

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Elder Ed S. Jenkins, with the exception of the presidency of the British mission, when he obtained his release, was the oldest long-service missionary in that field. He left his home in the Fifteenth ward on August 8, 1896, and returned on the last day of October last. During his sojourn in Great Britain his ministerial efforts were concentrated in the towns of Halifax and Hull of the Leeds conference. He enjoyed his labors exceedingly especially in the latter town where there is situated a constantly growing and flourishing branch of the Church. He was blessed with the proverbial good health and spirits.

The twenty-second ward was augmented last week by the return of Elder Brigham Haslam from an extended visit to the Southern states. In response to a missionary call he left his home on May 16, 1898, since which period he had been laboring in the labor of love throughout the state of Georgia. During the latter part of his mission he traveled in the interest of the Sunday school in that state and further a field into Georgia. Not the least interesting part of his mission were visits from time to time to the Jacksonville military camps where he was thrown in contact with familiar faces from home.

Elder H. P. Nielson of the Twenty-second ward, returned from a prosperous mission in Denmark on October 28, 1898. He left his home just two years and thirteen days previously. For the first nine months of his labors he canvassed the Aalborg conference after which he was appointed as traveling Elder in the Aarhus conference, where subsequently he was placed in charge as president. He reports the work to be progressing in Denmark, but great care must be taken in order to avoid banishment upon the information of those who make it their business to fight against the principles of truth.

Elder Nielson reports having enjoyed a good spirit together with excellent health.

Elder Norman Lee of the Third ward, Brigham City, left for a mission to Sweden on October 10th 1898. Upon his arrival in Scandinavia he was assigned to labor in the Skane conference, where he remained for twelve months until he was transferred to the Stockholm conference. Elder Lee suffered from indifferant health during the last eighteen months of his mission, but despite that drawback he reported that he enjoyed his labors very much. He arrived at his home October 8, 1898.

Elder E. A. Larkin of Ogden, who, on Nov. 9, 1895, left on a mission to Europe, returned home recently, and called at the "News" office this week. His mission took him through Germany and Switzerland. He enjoyed himself very much, and says the work of the ministry is progressing better in that section of country at present than ever before in its history.

STAKE PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the Priesthood of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion was held in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Saturday, November 5th, commencing at 11 a. m. President Angus M. Cannon and Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

On the stand, in addition to the presidency of the Stake named, were Patriarch John Smith and George Goddard, and some other brethren.

Singing. Prayer by Elder George B. Wallace.

Roll called, showing as follows: One High Councilor, six Patriarchs, Elder

George B. Wallace of the presidency of the High Priests' quorum, nine presidents of the Seventy's quorums, and five home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented, excepting the Ninth, Fifteenth and Twenty-fourth city wards, and Draper and East Jordan of the country. The Second, Third, Tenth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding officers. The Lesser Priesthood was represented by members from the First, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second city wards, and from Big Cottonwood and South Cottonwood.

The Y. M. M. I. associations of the Stake were represented by Superintendent Richard R. Lyman.

On the recommendation of their respective Bishops, eleven young brethren received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, each of whom promised to faithfully honor and magnify his calling as Elder if ordained.

Elder Andrew Jensen, representing the Historian's office, placed before the meeting a plan recommended by the First Presidency, and instituted for the purpose of raising means toward the erection of a new Historian's office in Salt Lake City, together with a fire proof building, in which to preserve the records of the Church. The speaker referred to the present building occupied by the Church historian and his assistants as being altogether too small and inadequate for the present purposes, and in order to raise means for the erection of new buildings, a work of reference on Church history is being published under the title of Church Chronology.

The proceeds of the sale of that work is to be used for the purpose named, and the Bishops and leading men were called upon to lay the matter before the people in their respective wards, and take such steps as they might deem proper to obtain a very large and popular sale for the work of which 25,000 were being printed.

Elder Joseph E. Taylor read two circular letters received from the office of the Mutual Improvement Era. He stated that this magazine should be in the homes of all the Latter-day Saints, for it contained matter that was not only interesting but highly instructive. We were asked to use our influence to secure 1815 subscribers in this Stake, which was our pro rata of the 10,000 subscribers necessary to make the magazine self-sustaining, and to enable the publishers to continue to send, as heretofore, one copy free to each missionary who is now or may hereafter be laboring abroad, this number approaching nearly 1,700.

Brother Taylor also spoke briefly in support of the Pioneer monument fund, and suggested that competent and wide awake persons be selected and appointed in each Bishop's ward, to solicit subscriptions in order that the amount still due from this Stake, which is about \$4,000 may be obtained without any unnecessary delay. The faithful performance of every duty and fulfilling every obligation resting upon us was strongly emphasized by the speaker.

Elder Richard R. Lyman also spoke in support of the Improvement Era similar to Brother Taylor, and hoped the magazine would have such a large circulation as it merited.

President Angus M. Cannon fully endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers, and hoped the Latter-day Saints would aid all they could in enterprises named.

Speaking of the support of the poor in this Stake of Zion he thought that

the \$50,000 paid out annually by the Church for this purpose should be greatly lessened. As to the aged and deserving poor among us he hoped these would be carefully looked after and attended to, but he thought that those able to work—the young and able-bodied, who eat the substance of their parents and grandparents, should work for their own living. He thought that we as a people did wrong in encouraging this class of idlers, and feared that we were pauperizing some by feeding them year after year; that it had occurred to his mind upon reflecting on this subject that it would be wise for us to have an advising committee to consult with the Bishopric of the several wards regarding the circumstances of many people who now draw support from the savings of the tilters. His heart, he said, went out in sympathy and love for the aged and infirm and otherwise helpless people, and realized that it was our duty to seek out and supply their essential wants, for such individuals were not usually clamorous nor were they inclined to make their necessities known.

We have it often brought to our notice that settlements remote from this city are independent of the Church, and support their own poor, yet, at the same time, we know that the poor from those settlements crowd into the city, oftentimes making the plea that they like to attend our religious services here, and labor in the Temple. We can appreciate these feelings of persons nearing the other side and our Bishops labor faithfully to provide for them, but believe there are great numbers who throng our city and indulge in idleness and patronize amusements, that were they living in the country their labor could be made to contribute to their support, and we would not be as conscious as we are now that there are idlers eating up the substance of the laborers, contrary to the will of God.

We urge the Bishops in the country to induce those who are poor to remain with them; also to influence as many others as they can to go to the country where their labor may be made available to support them.

There is another class of people that I would call the attention of the Bishops to. It is where there are individuals in good circumstances who are inclined to neglect their kindred less fortunate than themselves, and with indifference let them become a charge upon the Church, forgetting the moral obligations they are under to care for them. If people will neglect their kindred and close their hearts and ears against the appeals of the truly needy, they should be looked and dealt with, as they are unworthy our fellowship in the Lord.

President Cannon then announced that the Stake conference would commence on Saturday, December 10th, at 10 a. m., and asked the Bishops to give notice to the people of their wards of this that there be a full attendance of the Saints at the first meeting of the conference.

Adjourned until then with singing. Benediction by Patriarch Alonzo H. Raleigh.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.

Ever since the appointment and organization of the state board of health, there has been more or less of a disinclination on the part of officers in different portions of the state to appoint local boards and otherwise comply with the provision of the statute. This failure on their part caused Secretary Beatty of the State board of health, who has been seeking an enforcement of the law, to solicit an opinion from Attorney General Bishop on the matter. The interrogatory and reply are, by request, herewith given in full: