

land; another is at Saleaula on the north side of the island and distant about thirty-five miles from the first named. That is the most important and largest branch in the Samoan mission. The third station or branch is at Fogatuli on the south coast near the west end of the island.

ANDREW JENSON.

SALEAULA, Savaii, Samoa, September 18th, 1895.

## REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK.

No. 612 VAN NESS AVENUE,  
San Francisco, Cal.,  
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It has been a long established custom at the beginning of a new year for those who have been engaged in business pursuits, whether as individuals, companies or corporations, to take an inventory of stock, balance up all accounts and make out a balance sheet, that thereby they may be able to ascertain what profit, if any, has been made during the year past. If this anxiety is manifested among those into whose hands goods of this world have been entrusted, how much greater will it be with those into whose care and keeping has been delivered a charge that affects the eternal welfare of the souls of men? It was such thoughts as these that caused Elder Tanner, president of the California mission, to cast a retrospective glance over the past year's labors of the Elders who have been working in the state of California under his supervision. In summing up the condition of the mission today as compared with a year ago, he found it very satisfactory and encouraging, and believing that your many readers are always pleased to learn of the progress of the work abroad, he requested that I should write you a brief summary of the past year's labors.

January 1st, 1895, Elders H. S. Tanner and H. B. Williams were the only missionaries laboring in California. There was but one branch of the Church organized in the state, and that was in San Francisco. It was very seldom that more than eight or ten persons ever attended the meetings, and it was with the greatest difficulty that strangers could be induced to attend meetings or investigate the message we brought them. The prospects were anything but flattering; yet upon the request of our president, more missionaries were sent here, some arriving last January and others at different times up to the present, there being now sixteen Elders in the mission.

The first field opened up after San Francisco was Sacramento, Elder D. W. Henderson and myself having been sent there last March. It was not long before a branch organization was effected. Meetings have been held there regularly; eight persons have been baptized, and the prospects are bright for a continuance of the good work in that vicinity.

Soon after the Sacramento branch was organized Elders J. R. Smith and M. H. Thomas were sent to Los Angeles, where a good work has been performed. A branch of the Church has been organized there, eleven have been baptized, and there are good reasons to believe that more will be added to our number there shortly.

Following close upon the opening

up of the work in Los Angeles Elders Parley Wright and W. N. Woodland were sent to San Diego, where they are working up a lively interest and holding good meetings. Some additions to the Church also have been made at this place.

A short time ago Elder Tanner made a tour in the southern part of the state, in the interests of the mission, with a view of opening up new fields. He visited the cities of Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino, and held a series of meetings, delivering several discourses and lectures upon the latter-day work. The meetings were all well attended, some were crowded. His labors were crowned with success in each place visited. He called Elders J. R. Smith and Nathan A. Tanner to labor at San Bernardino, where there are excellent prospects for a good work being done.

It seems harder to create the same interest in religious matters in the city of San Francisco than in the outside cities; yet the growth of interest in our meetings here is very encouraging indeed. From the small meetings that were held in a hall on Mission street, where probably a dozen would assemble, they have grown to crowded meetings in a hall on Market street. It is not an unusual thing to have from 100 to 150 persons at our Sunday evening services. When we take into consideration the fact that in all of the other fields outside of this city, the attendance at the meetings is from twenty-five to seventy-five and then compare with the few that attended a year ago, it is then that we can realize that God is blessing the labors of His servants.

We have occasional visits from some of our brethren from Zion, and all express their surprise and satisfaction at the nice congregations we have in this city. One of the aids we have, and for which we are very thankful, is the help given us by the city newspapers. Scarcely a week passes but what very nice notices and reports of our meetings appear. They give us fair, impartial reports, not distorted by prejudice and hatred as was so prevalent in days gone by. The Call, Chronicle and Examiner have each given us fair notice; especially so is it the case with the Call and Chronicle.

We are all looking forward with great expectations to the proposed visit of the Tabernacle choir, for we realize the good effect it will have in allaying false impressions and prejudices among our people. Already the people are all agog over the anticipated visit. The people of California, as a rule, are now willing to treat the Mormon people with fairness, although there are quite a few chronic kickers and misanthropes who prefer to live in darkness rather than light; but I am pleased to note that the more our people are known the better are they respected, and it is for this reason that we expect such good results from the visit of so many of our people who represent that great musical organization known as the Mormon Tabernacle choir.

During the last year thirty-four baptisms have been performed in California. There are others who have applied for baptism who will soon be added to the fold. Sunday schools have been established in Sacramento,

Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Francisco, so that the young people have an opportunity of being instructed in the principles of the Gospel. Three Elders have been released to return home during the year, viz.: Brothers H. D. Williams, Chas. Nethercot and J. R. Smith. The present location of the Elders is as follows: B. W. Henderson and Henry Peterson, Sacramento; P. E. Anderson and James Christensen, Fresno; J. D. Irvine, E. M. Whitesides and M. H. Thomas, Los Angeles; W. H. Wright, Parley T. Wright and W. C. Horeley, San Diego; William Scowcroft, G. W. McBride and J. R. Shepherd, San Francisco; W. N. Woodland and Nathan A. Tanner, San Bernardino. While writing of missionaries I must not forget to make mention of Sister Scowcroft, who has labored so well and done so much to make the musical part of the services so attractive. It is not an uncommon thing to hear people express their pleasure in listening to the Mormon hymns, and here let me state that we find that to have good singing is one of the chief objects to attain, for our experience is that music will often bring people to meetings when other devices fail.

Elder H. S. Tanner, our president, starts next week for Sacramento, where he will hold a series of special meetings. He has had a few thousand posters printed and intends to give Sacramento a good chance to hear the truth. He will remain there a month, or probably longer.

It is gratifying to us to be able to report at least some progress in our labors. We feel that a good work can and will be done in California, and our prayers are that the work may gather force from the good beginning made. May it continue to grow and increase that when another year shall roll around the Elders will still be able to say that progress has been made.

We are always pleased to hear of Utah's welfare and although we will be unable to participate with you in your festivities on Monday next, yet we will rejoice with you in the realization of Statehood.

The weather here at present is beautiful, like one of those beautiful summer days in Idaho; yet there is one at least of us who would be willing to swap the climate of San Francisco for a while even for a Bear Lake blizzard.

Ever praying for the welfare of the Kingdom of God, I remain your brother in the cause of truth,

JOSEPH R. SHEPHERD.

"French Pete," a pioneer of Los Angeles county, Cal., who for several years has been keeping a roachhouse on the Whittier road, was burned to death in his place late Saturday night. Circumstances point to murder, but the assassin is so far unknown. The house had been saturated with kerosene.

Stephen Baptist, a young Italian, was badly shot in the face and arms Saturday, at San Rafael, Cal. Baptist and another young fellow were out hunting and scared up a hare, which ran into a culvert near by. The hare went to the opposite end, and while Baptist was looking into the culvert, his companion shot, hitting him in the face and arms. He will lose the sight of one eye.