

HAWAIIAN MISSION.

LAIE, Oahu, H. I., Oct. 9th, 1896.

Once more the boundless love and kindness of the Lord has been extended generously in behalf of our little band of toilers, struggling to uphold the ensign of truth in a foreign land, and the Saints in general of these balmy isles; for our general conference, of three and a half days' duration, just closed here at Laie, was a success in every feature, for which we feel to shout praises to the Giver of all good.

Regardless of the fact that the fall conference is always considered of less importance than the spring conference, and is looked forward to with less anticipation by the people, our meetings were more numerouslv attended this time than they were last April, the average attendance being 306, the majority of whom were attentive listeners and seemed to enjoy hugely the interesting and excellent exercises of the various organizations in connection with the encouraging and timely remarks imparted by the servants of God.

The greater portion of the above stated number in attendance were residents of Laie, Honolulu and other branches of this island, the representation of the adjacent islands of the group being comparatively limited, owing to the announcement in April last that district conferences would be held in the several fields for the various organizations, and thus dispense with the expense and trouble of semi-annual visits to headquarters for exhibition, which plan was intended to benefit the people not only financially but spiritually as well, by thus making it possible for more to attend these conferences.

The Primary conference of the Laie and Honolulu associations, under the superintendency of Sister Ella Birdno, occupied the afternoon of Saturday, October 3rd, which was the first meeting of our general conference here at headquarters. An appropriate program of ordinary primary exercises, replete with Gospel precepts, was creditably rendered by the little ones, principally in the English language; the whole reflects much credit both upon them and their zealous teachers.

The general Church conference convened at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, October 4th, with President Samuel E. Woolley in charge and the following Elders and sisters from Zion in attendance, viz: William A. Thompson, John R. Jolley, George H. Fisher, William H. Mendenhall, Henry Moss, Wilder T. Hatch, Edwin C. Dibble, George H. Birdno, Lewis R. Jenkins, John D. Hooper, Joseph H. Brinton, George P. Garff, William G. Farrell, William D. Hill, Alice R. Woolley, Laura L. Fisher, Ella C. Birdno and Tryphena Garff.

After the usual opening exercises the Sacrament was administered by Elders Jolley and Dibble, and passed to the congregation by the native Elders, during which time the Laie choir discoursed sweet strains of melodious song, and the Spirit of God cheered the hearts of all present.

President Woolley delivered the opening address, which occupied the greater portion of the remaining time of the morning services, and after welcoming all, expressed his gratitude to the Lord for His tender mercies in preserving us in peace and plenty through the past

term, and permitting so many again to assemble under such favorable circumstances to feast at the fountain of life as it were, and be taught of His ways that the faith of each might be strengthened and hope increased to the extent that the commandments of God be obeyed and His will be done. He then dwelt at some length in demonstrating the blessings that we enjoy as Latter-day Saints, by making a comparison with the condition of the outside world in general, impressed those bearing the Priesthood with the importance of their calling and the various duties required of them, and concluded by exhorting all to cease doing evil and continue in righteousness to the end.

The same congenial and enthusiastic spirit that characterized the above meeting of general Church conference continued in the remainder of the meetings which were held on the morning, afternoon and evening of Tuesday October 6th, the time being devoted principally to the Elders from Zion, who spoke with power from on high, on the Gospel principles, imparted many valuable instructions and gave an abundance of much needed advice, which if heeded will greatly benefit this portion of the house of Israel, and raise them to a higher standard of purity. There were four zealous native missionaries who reported their labors and also spoke encouragingly, expressing their appreciation in being blessed of the Lord and chosen by those in authority to render assistance to such a noble cause.

During the meetings the reports of the various branches were rendered by the respective representatives in attendance, the number of branches reported being thirteen. On Tuesday afternoon the labor report, showing 239 baptisms, 118 children blessed, 35 baptisms and 34 ordinations to Priesthood, and the general financial report—both for the six months ending October 6th—were read by the clerk, and the general and island authorities were presented and unanimously sustained, those for the latter being as follows: Samuel E. Woolley, president of the Hawaiian Mission of the Church with all the Elders and sisters previously mentioned in their various capacities, also Edwin C. Dibble clerk of mission, successor to the writer, who is numbered among those to return home soon.

At the close of the meeting President Woolley announced the release and the appointments for the ensuing term which were as follows.

Releases: Elders William H. Thompson, John R. Jolley and George H. Fisher, and Sister Laura L. Fisher, having fully completed their missions, were honorably released to return to their mountain homes.

Appointments—Temporal: Samuel E. Woolley as manager of the Laie Plantation, with Joseph H. Brinton as his assistant. George P. Garff as school teacher and book-keeper, Tryphena Garff assistant school teacher. Alice R. Woolley superintendent domestic affairs with Ella C. Birdno and Tryphena Garff as her assistants. Laura L. Fisher has been store-keeper since July 20th, she returns home soon, and at the present writing that vacancy has not been filled.

Ecclesiastical: Samuel E. Woolley president of the Laie branch, with Joseph H. Brinton and George P. Garff as his counselors; William H. Mendenhall president of the Honolulu branch;

John D. Hooper president of the South Hawaii conference; Lewis R. Jenkins president of the Maui conference, with native Amaka as assistant; Wilder T. Hatch and William D. Hill to the Kauai conference, E. C. Dibble and William G. Farrel to the Oahu conference, and Henry Moss and George H. Birdno to the North Hawaii conference.

The general Sunday school union occupied the afternoon and evening of Sunday, 4th, with E. C. Dibble presiding. The schools of Laie, Honolulu and Kalanui of this island were the participants in the exercises; the superintendents being respectively Will G. Farrel, Kamaawe and Kawahinehaipule. The program, consisting principally of spicy class exercises, some dialogues, essays, recitations, etc., clearly demonstrated tasteful arrangement and careful consideration coupled with indefatigable efforts on the part of the teachers, and was rendered in an admirable manner by the interested pupils, all of which point directly to marked progress in the Sunday school work on these far off isles of sunny Hawaii.

The morning services of Monday, October 5th, were devoted to the Relief Society conference, which was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Alice R. Woolley, who, after the ordinary opening preliminaries assisted by Sister Fernandez as interpreter, occupied some time in addressing the congregation. In substance, she said that she felt grateful to the Lord for permitting her again to meet so many in general conference, and had derived much satisfaction in hearing the servants of God report how the good work was progressing and the Gospel of truth spreading. She instructed the sisters to be diligent in the cause of the Relief Society, for it was a grand work; nothing would give more joy and contentment of soul than to help others, relieve the poor needy and nurse the sick, etc. She advised all to be humble, observe the word of wisdom and teach their children good morals by example. She dwelt for some time on the proper mode of government in the societies and concluded by exhorting all to be united and attend meetings regularly.

Sister Laura Fisher said she derived much pleasure from meeting with the Relief Society, and stated that the object for this meeting was to listen to the reports, worship the Lord and be instructed as to our future welfare; she said that we could not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God; hence our assembling in general conference that we might be taught by His servants. Encouraged the sisters to continue to be diligent and faithful.

Ten branch representatives then reported the condition of the several societies from whence they came, after which the congregation was edified for some time with brief remarks of encouragement by some of the native sisters, the same being interspersed with a number of instructive essays and a few songs.

The afternoon and evening of Monday were devoted to the Mutual Improvement conference, with Elder William H. Mendenhall presiding. The associations of Honolulu, Laie and Kaluanui took part, the former occupying a portion of the afternoon, while the latter two occupied the evening.

The program consisted of Gospel lectures, class exercises, dialogues, songs