

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.

Fond du Lac, Wis., March 30th, 1898.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, March 26th, 27th and 28th, the Wisconsin conference was held in Oakfield, and all present expressed themselves as believing it to be the best ever held in the state both by way of interesting the public and instruction to all in attendance. All the meetings were well attended, considering the condition of the weather. Among those in attendance were Elder L. A. Kelsch of Chicago, president of the Northern States mission; twelve Elders laboring as missionaries in the state, Saints and friends from Osh Kosh, Fond du Lac, Byron, and many from the surrounding country.

E. W. Croft, president of conference, presided.

The singing was one of the pleasing features of the gathering, and was conducted by Elder Croft. Many of the people expressed themselves as being more than pleased with this part of the meeting and said: "We don't know how it is, we never heard such singing."

Elder B. S. Rupp sang, "There is a place in Utah." Elder E. W. Croft also sang the old favorite, "Israel awake from your long silent slumber." Elder Croft, who is one of the sweet singers of Paris, Idaho, did justice to the selection he sang.

Saturday evening, Elder H. K. Christensen spoke very interestingly upon early Church history; Elder B. S. Rupp followed upon faith and works, and Elder E. W. Croft upon the necessity of revelation.

The meetings on Sunday were addressed by the following Elders: Jas. Neilson, A. Larsen, L. A. Kelsch, O. K. Hansen, L. T. Jones, H. K. Christensen, E. W. Croft, and on Monday evening Elders J. E. Boice, and R. M. Lynn, who were followed by Elder L. A. Kelsch. He kept the large congregation—for the hall was filled—interested for an hour.

Many invitations were given the Elders to visit the people in their homes, and we were treated loyally by Oakfield enterprising citizens.

Some of our friends walked 6 miles and others came by rail for 30 miles, to be present. The various principles of the Gospel were expounded plainly and a good spirit prevailed in all the meetings.

There was a number of applications for baptism.

At the Priesthood meeting held on from the above named place we were Monday forenoon, the Elders reported the condition of their fields, and judging from these reports some of the people of the State are beginning to investigate Mormonism, and we find the greatest drawback now is that the harvest is great and the laborers few, and we sincerely hope to see some more of our brethren join us in the near future.

Just before leaving the Tremont house, where we had been stopping, we sang some of our hymns which soon gathered a large crowd in and around the building, all of which followed us to the depot and insisted upon our singing in the waiting room. The agent gave his consent and we sang: Oh my Father, and Do What is Right. These so elated our friends that we were asked to sing again. The waiting room would scarcely hold the now rapidly gathering crowd and as the train pulled into the depot and the porter called all aboard, many eyes were moistened at bidding farewell to those who for three days, had done all in their power to make us happy, and our conference a success.

We have an invitation to hold our next conference in the picturesque little village which is the home of a good

many of the once sturdy tillers of the soil, but who now are quietly spending the evening of life in large, comfortable and beautifully furnished houses built by money honestly earned through thrift and industry.

There were a few, very few, when we went into the village Saturday that were ready to assist in driving us out of town, but upon our leaving, gave several of the Elders invitations to come and see them, if they ever come that way again.

The proceedings of our conference were published in all of the Fond du Lac papers.

The Elders were assigned to the following fields:

Green Bay, Wis., H. K. Christensen and G. D. Balls.

Appleton, Wis., E. R. Lindsay, O. K. Hansen.

Oshkosh, Wis., J. E. Boice, R. M. Lynn.

Fond du Lac, B. C. Rupp, L. T. Jones.

Milwaukee, Wis., E. W. Croft, A. Larsen, Jas. Neilson and Jas. C. Murdock.

The last four will labor in Fond du Lac county for a few weeks prior to going to their new field.

Saints having friends in this state will please send their addresses to the president of the conference.

Your brethren in the Gospel.

E. W. CROFT, Pres. Conf.

B. S. RUPP, Clerk.

ALBERTA.

The District of Alberta has a total length from north to south of 436 miles, and an average width of 250 miles, and contains an area of 100,000 square miles.

It is more particularly of southern Alberta I purpose writing with a view to answering the questions I so often have to answer as I get weary in using my pen.

The southern part is an open rolling country "devoid of timber, except a limited quantity along the streams and the foothills of the Rocky Mountains" in sufficient quantities, however, to improve our homesteads and aid the home-seekers to make a start in life.

These undulating prairies are covered with a luxuriant growth of nutritious grasses, chief among which is the "far famed bunch grass," on which our cattle, horses and sheep graze during the whole year.

The soil of the district is mostly a good rich, dark, clay loam, slightly intermingled with sand, and from six to eighteen inches deep underlaid with heavy strata of clay, adapted well for farming and stock-raising.

Our experience assures us that mixed farming pays the best. Our Mormon colonies that had their beginning here in the spring of 1887 have proved we can raise very good crops without irrigation. However, we need it as an assurance fund, and are trying to gain this needful advantage as fast as our strength will allow without contracting with that cruel master—debt.

Our climate will rank fairly well with that of Cache Valley, Utah, but not so dry in summer, and but little snow in the winter. In fact, we use wagons at least eleven months in the year. We can never depend upon the sleighing only a few days at a time, for the "Chinook" winds melt the snow every few days during the winter. Our summers are not unusually warm, for we are often visited by the breezes from the great Pacific ocean, which not only modify the heat in summer, but temper the elements in winter to that extent that our cold spells are of brief duration.

Fuel. What do you do for fuel? I am often asked. Our country abounds in coal that crops out of the ground in many places.

We raise excellent crops of wheat, oats, barley, rye, potatoes, and all of the hardy vegetables.

As to fruit, our country is not so well adapted, in consequence of our open winters and the often thawing and freezing. The smaller fruits, such as strawberries, gooseberries, currants and raspberries, can be successfully raised, but if we make a success of the larger fruits we must protect by wind-brakes composed of hedges of trees, etc.

Cardston is the center of our settlements, of which we have four, namely, Cardston, Leavitt, Mountain View and Aetna, covering enough territory for a small kingdom. We have about 1,200 people in these settlements and room for thousands more.

Our lands may be acquired either by purchase of the railway companies for about \$3 per acre, on the installment principle of ten payments with interest at six per cent or may be homesteaded to the extent of 160 acres each by paying a fee of \$10 down, and you are required to reside at least six months in each year for three years, accompanied by a "reasonable amount of cultivation." Only the one fee required, the government always favoring the honest homesteader. You can make your entry the same day you enter the Dominion, if desired, but before receiving the full benefit of the homestead law, you are required to take the oath of allegiance to the government that protects you. The time required to become a citizen is three years and the fee only \$2.

"All even numbered sections except 8 and 26 may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age." The latter is a bonanza for our boys.

Item No. 766 of the Canadian Customs Tariff, making settlers' effects free of duty, reads as follows:

"Wearing apparel, household furniture, professional books, implements and tools of trade, occupation or employment, which the settler has had in actual use for at least six months before removal to Canada, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, live stock, carts and other vehicles and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least one year before his removal to Canada, not to include machinery, or articles imported for use in any manufacturing establishment, or for sale; provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty, until after two years' actual use in Canada; provided also that under regulations made by the minister of customs, live stock when imported into Manitoba or the Northwest Territories by intending settlers, shall be free, until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council."

Neat cattle were formerly detained 90 days at the border in quarantine, but this has been abolished and the consequent delay and expense to the settler will no longer have to be encountered.

I will here add we have in Cardston a cheese factory, grist mill, three stores, two blacksmith shops, two carpenter shops, one tin shop, shoe shop and a meat market.

In Aetna a cheese factory and creamery combined, in Mountain View one creamery, carpenter shop and one smithy.

Taxes we have none, except those we have imposed on ourselves in our main settlement, Cardston. We have a light poll tax of one day of eight hours