

in the great railroad system controlled by the Southern Pacific company would be closed and an elegant summer line be in operation, doing away with the hot line in the San Joaquin valley.

I was talking to a farmer on the Santa Clara valley, near Ventura, who was a believer in lucern and irrigation; he proudly told me that he had just cut 40 acres of lucern that realized \$1,600, having sold the first cutting at \$16 per ton. He told me also that when everybody else was planting fruit trees, he tried lucern and as a consequence he is a fortunate farmer in a season of drought, wherever there is a permanent spring, or mountain stream, and irrigation, the effects of a dry season are not so apparent, notably in Southern California.

So great is the scarcity of hay in the southern part of California that horses are being sold at \$1.50 each. In Los Angeles the fat obtained after cutting them up and cooking, is used for making soap, the bones for fertilizers, the hides for leather. I have been informed that many of the farmers on the coast line could not part with their stock at any price, the animals being too poor to kill, and too weak to walk far.

All around the citrus belt, the perfect system of irrigation does not allow a drop of water to run to the ocean. The ditches are all lined with Portland cement to prevent seepage, and all the resources of artesian wells and huge pumps are used to keep up the supply. Just what condition of water famine will be developed in five or six months from now is sad to contemplate, nearly all the necessities of life will have to be imported into the state to help out the sufferers—whatever is needed should be furnished at the lowest prices.

Coming north over the Tehachapi pass and the San Joaquin valley the drought is still worse; usually each side of the road for two hundred miles is green with waving grain; now all is barren and burnt up by heat, and very little is to be seen until one approaches the northern part of the valley. As a matter of fact there are vast tracts of land used in raising fruit that are irrigated by mountain streams. In all such cases fair crops will be raised. There is no hope for rain until the rainy season begins next winter. The fine showers we sometimes have here in Utah are seldom seen in California, so while we cannot raise oranges, let us be thankful that we have water enough to raise necessities.

In talking with the Mormon missionaries in California, I am pleased to state that they report the people as being kind hearted and very hospitable, and the additions to membership are growing very numerous. There are large branches of the Church in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego. President Nye is proud of the Elders under his charge, for a more energetic body of men would be hard to find. Street preaching in the leading thoroughfares meets with kindly favor, and all the public meetings in halls are well attended. It often happens that in times of trial that mankind gets down to solid thinking as to his condition spiritually as well as temporally, and while the unpretending Elder may direct attention to the higher law of life, he can also point with glowing pride to "Utah, the queen of the West."

C. R. SAVAGE.

#### OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.

Dollsberg, I. T., April 20, 1898.

The 17th day of April, 1898, was looked forward to with great pleasure by the Elders of the Oklahoma conference, for it was the day for them to meet in conference.

It was a typical southern morning,

when the Saints and Elders gathered together to hold their semi-annual conference, all being present except Elders Jensen and Caldwell, who had not yet arrived. At 11:15 the meeting was called to order by conference president, Wm. T. Harper of Albion, Idaho. The speakers during the meeting were T. G. Naylor of Salt Lake City, Alfred Hogensen of Montpelier, Idaho, and T. J. Eades of Buckhead, Oklahoma.

The addresses made by these brethren were well received; the appearance of them, and the power with which they spoke, held the attention of the congregation, and as the words flowed from the lips of those humble Elders, they seemed to sink deep into the hearts of the listeners.

Two other meetings were held during the day, the time of the first being occupied by the mission president, Wm. T. Jack, who laid before the people some of the principles of the Gospel in such a way that it would be almost impossible to misunderstand them.

Elder Francis Woods of Ogden was the speaker during the evening. His subject being faith.

The second day of our conference was taken up mostly by Priesthood meetings, wherein the Elders gave a report of their past six months' labor, and received some very important instructions. Elder Jack said he was well pleased with their labors in the past and urged them to continue on in the work, and the blessings of God would be poured down on them. He also spoke of the necessity of traveling entirely without purse or scrip. He believed if we would exercise more faith, and put our trust in our heavenly father that He would provide us with all that we need while in the missionary field.

After Priesthood meetings were over our regular meeting convened. Elder Wm. T. Harper expounded to the people of this neighborhood the principles of everlasting life, and warned them against the judgments of God, which are to be poured down upon the wicked.

The third day of our conference passed by similar to the two preceding days, except during the afternoon, the Elders and a number of Saints made their way to Rock Creek, which is about two and one-half miles distant, where two believers were led into the waters of baptism.

Conference was adjourned and after expressions of gratitude and joy by the Saints and Elders at the good time which had been spent, an entertainment was announced and a good program rendered.

The Elders of this conference are at the present time enjoying very good health and the work is progressing rapidly.

The Elders who are here are doing all that is in their power and are meeting with a great deal of success. We are still laboring in the Chickasaw Nation, but expect soon to finish them. WM. T. HARPER, President.

#### SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Salt Lake Stake, presided over the services at the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon, May 8, 1898.

The choir sang the hymn:

Great is the Lord 'tis good to praise His high and holy name.

Prayer was offered by Elder Arthur Winter.

The choir and congregation sang:

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

Elder Orson F. Whitney addressed the congregation. In commencing the speaker referred to the great responsibility of being a teacher, even temporarily, to the Latter-day Saints. In

fact the duty of being a teacher of men in any age of the world was a responsibility great in its magnitude. Moses, Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith, said the speaker, were the three greatest teachers that had ever lived upon the earth, and their teachings had lived and would live through the countless ages of eternity. Jesus Christ was the great law-giver, the personage whose visit to this earth was the insignia of greater and more glorious truths than had ever before been introduced. Moses was the great founder of jurisprudence because of the laws introduced by him, while Joseph Smith, although reviled and ridiculed, had planted a tree which had borne fruit that indicated in all plainness the great good that he had accomplished. Jesus had truly said, men did not gather grapes of thorns nor figs of thistles, and this being the case no good achievement could be wrought out unless having a divine source or basis.

Elder Whitney dilated on the early-day teachings of Moses. He also spoke of the instructions given by Jesus Christ to those of His disciples, when He spoke unto them as one having authority and not as the scribes and pharisees. Jesus came not to destroy that which already had been builded, but as He had stated, His mission was to fulfill. He taught the people to love their enemies and to do all that could be done in endeavoring to become perfect even as the Father Himself was perfect. There was a newness to these teachings which caused the people to open their eyes in wonderment, for having been reared under the Mosaic law, they knew nothing higher and therefore were hardly prepared for the new teachings of the Savior. His was a higher law and its purpose was the supplanting of that which had been in vogue for years before. It helped mankind to attain that perfection desired, and was therefore as essential in the consummation of God's purposes, as anything that had ever been introduced. It taught the ushering in of peace on earth and good will to all men and in this vested the great significance and importance of Christ's mission.

Speaking of the Prophet Joseph and his teachings, Elder Whitney dwelt upon the similarity of them as compared with the words laid down by the Savior. The Golden Rule was a part of the Gospel in this day, as it was anciently and its violation brought out infliction of punishment, as its strict keeping brought out the reward of eternal salvation. Follow me, said the Savior; if ye love me, keep my commandments. These were His teachings; they were a vital part of the Gospel and should be adhered to by all claiming allegiance to His name.

Joseph Smith, in the inquisitiveness of a thoughtful boy, was led to seek Father in prayer. His prayer was answered by a vision. The Father and Son appeared unto him, told him of the lack of ecclesiastical authority upon the earth, and of the restoration of the Gospel which was to be brought about in the due time of the Lord. The Gospel was restored through the instrumentality of that boy, and its restoration had brought out exactly the same teachings laid down by the Savior during His earthly career. Its glory was incomprehensible. Its outcome Godlike and heavenly. Mankind, through obedience to its principles, could become like unto God; they attain a station of the highest exaltation—a destiny which awaited all who would live for it.

The choir sang the anthem:

O Father whose almighty power.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Brigham Young of the Council of Apostles.