

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



IN VAN DIEMENS LAND.

Missionary Labors in the Island of Tasmania.

Sectarian Leaders Engage in Discussion With the Elders—Some Baptisms Performed.

Elders Hyrum Manwaring and Wm. T. Rex write from the city of Hobart, Tasmania, Dec. 27.

This new thrifty island—Tasmania—was once called "Van Diemens Land," and was used by England as an exile prison for her petty and criminal outlaws—where the convicted were banished for life.

However, this once desolated land has become a great fruit growing and mining district, and is now inhabited by a highly intelligent and enlightened class of people—mostly of English origin.

It is in this far off land that I, in company with Elders B. H. Bingham and Wm. T. Rex, were called to labor as an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and can now say without embarrassment that we have labored untiringly and earnestly for the spreading of the Gospel truths.

Beside our house to house tracing in the city of Hobart, we have traveled considerably in the country places, going without purse or scrip. In doing so we have had most of the varied experiences connected with missionary life. We have been rightly opposed by many of the sectarian denominations, but in most every case have come out triumphant in the end, and these experiences have tended to give us an undying testimony of the divinity of the work we are engaged in.

At one of our meetings held in Upper Huon, we noticed an unusually large audience, and were pleased to see the seekers after truth; but not knowing altogether the objective view of the people.

After our meeting was dismissed, however, we could see the object of the people gathering to our meeting. It was to oppose rather than listen to the Gospel.

A rough, though fairly educated, man marched to the platform and said, "These two 'Mormons' have come here and are telling a fine lot of ghost stories. They have told us a lot about the spirit of man and the Holy Ghost—now let them prove their statements from the Bible."

Then he went on to say that there was no such thing as a spirit in man—only the breath and a body of clay.

He forgot, however, to give his "Bible proof."

We again took the platform and debated the question with him, and four of his congregation for five hours, giving what proof the Bible offers on the spirit of man and its pre-existent state; also the offices and functions of the Holy Ghost.

This assault upon us resulted in causing a thorough investigation of our principles, and proved very beneficial. Following these came the "Seventh Day Adventists," telling what old stories they had heard against the "Mormons," Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

The people soon found out that they didn't mean what they said when they commenced to introduce their prophecies—Mrs. White, with her twelve volumes of divine writings.

We are prohibited from holding meetings on the streets of Hobart, so with determination, we resolved to quietly but thoroughly canvass the city with our tracts, which has proved very successful thus far.

We have many good, earnest investigators, our meetings are well attended, and we have this month baptized five persons.

We have also seen the power of God made manifest in many ways; both in our behalf and with the Saints.

Elder Rex led a couple into the waters of baptism (aged sixty and seventy) and they both came up out of the water singing.

"Hallelujah, it's done. I believe you. I am saved by the blood Of the crucified One."

This aged sister has been afflicted for years with a terrible pain in her side, which caused her very much annoyance and suffering. Since her baptism she has never felt a symptom of the old complaint, and they are now happy beyond measure.

The Saints here are in the best of spirits, and God's blessings are with them to bear them up under the weight of the "cross." Truly they have proved the words of the Savior (Matt. 11: 28, 29, 30): "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We now have a nice little branch, and all being well, we will commence a Sunday school at the beginning of the new year.

Elder Bingham left on Dec. 22nd for South Australia, where he has lately been called to labor, and Elder Rex and I will still continue the work here in Hobart and vicinity.

We have spent a happy Christmas. It coming, as it does, in midsummer, we sought the cool places to enjoy our games and picnic.

Having had somewhat of a rest—our change—we are now prepared to renew our labors with renewed energy.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor to our foreign home, and is read with interest.

CALIFORNIA MISSION.

Well Attended Meetings in the City of San Jose.

Sister Mary E. Ercanbrack sends this communication, dated San Jose, Cal., Jan. 24.

I left my home in Goshen, Utah, Jan. 15th, and on the 16th took train for San Francisco. At Oakland I was met by my husband, Elder W. Ercanbrack, and Elders W. Jensen and J. Sorenson;

We then took boat for San Francisco. At San Francisco we went to mission headquarters and were received very kindly by Elder and Sister Nye and other Elders. After spending a day in San Francisco, we took afternoon train for San Jose. At night all the Saints gathered at our mission house, No. 224 N. 3rd St., and gave me a warm reception.

Sunday morning we went to the Latter-day Saints' hall and held Sunday school from 10 o'clock on, and had a very nice school. Meeting from 11 to 12. Elders Calvin Price and Elder W. W. Ercanbrack were the speakers. There were 40 persons present. Every Sunday afternoon the Elders and some of the Saints have singing practice at Sister Bailey's, whose kindness the Elders appreciate very much.

Tuesday night we held Mutual Improvement association at our mission house. Elder A. W. Funk is president. On the 24th inst. we went to Alamo Rock to perform a baptism, and at night we held prayer meeting. The Saints of San Jose are very kind and generous.

ITEMS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

A Branch of the Church Doing Well—Elders Laboring Industiously.

Elder S. S. Hammond Jr. writes from Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.

There is a branch of the Church here with about twenty-five members. As a whole they are doing well. Persecution is raging, though. The Elders have just got located in their new fields of labor, in the extreme eastern part of the State. There are about thirty Elders in this conference. When in conference capacity we look quite different, from the ministry of any other sect, who depend on their new fields of labor, in religious schools before venturing out into their "already prepared pupils."

At our conference which convened Dec. 18 and 19, Elder Ben E. Rich was with us. My companion, Elder F. H. White, and I were assigned to labor in this city. We have had success thus far. The weather is pleasant. The first snow fell in the night of the 17th of the present month. About an inch fell.

The "News" is ever welcomed by us.

"PAY DAY" OF THE ELDERS

Annual Conferences Are So Regarded by Them.

A Profitable Gathering at Sparta of Missionaries Laboring in Middle Tennessee.

The following report of the Middle Tennessee conference is signed by Elders John Reeve, John Kingdom, and Dryden R. Coombs:

If there be such a day as "pay day" to the "Mormon" Elder, it is the time of the annual conference in his field of labor. No Elder or Saint attended the conference in Sparta without feeling well paid for his long walk and for the sacrifices of a year past.

On Saturday morning, January 13th, the conference convened in the court house, which had been tendered us.

After the usual opening exercises, Elder David H. Elton, from the Chattanooga office, addressed the meeting. The burden of his remarks was that the Spirit of God should actuate man in all his actions.

Saturday afternoon, counsel meeting was held for the day. Elder Elton gave timely instructions relative to the work.

The two meetings on Sunday were well attended by representative citizens of White county, both friends and enemies. The first speaker was Elder Loren Rich, from Chattanooga, who gave a brief outline of the first principles of the Gospel.

David H. Elton again interested the congregation in a discourse relative to the "Mormon" creed.

The afternoon meeting was called at 3 o'clock. It was the best attended of any, nearly all the seats were filled. Elder Dryden R. Coombs was the first to speak. He took for his theme, "Why I am a Mormon."

Brother Elton again spoke at length on the testimony of the "Mormon" people.

Elder John Reeve made a few closing remarks. He urged people to read our literature with unbiased minds, as the message we have for the world is from God, and not of man. He thanked the citizens of Sparta for the use of the court house, and for their liberality in coming out to hear us.

Sunday evening at 7 o'clock the brethren all met in the Rhea House in testimony meeting.

Four of the brethren, Emory Barrus, James Emmett, Ed. S. Parkinson, and R. A. Talbot were honorably released to return home. Through the release of Elder Barrus a vacancy was made in the counsel to the president, and Brother D. R. Coombs was chosen to fill the place with Elder John Kingdom.

In Middle Tennessee there are about four hundred Saints, all endeavoring to live their religion.

All the members of White, and representatives from De Kalb, Putnam, Overton and Cannon counties were in attendance and all expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the sermons.

CONFERENCE IN OREGON.

Encouraging Reports from the Elders Present.

Elder Frank R. Davenport writes from Forest Grove, Ore., Jan. 26.

The semi-annual conference of the Portland division of the Northwestern States mission was held in Portland, Ore., Dec. 19. Saturday morning the Elders met in Priesthood meeting. The report of the conference was given and instructions by Elder F. S. Bramwell.

In the evening Elder Bramwell, accompanied by Elders Ezra and Harry Monson, went to Salem to meet with the Elders and Saints of that conference.

Sunday three meetings were held in the spacious hall in the Alisky building, corner Third and Morrison. In the morning meeting Elder J. W. Ure Jr., president of the Portland conference, welcomed the Saints and strangers.

Elders Stewart, Eccles, Lindquist, Davenport, and Jorgensen, then spoke, explaining the Gospel, and bearing testimony to its truth.

In the afternoon Elders E. Hiatt and J. W. Ure Jr. presided. The time was spent in singing and prayer. Elders Ezra and Harry Monson spoke

In the evening, followed by Elder F. S. Bramwell.

After the meeting we were happily surprised by the arrival of Elders Ercanbrack, Hawke, and Welch from Montana. A few minutes' hand-shaking and we again met in Priesthood meeting. The Elders already mentioned with Elders Sims, Lake and McBride, making the list.

At the call from the president, the Elders each gave a report of his past labors, which were encouraging. Elder Bramwell gave some good instructions, after which our conference adjourned.

God may the Elders be assigned to their fields.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.

The Meetings Were Held in the City of Savannah.

Vacancies Filled and Elders Assigned to Their Various Fields of Labor.

The clerk of the Georgia conference sends this report:

The Georgia conference met Jan. 15 in the city of Savannah. Our conference president, Elder H. P. Hansen, was the first speaker. Elder D. H. Elton, one of our visiting Elders, next addressed us. He drew many comparisons between the state of affairs confronting the Savior and His Apostles and the condition to be met in proclaiming the Gospel today.

In the evening another public meeting was held. Elder Clayton, a visiting Elder, was the first speaker. The laws of God were the theme of his address. The remainder of the time was taken up by Elder D. H. Elton.

A sacrament meeting was held Wednesday morning. Each of the Elders had the privilege of bearing his testimony.

Elder Elton gave us some instructions and closed by bearing his testimony.

In the afternoon session we were again favored with the presence of the visiting Elders. Brother Elton again spoke to us words of encouragement.

Immediately after the close, a short council meeting was held, and officers were chosen to fill the vacancies.

Elder D. B. Gardner was chosen first counselor, and Elder B. F. Stewart, second.

Elders H. C. Butler and R. D. Green were then chosen as traveling Elders.

The Elders were assigned their fields of labor. Four will remain in Savannah. The headquarters of this conference will be changed to Augusta.

There are 27 Elders now in the conference. In the evening another public meeting was held. Elder Griffith was the first speaker. Elder Corbridge spoke for a short time on some of the Gospel principles. Our conference president, Elder H. P. Hansen, took up the rest of the time, and our conference came to a close.

MAMMOTH WARD.

A Good Work Being Done in the Tintic Mining District.

Brother John W. Housholder, in a letter dated Mammoth, Utah, Jan. 25, writes:

Here in the Tintic mining district we have a good, wide awake ward and a lively interest is being taken by the Saints to make this the best ward in the west side of the State. Our Bishop, Brother Geo. Hales, is an active, energetic Latter-day Saint, and he is assisted by a quorum of earnest teachers.

Our statistical report shows 71 families enrolled. We have a nice meeting house, well seated, and paid for. Our Sabbath school is presided over by Brother John Hawkins, assisted by a number of efficient teachers. There is an average attendance of 125, while very few of our children who attend. All other ward organizations are in complete working order, and meet regularly.

We hold our sacrament meeting on Sunday eve, and frequently have home missionaries from Eureka ward; also from Nephi. Last Sunday we had the pleasure of listening to Elder J. W. Nixon of Huntington, who gave an excellent address for the dead. Among those present were many strangers. The singing of our choir under the leadership of Brother Morgan Thomas is one of the features of our meetings.

A few years since it seemed impossible to get the work started here, but now the Saints are alive and in earnest. They are paying their tithing and attending to their duties.

THE WORK IN TEXAS.

Good Treatment Accorded to the Missionaries.

School Houses Generally Open to Them—The Story of One Who Once Led a Mob.

Elder J. N. Heywood Jr. sends this interesting communication from Jardin, Tex., Jan. 24.

Since coming to Texas about ten months ago, my labors have been confined to Hunt county. Usually we have received good treatment, and the doors of school houses, with but few exceptions, have been open to us. Occasionally we find a school house, that is open "except for Mormons."

A few nights ago we stopped with Brother W. T. Webb, who is from Alabama. Several years ago he raised a mob to punish the Elders who were laboring in his neighborhood. He relates that there were about fourteen in the mob, and that as they neared the house where the Elders had been staying, they stopped aside to consult as to the best course to pursue. While talking a light suddenly appeared above them, which looked like a ball of fire, from which sparks were flying in all directions. It seemed to be directly above them, not far from an hundred feet away. After passing over them a loud rumbling sound returned along the path the light had pursued. The mob fled in all directions, and now Brother Webb bears testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Last November we were asked to administer to Sister Denton, who had been sick nine weeks. Sometimes she could get around a little, but much of the time she was confined to her bed. Since we administered to her, she has not been in bed a day. She was healed by the power of God.

The "News" is a comfort and cheer

OUR \$3.00 SHOES.

The proof of the goodness of your three dollar shoes is in the service they give.

We've known some of our \$3.00 shoes for men to wear for two years.

Good hard wear at that, too. Some haven't worn quite so long.

But any of them wear longer than other shoes at the same price.

Our three dollar shoes for women contain all the style of most \$5.00 shoes.

ROBINSON BROS. CO.,

SHOE BUILDERS, 124 Main St.

to the missionaries, and is a great factor in spreading truth. Thinking people speak of it in terms of praise.

Should any have friends or relatives in Hunt county, Texas, they would wish us to visit, address us at Grand Prairie, Dallas county.

Joy in the Gospel.

A sister, Virginia Brann, writing from Clinton, Utah, Co., Jan. 26, expresses her great satisfaction at being with Saint Mary God, though she left many dear friends in the South, when the spirit of gathering prompted her to cast her lot with the people here. She writes in part:

My oldest brother, who is practicing law in Kansas City, visited me in Salt Lake. He was quite bitter when he came, but made an honest confession before he left, that the "Mormons" were great misrepresentations.

I will conclude by extending my regards to all the North Carolinians that may chance to read this; also my testimony I leave to all who chance to read this. May God bless all who have covenanted to serve Him, also those who have not.

IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Elders Meet Some Friends in Their Fields of Labor.

Elder Wm. Checketts, writing from No. 34, Lower St., Worcester, England, Jan. 15, says:

On arriving at Liverpool I was appointed to labor in the Birmingham conference, where for about three months I have been traveling from house to house in the day time, and at night assisting to hold street meetings. I was somewhat surprised to find so few who wished to listen to us, but through the blessings of the Lord I was able to visit some of our street meetings. There are some good Latter-day Saints and investigators here, and in the surrounding country with whom we hold cottage meetings and enjoy the Spirit of God. In October we changed our headquarters to Worcester. Here I was appointed to labor with Elder D. G. Droubay of Toledo, our district being Hereford and Worcester. Here we have been guided to a few of the honest in heart and some are nearly ready for baptism. The work here is progressing. Since being here I have had the pleasure of performing four and witnessing two baptisms. I have also seen the sick healed through faith and prayers.

Elder Checketts desires to hear from friends in Utah who may have acquaintances in the district where he is laboring.

PLEASANT REUNION.

Jordan Stake Officers of Y. L. M. I. A. Have a Pleasant Meeting.

Elder Albert Mabey Jr., writes from Salt Lake City, Jan. 27.

The Stake and ward officers of the Jordan Stake Y. L. M. I. associations, with their invited guests, met in a reunion in the South Jordan ward house, Jan. 22, 1901.

The weather was fair and the house was decorated in the latest style. Pictures adorned the walls. Just over the pulpit hung the picture of the Stake officers. The picture was a picture of the Stake officers, and on the right wall were to be seen the pictures of the former Bishop of South Jordan, Wm. A. Ellis. To the left, the picture of the present Bishop of South Jordan, Thomas Blake, and on the right wall were to be seen the pictures of the former Bishop of the South Jordan Y. L. M. I. association, Betty F. Blake, Edna M. Holt and Janey Maynard.

The exercises of the day commenced about 12 o'clock noon. The Stake president of the Y. L. M. I. A. presiding. After the opening exercises a miscellaneous program was rendered.

During an intermission the young ladies served those present with a bountiful repast.

The exercises closed and the crowd dispersed at 4 p. m.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

NEBO STAKE.

Organization of the New Ecclesiastical Division.

On Sunday, Jan. 20, the Saints of Spanish Fork, Salem, Benjamin, Lake Shore, Spring Lake, Santaquin, Goshen, Knightsbridge and Payson wards met in the tabernacle at Payson for the purpose of completing the organization of a Stake comprising the above named wards.

At a Utah Stake conference held in Provo, January 13, 1901, the Utah Stake was divided and Bishop Jonathan S. Packer, Jr. (formerly Bishop of Payson, Second ward), was selected and sustained as president of the Stake comprising the new wards.

Meeting was called to order by Elder J. K. Kautz Jr. He expressed himself pleased at the large assemblage, and spoke of the responsibility resting upon him.

Apostle Reed Smoot spoke of the division of the Utah Stake. He said that he was not occasioned by disunion, but the object of such division was to increase workers in Zion's cause. At the conference in Provo, he said, the president of this Stake, J. S. Page, Jr., was selected, and unanimously sustained. The counselors and other officers will be presented today and the organization of this Stake will be completed as nearly as possible. He said the Word of Wisdom must be observed, as it is now a command from God. The officers should also believe in and practice tithing, and attend their meetings. He related an instance where a president of an Elders' quorum, who was not converted to the faith, had a very bad influence upon the members of his quorum, which influence was strongly manifested in their lives. He then suggested "Nebo" as the name of the Stake, which was unanimously adopted.

The following officers were then presented and sustained, and afterwards set apart by Apostles Reed Smoot and Rudger Clawson, assisted by the president of the Stake:

Jonathan S. Packer, Jr., as president; Nebo Stake; Hyrum Lemmon as first counselor, and Henry Gardner as second counselor.

As High Counselors—Wm. S. Tanner, Henry Fairbanks (not present), John H. Paxon, and John Staheli.

Elder A. T. Flinders, of Ogden City, Utah, returned on the 21st of this month from a mission to the Northwestern States, and has been laboring

(absent), Rufus P. Snell, John H. Hays, Peter H. Hays, Edward H. Hays, A. J. Lundholm. (The twelfth not selected.)

Alternates—Joseph S. Bliss, S. M. Richardson, Eli J. Clayton, Serenas Gardner, Ammon Nebeker, Morris J. Martell.

Patrons—Chas. D. Evans, Wm. S. Tanner, William Price.

Stake Tithing Clerk and Clerk of High Council and Stake Clerk—Samuel D. Moore.

His Priesthood Quorum—Chas. Brewerton, president; Jonathan S. Page, first counselor; James Anderson, second counselor.

Stake Superintendent of Sunday Schools—Samuel Brookbank; David T. Lawrence, first counselor; Wm. L. Worcester, second assistant.

Stake President of Y. M. M. I. A.—Heber Jex, Samuel E. Taylor, Wm. E. Stoker.

His Priesthood of Y. L. M. I. A.—Anna Nebeker (counselors not selected).

The officers of the Stake Relief Society are not yet selected.

President of Primary Associations—Jane Argyle, (counselors not selected).

Stake Chorister—Edw. H. Dore. Superintendent of Religious Classes—Joseph D. Stark; Wm. F. Tanner, first assistant, and Franklin Fairbanks, second assistant.

On account of the Bishopric of some of the wards being broken into in the selection of Stake officers, the following Bishops were sustained, and those not already Bishops ordained: John E. Hulsh, Bishop of First ward; Payson; Francis M. Elmer, first counselor; J. A. Lovelace, second counselor; Jesse S. Taylor, Bishop of Second ward; Payson; David F. Fawns, first counselor; Robert W. McKell, Bishop of First ward, Spanish Fork; George H. Jex, first counselor; Niel L. Gardner, second counselor; Abram Hansen, Bishop of Fourth ward, Spanish Fork. Counselors not yet selected.

Apostle Smoot advised the forming of prayer circles for the Stake as well as for wards.

Every officer selected shall be for the work of God first, last and all the time.

If the officers and members of the Stake, said shall be united together, God will bless and prosper them. He encouraged the Saints to be united and sustain the officers of this the Nebo Stake of Zion.

The afternoon session called to order by Elder Packer.

Elder Hyrum Lemmon and Henry Gardner were the first speakers.

Apostle Smoot then spoke of filling offices left vacant at some future time. Apostle Clawson spoke of the blessing that would come to the Saints through the new organization.

Closing remarks were made by Elder Packer.

The choir sang an anthem.

Benediction—Chas. D. Evans. SAMUEL D. MOORE, Clerk.

CACHE STAKE.

Many Important Lessons Taught in the Recent Conference.

Logan, Cache Co., June 28.—Another productive conference of this Stake has closed today. We were favored with the presence of Elders George Teasdale and M. F. Cowley, of the Council of Apostles, in addition to our Stake President, Elder Packer, who is here on a hostile tour. There were some visiting Elders: Wm. C. Parkinson, president of Pocatello Stake; S. H. Hales, counselor of the presidency of Oneida Stake, and Bishop John L. Larson of Preston. The anticipated division of the Stake did not take place, action in the matter being deferred to some future time. Elder Merrill being unwell did not attend meeting the second day. The time was profitably occupied by the Apostles, the counselors to President Merrill, and Elder Willard Done. At the closing session a number of the High Council members were called to hear their testimony. viz.: James Z. Stewart, J. A. Leishman, A. G. Barber, Stewart, G. P. Pitkin, H. K. Merrill, John E. Carlisle, Lorenzo Hansen, Alvin Crockett. Their remarks were brief, but spirited and edifying. Elder Alex. Lewis, the choir leader, also bore his testimony. He had been in the Church and engaged in singing for fifty-one years, and had led the Logan choir for twenty-nine years, and thought that now some one else should take his place.

It was gratifying to hear the report of President Merrill that two obligations of the Stake that have been carried for a number of years had been paid off. The substantial increase in paid off. The substantial increase in paid off. The substantial increase in paid off.

Among many good things that were taught was the need of the Gospel being carried into the homes of the Saints, to the sisters and others who cannot attend meetings, and to our present Bishop of South Jordan, Thomas Blake, and on the right wall were to be seen the pictures of the former Bishop of South Jordan, Wm. A. Ellis. To the left, the picture of the present Bishop of South Jordan, Thomas Blake, and on the right wall were to be seen the pictures of the former Bishop of the South Jordan Y. L. M. I. association, Betty F. Blake, Edna M. Holt and Janey Maynard.

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RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder James E. Taylor of