

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE

STAKE CONFERENCES.

Bear Lake Stake.

The regular quarterly conference of this Stake was held at Paris, Nov. 24th and 25th, 1899, Elder William Budge presiding.

After singing, and prayer by Elder J. U. Stucki, President Budge congratulated the Saints upon the opportunity of again meeting in conference. He testified to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of the joy and satisfaction it had brought to his life.

Andrus reported his labors as a missionary to the young men as very satisfactory. He had enjoyed himself very much while laboring in this Stake of Zion. The M. I. work was as far in advance in this as in some other Stakes.

Seven of the wards were reported by the respective bishops. The health of the people generally is good at the present time. The contagious disease which prevailed for a time has abated, but not before many of our loved ones were laid in the silent tomb. The ward organizations are complete and a good feeling exists among the people. There has been a reformation in time paying and in other departments of the work of the Lord.

Elder Rudger Clawson, of the Council of Apostles, addressed the conference, reporting his recent visit in connection with President J. F. Smith, to Canada.

At the afternoon meeting Elder James H. Hart in his remarks made reference to some of the noble men whom God had called to take an active part in carrying on His work—their faithful labors, their untiring zeal and sacrifice, even to life itself, for the testimony of Jesus.

Elder Joseph A. Hulme reported his missionary labors in the States and bore testimony to the divinity of the great latter-day work.

On the 21st of August addressed his remarks to the youth of Zion. He was interested in their advancement. There is a mighty work to be accomplished and the youth will have to shoulder the responsibility. The speaker bore a powerful testimony to the divine mission of Joseph Smith and the ultimate triumph of the work of God.

Elder R. Clawson discoursed upon the office of a Bishop and the qualifications necessary for fulfilling and magnifying the functions of his calling. The meeting closed with benediction by Elder J. P. Jones.

On Sunday at 10 a. m. Elder W. Budge reported the condition of the Bear Lake Stake, in which he remarked that the negligence of the lesser Priesthood was one of our weakest spots.

There is a pretty good status throughout the Stake. The high council are good men but occasionally they have practically nothing to do. The religion classes in some wards have been doing little of late. He felt thankful for the presence of the Apostles, anticipating from them much encouragement and aid. Elder H. C. Keetch, Stake superintendent of religion classes, said he rejoiced in the labors of the department of the work of God to which he was assigned. He had visited among the wards and his labors had been very pleasing. Bishop Romney of Salt Lake City related much of his early experience in the Church. He gave fatherly comfort and instruction. His remarks were listened to with the closest attention. Elder J. H. Smith spoke concerning the training of children in the fear of the Lord, fitting and preparing them for their development. He contrasted the revelations of the Lord with the dogmas of the sectarians, concluding with his testimony of the Gospel and the ultimate success and triumph of God's work.

In the afternoon the speakers were Elder R. Clawson and John Henry Smith. The subjects presented were "The Bishopric, its duties and responsibilities," "the cultivation of faith" and the "Pioneer Monument." Superintendent Jas. E. Hart announced that in consequence of his increased labors it became necessary to add several more to those previously chosen to assist him in the M. I. work of the Stake, and the following names were presented as additional aids, viz: Joseph A. Hulme, Asa Athay, Edward Sutton and B. W. Hess.

Elder Budge presented the general authorities of the Church and Stake authorities, all of whom were unanimously sustained. Elder Budge in his concluding remarks left his blessing with the Saints, making special mention of the choir that had furnished such sweet, heavenly music for worship. Benediction by Elder B. H. Grant.

THOMAS MINSON, Stake Clerk.

San Juan Stake.

Mahoes, Colo., Nov. 28.—The quarterly conference of the San Juan Stake of Zion convened in the Mahoes ward house, Saturday, Nov. 18, 1899, at 10 a. m., continuing three days. Our respected president, Elder F. A. Hammond, and counselors, Wm. Halls and Wayne H. Reed, were present, as also were Elder J. Golden Kimball, of Salt Lake City, and Elder Seth Taft, of Wayne Stake, the latter laboring as a M. I. missionary in this Stake. There was also a fair representation from other wards of the Stake. The reports of Elder Hammond and ward representatives showed a marked increase in good works. Never were the Saints of this Stake in as good spiritual condition as at present.

Elder Kimball in his plain and forcible manner delivered to us the word of the Lord in regard to the law of tithing, and was well received by the Saints. Elder Taft is heart and soul in the Mutual Improvement work and is stirring up delinquent members.

We had a most glorious time during conference. The Spirit of the Lord was present in rich abundance to cheer us. Bishop George Halls was honorably released from the position of Sunday school superintendent of Mahoes ward on account of the press of other duties and Elder Joseph H. Dean was named to fill that position. All the general and Stake authorities were sustained by unanimous vote.

H. M. TAYLOR, Assistant Stake Clerk.

Alberta Stake.

Cardston, Alberta, Canada, November 28th, 1899.

To the Editor:

The regular quarterly conference of the Alberta Stake was held in the Cardston meeting house according to appointment, Sunday and Monday, November 26th and 27th.

The president of the Stake, Elder C. O. Card, presided.

Present on the stand were the presidency and leading Elders of the Stake.

On the 21st of November they held another meeting in a school house at Beehive, P. O., to discuss our "case." We were in Eastman at the time looking for another Elder in from Laurens county.

We met Elder Bronson on the 22nd, so I left Dodge county for Macon. Our friends in Dodge are many and very kind. We were given all we could have desired and the attendance at our meetings was good. God did bless us wonderfully in preaching the word.

Macon is a large railroad center. In fact the whole Georgia is a great cotton market. It has a population of about 20,000 or 25,000.

Myself and companion were called here to prepare a place to hold our coming conference, as it is expected that we will hold it here in Macon soon.

We have obtained the privilege to distribute tracts and preach on the streets, but not to sell any books in the town.

We expect to do a good work here, and we certainly can if God will be with us, which I know He will if we seek Him in faith.

There are about thirty-five Elders in Georgia now at work and as far as I know are all doing a very good work, and are in very good health.

The headquarters of the conference is now in Augusta and the Elders are at work in these now tracing, holding meetings, etc.; my ex-companion is there, i. e. Elder Jas. E. King, and he writes me that they are getting along very well.

We do appreciate the "News." I always read the editorials first of all. Congratulations and success to the "Pioneer Paper" that always speaks the truth.

Your Brother,
J. T. BARRETT.

Nampa Conference, Idaho.

To the Editor:

It is now over seventeen months since we left our home in fair Utah to fill a mission in the Northwestern States.

We have found that our mission must be to warn people of the judgments to come upon the earth, unless they repent; also to inform them that the Gospel has been restored to the earth in its fullness, for the last time.

From experience we would say to the young Latter-day Saints, by all means take advantage of every opportunity and become acquainted with the Gospel.

The last eleven months we have labored in Nampa conference, Idaho. The Lord has been very merciful to us. We have been blessed with friends.

In Washington county within the last nine months we have baptized four into the fold of Christ, and some are earnestly investigating the principles taught by the Elders.

On the 25th of last October we had the pleasure of organizing a branch of the Church, known as the Indian valley branch, with brother Geo. W. Rose as presiding Elder; also a good Sunday school which is doing a great work. The school is visited quite frequently by non-members. The Saints are united in all their labors of love for mankind, and greatly assist the Elders in spreading the truth.

The people in this county are very hospitable.

We have heard a number of men say, they have not been inside a church for over twenty years, but they are always glad to see the Elders come and visit with them.

We always ask God to bless the cause of truth the world over; also the Elders abroad and at home, that they may perform their duties acceptably.

The Desert News is a welcome visitor and a help in proclaiming the Gospel.

Your brethren in Christ,
N. P. N. HANSEN,
R. H. SEEGMILLER.

In the European Mission.

Releases.—The following named Elders have been honorably released to return home for a s. s. Ethiopia from Glasgow, December 7, 1899:

Henry Crane and Thomas West of the Norwich conference; Ernest P. Horsley, Sheffield; Charles H. Davis, Welsh; Oscar Ray Knight, London; Thomas Blake, Manchester.

The s. s. Tantal was substituted for the Ethiopia, and will sail on November 27 instead of the 25th. The Ethiopia will sail December 7.—Millennial Star, November 22.

Oklahoma Conference.

Walker, Chickasaw Nation, I. T., November 20, 1899.

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma conference was held at Ardmore, Lincoln Co., O. T., Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25th and 26th, last.

At the appointed time for conference we near our faithful band of Zion's sons, burning with the desire for conference blessings, started from their several fields of labor, so as to be at Ardmore at the appointed time.

Many are the experiences related and the testimonies born, showing that the Lord is mindful of His servants, both in the field and upon their journeys; that as they are with interesting surroundings.

"What will an Elder not pass through to come to conference?" asked Elder Franklin R. Taylor, while talking over the various obstacles that have our way. Rain, mud and water everywhere, swollen streams, flooded bottoms, then swamps and briar patches, scratches, some empty stomachs, wet feet and clothing, well needed and spotted with Oklahoma's wonderfully adhesive element mud.

In with faces beaming with pleasure and here abounding for all, we met on the enjoyable excellent spirits and good fellowship.

We all assembled Saturday morning at the Ball school house, (except Elder J. J. Neville and Brother Bergdorf, who had gone to Chandler to meet Elder Jack). Elder Laurence Blackett of South, Utah, presided. He opened by his words of welcome, after which the Elders commenced to give in their reports. All spoke of the testimonies and blessings received from the Lord and offered items of information and instructions beneficial and necessary to the success of the conference. Some misunderstandings were adjusted, and peace, joy and satisfaction prevailed. Notice of a public meeting had been given out for Saturday night, but on account of heavy rains only two or three, besides the Elders, were present.

Elder Neville and Brother Bergdorf returned without Elder Jack.

Our Priesthood meeting of the morning was continued and a spirit of love and union was manifest.

After meeting the Elders went to the several places prepared by Elder Blackett and so kindly offered by the hospitable people of the neighborhood.

In closing the meeting prayer was made that we might have a fine day in the morning, that nothing would interfere to prevent the people from hearing the word of the Lord.

On Sunday, Nov. 26th, we all assembled and practiced concert singing. At 10 o'clock the house was well filled, as the day was quite pleasant, so our prayers were answered in that respect.

After the usual opening exercises Elder Blackett stated the object of the meeting and greeted those present with his words of welcome, invoking the blessing of the Lord upon all, and introduced Elder Francis L. Woods, of Ogden, Utah, as the first speaker. He taught chiefly upon the subject of Faith. Elder Edmond Tovel, of Prospect, Idaho, was the next speaker. He presented the principle of repentance and the ordinance of baptism.

Proceeding the meeting was again resumed at 2:30 p. m., and continued until bedtime for our 7 p. m. services. After the Elders had finished giving in their reports, Elder Blackett gave us many useful and timely instructions relative to our work. He was followed by Elder Samuel Tinton.

A short recess was taken, then we re-assembled and found a good congregation present. After singing several hymns, Elder Blackett introduced Elder Franklin R. Taylor, of Pima, Arizona, who discoursed upon the "Kingdom of God," and bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Elder Samuel Tinton followed on the second principles of the Gospel. At the close of Elder Tinton's remarks, "O my brethren," was sung in concert, as written in the new missionary hymn book.

Elder Blackett then thanked the people for the kind and hospitable way they had treated us while their presence. He also bore a strong testimony to what had been said and hoped the people would put into practice the principles of salvation so earnestly taught by us. Meeting then closed and a general hallelujah took place.

Monday morning we all assembled at Brother Bergdorf's, a goodly crowd, seventeen in all, and made out our reports, received our new companions and were assigned our fields of labor in the northern part of Chickasaw Nation, I. T.

A sacrament meeting was held and during prayer offered, then all were ready to part. Sister Bergdorf had prepared a tasty dinner, of which we all partook thankfully.

The Desert News is eagerly read and much appreciated by all the Elders of the conference.

Your brother in the Gospel,
FRANCIS L. WOOD.

In Georgia.

Macon, Bibb County, Ga., December 1, 1899.

To the Editor:

My last was from Taylor county, where I and Elder James E. King, were laboring at that time. He and I were called to go into Chatahoochee county and did so, meeting with very good success.

We visited the city of Columbus to

Sunday, 10:30 a. m.—After the opening exercises and introductory remarks by Elder Card, reports were given in from several of the wards, showing diligence among the Saints in temporal and spiritual matters; the weather having been favorable for some time past, the crops were gathered, and being taken care of; the labor on the Alberta Irrigation company's canal was being prosecuted toward completion; and active measures were taken by the different organizations in the wards to carry out the course of instructions marked out, especially for the advancement of the youth.

Elder H. L. Hinman addressed the congregation upon the necessity of vigilance on the part of parents in guarding the footsteps of their children, and assisting them to keep clear of the evil influences surrounding them; showing the power of home influences on the youth.

Elder M. D. Hammond followed, reporting that the obligations entered into with the Alberta Irrigation company were canceled; but the company were anxious to continue their labors in what remained to be done tending to the completion of the enterprise, and a great number were complying willingly, although different obstacles had arisen to impede the work, and mar the comfort of those engaged in the labor.

2 p. m.—After the opening exercises and the administration of the Sacrament, reports from various organizations were given, showing increase in numbers, continued diligence, and the adaptation to circumstances so often demonstrated by the Saints in settling new regions. Timely instructions were given; the admonitions of the Prophets were repeated, and earnest exhortations to continued diligence were made by Elders John A. Woolf, O. A. Woolley, Thos. Duce and C. O. Card.

At 7 p. m.—A conference was held by the Y. M. and Y. S. M. E. were set apart as alternates to the High Council of Alberta Stake, and Seth A. Thomas as an aid to the Y. M. E. A. also William W. Jod as the Y. M. E. Bishop of Cardston ward. Reports from different organizations followed by the various representatives. Then addresses were made by Elders J. P. Jordan, L. G. Hardy and J. P. Low.

In the afternoon the general authorities of the Church and the local authorities of the Stake were present, and unanimously sustained by the conference; after which different times were set for the various ward conferences to be held, through the coming winter. Instructions were given in regard to completing organizations; completing the work of the Stake, and the different requirements necessary to prosecute the labors of the Saints in the different parts of the Stake for the next three months by Elder C. O. Card and others. A letter from President Lorenzo Snow was read, pertaining to the new work, "Church Chronology."

The weather being unusually fine the attendance was large, considering so many were employed on the canal.

Yours respectfully,
SYLVESTER LOW,
Stake Clerk.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder H. P. Jennings of this city, who was set apart on the 22nd of October, 1897, for a mission to Great Britain, returned home on the 30th of November, last. He labored in the Nottingham and London conferences, where he performed a very successful mission, although his health was not the best at all times.

Elder Jas. W. Duffin of Paris, Bear Lake Co., Idaho, was set apart for missionary work on the 22nd of July, 1897, and returned on the 1st of December, 1899. He was assigned to the Virginia conference. The last part of his mission he labored in the cities of Richmond and Stanton. In the first named place the work is progressing well. The present agitation, Elder Duffin says, has apparently retarded the mission, but he has no doubt it will ultimately be of advantage.

Elder Samuel Linton, of Nephi, Juab Co., was set apart on the 22nd of Oct., 1897, for a mission to Indian Territory. He spent eighteen months there, and seven months in the Oklahoma conference. He returned on the second of this month. Elder Linton says: Although the Elders meet with a great deal of opposition, yet through their faith and untiring efforts to disseminate the truth, they are doing a good work. With the exception of a few chills he had excellent health; and although he had a testimony of the Gospel before leaving home, yet his testimony has been greatly strengthened by witnessing the power of God made manifest upon many occasions. He enjoyed his labors very much.

Elder John E. Godfrey, of Clarkston, Cache Co., who was set apart on the 17th of May, this year, for a mission to the South, returned on the 30th of Nov., having been released on account of sickness. He was very successful during his brief mission, having baptized eight persons and gained many friends. The mission in the eastern part of Kentucky, where he has been laboring, is in a thriving condition.

Elder Arthur J. Wagstaff of Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake Co., returned home from the New England States, where he has been as a missionary, on the 28th of November, this year. He was set apart on the 3rd of September, 1897. He visited Rhode Island and Massachusetts during his absence, and he found that there is a fair opening for the Gospel. The work is progressing nicely.

Elder John Hunter, of American Fork, was set apart on the 19th of October, 1897, to labor as a missionary in South Carolina. Brother Hunter was very successful there. He and companion held 643 meetings and baptized 12 persons. They were well treated. Elder Hunter returned home on the 5th of this month, feeling well in every respect.

Elder Taylor Nelson, of Riverdale, Oneida county, Idaho, was set apart on the 18th of August, 1897, for missionary labor, and returned on the 5th of this month. The first seven months he labored in South Alabama and the rest of the time in Georgia. The mission, he says, is prosperous in the field. It is comparatively new, but there are many investigators.

Elder Andrew Anderson, of Holiday, Salt Lake county, returned home on the 5th of this month from a mission to the Nebraska conference. He was set apart on Dec. 1, 1897. He reports the mission in a thriving condition.

Elder Joseph Later, of Harrisville, Weber county, returned home on the 7th of this month, from a mission to Kentucky. He was set apart on the 15th of August, 1897. He says he enjoyed his labors in the field. A great work is being done in that part of the country. On his way home he visited the Elders in Chicago, and enjoyed his stay among them very much. They are performing a good work in the great city.

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