvened Friday morning, April 7, at 10 a. m.

President Heber J. Grant was present and presided at this session.

The music for this meeting was furnished by the *Nebo Stake Choir*, Elder J. D. Christensen, Director.

The hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," was sung by the Choir and the congregation, after which Elder J. Robert Price, President of the Phoenix Stake, offered the opening prayer.

An anthem, "He Is Risen," (Simper) was sung by the *Nebo Stake Choir*, (Melba Powell, soloist).

ELDER REED SMOOT

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I feel to thank my Heavenly Father for again having the privilege of attending a great Conference of this people. I know I utter the thoughts of everyone who listened to and attended the services yesterday, when I say that I have attended no Conference of the Church during all my service as an Apostle, or even before, when I have not felt in my heart that the thanks and the counsel and the wisdom expressed must have ascended to our Heavenly Father.

Among the great things that every member of the Church should be not only interested in, but thankful for, is the privilege to serve God. I am thankful that I have been privileged to serve my God. I am grateful for the health and the strength and the vigor that enable me to be of service to my family, and with all my heart I am thankful for my service to my Church. Weak or small as that service may be I have asked my Heavenly Father to assist me in that service in every particular.

A DAY OF EXTRAVAGANCE

We are living in a day of extravagance and I have wondered of late

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where it is going to end. The Church has set the example to every member of it and to the glorious nation that we love, to be out of debt. I remember when our nation, at the close of the World War, found itself in debt to the amount of twenty-six billions of dollars. For ten years as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I did everything in my power to reduce that obligation by necessary legislation. It was reduced to sixteen billion dollars and now it is up to forty billion dollars.

I know it is easy to say "billions," and we have become used to it in America and perhaps in the world, but it may be of interest to some, at least, to give a description of what forty billion dollars really is so that all can understand it. I do it in this way: Supposing that the minute the Savior was born some person had decided to deposit in a place selected by him forty dollars and he continued that plan, carrying it out faithfully every minute to the present time, at the end, my brethren and sisters, there would be forty billions of dollars there.

So you see what responsibilities rest upon those who direct the financial affairs of our Government. I want every Latter-day Saint, no matter where he is, to support in every way every recommendation made, not only by this administration but by the administrations to follow to reduce these obligations, for they will have to do everything in their power to accomplish this.

I thank my Heavenly Father that the Church is out of debt. I am told by President Grant that it is ten years since the Church has been in debt. That is splendid.

THE FAITH OF A PRESIDENT

Among the homes that I visited during my service in the Senate of the United States was the home of President Coolidge, where I was invited several times. I never ate a mouthful of food at his home without a blessing upon it. Prayer was the practice of President Coolidge. The last time I visited him was shortly before his death. I sat by his bedside. We talked over conditions existing in our country, and when I was about to leave, the President said to me: "Senator, there is some plan in your Church, isn't there, where men administer to the sick and pray for them?" I said, "Yes, Mr. President. We call that administering to the sick." He said, "Can anyone in the Church administer to anyone outside of the Church?" I told him "Yes." He said, "Reed, I wish you would administer to me." I did so, and I want to say to you, my brothers and sisters, I never felt happier in my life than when I laid my hands upon him and asked God to bless him. He was a wonderful man, as nearly all of the American people knew him to be.

I believe, with all my soul, in the administration of the sick. I have seen the results of it hundreds and hundreds of times and it will never cease being a part of our faith.

May God's blessings ever be with the Presidency of this Church and the Authorities of the Church. No matter what position they may hold may the Father give them a desire in their hearts to fill the position with

honor, with integrity and love. I am quite sure there is no people, other than the people of the Latter-day Saints, that has such faith in prayer and exercise it more generally than do we. Never forget God's blessings.

THE DIVORCE EVIL

One thing more that I desire to speak of is divorce. I haven't the figures now. I don't know how we stand along this line, compared with other parts of our country or the world, but I do know that the last investigation made by me revealed the fact that there were fewer divorces per capita among the Mormon people than other group of people in the world. South Carolina has no divorce law and I understand Nevada has about fifty-seven kinds or fifty-seven reasons for a divorce. Brethren and sisters, I pray that the Spirit of God may be in your homes, and that marriage of a man and a woman may be such that they can work together in the service of our Heavenly Father and that the Spirit of the Lord may direct their thoughts and their actions, that people seeing their deeds may judge that there is something binding upon them and their conscience, quite different from those of the world.

Our Heavenly Father, bless the Authorities of thy Church and particularly give strength and health to our President. God be with us and bless us all, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I realize keenly, brethren and sisters, the responsibility resting upon me in being asked to speak, being expected to lead this vast congregation in intelligent and profitable thought. I think it a wonderful accomplishment for a man to be able to stand before a congregation of this size and think consecutively and intelligently, and to give intelligent expression to those thoughts. It makes me to fear and tremble.

I realize in this position, as in all others, my dependence upon the Lord. If he were not to assist me by his Holy Spirit, my mind would close up like a clam. I wouldn't know where to begin, how to continue, or to end. But with the help of the Lord, the experiences I have had in the past, trusting in him and having his blessing to attend me, I have some hope, with the prayers and faith of the people, that I may be able to overcome my weakness and present something that will be worth our consideration.

I have in mind that what I shall say will not only be heard by those within this building, a congregation made up of members and non-members of the Church, but possibly by many people on the outside who are listening in over the radio, and I would like to say something that would be helpful to those who are not members of the Church, as well as to members of the Church, if they will accept of what I have to say, the advice that I may be led to give.