

OUT WITH THE CHOIR.

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 1, 1896.—Before giving details of the Tabernacle choir trip to Denver it may be pertinent to mention that after the afternoon service of Sunday last the members were addressed for a few moments by Presidents A. M. Cannon and Joseph E. Taylor, and many kind kind words of encouragement were offered. Elder Taylor regarded the effects of a visit to any locality as being productive of the greatest good; both the brethren regarded the efforts of the choir as missionary work of a high class, and told them that their efforts had the approval of the authorities. Each member should be a model of probity and self respect, so that the people among whom they mingled could regard them with the highest respect. They jointly wished them Godspeed.

Promptly at 10:35 Monday morning the special train carrying the choristers and friends left the Union Pacific depot among the good-byes and waving of handkerchiefs that always mean bon voyage. Ogden was reached in 50 minutes. When fully made up the train consisted of eleven coaches, although much to the regret of many of the members the chair cars failed to materialize, the best of the day coaches being substituted for them. The conductor of the missionary train was A. E. Conrod; brakeman, an old time obriester, Harry Pugh; engineer, Charley Paul; fireman, W. H. Carter. In addition to the choir and friends were Mrs. Swenson and Anton Pedersen and forty-five members of the K. of P. band, first division. Every car was filled up. A more jolly assemblage would be hard to find. To the credit of the party but very little smoking was noticed. By actual count there were 421 persons on the train, excluding the train band. Mr. Dave Bailey was along to see that schedule time was made. Nothing was left undone to put the train through in 22 hours as promised.

We left Ogden at 11:25 a. m. and with three engines we went with rapid strides up Echo canyon, reaching Evanston at 2:15 p.m. Five minute wait at that place; tune by the band in front of the hotel; grand scramble for the lunch counter; two pockets picked—and the scream of the locomotive caused a terrific rush for the cars. This time, no one was left. Moral—if you want to see the country take a slow train. Five minutes for refreshments is choir train time. The shades of night were falling fast as Granger, Green River and Rock Springs were passed. One of the choir members was called back on account of sickness at Green River.

We had vocal and instrumental quartets that serenaded each car during the evening and as the night grew darker the more staid members were trying to sleep in the luxurious day cars, but it was almost an impossibility where the merry chatter of the vocal sirens prevailed, and when daylight dawned a tired and sleepy band of singers were poorly prepared for the sound of Denver at 7:30 a.m.

On the arrival of the choir they were all told to rally at the Albany hotel. The street cars were stormed and soon

the auditorium of the hotel was filled. One hundred ladies were quartered at the Gilsey House; fifty persons in another place; twenty-five in another; and the balance scattered over the city in different places. The reception committee were indefatigable in their efforts to treat the visitors properly—and the floor was soon cleared of excursionists.

The first session of the Elsteddfod was held in a large structure, half lumber and half canvas, which can hold 10,000 persons or more. It was erected at a cost of \$11,000 and is paid for, I understand. A large audience was present. Speeches were made by the governor and the mayor of the city, all complimentary to the occasion. Mr. Josiah Hughes paid a great compliment to our choir, and spoke of the warm reception given to the Denver visitors last year and of the generous visit of the choir this year, which gave importance to the movement and helped greatly to make this year's gathering possible.

Professor Apnadoc called upon the whole audience to sing America, which was rendered enthusiastically.

The first contest was between the Knights of Pythias band of Salt Lake, Anton Pederson conductor, and the Colorado State band, both excellent organizations and high class musicians. How the judges will decide is not as yet known; my mind is made up, but I am too modest to confess it.

This was followed by six soloists, ladies, who possessed charming voices; one of the six being a colored lady.

Four male quartets also went through the severe test of singing before adjudicators. One of the four was passable, but I must draw the curtain of charity over the rest. Good quartets are very rare, but especially so in Denver, if the competing ones are a fair sample of the stock on hand.

The Tabernacle choir were called upon and rendered the Soldiers' chorus, which brought out an enthusiastic encore. The professor responded with Vales of Deseret. Professor Apnadoc in a felicitous way referred to the Mormon choir as the Children of Israel, and said many pleasant words.

Prizes were awarded for literary compositions by Henry M. Edwards, master of ceremonies. This took up the afternoon session. Excepting the choir there were nearly 2,000 persons present.

The weather is hot here, but not unpleasantly so. Our Utah visitors are having a good time, and upon inquiry I found that in every case they were carefully housed and well provided for.

C. R. SAVAGE.

AT THE EISTEDDFOD.

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 3.—The great Elsteddfod has almost become a matter of history. While I am writing the last session is in progress. The public interest has increased each time since the opening assembly, and I am credibly informed that it is a financial success.

At the fourth session there were about 5,000 people present, which for an afternoon meeting in the busy city of Denver is, to my mind, an evidence that the people are taking more than the usual interest in a movement non-American in its origin. Denver boasts

a population of 175,000 people and taxable property valued at \$175,000,000. Whether this is a real estate estimate, or the result of an actual census, I cannot say; but all of our people are enthusiastic and delighted with their visit. The reception committee has worked hard to care for them; many of the citizens have personally conducted them to points of interest. Mrs. Elitch opened her splendid grounds to them for two hours today, and in private homes where members of the choir are located the testimony is that they are the recipients of great courtesy.

As yet the masses do not take interest in Elsteddfode. The very name brings on the lockjaw—the way the prominent speakers worked to give it the right sound was the comical side of their addresses—and any one successful felt himself an accomplished linguist when he could give it the right sound. The program as published is a combination of school reviews, musical festivals and country fairs. Many of the exercises were just the thing for a small town, but for this metropolis of the plains out of place. Each visitor wants something ahead of the narrow circles in which they move. This the sessions have proved; most of it had to be cut out and exercises of more general interest given instead. Messrs. Edwards and Apnadoc showed themselves masters of the situation, and that ready wit and repartee gave zest to the somewhat dreary solos for competition. I noticed that when the zero mark was reached in dullness, the great Tabernacle choir always came to the rescue. One of the local papers said they sang as no other choir can sing, which is a credit of honor for them. Many of Professor Stephens' selections had a strong Welsh flavor, but few if any of the grand sacred pieces have been given the acoustic properties of the huge tent do not favor the rendition of the glorious anthems that send a thrill to our hearts when rendered with the grand organ as an accompaniment. O My Father is a great favorite here as well as at home, and many requests have been made to hear it repeated.

As I inferred in my first letter, the K. of P. band under Anton Pedersen from our city carried off the \$300 prize as well as the gold medal which was placed on the proud leader's breast by a lovely lady on the great stake. The roar of applause given by the visitors from the Saline Sea showed how they appreciated the award. After this ceremony the band played two selections which aroused the greatest enthusiasm.

Another of our Salt Lakers, C. D. Schettler, captured the award as the best guitar player, his competitors abandoned the field to him after hearing him play. The morning papers called him a master of the instrument.

The award for the ladies' chorus has not yet been announced, but after hearing them both my mind is made up. The chorus from Salt Lake was directed by Mrs. Swenson, the Denver chorus by a gentleman.

It will be a source of great satisfaction if the judgment of the adjudicators should give another prize to the Salt Lake visitors and it will reflect much credit upon the musical development of Utah. The decisions of the judges,