



FROM FAR AND NEAR

missions, Elders Cannon and Young having come to Rotterdam for the express purpose of conferring with their new president, in the evening an entertainment was given in Excelsior hall for the visitors. President Grant and daughters left for London and Liverpool at 10 o'clock the same evening, greatly pleased with their visit.

DR. WISHART AT IT.

He Preaches an Anti-Mormon Discourse at Omaha.

In a letter dated Omaha, Neb., Feb. 29, and signed by Elders Eugene Hamilton and James E. Stevens, the writer says:

The Elders laboring in Omaha noticed in the World-Herald, a paper of this place, of the 29th of Feb., notice that Dr. E. S. Wishart, of Salt Lake City, would lecture on "The Mormon Question" in the First Presbyterian church. Two of us attended the lecture.

On arriving at the church we asked permission of the usher to occupy a front seat, which was granted us.

The church, which I should judge, would seat about 600, was well filled.

After the usual exercises the doctor proceeded to unfold the "message" which he had brought.

His text was 1 Peter 2. In his opening remarks he stated that all the truth could not be told, as it would not be proper coming from the lips of a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In speaking of the Church he said, "It is the most perfect and compact organization on the earth, or that ever was on the earth."

He spoke at length on the receiving of revelation by the heads of "The Mormon Hierarchy" and a number of other subjects.

The doctor was very clever in striking an attitude once in a while and a smothered laugh could be heard coming from the listeners.

After lingering on polygamy for some time, he said that every Presbyterian ought to have a Doctrine and Covenants and Book of Mormon, at which statement Elder Stevens put in, "Amen!" with a loud voice. It rather startled the doctor, and it was some time before he could gather his wits.

We learned the "Mormon hierarchy" claimed to rule the whole world. He said, "The Mormons claim that it is the only legal government in the world."

There was a young man from Brigham City, he said, "who was rejected from going on a mission, because he wanted to run his own business and was against the will of the authorities. The people, however, have no right to their own minds."

He then went on to state that our religion and politics were combined.

"Mr. Snoot," he said, "is all right personally, but he is a member of an organization, which, if it could gain power, would take possession of the United States government. I know these sentiments stir the American blood but it is the facts as they exist."

In closing he said, "The Mormons are doing a good work for their poor people, and as far as the common people are concerned, we have no quarrel at all with them, but it is their principles."

In all the 15 years I have been in Utah, I have never been asked to preach in any Mormon church. But when asked if he was ever refused, he said, "No."

I hope that some of the good Bishops will kindly open their church doors to the doctor and give him a chance to explain himself in his field of labor. He claimed not to be an enemy of the "Mormons," but why is he out here trying to poison the minds of the people against them?

The work is going on as well as can be expected in this part and all the Elders are enjoying good health.

SOUTHWESTERN STATES.

Agitation It is Claimed, Causes Many to Investigate.

The subjoined communication is signed by Sisters Belle Richards and Laura Boley. It is dated Kansas City, Mo., March 4, 1904.

The missionaries of the Southwestern States mission, laboring in Missouri, held their semi-annual conference at Kansas City, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28. All the Elders and lady missionaries, 28 in number, were in attendance. We were thankful for this, as on some former occasions some had been deprived of this privilege on account of illness.

The first public session was held at Missouri headquarters, 1405 Locust. It was well attended. Elder James H.

Stevens spoke upon the meaning of "Truth." Elder Don C. Clayton then showed by examples how to lead a Christian life. Elder Orson H. Hickman gave some practical suggestions as to how to live the Gospel. Elder Ephraim I. Blair spoke upon the apostasy and the restoration of the Gospel. After a selection by a quartet, Sister Mary Ockander spoke upon the necessity of teaching the revelations of the Lord.

The Sabbath meeting convened in the Academy of Music hall at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Elder Simeon R. Stieritz, president of Missouri conference, was the first speaker at the morning session.

A quartet rendered a selection, after which Sister Belle Richards addressed the audience.

The quartet again favored the congregation, by singing "Away with our fears," and Elder Gilbert Thatcher was called upon to speak.

In the evening, after the opening preliminaries, Elder Attenall Wootton, Jr., recited "Oh My Father," and commented on the pre-existent state of man. A solo was beautifully sung by Elder John W. Shurtliff, accompanied by Elder Samuel F. Whitaker, and Elder James G. Duffin, president of the Southwestern States mission, then spoke upon the "Problems of Mormonism."

A pleasant feature of the conference was the singing led by Elder Walter W. Morrison, accompanied by Samuel T. Whitaker.

Five Priesthood meetings were held during the conference. The missionaries gave reports of their labors for the past six months. It is evident that there is a decided change in the opinion of the people of this state regarding the "Mormon" religion.

Progressive methods for getting the Gospel before the people have been adopted, with gratifying results. The public agitation against the work of the Lord have the effect of causing many intelligent persons to investigate the issues from the "Mormon" point of view. Opposition arouses an interest in the public mind to know something about "this sect" that is everywhere spoken against. And many who do not have faith to accept the truth, become friendly to the work.

The missionaries go forth in the power of humility and faith and carry with them a spirit of brotherly love, peace and a knowledge into the homes of the people.

The Elders have returned to their fields determined to labor more zealously for the cause of truth.

IN THE NORTHERN STATES.

A Brief Report of the Missionary Labor in that Field.

Elder Heber C. Speltz writes from Chicago, March 11:

Just now Chicago is enjoying a brief respite from the severity of the weather of the winter months. The winter has been an exceptionally long and cold one and any indication of the return of "verdant spring" is hailed with delight.

The inclemency of the passing season has, however, placed little or no check upon the progress of the work of the Lord in these parts. It is forging slowly, but surely ahead. Much activity has been displayed by the Elders in house to house work, even in the face of the coldest weather, so that a general good feeling prevails among all.

During the past three weeks Elder Asahel H. Woodruff has been engaged in holding conferences in Southern Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, and returns with encouraging reports from all those fields of labor.

Through the untiring efforts of a number of friends, who are also influential people in these states, many once prejudiced people are beginning to see the senselessness of the crusade against the United States Senator Snoot and the Latter-day Saints. In this city recently, a W. C. T. U. lecturer, Mrs. Wood, voluntarily gave up slandering the "Mormons," because she could not get the people to come to hear her, though some of the largest churches were at her disposal.

Remaining spring conferences will be held on Sunday and Sunday afternoon, four consecutive weeks in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Iowa, beginning Saturday, March 5. Every effort is being made to make these gatherings a great success. Our conference for Northern Illinois will convene in this city on the 19th and 20th inst., and the endeavors of the Elders and resident Saints to make it an event of the year will be ably seconded by our Utah students, whose numbers are about 30 in this city engaged in the study of art, music, medicine, law, etc. Sister Lizzie Thomas Edwards, who has rendered efficient services to the branch during the winter by her artistic singing, will also be with us remaining until she completes her studies at the Chicago Music college.

On Sunday, the 28th ult., we had the pleasure of a visit from Apostle A. O. Woodruff and Dr. J. M. Tanner, both of whom addressed our congregation, morning and evening. The following day the Elders met in Priesthood meeting and reported their labors and listened to the instructions of our beloved president and his brother, A. O. Woodruff.

Though a manifest indifference to religion prevails extensively throughout the northern states, the outlook is very bright in a number of localities. Our hardest field, perhaps, is to be found right here in Chicago, but we hope to do must effective work even here during the coming summer, preaching on the streets.

The "News" is much appreciated, and is a potent means of allaying prejudice when placed in the hands of friends and investigators.

Are Well Treated.

Elder Francis M. Schaefer, writing from Watkins, Ill., Feb. 27, says, in part:

I arrived here Jan. 25 in a howling snowstorm, and at once set out in search of quarters. After a few hours we were rewarded by finding a nice room with a private family.

We have been treated royally. They gladly accept our literature, and the better part is they read it, and seem pleased to discuss the doctrines of Christ. We have been invited to spend a number of pleasant hours in their parlor, talking of the glorious principles of the Gospel of our Lord and Master.

We have met a number of good friends in this city, whom I believe, will see the necessity of accepting the Gospel.

This is indeed a day of gleaming, and not many good kernels (so to speak) are found, but all good grain is precious to our heavenly Father.

Our conference will meet at Chicago, March 19th and 20th.

The "News" and Era are always welcome visitors.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

TOOELE STAKE.

The Quarterly Conference Held At Grantsville.

Grantsville, Tooele Co., Feb. 29.—The quarterly conference of the Tooele stake was held in Grantsville last Saturday and Sunday. Stake President U. S. Gowans presiding. There were present on the stand the stake presidency and Elder J. Golden Kimball of the First Council of Seventies, with a good representation of Bishops from the various wards, members of the High Council, and representative men of the stake.

The first meeting on Saturday morning was well attended. The time was mostly taken up by the report of Bishop R. F. Richards of the various wards, members of the High Council, and representative men of the stake.

The speakers in the afternoon were F. S. Richards of the stake presidency and Elder Kimball, who spoke on the ideal life of a Latter-day Saint.

After opening exercises, President Gowans presiding, there was the opening exercise of the Sunday schools, which was held in the Academy building, after which Elder William Spry, stake superintendent of Sunday schools, and Elder F. S. Richards addressed the pupils on the importance of Sunday school work. Elders Gowans and Kimball spoke on the duty of parents to be in harmony with the officers of the Sunday school.

Sunday afternoon the large congregation assembled in the Grand Opera House, as the other places were too small to accommodate the people. After the sacrament Elder Gowans presented the report of the local authorities of the Church, which were unanimously sustained.

Elder Anderson of the stake presidency, spoke of the latter-day work as the most perfect religious organization in the world, and in order to keep up our reputation in this regard it was necessary that every member in the Church should live his religion, which should be the great object of our lives.

A duet was then sung by Miss Julia Worthington and Alice Woolley.

President Gowans said he felt well in seeing such a good attendance at conference. He was happy to state that the officers and representative men of the stake were working harmoniously together. He said the increase of our membership only amounted to about 100 in 20 years, but that the thing was more than double, which showed an increase of faith and good works.

Elder Kimball made the closing remarks.

A meeting of the Thirty-first quorum of Seventies was held immediately after this meeting. Elder Kimball gave the members some valuable instructions as to their duties and, standing in the Church, after which six young Elders were accepted, ordained and set apart as members of the quorum.

In the evening a conference of the Mutual Improvement association was held in the meetinghouse, where a well arranged program was rendered, with closing remarks by Elder Kimball on Mutual Improvement work.

BEAR LAKE STAKE.

Report of the Recent Quarterly Conference Held at Paris.

The quarterly conference of this stake convened on Feb. 28 and 29, at Paris. Elder Rudger Clawson of the Council of Apostles was present. Elder William Budge made the introductory remarks.

Elder J. U. Stucki reported the condition of the High Priests' quorum, the members are scattered over a wide extent of country but the quorum meetings are well attended.

Elder John A. Sutton reported the Eleventh quorum of Seventies in excellent condition.

The condition of the Sunday schools was reported by Elder J. A. Sutton, Jr., as flourishing and progressive.

Elder William L. Rich gave a report of the reorganization of the Elders' quorum throughout the stake, eight quorums being formed from the original five.

Sister Nancy Pugmire made an interesting report of the Y. M. M. I. A. in which there was nearly 700 members enrolled.

Elder Joseph R. Shepherd and James H. Hart occupied the remaining time.

In the afternoon reports were made by Elder Ben Hyman of the religion classes; Elder Walter Hoge, of home missionary labors; Sister Dalrymple of the Primary; and Bishop W. W. Clark of Montpelier Ward.

Elder R. T. Haag reported the condition of the Fielding academy as excellent.

Elder Rudger Clawson remarked with pleasure upon the reports he had listened to. There is a good work being done in this stake, he said. The presiding authorities in these organizations have the work well in hand.

The speaker referred to some of the many ways in which the Saints disregard the counsels of the Priesthood.

On Sunday morning, after singing and prayer, Elder J. A. Sutton reported the Y. M. M. I. A. A general good work had been done throughout the stake. The Paris First Ward was reported by Bishop H. T. Humphreys in excellent condition.

Elder Rudger Clawson dwelt upon the perfect union existing in the First Presidency, enlarging upon the order of Presidency. The temporal and spiritual should go hand in hand.

The general and stake authorities were presented in the afternoon and unanimously sustained. The speakers were, President W. Budge, Elders James Nye, James H. Brown, and Heber C. Speltz.

Antem "Who is the King of Glory." The remainder of the time was occupied by Elder Rudger Clawson who said in part that it was evident by the reports the people were drawing nearer to their leaders and to each other. He spoke at some length on religion class work, its origin, development, and power.

He spoke of the beautiful stake tabernacle, which had cost the people \$47,000 and also the academy, costing over \$40,000. They were monuments of beauty and excellence, a joy to the Saints and a surprise to the stranger.

The congregation sang "The Spirit of benediction" as pronounced by Elder Rudger Clawson.

THOMAS MINOON, Stake Clerk.

UINTAH STAKE.

Report of a Recent Conference At Vernal.

The quarterly conference was held in Vernal, Feb. 21 and 22, 1904. Present on the stand were the stake presidency, quite a goodly portion of the stake officers, Bishops of wards, and counselors. After opening exercises, President Bennion made an address welcoming the Saints. He advised the Saints to be loyal to the laws of the land and especially to the laws of God.

In referring to the existing conditions in the far east, he said, we know not what the end may be; but this we do know, the kingdom of God will be established. He reported the general condition of the stake as improving and exhorted the people to put in their cross as usual, trusting in the Lord for moisture to mature the same. He spoke on several other topics.

Patriarch Merkle, endorsed the statements of Elder Bennion and cited the Scriptures as proof of the conditions in the present times, and the manner in which the Lord dealt with the people.

Elders Workman and Holdaway both recently returned missionaries, referred to incidents connected with their missionary work.

At the afternoon session Elder Partidge discoursed on the Church school form of education as being superior to any that can be had.

Elder Collett discoursed on the life and character of Christ.

President James Hacking was the first speaker at the Monday morning session. He spoke on the Sacrament and manner of partaking of the same.

He said he had observed a number who refused to partake of the emblems. The cause he knew not; but whatever may be the reasons or obstacles he said they should be removed immediately.

Patriarch Merkle spoke upon the covenant made by the Lord concerning the new covenant to be given name, the Holy Ghost which was to remain until the sons of Levi do again offer an acceptable offer in righteousness. The ancient people of the covenant breakers and history portrays the results. Therefore our condition can be foretold if we should choose their course in life.

President Bennion spoke on the redemption of the dead in the manner in which "recommendations" should be rendered.

O. D. Allen, Cora Johnson and J. P. Reedy reported the Mutual Improvement associations and Sabbath schools as prosperous and doing a good work.

Pope, J. W. Johnson, Annie Hacking, Bishops Billings and Davis reported the Relief societies, Religion class work, Primaries, and their respective wards, as improving and good.

Elder William O'Neill addressed the conference on the power of the story of Christ, its benefits to the Latter-day Saints, and the effects of missionary work upon the world of mankind.

President Collett advised the people not to all their homes to move to Canada or any other place. The only excuse, he said, for selling your homes is indebtedness, when you cannot free yourselves in any other way. He read a letter from the revelation to and counsel to the Saints concerning the organization of the Church and touched briefly on the life and character of George Washington.

President Bennion made the closing remarks on general topics, thanking all who were assisted in making our conference a success.

Conference adjourned for three months. HORACE W. WOOLLEY, Stake Clerk.

ST. JOHN'S STAKE.

Condition of the People Reported At the Conference.

St. Johns, Arizona.—On the 20th and 21st of February the quarterly stake conference of the St. Johns stake of Zion convened. Saturday was devoted mainly to Bishop's reports and reading of statistical and tithing reports of the stake. The Sunday sessions were occupied by the stake presidency and members of the High Council. The spirit of the conference seemed to be that of tithing, paying, and urging the brethren holding the Priesthood, to discontinue the use of narcotics among the young in the different wards.

There was a good representation from all of the surrounding settlements. All seemingly enjoyed the conference. From the Bishops' reports the people in general are trying to do their duty to their religion, but at present feel somewhat discouraged on account of the extremely dry winter. Tithing reports show an increase of non-tithe payers in the stake, but the amount paid during the winter of 1903 was about \$100,000 more than the amount paid during the previous year.

On Monday the Young Men's and Young Ladies' stake conference was held and a great many of the young attended the meetings. At this conference it was stated that the Mutuals in most of the wards were in running condition and had been the means of doing much good among the young of this stake.

E. N. FREEMAN, JR.,

UNION STAKE.

Quarterly Conference Held at La Grande, Oregon.

The quarterly conference of the Union stake was held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28, 1904. We were fa-

vored with a visit from Elder M. F. Cowley of the Council of Apostles, President Neph Pratt of the Northwestern States mission, Daniel Kimball of Salt Lake City, and Sisters Florence Benson and Nellie Grant, two lady missionaries who have been laboring in Boise, Ida.

At a meeting of the Priesthood of the stake held at noon on the 28th, a report was given of the progress of the work on the stake tabernacle which showed that the people have responded heartily and that the work is going on as rapidly as possible. The enthusiasm and interest of the people in this matter was exhibited in the unanimous vote that was carried, that we all support the completion in pushing the building. This action was later approved by the conference in general assembly by a unanimous vote.

On Sunday evening the Mutual Improvement conference of the stake was held, and reports were given by the officers of both organizations showing good work in the stake. Elder Neph Pratt gave a very instructive discourse on the duties of husbands and wives in their homes and towards each other, and what course to pursue in seeking peace and time and eternity. Sister Benson sang several beautiful solos, accompanied by Sister Grant. The Grande choir furnished the music on Sunday.

H. M. MONSON, Stake Clerk.

The lives of nearly all the Saints in this stake. The health of the people in all the wards was reported to be good.

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