

MISCELLANEOUS.

NORTH ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.

CHICAGO, April 27th, 1897.

A most successful conference was held here in Chicago, commencing Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a. m., in Wicker Park hall, 501 North avenue, and which lasted two days.

We were favored with the presence of Elder Lewis A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission, and the following Elders from Utah: John N. Davis, president of the North Illinois conference; John F. F. Dorius, C. L. Monch, Gustavus Adolphus Ohlson, Charles A. Haacke, Edward P. Midgley, Christopher Burton, Charles Jensen, O. O. Richen, W. J. Harrison, Lewis McCarry, Joseph Hulme and Uriah G. Miller.

The meetings were presided over by Elder John N. Davis. Reports were given by Elders W. J. Harrison and McCarry about their labors in Indiana, where they had met with very good success in spreading the printed word, the Voice of Warning. The Elders had been treated very kindly by the people, and felt well in their labors.

Elders Charles Jensen and O. O. Richen had labored for the last six months in La Salle county, with headquarters at Ottawa, where they had distributed many tracts and gained many friends. They said they had been blessed wonderfully of the Lord, having been preaching the Gospel without purse or scrip. They found many people who were acquainted with the Mormons some fifty years ago. It was interesting to them to visit the Hon. John Miller, at Freedom, La Salle county, who, as a member of the Church, made the Elders welcome to his beautiful farm home. He is about 76 years of age, has visited Utah twice, has been acquainted with the Latter-day Saints from the days of Nauvoo, and is a man well informed, religiously, also politically, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all the people in the neighborhood. He has a host of friends and relatives in Utah, especially at Mill Creek, Salt Lake county.

Elder Uriah G. Miller, whose mission had been in Indiana, had visited his relative, John Miller, in Indiana; had enjoyed his labors as a missionary, and had been well provided for, as the hearts of the people had been open to extend kindness to him.

Elders Gustavus A. Ohlson, Chris. L. Monch and John F. F. Dorius reported about their labors in Chicago, intended to be chiefly among the Scandinavians; but they had taken their part equally with the other Elders, speaking the English language, and had been blessed in their efforts.

Elder Charles A. Haack had worked among the Germans, but he, like the Scandinavian Elders, had to speak in both languages.

Elder Midgley, (who also helped us so nicely in our meetings, by playing the organ) reported his labors, which had been only a short time since he came to Chicago. He had tried to make the people acquainted with the message of the Gospel, by visiting their houses and distributing tracts.

At all our meetings every Elder had a opportunity to speak; and the principles of faith, repentance and baptism,

also the reception of the Holy Ghost, were treated upon very interestingly.

Elder Uriah Miller gave a very pointed lecture upon the divinity of the Book of Mormon, Joseph Hulme treated upon the resurrection, in a scientific and edifying manner. The unity of the members in the Church and divine authority, was spoken on by Elder Midgley. Elder Christopher Burton also treated upon the principle of faith; also spoke of the Book of Mormon as a divine record of the people who were the aboriginal inhabitants. Elder L. A. Kelsch said he was well satisfied with the labors of the Elders, not only in this conference, but in the various conferences that he has attended lately in this mission; impressed the Elders with the necessity of being exemplary men in all things; spoke of the restoration of the Holy Priesthood to Joseph the Prophet, as one of the greatest blessings to this generation. He also spoke, with great impressiveness, upon the duties that devolve upon the Latter-day Saints.

Elder John N. Davis, conference president, expressed satisfaction; was especially pleased with the work of the Elders. The good seed which had been sown would surely spring up and bear fruit. He advised the spreading of our literature among the people.

Sunday afternoon, J. F. F. Dorius read the statistical and financial reports of the branch and conference, which showed that a good work had been done, and that the Saints, through their willingness, had helped to maintain the hall which had been hired for our meetings in the city; the Relief society also had done very well in the short time since it had been organized February 3rd, 1896.

At the last meeting, on Sunday evening, the hall was well filled with Saints and strangers, and we were favored with the presence of Elder Lorin Farr, of Ogden, who had been in Chicago on a visit. He gave a sketch of the great latter-day work from the beginning; and as he had lived with the Prophet Joseph Smith while a young man, he bore a powerful testimony to the sterling character of that man, and to the divinity of his great mission, and repeated several times that Joseph Smith was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. Elder Farr was listened to with great attention and much pleasure by all present.

At this session Elder Davis presented the general Church authorities, who were sustained by the faith and prayers of the Saints. Also as the president of the Northern States mission, Elder L. A. Kelsch; conference president, Elder John N. Davis; Elder Christopher Burton as mission clerk, and all the Elders laboring in this mission. Thus ended another conference and enjoyable time in Chicago. As we understand it, the last October conference was the first ever held in Chicago by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In mentioning the Relief society, I wish to remark that they have been willing to help the Elders financially; and, even at our conference, brought their baskets filled with refreshments, so that, between meeting, the tables were spread, and instead of scattering about, could enjoy a sociable time together.

The hall we meet in is the same that was rented last fall. It is a commodious building, and we feel greatly favored in having obtained such a good place. The proprietor, and all who have to do with the building, treat us with the greatest respect and kindness. I also wish to state, that any communications to any of the Elders laboring in this North Illinois conference, can be addressed to Northern States mission, 143 Le Moyne St., Chicago, Illinois.

Before closing, I desire to express our sincere thanks to the DESERET NEWS, for the aid it is to the missionaries. To those away from home, it is as a refreshing breeze from the mountains,

JOHN N. DAVIS,

President of North Illinois Conference.

JOHN F. F. DORIUS, Clerk.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

SAN DIEGO, California,

April 26th, 1897.

Elder E. H. Nye, president of the California mission. In company with his wife and five Elders, arrived in the Southern California conference, and the party was joined at Los Angeles by Elders laboring in that city and vicinity, reaching here April 25th, where everything was in readiness for regular semi-annual conference, which convened April 25th, at 10 o'clock a. m. Three meetings were held, with a larger attendance than at any previous conference.

After opening exercises, Elder P. T. Wright, president of the conference (now released to return home), made welcoming remarks, and reported the conference in a prosperous condition. He stated that the morning and afternoon services would be devoted to reading general reports by Elders from the various fields, which plan was carried out.

Elders J. D. Irvine and W. C. Horsley, who had been laboring in San Diego and Los Angeles, respectively, reported that difficulty had been experienced in getting people to the halls, which condition had suggested street preaching as a direct means of preaching the Gospel, and an indirect way of filling the halls on Sundays. The suggestion had been carried out, and street meetings had proved successful. Large, intelligent audiences, approaching the hundreds, had listened with profound and respectful attention, and the fruits had been manifest in the disappearance of much prejudice and the acquisition of many friends. Some baptisms were directly attributable to this class of work.

Elders German E. Ellsworth and G. T. Harding, whose labors for the past six months, had been confined mostly to Orange and San Diego counties, respectively, where they had traveled without purse and scrip, made very flattering reports relative to the mode of traveling pursued. As they journeyed from town to town appointing and holding meetings, they were usually received with consideration and sympathy sufficient to prevent them from suffering for necessities. They were elated over their experiences.

Elders Charles Brown, J. S. Berry, E. A. Bushman, John Y. Smith, Willard Scowcroft and E. M. Whitesides made reports which were satisfactory and gratifying, as was also those of the previous speakers. Each report was char-