

meetings a course of diagrammatic studies were drawn up and sent to all Elders. All are now presenting the principles of the Gospel systematically. A decided improvement is noticed, and instead of dreading to preach, the Elders are beginning to love it.

Much good work has been done by systematic revisiting and teaching the Gospel from the fireside, leaving books and letting the people read themselves into the Gospel.

We have found it to be the rule that where many meetings are held we have the most friends and the warmest feeling. In some neighborhoods where as high as thirty were held, friends are numerous and a Mormon preacher is popular. People size us up and take mutual notes, and if we can meet them in public and sing and pray and preach for them, they leave the meeting feeling good, and much prejudice is removed. By preaching often our Elders become more at ease in the pulpit, and as a consequence make a better impression.

The following is a report of work done in the conference in the past year: Miles walked, 31,407; families visited, 25,716; rejected testimony, 750; refused entertainment, 882; tracts distributed, 32,582; books given away, loaned and sold, 1,026; meetings held, 1,872; children blessed, 25; baptisms, 78.

The Elders were assigned their future fields of labor, which are as follows:

W. E. Rydalch and E. S. Woodruff, traveling continually in the conference, but letters addressed to Vanceburg, Lewis county, Ky., will reach them.

George T. Taylor and W. H. Hindley—Union, Monroe county, West Virginia.

W. H. Burrows and R. A. Green—Vanceburg, Lewis county, Ky.

H. W. Beers and J. W. Hanson—Williamson, Mingo county, West Virginia.

C. B. Smith, Orson Hyde—Princeton, Mercer county, W. Virginia.

H. H. Cluff, J. C. Wagstaff—Madison, Boone county, W. Virginia.

W. J. Glade, E. M. Mansfield—Prestonsburg, Floyd county, Ky.

J. I. Tolman, M. Y. Cannon—Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, W. Virginia.

J. S. Campbell, J. W. Johnson, Logan, Logan county, W. Virginia.

W. N. Casper, W. H. Morrell—Hindman, Knott county, Ky.

J. G. Peart, T. R. Reeves—Owingsville, Bath county, Ky.

B. D. Wilcox, I. H. Langston, Whitesburg, Letcher county, Ky.

C. A. Higgins, L. C. Olsen—Music, Carter county, Ky.

F. G. Warnick, H. L. Baker—Putnam county, W. Virginia.

J. Taylor, T. H. B. Blackburn, jr.—Flemingsburg, Fleming county, Ky.

M. Spiers, W. D. Elder—Sandy Hook, Elliott county, Ky.

H. Bartholomew, T. E. Spackman—Vanceburg, Lewis county, Ky.

Thursday, November 21st, 1895, the first Elders of the West Virginia conference crossed the Big Sandy river and stood upon Kentucky's soil as laborers in this vineyard. Their wildest dreams of many friends and good treatment have more than sustained their reputation as a clever and hospitable people.

Since that time fifteen counties have been opened, and a host of friends made in each of them, a great many of which have since become members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are proud to state that all of them comprise the best and most

influential citizens of their respective counties.

Kentucky is noted for its Blue Grass region. Those people are rich, cultured and kind, and the Elders among them are received with every mark of courtesy.

Appointments are so numerous we cannot fill them all. Communications are constantly being received by the Elders, asking them to come to the writers' neighborhood. And it is not an uncommon sight to see a pair of Mormon Elders riding behind a fine horse in a good buggy, loaned by some honest-hearted Kentuckian. The kind people of this neighborhood (Pleasant Hill) brought fruit of all kinds and other dainties which make the heart grow glad, to our council meeting, Monday noon, and the brethren did ample justice to the spread.

Pleasant Hill is a garden of Eden from one end to the other, and the spirit of harmony which prevails here is truly gratifying, no one speaking ill of his neighbor and all uniting in making the hearts of the Elders grow glad. Every Elder left Pleasant Hill with a prayer in his heart for the people.

The citizens of Vanceburg were equally kind, the newspapers being exceedingly liberal and broad minded, the Vanceburg Sun coming out with a two-column article of praise. Such persons as Sam Pugh, brother of Congressman Pugh, Captain Rugless, Vanceburg's most prominent citizen, John Cox, J. W. Lawill and others, united in welcoming us into their city and rendering our stay pleasant.

Tuesday morning the "boys" assembled in front of the court house and had a group photo taken. The photographers, Rowsey & Bane, requested Elders Kimball and Rydalch, Elder Burrows who has been laboring in Lewis county and Elder E. S. Woodruff, clerk, to sit for their photos, which they did, as some of the citizens were very desirous to get them to remember our conference by.

Altogether the conference was a great success. Reporters for the great dailies of Cincinnati were in attendance, also the Louisville Courier-Journal, all of them gave us an impartial write-up. A long interview with President Kimball was published in the Courier-Journal.

The Elders all departed to their various fields feeling well and with a look of determination that promises well for the coming year.

Your Brethren in the Gospel,

W. E. RYDALCH,

President.

ELIAS S. WOODRUFF,

HARVEY W. CLUFF,

Clerks of Conference.

VANCEBURG, Lewis County, Kentucky,
August 8th, 1896.

TUARANGA CONFERENCE.

WAITANGI, June 27th, 1896.

The semi-annual district conference of the Tuaranga district of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened at Waitangi in the whare puni with the following named Elders from Zion present: President William Gardner and Ezra T. Richards, who was about to succeed him, Joseph M. Folkman, President of Hauraki conference, Moroni Lazenby and Albert E. Asper, his companion; Elder David H. Packard, president of the Gauranga conference,

and Wm. McDonald his companion. There were present some few Saints of the Hairoki conference and some from Tuaranga, a branch of this district, and the remainder were from this branch.

Brother Packard made a few opening remarks, also reported his district as being in a fair condition. Expressed himself as being highly pleased with this privilege of meeting under the auspices of a district conference and hoped that we would all be mutually benefited by this conference.

The new president, E. T. Richards, then addressed the conference, exhorted all to be diligent and firm in the Gospel, and to learn, and study the times and seasons, for we live in the last days, when God's judgments will sweep over the earth and consume the wicked. Let us not be like the people who live near Garawera at the time of the eruption, and who would not repent till it was too late; but let us search the Scriptures and find out the truth and then do it.

President Gardner invited all to attend our afternoon session, and not forget the words already spoken.

Afternoon services began at 3 p. m. Brother J. M. Folkman was the first speaker. He dwelt exclusively on the first principles of the Gospel, taking up each principle in its order and likening them to the first steps on the narrow path that leadeth to life eternal.

Brother Glibert Ormsby was next, using the 19th and 21st verses of the 8th chapter of Acts, showing that the Gospel cannot be bought with money; then spoke on the apostasy.

Patene followed the president of this branch. He endorsed all that had been said; he knew we were all mutually benefited by meeting together, and were all fed spiritually by listening to the words of the Lord. Dwelt briefly on the form of baptism.

At the evening session Elder Moroni Lazenby was called to speak, and did so on the subjects of repentance and baptism.

Brother Ge Awamiro (native) was next. Greeted all, and felt to rejoice in the good work, for the many good things that had been spoken. Compared the churches of the world with this, the true church of Christ.

President Gardner then spoke. Said that it was true that if the Maoris would join the Church that they would be blessed in number and in all that they set their hands to do. Showed that according to statistics the Maoris as a whole are fast decreasing, but the Church statistics show an increase in number. Showed how the prophecies of Joseph Smith had been fulfilled in the Saints gathering out to Zion, to the tops of the mountains; proved from Holy Writ that prophets are necessary, and without revelation the people cannot continue in the strict laws of God.

At the Sunday services, June 28th, 1896, Brother A. S. Asper was the first speaker, with J. M. Folkman as interpreter. Exhorted the Saints to be diligent and firm. Bore his testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel and the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

President Wm. Gardner followed. Bore his testimony to the power of the Priesthood and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Signs followed the believers today the same as they did anciently.

At the Sunday afternoon services the