

mile above the sea. It is on Salmon creek, about thirty miles northeast of Fort Wrangle.

"Is that a hard place to reach, senator?"

"No, I think not," replied Senator Wilson. "Fort Wrangle is on the main Alaskan route of the steamers plying between Seattle and Juneau. It could be easily reached by those vessels or by smaller schooners. According to Mr. Smith you could almost drive to the gold regions in a wagon, or, at least, a wagon road could be made to it. He says that Salmon river has good placer ground all the way up to the gold ledge he has discovered, but that he could find no gold above this point. He made the discovery about the first of September. It has already begun to snow there, so he staked his claims and came back to wait until spring to work them."

"You were speaking of the Munook country, senator. Where is this?"

"All that I know about it is from letters which I have read. There are a number of Washington people mining there, and among others Governor McGraw. It is some distance down the Yukon river, below Fort Yukon. The steamer Bertha, which arrived at Seattle the last of October, brought some gold from Munook. All sorts of claims are made about the region, one miner saying that it will be second to Dawson in richness. There are now, I believe, 1,500 people in Rampart City, in that region, and this city promises to be the largest winter camp outside of Dawson City."

"Have you heard anything new as to gold discoveries in the Klondike?"

"I understand that a number of big finds have been recently made. There was one about the middle of September on a side hill in what is known as Skookum Gulch. This gold was discovered in a district that had been prospected again and again. Hundreds of miners have walked over it and passed it by. Now the whole country about has been staked off, and men are picking up lumps of gold worth from \$3 to \$20. A single nugget worth \$47 was found and two men picked up \$800 worth of coarse gold in a day. The gold was almost on the surface of the ground. But there was something like a foot of moss above it, and former prospectors had failed to discover it. This is a sample of what may happen in any gold region at any time. Some of the best mines of the world have lain for years right under the eyes of the prospectors and escaped notice. This was the case with the Cripple Creek mines of Colorado. They are, you know, under the shadow of Pike's Peak. Thousands of miners walked over them looking for gold. Then Stratton discovered the Independence and the whole country was found to be honey-combed with the precious metal. It now turns out millions a year. The Mercur gold mines, near Salt Lake City, were examined by the late Senator Hearst, Marcus Daly and the best miners of the country and thought to be worth nothing. They are now turning out millions. You can't tell anything about gold, and in many cases the tenderfoot is quite as successful as the old prospector."

"But, senator, there must be an enormous lot of failures among the men who go to Alaska?"

"Yes, there are," said Senator Wilson. "I have been told that only about one claim out of sixteen has so far produced \$500 and upward. This is the condition about Dawson City, so they say, and it must be worse in other parts of the country. Still, all concede that there are enormous amounts of gold in the Klondike."

"What can Congress do to get food to Alaska this winter?"

"I don't know," replied Senator Wilson. "I suppose the question will come

up just as soon as Congress meets, through a letter from the secretary of war. According to my reports the people of Dawson City are in a bad way. They have not enough provisions to last them for more than two-thirds of the winter, and new arrivals are coming in at the rate of one hundred a day over the trail. Those who come have in many cases only enough food to last them until they get to Dawson, and there are 7,000 people there now. The trouble has been in the low waters of the Yukon. The summer is very short, and altogether less than 1,000 tons of provisions were brought in. Toward the last of the season the Yukon was so low that the ships could not get over the bars, and there are now seven vessels scattered along the Yukon filled with provisions, but so stranded that the food cannot be utilized. I venture that there is something like 3,000 tons of provisions lying along the Yukon. There are 850 tons at Fort Yukon, 325 miles below Dawson City. Much of this will be taken up on sledges to Circle City, which is only eighty miles away, and it may be that by means of reindeer or by other kinds of relief expeditions, supplies could be carried from here to Dawson City. I see that Sheldon Jackson states there are something like 1,500 reindeer at the four stations in Alaska. These are widely scattered, but enough of them might possibly be gotten together to be of service. There is no doubt, however, that something should be done, and that quickly."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

Carbondale, Pa., Nov. 11 1897.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania conference convened here on Saturday and Sunday, November 6th and 7th, Elder D. R. Gill, Sen., presiding.

Elder A. P. Kesler from Brooklyn, N. Y., was present; also the following Elders: Amos A. Fuller, Hubbard Tuttle Jr., David Kinghorn, John J. Bennett, Lewis R. Perry, F. G. Twede, Jas. S. Lewis, Robt. C. Haris, John E. Malcock and Philip Ferrin. Elders Geo. H. Crow and J. B. Waldron, who were recently assigned to labor in Bradford county, could not make it convenient to be with us.

Priesthood meeting was held on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, at which reports were given by the Elders, showing the results of their labors for the past six months. Elder Kesler then gave some valuable and encouraging instructions and advised the Elders to teach the Saints the necessity of observing fast day, tithes and offerings. The sentiment among the Elders seemed to favor traveling without purse or scrip, and they were encouraged to do so.

Five public meetings were held in Mr. Lowery's hall which was kindly furnished us free of charge. The meeting on Saturday afternoon was devoted to bearing testimonies by Elders and Saints. The spirit of the Lord was with us and many faithful testimonies were borne to the divinity of the work of God. At the evening session, Elder A. A. Fuller spoke on general and individual salvation. Elder F. G. Twede spoke on the atonement and the benefits of the Gospel and showed that unity was essential to spiritual progression. Elder Kesler dwelt upon the resurrection, our relationship to Deity, and the final judgment.

After the administering of the Sacrament in the Sunday morning meeting, the time was occupied by Elders David Kinghorn, H. Tuttle Jr. and D. R. Gill, who spoke upon the subjects of authority, Church organization and the restoration of the Gospel respectively. Elder Gill urged the Saints to remember the sacredness of the Lord's supper and keep the holy covenants they had entered into.

At 2 p. m. Sunday our spiritual feast was again renewed and the souls of the assembled lovers of truth were fed with words of inspiration as they flowed from the lips of the speakers. Elder Gill spoke of the second coming of our Savior and chose for his text Mal. 3: 1, 2.

Elder Kesler followed, and proved from the Scriptures and profane history the apostate condition of Christianity in general, tracing the degeneration of the primitive Gospel from the days of the Apostles.

The meeting Sunday evening at 7 o'clock was attended by more strangers than the previous ones, there being quite a number present. Elder Gill called attention to the fact that the true disciples of Christ are sent out in these days as they were in His day, and not for the sake of worldly gain, but to preach Christ crucified.

Elder Kesler referred to the comprehensiveness of the Gospel of Christ, and spoke of pre-existence and other topics.

Not only the Saints of Carbondale, but other kind friends as well, exhibited their usual kindness by assisting to entertain the Elders while assembled at conference.

Several changes have been made and most of the Elders assigned to new fields of labor. Their P. O. addresses may be sent later.

D. R. GILL SEN.,

President of Conference.

H. TUTTLE JR.,

Secretary.

THE WORK IN NEW ZEALAND.

Hawke's Bay Conference, N. Z.,

October 11, 1897.

Early in September I set out, accompanied by Elder H. B. Jensen, to make a tour of this district and complete arrangements for our quarterly conference, which was to be held at Tikokino on the 2nd and 3rd of Oct., during which tour we had the pleasure of holding eleven meetings and performing five baptisms; blessing five children, setting apart a counselor to a branch and performing one marriage. We also were under the painful necessity of making one excommunication.

On September 28th I reached Te Hawke, having parted with Elder Jensen, who was going through to the south end of the district to meet some expected Elders. The following day a large crowd of people gathered to receive a noted chief, Tamahan, and the Maori soldiers, the latter party having recently returned from a tour to England to attend the queen's jubilee. The greater part of the night was spent giving animated speeches by denizens welcoming the visitors, and replies by them, in which they reported having had a very cordial reception by the queen in person. Two of them, being Saints, had had the pleasure of the acquaintance of a number of the Elders and attending some Latter-day Saints' meetings in England.

On the morning of the 30th ult., while at the station in company with a multitude gathered to see the company take the train in continuance of this journey, where a number of enthusiastic parting "hakas" were given, I had the pleasure of meeting Elder E. F. Richards, accompanied by Elder J. N. Lambert, president of the Mahia district, who were both in average condition of health and spirits.

Later in the day we proceeded to the place of destination. On the 1st inst. a number of Elders and Saints had already gathered.

At 10 a. m. on the 2nd inst. we convened for our two days' conference. Present from Zion were E. F. Richards, mission president; David Lindsay, conference president; H. L. Bradford, J. B. Jensen, R. S. McKinnon and G. L.