

are doing the work that God has called us to do through His servants.

The people of Wales, as many of your readers know, have experienced hard times this summer, by being on strike for over five months, but nearly all have commenced work again, and there is prospect of brighter times. We are your brethren,

THOMAS W. JONES,  
Arizona,  
EDWARD THOMAS,  
Kamas, Utah.

#### The Christiania Conference.

Christiania, Sept. 25, 1898.

Once more I take the liberty of writing a few lines to the "News," and give a short report of the Christiania conference.

Many changes have taken place since one year ago, and the Gospel has had great progress in this land.

On June 16, 1898, Elder C. W. Petersen, president of the Christiania conference, and myself, started on a journey together around the entire coast of Norway, to visit the different branches in this conference. Perhaps a brief outline of our trip would be interesting to your readers. Elder Peterson joined me at Stravanger, where I had been laboring and was awaiting his coming. Stavanger is the fourth city in size in the country, having a population of about 30,000. Its chief industry is the preserving and canning of fish. It has three large rope factories. A few hours on the steamer from there and we were in Bergen, the second city in size in Norway. The greater part of the city is built on a peninsula at the foot of a high butt, while the remaining part lies farther inland and curves partly around the bay.

From this butte, called Floien, can be seen the entire city and surroundings, which makes a very pretty view. The air everywhere was alive with odor of beautiful flowers.

After a few days stay in this city we resumed our journey northward, and after ninety-six hours' steady sailing we reached Tromsø on the 25th of June, the most northerly branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world. At 11 o'clock p.m. on the 24th of June, we crossed the Arctic circle, the imaginary line that bounds the temperate and frigid zones, and we sailed for the first time in Arctic waters. It was cloudy that evening, so we did not see what was our greatest anticipation. At Tromsø we were welcomed by Elders Z. W. Israelsen from Hyrum, Utah, and Hyrum Nelsen, from Preston, Idaho, who were laboring in that branch. They had awaited us and were glad to see us; we were also glad to see them. On the night of the 25th of June we saw for the first time what seems to be a world renowned curiosity, the "midnight sun."

At exactly 12 o'clock midnight we sat down upon a rock and wrote in our diaries, as we saw and beheld the glowing rays of that far-off shining body. Nearly everybody was asleep and the city was still and silent as night.

Four nights in succession did we see the same scene. It seemed strange, very strange, to be in a country where there was no darkness—no night; where the sun from day to day keeps circling around the heavens. The mountain at the side of the city was covered with snow, while the lower surroundings were beautiful and green. The Laps and their reindeer were also quite a curiosity.

They are very small, similar in their customs and habits to our American Indians.

They dress in furs and skins, live in wig-wams and small tents, and cook their food on a small campfire. To our great surprise a great many of them speak the English language. We left Tromsø June 29 and started our journey southward. We reached Trondhjem, Norway's most historical city, on Fri-

day, the first of July, where we were greeted at the docks and welcomed to that city by Elders Jens Larsen, from Idaho, John Anderson, from Ogden, and Arent Johnsen, from Logan, Utah. We remained with them a week and visited all the different places of interest, such as the Trondhjems Dom-Kirke (or cathedral), which was built by the Catholics 1100 A. D., and the Monk-holmen, an old fortress and prison where captured kings and men of high rank have spent their lives in a dark cell. The city of Trondhjem ranks third in size, having a population of 40,000 inhabitants. Most of its streets are wide and run parallel with each other, which reminded us of home—of Utah.

On July 9th, after eighteen hours' of sailing, we found ourselves in Aalesund, where we remained a few days with the Elders and Saints, after which we again resumed our journey, and on July 13th we reached Bergen for the second time. We visited the great fair that was represented by eight nations, viz: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, England, Mexico and the United States. The Bergen "fish market" is also quite a remarkable place, where the people are gathered by the thousands, buying and selling fish. In each of the above named branches, we held one or more meetings with the Elders, visited the Saints at their homes, and attended to other religious duties, not forgetting the object of our trip. The Elders and Saints manifested a good spirit wherever we came, and rejoiced in the Gospel they had embraced.

Our trip was also extended out through Hardanger Fjord (meaning bay) where there is as beautiful scenery as can be found in the world. Here Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany makes his annual trip, as well as hundreds of tourists from all parts of the world.

From there we again continued southward, and a couple of weeks afterward brought our trip to an end. The Norwegians are a very proud, patriotic and talented people, and not in the least do they stand behind the rest of the world. They are very considerate to strangers, and a more kind and polite people are not to be found anywhere.

In etiquette (on the street, in the parlor or elsewhere) they set an example for others worth following, especially the English-speaking classes. We often hear the expression "Old Norway, poor old Norway and her ignorance," etc. She is looked upon as but a half civilized nation, but let me tell my good readers it is not true. She stands to the front in both civilization and education, and we have many things to learn from "poor old Norway."

There is not a better mission field for the Elders in all the world than the Norwegian mission. The people as a general rule are quite free-minded, and will read our tracts and investigate the Gospel. There are, of course, also a great number that will not; some have not got over the fright of old Mormon scare stories, and are afraid of us when we introduce ourselves. But the people are becoming more and more enlightened, and the old prejudices, founded on lies, are gradually dying away. In Christiania we have between 5,000 and 6,000 Saints, all trying to live up to the law of the Gospel and the commandments of God. They are good and kind to the Elders, always willing to help in anything that is for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God.

Our conference was held on September 3rd and 4th, commencing Saturday evening of the 3rd, and continuing with three meetings the day following. Our large hall in Osterhansgarden (the only hall in the Scandinavian mission that is owned by the Latter-day Saints) was crowded to overflow at every meeting. Standing room was at a premium. It was cleaned and decorated by the

Saints for the occasion, so that it might be nice and inviting for all that would come.

We were favored with the presence of Elder Jos. W. McMurrin of the European mission and Elder Geo. Christensen of the Scandinavian mission. Besides these, Elder C. W. Petersen of Christiania conference and twenty-six Elders from Utah were present.

In the afternoon of the 3rd came a telegram from Liverpool conveying the sad news of the death of President Wilford Woodruff. When the fact was announced to the congregation in the evening by Elder Christensen, the whole room was filled with a spirit of grief and mourning over the death of their beloved Brother, Prophet and Seer.

Reports were given by the branch presidents of the labor performed in their respective branches during the past half year. The day following, a report of the Christiania conference by Elder C. W. Petersen was given.

The missionaries have visited 16,705 families in their homes, have had 4,954 Gospel conversations, held 528 meetings and distributed 17,675 tracts and 119 books.

Many good discourses were given by the Elders.

Following are the names of the Elders and the places they were appointed to labor in for the coming six months; viz.:

C. W. Petersen, president of Christiania conference, with Andrew Dahlsrud, L. E. Larsen, C. Fred Schade and Hans H. Petersen in the Christiania branch.

Geo. M. Smoot and Lars J. Halling, Fredrikshald's B.

John E. Bolstad, Jacob P. Olsen and Geo. A. Torgersen, Fredrikstad's B.

Jens P. Fugald, Parley P. Jensen, Nells Torkelsen and Carl. Samuelsen, Eidsvold's B.

Hyrum Jensen, Jos. Torgersen and Axel Olsen, Drammen's B.

Olaus Johnsen and Christian Christensen, Laurvig's B.

Ranvald Sarlsen and Hyrum Hogan, Arendal's B.

Emil Petterborg and Arent Johnsen, Egersund's B.

Jonas Johnsen and Paul P. Christensen, Stavanger's B.

Ephraim Mikkelsen, Martin Williamsen, James N. Skousen and Silverin Swenhen, Bergen's B.

James Jensen and Parley Andersen, Aalesund's B.

Z. W. Israelsen and Hyrum Nelsen, Kristiansund's B.

Jens P. Larsen and John P. Andersen, Troughjem's B.

Yours truly,  
C. FRED SCHADE,  
Osterhausgade 27, Christiania.

#### Northwest Virginia Conference.

Littleton, Wetzel Co.,

Oct. 9, 1898.

On Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8th and 9th, our conference was held in the Rice school house, in the edge of Marshall county. Elders in attendance were twenty-one in number, including three local Elders.

Conference convened at 10 a. m. Elder Geo. W. Worthen presiding. There were few in attendance at the forenoon service, owing to the inclemency of the weather, yet we had an enjoyable meeting, the time being occupied by the following speakers: Jas. M. Browne, E. Hoff, Melvin Swapp, Geo. W. Worthen and A. P. Kesler.

The afternoon was reserved for Priesthood meeting, in which most of the Elders reported the work as being in a prosperous condition, after which A. P. Kesler gave us some timely instructions.

The appointments were not made until near the close of conference. In which Geo. W. Worthen, who had labored faithfully as our conference pres-