

Southern States Mission Honors President Ben E. Rich.



FOREIGN MISSION FIELDS.

The following notes of the gospel work in England are from the Millennial Star of June 14:

Baptisms.

Two baptisms were performed at Plymouth, Bristol conference, May 30. Elder John W. B. Young officiating. The elders in this district have had much opposition, but they feel that the work of the Lord is progressing.

A baptismal service was held in the Rotherham district of the Sheffield conference on Sunday, June 3, at the Rotherham public baths, at which two souls were added to the fold, Elder Jasper Heworth officiating.

Changes in the Watford Branch.

Three very successful and interesting meetings of the saints and friends of the Watford district were held on Sunday, June 10, 1906. President Miles L. Jones and seven elders of the London conference were present. On account of the emigration of Brother George A. B. McIntyre, he was honorably released from the presidency of the Watford branch, and Brother Arthur Norton was sustained to act in that position.

"Not Mourners."

Elder Wilford A. Beesley writes from London under date of June 10, 1906, as follows:

"While laboring in the town of Bedford last summer in company with Elder Walter F. Stevens, each Wednesday evening we used to walk some three or four miles out to the village of Kempston for the purpose of holding street meetings. We would commence our singing with no one in sight, but by the time we had finished the second hymn, a number of persons could be seen at the windows or open doors. One of us would then commence speaking, and in a few minutes some 15 or 20 villagers had gathered themselves around us. We would then have a peaceful little meeting followed. We would then distribute our tracts, sell a few books, and after bidding them good-night, make our way back to our lodgings. This we continued to do week after week with neither signs of opposition nor approval, and so the season closed without any noticeable results.

"This spring two strangers had appeared in the village and commenced active missionary work and as a result of their efforts, on the 27th of May, 15 converts were baptized by immersion in the river Ouse. Strange to say, the missionaries refuse to divulge the name of the sect which they represent, except to members, but on the bottom of each tract that they publish are the words, 'Not Mourners.'

"Much interest has been aroused in Bedford by their preaching, and one or two London papers have published pictures showing the baptizing.

"From what can be learned, many of their teachings are similar to those of the Latter-day Saints, and we have an example of people not having the courage to accept the truth because of its ill repute, but being led astray by unauthorized teachers.

"This is but another evidence that the teachings of Joseph Smith are gradually being taught by the sects of the day, though they are ignorant of the source from whence they sprang. But let us hear what the Savior has said of such: 'Many will say to me, in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name done many mighty wonders? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'

THE NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE.

The Newcastle semi-annual conference convened at the Temperance hall, Middlesbrough, Sunday, June 10, 1906. President Heber J. Grant, president J. Marlow Taylor and 13 traveling elders of the Newcastle conference were in attendance.

At the morning session President Taylor welcomed all present, then presented the general and local authorities, which were unanimously sustained. The statistical and labor report for the seven months ending May 31, 1906, was also read, showing eight branches, 559 members. There had been 165,553 tracts and 5,895 books distributed, 11,587 Gospel conversations, 62 persons baptized. President Taylor was pleased to report the conference in a very healthy condition. Elders Edward S. Rich, Walter Cox, Jr., and Herbert Owen explained some of the first principles of the gospel of Christ.

President Grant delivered a discourse showing the necessity of a live religion. Said that we are saved in the kingdom of God, it will be by good hard work. The theory of man-made religions was faith without works—the old cry of something for nothing. They who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus and expect that He will do the rest nourish a false hope.

At the afternoon meeting Elders Jacob G. Richey, Willard Keesley, William White, Jr., and Vernon W. Fairbanks spoke respectively upon the first four principles of the gospel.

President Grant then showed the magnitude of the labor being done by the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Said there had been 2,700,000 tracts given away last year in Great Britain alone, and all this to awaken a living faith in God.

In the evening meeting Elders Jas. McFarlane, Joseph A. P. Everett, Vincent E. Wootton, Luther M. Brown, spoke respectively upon the Godhead, apostasy, restoration and divine authority.

President Grant referred to the disciples which are in the world, even among those who are teachers of religion. He showed how the gospel

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One quart milk, 1 egg, 1/2 teaspoonful baking powder, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup oil, 1/2 cup water. Mix equal amount of water to make a batter when added. Bake in muffin tins. Try with a little more water. If more water is used, they are too soft.

Elder George F. Webb, who is about to return home.

HUGH BROWN,
Clerk of Conference.
—Millennial Star.

THE AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE.

The Amsterdam semi-annual conference convened at the Hall, De Witte Straat 10, Amsterdam, Sunday, June 10, 1906. The following Elders were in attendance: Pres. Alex. Nibley and LeGrand Richards from the mission office; Pres. Wells L. Brimhall and Elder Heber J. Grant from the Southern States mission. During this time there have been nearly 1,500 converts, about 100 baptisms, and have given him their hearty and united support in the work. It can be said, and that truthfully too, that Elder Rich has enjoyed the fullest confidence of all his brethren; for his personality, and the way he has acted towards those under him, both in giving counsel and directing classes in the church, together with the sincere devotion he has shown for the work of the Lord, have united the hearts of both president and elders to the trust and confidence that have been placed in him. About three weeks ago, the associates of President Rich in the mission headquarters, organized themselves in a committee, with the object in view of surprising the president on the anniversary of his birth. Accordingly they decided to issue an invitation to every class who had labored in the work during the past eight years, asking them to contribute an amount not to exceed 25 cents towards a fund to be used in purchasing an office desk and chair for the president. The mission home has been purchased and paid for at an original cost of \$4,500, with an additional expense on repairs and furnishings of about \$1,000. Since the property was purchased, it has increased in value about 50 per cent on account of the increased rise in real estate in the city. There have been built 10 or 12 church buildings in different parts of the mission, among which is the beautiful church at Jacksonville, Fla., which represents an outlay of about \$200,000. The labor on this building, as well as that done on most of the other churches, has been performed by the elders. The building at Jacksonville is as well built, and as finely furnished as any other church of its size in the city.

The influence of the mission is felt for good throughout the city, especially in a commercial, if not so much in a religious way, and its standing with the rulers of the state is such that orders for clerical tickets by letter or wire, will be honored by all of the roads over which our elders travel. The mission to move its elders from any point within her borders. This influence extends also to the steamship lines along the coast touching the states in the mission. With the merchants in the resident city, the mission has the distinction of being listed with the highest commercial standing, and so also in this true with the banks where business is done.

President Rich has traveled about 120,000 miles during the eight years he has been in the south, and six years of the time he has had his family here with him.

J. H. STOKES, JR.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

JUAREZ STAKE.

The quarterly conference of the Juarez stake was held at Colonia Juarez on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17, and was attended by representatives from every ward in Sonora.

On the second page of the first leaf appears a preface, signed by all of the members of the office force, the last paragraph of which reads as follows:

"In behalf of all of the elders who have labored under him to whom these honors are shown, we desire to say, Brother Rich, that those sentiments expressed and the gifts presented are intended to be but the index to our souls; therefore, whenever you read what we have herein said of you, and when you read the words of respect and friendship, remember that these are indicative of the facts that your labors have not been overlooked or unappreciated by your companions, and your admiration has been such that it has led every elder who has filled a mission under you, to regard you as his friend and brother, and to look upon you as a man of God, who can truly impress these sentiments upon your heart and make you realize that we are indeed your friends and your companions, then and there, when you are given the reward with all the compensation anticipated."

The desk and chair were brought to the house on the afternoon of the day on which the presentation was to be made, and put in a room adjoining the parlors, behind the portieres which hid the folding doors. After paying all expenses there was sufficient money left with which to elaborately decorate the front of the desk with one, two, five and ten-dollar bills. These were presented from every pigeon hole and drawer in the desk and presented in a most imposing and beautiful scene to the eyes. At 7:30 in the evening, President Rich was invited to join the office force in the parlors at a social gathering, and when all were present, it was announced that a little program had been prepared and that the rest of the evening would be spent in exercises commemorative of the eighth anniversary of his presidency over the mission. This was a matter of surprise to Elder Rich, and when—after singing and prayer—the magnificent volume of sentiments was produced and sentiment after sentiment read from elders who have labored here, he was fairly astonished. The expressions of love and friendship, and the words of his companions touched his heart most because of the sadness of those memories, and the thoughtfulness of the loved ones of the elders in remembering him. This number of the program was followed by a quartet, after which the desk and chair were rolled forth from their concealment and presented to the guests of honor. No person could have been more surprised than was Elder Rich when he beheld those tokens of love and respect from all of his missionary companions. And it can only be said that his heart bubbled over with gratitude to the elders for their goodwill, confidence and love, and to the guests of honor. He said that his brethren had overestimated his worth, and that he only wished that he was as worthy as they thought him to be. "Nothing in this world," he said, "outside of the kindness of my family, is dearer to me than that volume of sentiments. I appreciate more than I am able to express that beautiful desk and chair, but you must pardon me for valuing this volume most." He thanked the elders sincerely for their mark of friendship, and the sincerity of his heart and the expression of his kind face, was eminently visible to those of his companions who were present on that occasion. The Elders' Journal will contain his letter of appreciation expressing his gratitude to the elders for their act of kindness.

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Special Correspondence.

Chattanooga, Tenn., June 20.—The 19th day of June, 1906, will be one that President Ben E. Rich of the Southern States mission will never forget; and it will be one too that those who were with him on that memorable occasion at the mission home at Chattanooga, Tennessee, will remember as one of the most joyful events of their lives. There is no calling or position in life outside of the kindred ties of the home, that brings the hearts of men nearer together than does the association of companions in the missionary field, and there is no man who enjoys more of the confidence and love of his brethren which comes from that association, than does President Rich.

On the day above mentioned, it was just eight days since Elder Rich entered upon his labors as president of the Southern States mission. During this time there have been nearly 1,500 converts, about 100 baptisms, and have given him their hearty and united support in the work. It can be said, and that truthfully too, that Elder Rich has enjoyed the fullest confidence of all his brethren; for his personality, and the way he has acted towards those under him, both in giving counsel and directing classes in the church, together with the sincere devotion he has shown for the work of the Lord, have united the hearts of both president and elders to the trust and confidence that have been placed in him. About three weeks ago, the associates of President Rich in the mission headquarters, organized themselves in a committee, with the object in view of surprising the president on the anniversary of his birth. Accordingly they decided to issue an invitation to every class who had labored in the work during the past eight years, asking them to contribute an amount not to exceed 25 cents towards a fund to be used in purchasing an office desk and chair for the president. The mission home has been purchased and paid for at an original cost of \$4,500, with an additional expense on repairs and furnishings of about \$1,000. Since the property was purchased, it has increased in value about 50 per cent on account of the increased rise in real estate in the city. There have been built 10 or 12 church buildings in different parts of the mission, among which is the beautiful church at Jacksonville, Fla., which represents an outlay of about \$200,000. The labor on this building, as well as that done on most of the other churches, has been performed by the elders. The building at Jacksonville is as well built, and as finely furnished as any other church of its size in the city.

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and Chihuahua. In addition to the presiding authorities of the stake and wards were favored by the presence of Elders Teasdale and Clawson of the quorum of the twelve.

President A. W. Ivins reported the general condition of the stake as very favorable with the exception of Oaxaca and Morelos wards, which suffered so severely by the unprecedented flood in the Dapive river a few months ago, in which almost every residence in the town of Oaxaca was washed away, with every acre of farm land.

The various ward priesthood quorums and auxiliary organizations were reported in fair condition. P. C. Haynie reported the Oaxaca ward, in consequence of the flood, which had washed away 50 homes, many had removed, and instead of a bishopric the place is in charge of Elder Haymore as presiding elder.

The addresses and timely instructions of the visiting brethren, the presidency of the stake and others were much appreciated by the people.

Saturday evening a priesthood meeting was held, at which much valuable instruction was given by Presidents Ivins and Heilman Pratt and Elder Teasdale and others.

The conference was greatly enlivened by the choice music of the Juarez choir, who, as leader also of the Juarez silver band, now playing in a El Paso theater, has been indefatigable in his efforts to cultivate the vocal and instrumental abilities of his pupils, and with marked success.

J. H. MARTINEAU.

PANGUICH STAKE.

The quarterly conference of the Panguich stake of Zion was held at Panguich June 2 and 3.

There had been appointed some of the leading brethren to attend the conference but on account of the water in the Sevier river being so high that it made traveling dangerous through the Circleville canyon and also some parts of the railroad, they were unable to attend.

There were present of the local authorities Presidents Cameron and Steele of the stake presidency, eight high counselors and nine bishops of the various wards with presidents of quorums and auxiliary organizations.

Various principles of the Gospel were dwelt upon, the greater stress being on the commandment "Seek first the Kingdom of God." The Saints were admonished to devote more time to the training of the young, and to avoid idleness.

Elder Jos. S. Barney offered his resignation as a high counselor and Elder James M. Sargent was chosen to fill the vacancy.

Conference adjourned for three months to be held at Panguich, on Sept. 1 and 2.

HANS P. IPSON, Clerk.

UNION STAKE.

The regular quarterly conference of the Union stake of Zion was held at La Grande, Oregon, June 23, 1906. The visiting brethren from Salt Lake City were Elders George Albert Smith of the quorum of the Twelve and Joseph W. McMurrin of the first council of seventy.

Franklin S. Bramwell, stake president, his counselors, all of the high council and all but two of the bishops of the stake were also in attendance.

At Saturday's session it was possible for all who came to get into the most-hospitable, owing to the very busy season for farmers and beet growers especially, but on Sunday it was not possible to accommodate more than three-fourths of the people who came. It is hoped to have a magnificent building, now in course of construction, completed in time for the next quarterly conference.

President Bramwell reported the stake in a good condition. The Saints generally trying to live their religion and live at peace with each other. The various organizations of the stake are doing excellent work. The reports from the bishops of the various wards were very encouraging. The health of the people is exceptionally good.

Bishop Geo. Stoddard of the La Grande ward, a man of extensive lumbering interests in this country, said that he never experienced a time in this country when the prospects of the peo-

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ple were so bright as they are this year and times so prosperous, and suggested that now is the time to prepare for adversity.

The visiting brethren were most happy in their remarks, speaking on those topics that are most necessary for the people of the stake and bearing testimony to the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The choir of 60 voices under the very able direction of Wm. K. Davis and the "Latter-day Saint quartet" composed of C. P. Ferrin, H. M. Monson, W. K. Davis and Bradley G. Brannan, were featured which added very materially to the grand success of the conference.

CHARLTON P. FERREN,
Stake Clerk.

KANAB STAKE.

The quarterly conference of Kanab stake was held at Glendale, Kanab county, Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

There were present on this occasion, Edwin D. Woolley reported the stake presidency, three members of the high council, five bishops and representatives of auxiliary organizations. President E. D. Woolley reported the stake in fair condition and spoke of the prosperous outlook this season.

The instructions of the stake president, and others were timely and of a practical character, enjoying loyalty to the cause of God and prospering living. The reports of the condition of the stake, and of the priesthood organizations were most encouraging.

Sunday forenoon was given to the sisters for their Relief Society conference. Mrs. Artimida Seemiller, president of Relief societies in this stake, took charge. The reports of the various societies were encouraging. In general Sunday afternoon the general assembly of the stake was held. The reports were presented and unanimously sustained.

FRANCIS L. PORTER,
Stake Clerk.

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