

# SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICES AT STAKE TABERNACLE

As in June, last spring when the Alberta Stake held a month of special services for Divine Aid in the crop season, and the people were blessed so abundantly, so at the close of the season, as announced by President Wood at the Stake Priesthood meeting, with some 1000 people present in the Stake Tabernacle, a special Thanksgiving Service was held, not to take the place of the usual Thanksgiving Day Celebration, but as a Special Thanksgiving Service for the bounteous harvest that has been given to the people.

## SPIRITUAL and TEMPORAL BLESSINGS

The first speaker was President W. H. Caldwell who took as his theme: The Spiritual Blessings vouchsafed to the people in this age. His remarks were fervently eloquent of the Gospel teachings, and the joys of life that come thru adherence to them. The next speaker was S. H. Nelson of the High Council of the Stake, who spoke of the Temporal Blessings that have come to the people. His topic was enlarged to include a greater scope of history than the immediate present, showing how God had blessed those in all ages who keep his commandments. He also spoke of the immediate blessings of the harvest season now about to close.

J. Vivian Johansen of Woolford, a recently returned missionary, also spoke of the theme, dealing particularly with the Latter Day Work inaugurated by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and proof of His Divine Mission. These three speakers occupied a major portion of the time at the meeting, and gave much food for thought for all present. It was however left to the speakers to complete the program of speakers, and his remarks were never more timely or more feelingly given. He took as his theme the passage in The Pearl of Great Price, where Abraham sought from the Lord three things viz., PEACE, HAPPINESS, and REST. The President then reviewed the condition of the people of his Stake, showing how they had the blessings sought by Abraham, having peace, at home and abroad, happiness in their labors, and their families, and rest after toil, and from the worries that fill the world today. He ad-

vised the people to spend their means, the result of the harvest with which they had been blessed on their own premises, and farms. Improve your homes, he said, use the surplus you have for the building of better homes, the buying of Livestock such as sheep and dairy cows, and the providing of shelter and facilities for better farming on your own farms. The investment in securities which are at the best mere speculation was decried by President Wood, in which he told his people to avoid the speculator, and handle their own money. No one ought to be able to handle your money as well as yourself, and it is sounder investment to put it into something you can see on your own farm than into oil stock where you have no more control over it. In conclusion he made a strong plea for the spiritual life of the people to be in harmony with the teachings of Christ and stressed that the law of tithing, or rather the observance of it, is an index into the character of the lives of the people who pay it.

## OTHER BUSINESS

There were many other items of business which came up before the meeting, and received due attention. Gerald S. Brown, President of the Stake Mutual Improvement Association, made a plea for 100 per cent Era Subscriptions for the coming season, and from the response given to President Wood who supplemented what President Brown had said, there seems to be evidence that the Era will be in most homes in the Alberta Stake.

"Lead Kindly Light," a most beautiful duett, was sung by Mrs. Eda Olsen Wood, and her brother Jesse Olsen. This number was most appreciated with its excellent harmony, and splendid voices.

Temple sessions having recommenced, President Wood announced that the Genealogical Committee was asking for at least 1 per cent of the ward population to be present at each session of the Temple, and that the call was now made to every ward to furnish this quota each day of the Temple sessions. It was obligatory upon the Bishops of the various wards to carry out this arrangement.

H. R. White, the professional

to speak by President Wood, as, said President Wood, the Mormon people believe in being kind to animals, and in accepting truth no matter where it is found. Mr. White's message was one of kindness to animals through knowing how to train them and understanding their nature and disposition. His message, he said, was to make horses glad, to stop all inhuman methods of "breaking" horses, and get all people who have to do with horses to cease strangling them and abusing them. Mr. White has been in Cardston before, and several men here know of his good work with horses. Jack Galbreath was present and spoke briefly of his experience with Mr. White and his methods of handling horses. He is a thorough convert to his school of horsemanship. One point which Mr. White put over forcibly to the large congregation was that in all the centuries of history man has made progress in every line of endeavor, in mechanics, in science, in chemistry, in every field of thought and literature, but in their knowledge of horses the friend of man, they have failed to know more or to do as much as the ancients knew or did, and that it was his mission to educate people how to handle horses. He told of wild branches that he had handled and within a few hours time he had tamed them so that girls could clamber over their backs, and run between their legs. Horses could be taught to work single or double, to obey their master, man, if only people knew how to handle, and that within a few hours after their first contact with man. But men abuse them, and teach them to be mean, truly the present methods mean "break his spirit to accomplish your purposes with him. The new way is to educate the horse, not break him, and it was his purpose to teach people how to educate horses. During the coming week he is holding a class in Cardston for that purpose.

# WOMEN'S RELIEF SOCIETY AND LADIES' AID ARE ACTIVE CARDSTON WOMEN'S GROUPS

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The Herald has received two additional items on women's activities in Cardston from Mrs. R. T. M. Carlson of that town. This material is being used today so as to get into the edition carrying the Cardston Golden Jubilee number.

## WOMEN'S RELIEF SOCIETY OF L.D.S. CHURCH

The women of the pioneers in Cardston met on December 1, 1887, and organized the first relief society in western Canada with Mary L. Woolf president, first counsellor, Mary A. Roberts; second counsellor, Annie Layne and secretary, Sarah B. Daines. Their numbers were few, but they carried on until Aug. 3, 1891, when they were organized into the Alberta Mission Relief society board by Apostle John W. Taylor and President Card. The presidency consisted at this time of President Mary L. Woolf, First Counsellor Rhoda C. Hinman, Second Counsellor Nellie Taylor and Secretary Jane W. Bates. There were three wards in the mission at this time: Cardston, Aetna, organized April 7, 1894, with Catherine Pilling president, and Mountain View, organized July 22, 1894, with President Elizabeth Webb. On June 1, 1895, it was deemed wise by the leaders of the church to change the name to Alberta Stake Relief Society with the same officers in charge. From this small beginning the courage and Herculean efforts of President Woolf and her board and the others following them have built the Relief Society of Alberta stake so that it stands second to none in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In addition to the presidency as mentioned, several women were appointed as missionaries to assist the board, and in honor to these noble ones who served so faithfully, we feel to mention their names here. Mary L. Ibey, assistant secretary, appointed July 9, 1898; Zina Y. Card, May 5, 1900, released 1903;

Catherine Pilling, appointed May 5, 1901; Lydia J. Brown, November 29, 1902; Mary E. Smith, September 20, 1903; Elizabeth Hammer, treasurer, April 26, 1902; Mary Hinman, April 3, 1896, and Maggie Sloan, November 2, 1907. They travelled by team and often did their own driving over the almost trackless prairies to visit the women in all the new settlements, which were rapidly growing; organizing new societies wherever possible, assisting in sickness and comforting those called to mourn. It must be remembered at this time all the territory comprising the three Canadian stakes was included in Alberta stake. These intrepid women visited these small settlements at least twice a year, besides having some one of their number attend the two general conferences in Salt Lake city held each year.

Many experiences might be written of the experiences of these faithful women which would sound like pages of a story but space does not permit.

### Run Into Blizzard

One day First Counsellor Rhoda C. Hinman, who at that time was nearly 75 years of age, and Elizabeth Hammer started to fill an appointment at Orton, about 50 miles away. Before they got there they encountered a blizzard but finally reached their destination and held their meetings. The weather was extremely cold yet they started back to Cardston. They saw many Indians but only one white man. There were over eight inches of snow when they arrived home.

One more incident—Lydia J. Brown and Maggie Sloan had visited the Kimball relief society one day in the late fall. The weather was extremely cold so the good sisters had heated rocks and placed them in the bottom of the "democrat" to keep their feet warm. When a little ways out from the river they discovered the wind had fanned

these rocks till they had set their quilts and robes afire. Of course in their excitement they threw the rocks and some hay out on the ground and proceeded to put the fire in the quilts out. However, looking up they discovered with horror that the rocks had set the prairie on fire. The laws in Canada are very strict in regards to fire so these intrepid women never for a minute thinking of themselves, seized their blankets and quilts and commenced beating the fire out. It took more than an hour and they were nearly exhausted when they got the blaze out, but their horses were rested, so they climbed in their buggy with nearly 10 miles to travel yet. They reached home about nine p.m.

### 20 Societies

In November, 1909, when President Woolf moved to Salt Lake City, there were 20 ward relief societies in Alberta stake, besides the four wards, which were cut off when the Taylor stake was formed on September 4, 1902.

Mary J. Hinman was chosen president on November 14, 1909, and served with honor and distinction until April 13, 1913, when she died in Salt Lake City. She was followed by Lydia J. Brown as president. She was a very able and conservative officer and guided this great organization through its first depression and the trying years of the World War. They did valient service in Red Cross work, charity, in helping pay for the stake tabernacle, etc. These were the years of Alberta's first drought (1919) grasshopper scourge and also the first outbreak of Spanish flu. Also the temple was started. She was released October 13, 1920, having removed to Utah.

Annie D. Snow was called to succeed her and presided with dignity and efficiency until October 31, 1923, when she moved to Hollywood, Cal.

During the year 1921, the size of Alberta stake was further diminished when the Lethbridge stake was organized, including all the northern and eastern wards in its boundaries. President Jane W. Bates was the next president and was released on account of poor health August 19, 1928. Dora H. Jacobs was sustained as president following President Bates' retirement and is still carrying on the great and varied work of the relief society in Alberta stake.