

CHURCH MISSIONARY NEWS

CONFERENCE IN WISCONSIN.

Berlin, Wis., May 22.—A special conference of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, attended by President German E. Ellsworth of the Northern States mission, conference president Edward H. Hale, 12 traveling Elders and a number of Saints from Ripon, was held in this city May 13, 20 and 21. Public meetings were held in the Woodman hall Saturday at 8 p. m., Sunday at 2:30 and 8 p. m., and Monday at 8 p. m. Some 2,000 tracts, with special invitations attached were distributed throughout the city prior to the opening session of the conference. A number of open air meetings were held, both before and during conference, at which time the hall meetings were announced and the people kindly invited to attend.

All of the public meetings were largely attended, and hundreds of people had the Gospel presented to them. In addition the public meetings mentioned the Elders and Saints held a sacrament meeting on Sunday morning, and on Monday a Priesthood meeting was held in which the Elders gave in reports of their labors and were addressed and instructed by President Edward H. Hale in a forceful talk.

A lively interest was shown by the people in the good attendance at the public meetings, the hall being out and filled at each meeting. A quartet consisting of Elders F. M. Mortenson, H. P. Burton, H. E. Smith and H. C. Nielson sang several hymns. "O my Father," "Scatter seeds of kindness," among others were nicely rendered. The meetings were addressed by President Ellsworth, who spoke to the people in plain and simple words of great power and clearness, presenting the principles of the Gospel and exposing some of the false and injurious stories told by unprincipled men and women about the "Mormon" people, telling also what the "Mormons" believed, and some of the great things accomplished by them as a people. He briefly spoke of some of the early history of the Church, and the people, their trials, sufferings and wrongs at the hands of the American people at an early date, and later on in Utah, the most of which was a strange history to most of his audience, and interested them greatly.

President Hale also spoke at different times during the meetings and presented plain facts and Gospel truths ably supported by appropriate quotations from sacred writ.

A number of other Elders also addressed the people, who listened with interest, and a good spirit prevailed throughout the conference.

All the Elders were well treated by the citizens here, the two local papers printed notices of the conference and spoke kindly of the efforts of the Elders in coming here. Several men attended all of the meetings who had, when the Elders were here, refused to accept tracts from them. A general interest was manifested and one application for baptism received after conference.

The Elders departed in good spirits for another meeting at Ripon, Wis., on another conference at Campbellsport, Wisconsin, being more generally welcomed than ever before, and great results are promised.

The Elders were very hospitably entertained at Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Evans' home. Mrs. Evans, though not a member of the Church, is one of the best friends in the state, and showed the Elders great kindness. On Sunday she provided a good dinner for all the 17 Elders in attendance, and all of the members of the Church with them. 20 people in all. She also fed a large number during conference and lodged all that her house would hold free of charge. This for her old neighbors in Salt Lake City will not be surprising. Her brother, S. J. Thomas, also, lodged and fed several of the Elders free of charge. Others among the citizens here showed by little deeds of kindness their sympathy for the missionaries and their faithful service for the cause of truth. The Elders feel that the citizens of Berlin have shown a kinder spirit toward them than any place in which they had labored for a long time and they are very hopeful of a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this vicinity very soon. The Elders remain here and in the country surrounding to work among the people, and the seed is being scattered and the harvest is at hand.

HERBERT SMITH
Secy. of Wisconsin Conference.

CONFERENCE AT PUEBLO, COLO.

Pueblo, Colo., May 28.—The missionaries of the Pueblo conference, held in a Priesthood meeting in Pueblo, Colo., May 19, at 8 p. m. Testimonies were borne by all.

Conference began at 2 p. m. Sunday, May 30, which was well attended by Saints and friends. President Joseph A. McKee of the mission gave instructions in an impressive manner. Other speakers were Sisters Emma E. Woodhouse and Julia S. Curtis, Robert Colman, branch president, William A. Colman, and Conference President J. E. Ashcroft.

Meeting convened again at 8 p. m. Attendance was good. President Joseph A. McKee was the first speaker, and was followed by Brother George W. Green and Elder F. G. Robinson.

Special meetings were appointed for missionaries at 2 a. m., May 21, when the Spirit of the Lord was made manifest in the testimonies that were given. The Elders received instruction from President McKee in all lines of missionary labor. Tuesday, May 22, Elders assembled to receive appointments to their fields of labor by Conference President J. E. Ashcroft, and received further advice, encouragement and instruction concerning their actions, dress, etc. Appointments were made as follows: Elders James W. Blake and Marion Englestead to labor in Jackson Creek district; Elders James Chapman and J. E. Robinson to Wet Mountain valley; Elders A. M. Fullmer and LeRoy Stebbins in Bent county; Elders P. G. Robinson and John Gibbs in Poudre county; President Ashcroft, Elder David F. Farnie, Sisters Emma E. Woodhouse and Julia S. Curtis to labor in the city of Pueblo.

J. E. ASHCROFT, Conference President.

JULIA S. CURTIS, Secretary.

BAPTISMS IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Elders Howard N. Martineau and I. Bliss Roberts, writing from Hatcher, Mercer county, W. Va., under date of May 12, report that on the day previous three persons were baptized in the presence of a large crowd of spectators who had gathered to witness a "Mormon" baptism, and to listen to an address on baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. The first named Elder officiated in the service. The Elders also state that the conference president, Elder Ephraim Blackburn, had an attack of malarial fever and was obliged to go home. Anna A. Fuller is now president of the conference.

A NOTE FROM MISSOURI.

George H. Roney, a resident of Hickory Co., Mo., for 48 years, informs the "News" that when visiting California in 1890 he heard and embraced the Gospel, and is now the only member of the Church in that part of Missouri. He has entertained a number of missionaries from Zion at various times, and

NO. ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.

Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill., June 4.—The Elders of the Northern Illinois conference, Northern States mission, held quarterly conference at Galesburg, June 2 and 3 in the National Bank building. Three enthusiastic public sessions were held, one overflowed street meetings, three Priesthood meetings and sacrament and testimony meeting Sunday morning. Eighteen Elders were present and partook of the Divine Supper that was so much in evidence.

The series of meetings commenced Saturday at 10 a. m., when the Elders met to hear testimony of the Lord's goodness in leading them to the honest heart. Pres. P. P. Christenson spoke words of encouragement and pointed out the dignity of the office and calling of a missionary.

Pres. German E. Ellsworth of Chicago, met with the Elders at 2 p. m., and instructed them in respect to their duties.

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good in breaking down the wall of prejudice which exists against the Latter-day Saints.

Baptisms.

A baptismal service of the Leeds conference was held on Saturday, May 12, 1906, in the Wapping Board School, Wapping, London. After singing and prayer, Elders James L. Glenn and Thomas S. Broadbent spoke of the necessity of obeying the ordinance of baptism, after which 10 persons were baptized. A confirmation meeting was held in the Westgate New hall immediately after the baptism.

A baptismal service was held Sunday, May 13, 1906, at the Turkish Baths, Coventry, Birmingham conference, at which nine souls were added to the church. President William Noble was present and gave some timely instructions to those who were about to be baptized. After the ordinance, a very impressive meeting was held at Nuneaton, and those who had been baptized were confirmed and the Sacrament administered to them. Elder William Lindsay officiated at the baptism.

Six baptisms were performed by Elders Frederick Langton and C. H. Smith, at the Tibbington Baths, Essex Road, London, May 20, 1906. Remarks were made by President Miles L. Jones and Elder Horace W. Vincent, the confirmation taking place at 31 Park Lane Road.

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first meeting was held in the open air. Two general meetings were held on April 6 and 13, general meetings and one Priesthood meeting were held on the seventh, and three general meetings were held on the 8th.

The meetings were all well attended, and we were blessed with an abundance of the Spirit of the Lord in our meetings, at which a number of Elders and Saints spoke on the principles of the Gospel and bore strong testimonies to their truth.

On Sunday the general authorities of the Church and the officers and Elders of the New Zealand mission were sustained by the unanimous vote of the people. Elders Moroni C. Woods, Leo A. Bird and William N. Wright were honorably released from their labors here, to return home, the last named on account of ill health. Elder Woods was mission architect, and his place in that capacity will be taken by Elder D. M. Taylor.

The Waikato district was divided into Waikato North and Waikato South. The Waikato district was divided into Waikato North and Waikato South.

It was decided to hold the next full moon of the Waikato district, on the 15th of the month. A testimonial meeting was held in which a few of the Saints were invited. All the Elders and Saints bore strong testimonies to the truth of the Gospel. We received many valuable instructions, and much good advice from our beloved president, and the Elders went to their various fields of labor strengthened and refreshed in spirit and united in purpose.

Much credit is due President Baily and the officers and Saints of the Hawke Bay district, for the comprehensive preparation for the entertainment of all visitors and their kindness to us.

The conference was followed by a council on the evening of the 15th, in which both Saints and non-members, as well as Elders, took part.

To those who are not acquainted with the Maori people a brief mention of some of their customs may be interesting.

We in company of Elders and Maoris arrived at the village of Te Hauke on the 4 p. m. train. At the station we were met by the Maori Silver band and the Maori Silver band and gave us a cordial welcome to the village, which was a short distance away. On arriving at the open space in front of the village, we saw before us a number of Maori girls attired in their native costumes and as we approached they began dancing the polka dance, which is very charming and full of rhythmic movement.

They retreated as we advanced, until they reached a given point, then they joined on the rear of a band of men dressed to represent the old time Maori braves or warriors. These men were ranged in several ranks and were in a resting posture. With one impulse they sprang to their feet and gave us a welcome in their native style. This dance is accompanied by chanting, and is called a haka.

After the haka the Maoris began to sing, or cry. This is a custom that obtains whenever one tribe visits another. They sang for their dead and this custom is directly traceable to the children of Israel. We have a number of instances of the Israelites mourning a long time for their dead, notably among others the instances of the deaths of Jacob and Joseph. This custom helps to confirm our belief that the Maoris are descendants of the Israelites.

As such company of conference visitors arrived, they were all welcomed the same way.

The next morning we were witnesses of and sharers in another curious and interesting ceremony—their form of salutation.

This is performed in this manner: The visitors form in one line, and the hosts then pass along the line and rub noses with those waiting. This is called the hongi.

The conference was held in close proximity to the home of the Maori chief, Hirini Whanga, who died in Salt Lake City last year, and a number of his children and relatives attended the conference.

The Maori people, almost without exception, are religiously inclined. I have not seen one of them but professes a church, and I have never seen an atheist among them. I need say nothing about their hospitality—that is proverbial.

We are establishing schools, building churches and doing all we can to assist them in education and civilization. We have good opportunities here to use the practical side of our religion in the work of the Lord is progressing steadily here, and the enthusiasm of the Elders is unbounded.

APOLLOS B. TAYLOR, Koru, Thames, New Zealand.

IN GERMAN SAMOA.

Pesega, Upolu, Samoa, May 5.—The general April conference for German Samoa, including Upolu and Savaii conferences, convened at Samiata, April 28 and 29. There seems to have been an unusual interest taken by the Saints as they had been looking forward to the great day, with a great determination to attend this conference.

As early as April 18, Elders and Saints began to arrive from Tutuila, Manua and Savaii. On the last Elder Carl L. Smart together with the Elders who came from Tutuila visited the Fakallii cemetery and cleared up and repaired the seven graves of the missionaries and the children who died with the Lord, while in the service of His great work.

By the 27th there were more than 200 people enjoying the hospitalities of their families and friends at Samiata, who had for many days been looking forward to that event. And the mingling of voices in praise and thanksgiving to God for His Gospel which has been revealed in these last days, and the testimonies and blessings enjoyed through obedience to the same, all joy and pleasure to every soul present.

There are 28 well built houses and an abundance of food in the plantations; and the clear stream of water makes a beautiful scene as it flows gently around the curves and then plunges over the falls.

Elders meeting was held in the evening on the 27th. There were present Thos. S. Court, President of the mission, C. S. Smith, F. D. Baird, president of the Upolu conference, George H. C. Cannon, S. F. Smith, Ralph E. Cloward, president of the Savaii conference, C. C. Whitlock, president of the Tutuila conference, W. Merrill, Wilford A. Porter, Chas. A. Peterson, Burk McArthur, Wm. S. Park, Wm. E. Ware, Hyrum Broadbent, Sylvanus Boyack, Orson S. Sanders, and Jacob Olson. As Elder Chas. Laallathin was affected with very bad sore eyes and unable to attend conference, Elder Barker, Elder Barker remained at Pesega with him to provide for his needs. President Thos. S. Court welcomed the Elders and exhorted them to be zealous in their labors, giving very good and interesting instructions. Then the Elders were given their respective appointments to the different fields of