ENGER

AKE OF ZION

March, 1968

No. 3

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE WELL ATTENDED

By RUTH OSTEGAR

The need for new and larger Stake headquarters was strikingly evidenced by the most largely attended quarterly conference ever held in the city of Oak-

land, February 22, 23.
Commencing with the Stake priesthood meeting held Saturday evening, the Oakland chapel was crowded, and for the Sunday sessions many had to stand and some were unable to get in. Visitors from Salt Lake City were Elders Sylvester Q. Cannon of the Council of the Twelve and Robert L. Judd of the General Welfare Committee.

A graphic film por-



Elder Sylvester Q. Cannon

traying the accomplishments and future objectives of the welfare program was presented at the priesthood session Saturday evening, accompanied with explanatory remarks by Elder Judd. Following this President W. Glenn Harmon spoke on the value of gospel knowledge in the life of a priesthood bearer, and Elder Ed. Kingsford reported on the progress of the Stake mission.

President Hilton was the first speaker at the Sunday morning session. He gave a brief report on the Stake's condition. He called attention to the fact there are many storms of many kinds abroad in the world; that in the Savior's parable on building one's house upon a rock, the Master's emphasis was not that the storms would not come, but rather that when they did come, the house should be built to withstand. Church records, he said, give an enlightening view on the spiritual houses people are building. According to those records Oakland Stake stands twenty-second in the Church, having 345 points of a possible 900. Sacrament meetings are attended by only 22 per cent of the membership; fast offerings per capita are 76; 52 per cent of the ward teaching is accomplished. The Stake missionary system is doing good work and there are in addition eleven full time missionaries in the field.

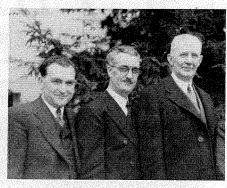
Sister Gwendolin Millet, of the Hayward

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Hosts and Visitor

ward, who has recently returned from a mission to the New England States, next gave a very interesting report of her mission.

State Patriarch Wm. E. Potts, building his beautiful, spiritual sermon around the quotation, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
(Matt. 11:28) touched the keynote for the entire conference. "How many," he asked, "coming to conference today with heavy hearts, will leave with light hearts, secure in the fact that they have an opportunity to work out their problems with the help of God?" He went on further to say that too often we lose our tempers and become angry with people, and carry a grudge against them. But this is not the way to square accounts with life. Where much is forgiven, much joy is forthcoming. He gave the Savior as a shining example of one who forgave his enemies, and went about doing good, and sowing the spiritual seed of Heaven, which is love. Can we likewise say, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"? When people hate they turn away from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Holding a grudge will not enhance our progression and it will actually put off our resurrection. If our spirits control our bodies we are growing spiritually, but if our bodies are allowed to control, we grow away from God. In closing he promised us by virtue of his calling as a patriarch, that if we really seek God with a forgiving heart, we will be able to lay our burdens down.

The next speaker, Elder Robert L. Judd, asked the question, "Why do we meet, what is our purpose in attending conference?" and answered it thus: "We come to check our way of life, to see if we are improving." He said that he was recently asked the question if he thought our young people would survive to maintain the standards of the Church, or if these standards would be lowered as time went on. He answered the question by saying that this is not our work, but God's, and that we cannot lower His standards, and that our young people will carry on. He spoke of the recent juvenile crime wave throughout the Bay area, saying that it was his firm conviction that not much could be done to improve matters as long as the Savior is kept out of the picture. If somehow men and women could be made to see and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ, and get the real spirit of God, if they would take upon themselves the duties of the Church and keep the commandments of God, then there would be a real solution to the problem. He went further to say that a very substantial part of the people who have to be continually helped in the Church are people who have

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slipped in their Church work. Boys who stick to their priesthood classes, going from Deacon on up, develop an independence, which with the help of God enables them to meet their problems. He bore his testimony to the truth that if we live according to the gospel, God, with our help, will save us, and the next generation will carry on.

Apostle Sylvester Q. Cannon was the final speaker for the morning session. He told us that the Church is growing. That we now have 136 Stakes, and in the past year have had 30,000 new members. That the work is going on in Europe in spite of the removal of missionaries. He told us that the Lord is anxious to bless mankind, especially those who keep His commandments, he quoted, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," saying that therein lies blessings and promises. Every blessing that comes to us thus is a source of progression, bringing God nearer to us and us nearer to Him.

As the day before was Washington's birthday, he told us a little of Washington, and the wonderful example he set Americans. He said that Washington was an outstanding genius for patriotism, that he had loyalty, unswerving purpose, patience and self mastery, and selected good associates, which are necessary for good conduct. And that he continually strove to live as an example to people that the nation might become a rightful nation, unswerving in purpose. He exhorted us to follow the example of these great leaders, bringing out that in these troublesome times the Latterday Saints should stand for high purpose, high qualities, and right living, for we will have to account for our lives. He told us that the Divine Being desires our progression through doing right, and that if we live in harmony with His purposes we will have joy, peace and happiness in the fulfilling of His commandments, and be known as "A people who desire to do right."

The special music for the morning session was furnished by Miss Olive Nielsen, who sang two solos, accompanied by Mrs. Fredone Nielsen. At the afternoon session numbers were rendered by Lolia Ashworth and Elder Ross Lynch.

First speaker for the afternoon was President Clyde J. Summerhays, who carried on the theme of the conference by saying that we are all striving for the celestial kingdom. He then read to us four promises that the scriptures give us, promises founded upon the proposition that we do our part in keeping the commandments of God. He pointed out the sacrifices that Adam, Abraham and many of the prophets of God were called upon to make, and asked what sacrifice is required of us. Tithing, he said, is the paying of our just debts, it is no sacrifice, but the real sacrifice expected of us is "A broken heart and a contrite spirit."

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