

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS

Indiana Conference.

Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 15, 1898.

The semi-annual conference for the district of Indiana was held in the court house beginning Saturday evening, Nov. 12th, at 7:30 p. m. and closing on Monday evening, November 14. The opening services were very well attended, as were all of them, and a good interest shown throughout the entire conference. One of the special features of the conference was the singing.

About twenty Elders were present, including Elders Louis A. Kelsch and Jos. F. Cardon, president and secretary respectively of the Northern States mission. The use of the court house was granted to us free of charge, as heretofore, for which we are grateful to those in charge and know the Lord will bless them. "Inasmuch as they did it unto some of the least of these my brethren, they have done it unto me." The services throughout were presided over by Elder George E. Barton. The choir, composed of the Elders and a number of Saints, furnished the music.

Elder George E. Barton made a few introductory remarks and called on Elder Wm. R. Andrew to address the congregation. He pointed out the necessity of baptism, its object, mode and subjects, bringing up many passages of scripture to substantiate him in his remarks.

A quintet, composed of Elders N. C. Nelson, Jno. Phillips and George F. Barson, and Sister Laura James and Mrs. Axman, sang a selection.

Elder George F. Welling was the second speaker. He spoke on general principles of the Gospel and bore his testimony to the truth of the work in which he is engaged. The choir and congregation sang a hymn and benediction by Elder Louis A. Kelsch.

Sunday, 10:30 a. m.—After singing, prayer was offered by Elder Hugh W. Harvey.

Elder Fred B. Brooks was the first speaker. The personality of God was the subject treated upon.

Elder Nels C. Nelson then addressed the congregation. He dwelt at some length on the necessity of baptism, showing the danger there is in delaying to keep the commandments of our Savior, and imploring all people to be ready to leave this probation when called upon to do so by our Heavenly Father. The services were brought to a close by the choir singing and benediction by Elder Wm. O. Phelps.

Sunday, 2:30 p. m.—Services commenced by the choir singing.

Elder Eli Sprague offered prayer.

Elder Jos. E. Cardon was introduced as the first speaker. His remarks were confined principally to the prejudice of the people against the Latter-day Saints. He reviewed the prejudice of the people in the days of Noah, Christ and His Apostles, showing it was the downfall and destruction of the nations of the earth in their day, and that the prejudice that exists now against the Church of Jesus Christ will be the destruction of the people in this day. The bitter work of enemies is the cause for this prejudice and this opposition is being met by the Elders who travel among the nations of the earth. He was thankful to say that this prejudice and opposition is being allowed to a great extent and the Elders are gaining ground rapidly, making many friends and leading many honest souls down into the waters of baptism. He closed with a powerful testimony as to the divine mission of the angel John the Revelator saw flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, to

every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Elder John Phillips and Mrs. Axman sang "Our home in the mountains." Services closed by choir singing and benediction by Elder Stephen Greer.

Sunday, 7:30 p. m.—Services opened by the choir singing.

Elder Louis A. Kelsch then spoke for over an hour on general principles of the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints. He said the people should invite the Elders to their homes to talk with them on the true principles of life and salvation. In his sermon he brought forth many beautiful truths of the Gospel, explaining them in a simple manner. Services closed by the choir singing. Closing prayer was offered by Elder George F. Welling.

Priesthood meeting, Monday, 9 a. m.—By the kindness of Rev. T. J. Johnson, the Elders held Priesthood meeting in his house of worship. The meeting opened by the Elders singing The Day-Dawn is Breaking; prayer was offered by Elder Jos. F. Cardon, followed by singing.

The Church, mission and conference authorities were unanimously sustained, after which the Elders were assigned to their respective fields of labor. Each Elder expressed himself as perfectly willing and thankful for the opportunity to go on with the noble work of winning souls for Christ. Valuable instructions were given to the Elders by Elder Kelsch and Secretary Cardon. The three hours we were together we enjoyed a rich portion of the Spirit of God, an enjoyed ourselves and only those can who are so richly blessed. Elders William R. Andrew and J. L. Ellertson were released to return home. Meeting closed by singing God is Love; benediction by Elder Louis A. Kelsch.

Monday evening, 7:30.—The choir sang a hymn; prayer by Elder George E. Barton. Elder J. L. Ellertson addressed the congregation on repentance, showing the difference between a worldly and Godly repentance, and inviting all to repent of their sins, comply with the requirements of the Gospel, and keep the commandments of God.

Elder John Phillips sang in his usual pleasing and entertaining manner Kind Words are Sweet Tones of the Heart.

Elder Geo. L. Barton followed by stating we came amongst the nations of the earth to proclaim the true and everlasting Gospel and showed that the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints is exactly like that taught by Christ and His Apostles. To those who accepted the Gospel, and fully complied with its requirements, the great blessing of eternal life would be given them while they who rejected it could not obtain this great reward. Some people thought the Elders came out into the world for the purpose of gathering in women and ship them to Utah. But this is not the case. An Elder was once told by a lady that "the Elders were traveling around to get women and ship them to Utah." But the Elder gave the lady to understand "we grow (please allow the expression) as the girls and women in Utah as they do anywhere on the face of the earth, and do not need to come to Indiana or anywhere else for the fair sex."

The conference was brought to a close by the choir singing,

Our God, we raise to Thee
Thanks for Thy blessings free
We here enjoy.

Benediction by Elder Louis A. Kelsch.

The large crowds in attendance expressed themselves as highly pleased with all that had been said and the manner in which everything had been carried on. Many friends were added to the already large and growing list, and the Elders feel much encouraged

by the bright prospects that await them.

The Elders' assignments are as follows:

Alof Larson and H. W. Batchelor, Frankfort, Ind.

Fred B. Brooks and Stephen D. Greer, Noblesville, Ind.

H. W. Harvey and Henry Hendrickson, Anderson, Ind.

Fred W. Passey and R. L. Sprague, Hartford, Ind.

J. L. Parcell, Wm. O. Phelps, John Phillips, W. J. Seeley, N. C. Nelson, Montgomery.

Geo. L. Welling and Geo. L. Barton will labor in Indianapolis, Ind.

Elders W. R. Andrew and J. L. Ellertson were given honorable releases to return to their loved ones in Zion.

Elder W. W. Wright was transferred at his request to labor in the Southern Illinois conference, as he has relatives living in that vicinity. Those having relatives or friends in any of the above cities will confer a favor by addressing the Elders laboring in such city.

Your brother,

FRED B. BROOKS.

A Sunday School Organized.

Providence, R. I., Nov. 23, 1898.

The first Sunday school of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Providence, R. I., was organized under the supervision of Elder John M. Whitaker (conference president) on the 25th day of September last, at the house of Brother John H. Morris, No. 193 Laban street.

Elder Peter C. Cornia was sustained as superintendent, with Elder Don C. Stafford as first and Brother John H. Morris as second assistant superintendents; Sister Grace Morris as secretary and Elder Arthur F. Burton as musical director.

Beside the above named there were present Elder Enoch Cornia, Brother Morris's family and two other children, namely, Willie and William Asguth, making a total of fifteen persons present. Since the organization quite a number of others have joined our school from South Providence, which has necessitated our making a division of the school, owing to some having to come so far. To accommodate these we hold our Bible class at Eagle hall, where we hold our regular Sunday meeting, and the smaller class still at Brother Morris's, it being most convenient, that way, for both classes.

We are progressing quite nicely, though very slowly at present. It seems as though we are a special mark for attack lately both from the pulpit and press. The New York Herald has published several articles of late against us; also the Providence papers.

A Rev. McKay held a meeting a short time ago in the Presbyterian church to air his feelings regarding the Mormon people; also Rev. Dr. T. C. Iliff of Salt Lake City delivered a very bitter address against our people in the Trinity Union M. E. church last Sunday evening, his subject being "Twenty-five years among the Mormons." There were five of the Elders present, and each took note of the fact that his sole effort was to secure money for the "Mormon mission."

I remain, yours very truly,

ARTHUR F. BURTON.

In South Carolina.

Bennetville, S. C.,

November 22, 1898.

No doubt the readers of the "News" would like to hear from the old "Palmetto state" once more. We have had some sickness in our conference this fall, since frost has come the Elders are improving in health. The Lord is rewarding the noble efforts of the Elders, and gives us a greater desire to thrust in our sickles and reap.