

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS

Conference at Apia, Samoa.

Fadalli, Samoa, Oct. 26, 1898.

The following is a short account of the semi-annual conference of the Tuamosaga district, Island of Upolu, held at Matautu, near Apia, Oct 22nd and 23rd.

Conference meant much to most Latter-day Saints, but more to the Samoan Elders than those who are not laboring under similar circumstances can well imagine. A solitary life among the natives has a marked tendency to make one appreciate the associations of his fellow laborers. And not ending there a conference seems to act as an electric power plant, as it were, in which both Saints and Elders are recharged with the spirit of their labors and good feelings and progress are naturally resultant.

Our late conference at Matautu, near Apia, in nowise fell short in this respect, but indeed fulfilled the greatest anticipations of Elder Wood and the most enthusiastic of our Elders. This situation is centrally located, so that on the morning of the 22nd at our first meeting, there were no less than two hundred and fifty Saints and strangers present. The arrival of new Elders the day before increased our numbers to an even eighteen. The Elders present were E. J. Wood, president; Earnest Wright, Wm. Jeppson, Geo. Burnham, Jos. Quinney Jr., Wm. W. Winegar, Eugene Morris, Frank Soderborg, Wm. Warsencroft, Samuel Stark, Edwin Smart and Brother and Sister Clare W. Reid, with the new arrivals, Brother and Sister Jed Taylor, Horace Fish, Edward W. Little, John J. Roberts.

Elder Wright and the Saints gave all present a hearty reception, and accommodations and plenty of food were provided for the three days while we were together. A characteristic native hospitality was manifest and went far towards lending a good spirit to the conference.

In our meeting there was nothing lacking. We were blessed with large audiences of attentive listeners, and the blessings of the Lord were showered upon us. Many of the Elders are experienced spakers in the native tongue and under the influence of the Spirit many principles of the Gospel were explained in clearness, and many were the words of encouragement offered, much to the edification of all present.

During Saturday and Sunday five regular meetings and one session of Sunday school were held. The Sunday school program is worthy of special mention, as it would have done credit to any class of children. The program was rendered for the more part in English, and consisted of Bible exercises, stories, etc., as well as songs and recitations. There were some hundred pupils present, representing all the branches in this conference, so that by seeing the dress, deportment and rendition of the different numbers one could gain a good idea of the work that has been done by individual Elders in their school work. Neatness in dress, order and precision in the exercises were characteristic of each school. All present marveled at the plainness with which the children spoke and sang. And at the end the Elders as well as the parents and children, seemed justly proud of their six months' labor in school capacity. But one year and a half have passed since the first steps were taken in this direction; and when we consider that there are many who can understand easy English conversation and are able to read and write short stories the prospects for the future seem indeed flattering.

The statistics of baptism and chil-

dren blessed the past six months shows that the work of the Lord on Samoa is steadily increasing. New members are being daily added to our ranks and the Elders are encouraged and will no doubt go forward with increased energy the coming six months.

SAMATI.

South West Virginia Conference.

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 17, 1898.

Once more the Elders of our conference have had the privilege of meeting together in a conference capacity. A few days before the time Elder Wagstaff notified the Elders that conference would be held at Two Mile, Kanawha county, on the 15th and 16th of the month. Then began the march forward to the place of happy meeting, where we arrived the evening before.

Saturday morning at 10.30 found us all in our places.

Elder A. P. Kesler presided. After the usual opening exercises Brother Kesler stated that he would like to hear from all the Elders during conference, and hoped all would have an enjoyable time.

At the close of the afternoon session it was announced that Priesthood meeting would convene directly after the close. Meeting began at 4:30 continuing about three hours, which passed very rapidly.

The Elders all gave in their reports for the last six months which were favorable in most every way. The conference was found to be in a flourishing condition.

After the reports were all given in Elder Kesler gave us many valuable instructions in regard to our labors.

Before the close of the meeting, Elder Benjamin Fullmer, in behalf of the Elders, presented our conference president, Elder J. C. Wagstaff, who had just been released to return home, with a watch charm, as a small token of respect and gratitude.

We all join in wishing Brother Wagstaff a safe journey home.

He has had the privilege after filling an honorable mission of 28 months.

Long before the time of commencing Sunday morning the house was filled with people anxiously waiting for the announcement of the hymn. The time was taken up by a few of the Elders who spoke upon the various principles of the Gospel.

At the close of the meeting Brother Kesler made publicly the announcement that the conference president was released and that Elder J. Ernest Dewey had been appointed to succeed him. He also stated that the Poca and Two Mile branches were disorganized and that Elders J. E. Dewey and Norman Hayes had been appointed to preside over them.

The Elders' appointments are as follows:

J. E. Dewey and N. N. Hayes, Charleston, W. Va.

Benjamin Fullmer and M. A. Ross, Winfield, Putnam Co., W. Va.

B. R. Wilson and O. Z. Davis, Jenks, Lincoln Co., W. Va.

Thomas Preston, Knova, Wayne Co., W. Va.

D. C. Higgins and Jos. Hyer, Lawson, Raleigh Co., W. Va.

J. I. Hardy and J. L. McConkie, Mt. Hope, Fayette Co., W. Va.

L. W. Shemer and E. S. Winn, Craigsville, Nichols Co., W. Va.

W. A. Roberts and W. C. Field, Oceana, Wyoming Co., W. Va.

J. W. Reed and L. C. Rowbury, Assurance, Monroe Co., W. Va.

At the afternoon meeting the house was filled to overflowing. A number of seats were added by the Saints, but we could not accommodate all who came. The time was mostly taken up by Elder A. P. Kesler upon the different principles of the Gospel, if may be said to the credit of the Saints and people in

general that they performed their parts well in providing for all who attended. The Monday following most all of the Elders started for their fields of labor. Having a renewed determination to go forward and perform their duties.

Your brethren in the Gospel,
J. E. DEWEY, President.
NORMAN HAYES, Clerk.

A Missionary's Experience.

On the 2nd day of April last, I left Salt Lake City to fill a mission to Great Britain. I landed in Liverpool on the 21st of April and on the 22nd was sent to travel in the Scottish Conference. I arrived in Glasgow on the 23rd and was appointed to travel in the Fife district, landing there on the 24th, I began my missionary labors the week following.

People in Scotland are very kind and hospitable. It is a fine country to preach in, but the air is damp and foggy. Before the month of July I contracted a severe cold, by which I was almost unable to pursue my labors. The trouble continued to increase till I was losing the power of my lower limbs, and breathing became most difficult. On the 15th of August I was joined by a young Elder from Salt Lake City, Joseph H. Wickens, a very pleasant companion. When able we would travel, preach and converse and tract. We could see good results from our labors. About the end of September our late Bro. Muir (who died in Lochgelly) was sent to assist me for some time at least. The day he came to Dunfermline (Tuesday) I was not able to go and met him (though only eight miles) But Bro. Wickens went, and I went on Sunday morning and met Bro. Muir at meeting. That day my release was in the Star of the 2nd of October. I turned over everything to the brethren.

Bro. Muir was sick on the morning I left (the 6th of Oct.) but I thought it only transitory, but he gradually got worse till dying on the 20th.

Since I came home I have very little recovered. I can hardly move around. To all Elders that assisted me on my journey home I tender my sincere thanks.

ROBERT McKINLEY.

Teton, Fremont County, Idaho, Nov. 17, 1898.

Th Work in Samoa.

The initial conference of the Atua district convened at the village of Salani, Falealili, Upolu, Samoa, Saturday, October 8th, 1898, under very peculiar conditions. The only man with any degree of authority, Leasto by name, baptized there and upon whom dependence was placed to receive and care for the Saints and Elders, was away; hence we found on entering the village with some 80 Saints, a spiritual coolness that suggested the regions of the Arctic Circle rather than the equator. This at first seemed as though it would mar our longed for spiritual feast and terminate unsatisfactory to the natives but as our meetings continued in the large village house secured for the occasion by our few Saints there, our supplications to Him were heard and the villagers seemed rather to warm toward us so that by Monday morning, the time for disbanding, all pronounced our conference a perfect success and our native Saints returned to their homes with a spirit of unity and love for the Elders that they have never known before.

Those present from Utah were Elder Ed. J. Wood, Geo. B. Burnham, Wm. Jeppson, Wm. Winegar, Conference President G. C. Spillbury, Edw. Smart, A. H. Archibald, Jno. T. Roberts, E. Morris, Jos. R. Witbeck and wife, and