

all O. K. now, and ready to fight, and I thank my heavenly Father that is all the sickness I have had yet. We have the place where the Spanish regulars used to be, and have got nice cots to sleep on and a good house to shelter us. I have one of the Spaniard's trunks to keep my clothes in. The window panes here are made of shells. They are three inches wide and four long. The wood is just like iron. We were on the ocean 32 days. The way they are talking we might be home soon. The only thing I hate is crossing the ocean again. We had a very rough sea. One day the waves would come up like large mountains and go right over the ship and wet every one that was on deck, the ship would be thrown all around and everybody had to catch hold of the first thing they could or they would have been tossed in the sea.

I have no more to tell you this time. Give my love to all my friends and tell them I hope to see you all soon.

From your loving son and brother,  
THOMAS S. GUNN.

#### IDAHO MISSION BRANCH.

Nampa, Idaho, Oct. 15th, 1898.

In glancing over the columns of your worthy paper from time to time, I read with interest letters from various mission fields, but as yet I have not seen any from the field in which I am now laboring, namely, Idaho Branch of the Northwestern mission.

On arriving here June 17th, 1898, I was appointed to labor with Elder R. V. Call. We were sent to open up a new district in Owyhee county, where we labored for two months, but without a great deal of apparent success. We held but five meetings in this locality, but made many friends, and were able to remove much of the prejudice that had previously existed in that locality against the Latter-day Saints. The inhabitants of that county are principally miners who take but little interest in religious affairs. We found a few Latter-day Saints who have drifted into that part, and we awakened a new interest in them. After giving Owyhee county a systematic canvas, we came down here into Washington and Canyon counties. This being a farming community, our labors are more appreciated and we are able to hold more meetings and meet with better success generally. On the third of October we went to Boise City to attend the Idaho Intermountain fair, where we spent a very pleasant week visiting with the members of Held's band of Salt Lake City.

Too much cannot be said in regard to the good conduct of the members of the band. They preached a good Gospel sermon by the good example they set, and we as Elders were and ever will be proud to refer to them as our Mormon boys from Utah. Professor Held deserves credit for the pains taken in selecting such a good, moral and industrious set of men as band members.

It can also be said that the musical selections rendered by the band was the main feature of the fair and many people paid admission into the fair grounds just to have the privilege of hearing the beautiful music. Although the boys were not directly called as missionaries, we as Elders laboring in this part can see as some of them did that God had a hand in their being employed to furnish for the week.

The proprietor and employees of the Bancroft hotel (where the boys were registered) could not understand why everything went so smoothly and why there was such a good feeling there, but we could see and understand how it was and if they had visited some of the rooms in the morning at certain times they might have known how it

was. Their visit here last week has put us at least six months ahead in our missionary labors.

After their contract was fulfilled they took us by the hand and wished us success in our labors, and we returned to our various fields of labor rejoicing, filled with vigor, and thanking God for His blessings. Not only us Elders but all leading men of this vicinity noticed and spoke of the good conduct and moral example noticeable in the members of the band.

I am now laboring in Canyon county, and feel well in the missionary work and thank God that I have had the privilege of coming and assisting in the spreading of the Gospel.

I remain your brother in the cause of truth,

#### SUNDAY SERVICES.

Services at the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23, 1898, were presided over by Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake.

The choir sang the hymn:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray,  
I am forever Thine.

Prayer was offered by Elder William McLachlan.

The choir sang the anthem:

From afar, Gracious Lord.

Elder William H. Pitt, a returned missionary from Great Britain, was introduced to the congregation as the first speaker. He related briefly his experience in traveling in the Norwich conference, England, and expressed his thankfulness for the opportunity afforded him. His advice to the young men of Zion was to prepare themselves for the ministry and take advantage of every privilege granted, that when called into the mission field, they would be able to expound the principles of the Gospel as enunciated by Jesus Christ, our Savior, when He was upon the earth. The Mormon missionaries had been clothed with authority to preach that Gospel, and therefore could go out confident of success as long as they put their dependence in God the Father.

Elder Elijah Weller next spoke. He had labored as a missionary in the Southern States, and felt free in saying that the time spent preaching the Gospel had been the happiest portion of his life. Conditions in the South, said the speaker, had materially changed in the past year or so. The way was opening up for the spread of the Gospel, and the demand for more Elders was daily increasing. There were opportunities never before known in that section of country, and the humble Elders laboring throughout the land were giving the praise to God for preparing the way for the spread of His work. Elder Weller bore a strong testimony to the divinity of the work in which he was engaged, and exhorted all to acts of righteousness.

Elder Jesse Badger was the next speaker. For two years his lot had been cast with the people of England, and he, too, had experienced the same joy and satisfaction expressed by the preceding speakers. True, the time spent in the mission field was not all sunshine, but the Lord was blessing His servants, and obstacles which at times seemed almost insurmountable, had been cast aside to make room for the spread of His message.

Elder Joshua Selley, a returned missionary from the Eastern States, next addressed the congregation. He said he had labored for the most part in the state of Pennsylvania where the work of the Lord was progressing and where three branches had been organized and were now in good running order. Traveling without purse and scrip was the

order in that section, and the Elders were meeting with great success and making friends on the right hand and on the left. Pennsylvania was a good field to labor in; the people generally were hospitable and could be depended upon to treat the Elders with courtesy and respect. The speaker had a testimony of the Gospel, and felt to advise the young people of Zion to live in accordance with the instructions received from time to time.

Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, was the closing speaker. He said it gave him great pleasure to listen to the testimonies and experiences of the Elders. Forty-four years ago, he had been called into the mission field. The call took him to the Eastern States and he labored in the states of Connecticut and Pennsylvania where he had experienced the blessings of God in his behalf. The Saints were to be a tried people, said the speaker. They had to be proved and their sincerity to the Gospel tested; and in this they were many times shaken and brought to a realization of the fact that those who would remain faithful, must necessarily live near unto the Lord.

Elder Cannon referred to the early-day experiences of the Saints, and deprecated the condition into which many of the young people were drifting. It behooved all to live righteous lives, if they would be blessed, and eventually exalted in the kingdom of God. If they did not cleave unto the Gospel the Spirit of God would be withdrawn from them and they would be found among those who had fallen by the wayside. The principles and ordinances of the Gospel were saving and far-reaching. They were destined to save all who would obey, but God would not feel after those who failed to recognize the laws and commandments which He had laid down for their guidance.

Elder Cannon spoke at some length on the manifestations of God unto His people, and the blessings attending all who would live aright. He referred to experiences in his own career in the ministry, proving these things, and pointed out the necessity of Saints living their religion. The speaker touched on the laxity in the observance of the Word of Wisdom, and the great indifference exhibited concerning other things and concluded by invoking the blessings of God upon all that they might be found walking in the path of duty.

The choir sang the anthem:

Hallelujah.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Henry P. Richards.

Apoplexy caused the sudden death of Mrs. William Bay, of Cheyenne, Monday. She died in the bath room, where her husband found her when he went home to dinner. Mrs. Margaret Blackburn of the same city, also died yesterday, aged 80 years.

E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe; Paul L. Morton, second vice president; W. G. Nevin, general manager west of Albuquerque; W. R. Hodges, C. W. Higginson and James Dun, have arrived in Fresno, Cal., accompanied by Captain Payson, W. B. Storey and A. D. Schindler of the San Joaquin Valley road. President Ripley stated that his trip had to do with the purchase of the Valley road and in answer to a question whether the recently reported deal has been completed said: "Yes, the road is ours. We have closed the deal. We were given an option on the road, and we knew a good thing when we saw it." Mr. Ripley slightly modified this statement subsequently by stating that the Santa Fe had decided to take up the option. Captain Payson of the Valley road, however, states that the Santa Fe has not yet accepted the option.