

At 10 a. m. Saturday services commenced. After the usual opening exercises Elder Lewis Swensen made the introductory remarks.

Elder Rich occupied the remainder of the time of this meeting. His remarks were directed, more especially, to the Elders, though given indirectly to the congregation.

The meetings which followed were equally as spirited as the first one. The influence was sublime. None could doubt the presence of an abundance of the Spirit of God. Several of the leading Elders were given the privilege of speaking. Quite a number of these will probably never again meet in conference capacity in North Carolina as they have faithfully fulfilled honorable missions and will shortly return to their mountain homes.

The principles of the Gospel were elucidated in a clear, concise and pointed manner. Boldness and that assurance begotten of knowledge and the testimony of the Spirit, characterized the remarks of each speaker. A very fitting conclusion and climax was had in the sermons of Elder Rich which followed those of the traveling Elders in each meeting. None who heard him could mistake the position occupied by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many of the prominent features of the Church, established by Christ, were rehearsed and ably supported by scripture. The unity of the Church, anciently, was contrasted with the prevalent conditions of the so-called Christian world today. All present were impressed by each statement made and the weight of the argument.

A conservative estimate of the attendance on Sunday would place the number at not less than 800. Of this number at least 100 are Saints, some of whom came upwards of one hundred miles to attend the meetings. Many expressed themselves as being highly rewarded for getting to conference.

Monday morning the Elders received their appointments and were soon on the way to their respective fields of labor, full of the Spirit, and hopeful that the blessings of the Lord would attend their humble efforts in proclaiming the great latter-day message.

The conference was one of the best ever held in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

The work, in general, is progressive and prosperous. Excepting a few chills occasionally, the health of the Elders is excellent. Respectfully,

LEWIS SWENSEN, President.  
ALBERT E. HUISE, Clerk.

Laboring in Illinois.  
Monticello, Platt Co., Ill.,  
Sept. 3, 1898.

We have just completed the canvas and the distributing of tracts among the inhabitants of this county. Elders L. W. Cutler and Chas. A. Haacke were the first Elders in this county, arriving here March 27, 1898, and commenced to open the field here which they continued until June, when left for a short time; but not having completed the canvas it was deemed wise to come back and make a complete canvas of the county; but Elder Haacke was called to go and assist in opening the mission in North Dakota. I was appointed to labor with Elder Cutler in this county. Arriving here July 20th we immediately set out upon our labor, making Monticello our central point, and traveling through the country and in towns distributing tracts and holding meetings in school houses in the country and in churches (when we could get them) in towns or on the street, where we have met with success, being generally treated very kindly by the people. On entering a

small town (White Heath) in the northern part of the county we called upon Rev. Geo. Carter, pastor of the U. B. church of that village, to ask his permission to hold meeting in his church. We were given to understand that no Mormon could preach from his pulpit, but that it was open to any Christian minister, but not Mormons. We conversed upon different subjects but finally all centered upon the great cry polygamy. He then warned us that we had better not advocate our principles and doctrines in the town for fear that we should be mobbed. We obtained the Universalist church for meeting and his talk and ridicule did more to advertise our meeting than we did. We had a full house and good attention quietness prevailed. In another town (Atwood) in the extreme southeast, we obtained the permission of the mayor (grudgingly) to hold meeting on the street one evening only. We had a crowd of restless and inattentive listeners. All went well until meeting closed, when we were distributing tracts. We heard a smash upon the walk between us, and upon turning around discovered from the odor that an egg of ancient origin had been sacrificed.

The next evening we held forth on the street at a small town (Purson) where the sentiments of the people were as much of the opposite feeling as one could imagine. Thus missionary life was. One community are prepared to receive us with open arms, while others reject the counsel of God against themselves. We have been fairly well treated while laboring in Platt county and we feel we have done our duty and ask the blessings of God to be with the people and that the seed we have sown may fall upon good ground and bring forth fruit.

We leave here for conference to be held at Springfield, Ills., on Sept. 16th and 17th. Elder Lewis McCarry has secured the state capitol building for the purpose.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor.

Your brethren in the cause of truth,  
L. W. CUTLER.  
J. W. ROSS,

#### In the Lone Star Conference.

Athens, Tex., Sept. 9, 1898.

The mail has just passed, leaving a bundle of "Mormon papers," and it gives us a degree of satisfaction to read of the progress being made in different parts of the Lord's vineyard. For there is a feeling that prevails among the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that surpasses any feeling that exists among the representatives of any other denomination upon the face of the earth. And that is the spirit of unity and love.

During the late war many questions have been asked concerning the actions of Utah. We to the best of our knowledge have told the people that Utah has filled her quota, but yet it lacked evidence. Just after the battle of Malate, however, there was an article in the Dallas News that forever dispelled the idea that Utah was disloyal. In large letters was the startling words, "Utah battery in the thick of the fight." Then comes an account of the gallantry of our "boys." While walking along the street of Athens, I heard remarks made about "Mormans coming to the front," etc. And there is a spirit of investigation being fostered by this means. So fathers and mothers, let me give you my testimony that although it is a sad affair for your children to be in the horrors of battle, it is helping the spread of the truth, and we continually remember the gallant boys in blue in our prayers.

The work is still progressing. Chil-

dren are being blessed, the honest in heart baptized, and friends raised up on the right and upon the left. My traveling companion has just finished Smith county, where our Elders have been some 14 years ago; also about 2 years past, and the very person who helped egg them at that time bade them welcome to their homes, and expressed their sorrow at having been led into such disgraceful acts. So we continually have our testimonies strengthened in the Lord, that we are defending the doctrines that proclaim to the world that our Heavenly Father is yet willing to communicate His mind and will unto the children of men.

The weather has been very hot the past summer, and our conference and mission presidents instructed us to do less walking and more preaching. Toward the close of the last month, Elder Hyrum Andrus was released as president of the Lone Star conference, and Elder Ralph J. Harding placed in his stead. It came to us with a shock, we expecting no change until the fall conference.

We are enjoying our labors in the missionary field, and have very fair health, considering the amount of sickness among the people at large.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor, and we receive and peruse its columns with great interest.

We send greetings to all the readers of the same.

Truly yours,

ALFRED BENNION,  
THOS. B. LEE.

Athens, Henderson Co., per T. B. L., Tex.

#### The Stuttgart Conference.

The Stuttgart conference embraces Bavaria with organized branches in Nuremberg and Munich; Wurtemberg, with headquarters in Stuttgart, and branches in Heilbronn and Backnang; Saargemund, in Sothrairie and Saarbrücken in Prussia.

In Bavaria the work is progressing, but we have no more freedom there now than we had twenty months ago. In the kingdom of Wurtemberg we enjoy more freedom at present than in any other part of the empire. We have in fact more freedom here than we can use, on account of the lack of money among the missionaries to rent halls, etc., in which to hold public lectures. With our presidents, however, we have held well attended public lectures in Stuttgart, Backnang and Heilbronn. Also during the twenty months of the past, cottage meetings have been held in over thirty different cities and villages; over seventeen thousand tracts have been distributed, in "tracting" from door to door in about three hundred and fifty cities and villages. The report also shows that two hundred and sixty-one meetings have been held; thirty-two hundred Gospel conversations, and four hundred books loaned sold or given away.

The prospects are favorable at present.

We need more missionaries who will work hard and who have an unlimited amount of patience, the last is a qualification much needed in this part of Germany.

Elder Rulon S. Wells, president of the European mission, and Elder P. Lou-tensock of the German mission visited us last week. On account of the unsettled conditions of affairs in north Germany—occasioned to some extent perhaps from the question of the Philippine islands—our conference, which was to have been held on the 14th inst., was indefinitely postponed. We held a small meeting and invited twenty-five of our best friends, who listened