

and evergreens and the effect was delightful. At 8 o'clock the house was packed and President Pearson bid all welcome. The Elders have most encouraging reports, stating that new places are being opened, prejudice is fast decreasing, and many honest people are investigating the Gospel. Since the 1st of May forty-nine have been baptized and of this number the Gothenburg branch has furnished fifteen.

Sunday morning we were all on hand at the large hall and President Pearson had the pleasure of addressing the largest congregation ever assembled in Gothenburg to hear the Utah Elders. One hour he held them spell-bound. The subject was: "Can salvation be obtained after death?" The remainder of the time was occupied by President Wells and Elder McMurrin, who discoursed eloquently on salvation for the living, Elder Pearson being interpreter. The Holy Spirit rested mightily on the speaker and who, except the Lord, can estimate the result?

Our meetings at 4 and 8 were also well attended and we had the pleasure of hearing President Lund talk Danish to us. President Wells sprung a pleasant surprise on all by bearing his testimony in the Swedish language at the close of our last meeting.

Our Priesthood meeting, Monday morning, seemed much too short though by the clock it lasted three hours. I believe the Elders all determined to redouble their efforts for the spread of the Gospel this coming winter. All are active, energetic workers, and only one—Andrew Pearson—is old enough to justify him in wearing a full beard. It did not please this brother any too well when President Lund told him he seemed old for a missionary. In spite of his three-score and odd years, he is not averse to talking thirty miles per day, and to fill an appointment walked that distance in spite of a heavy rain storm the other day.

Tuesday evening the Saints and Elders met at the hall to bid each other good bye. Songs, recitations and stories followed each other in rapid succession, and to wind up Brother Anderson related his stirring adventures in crossing the Plains and fighting Indians.

I have been laboring in the Goteborg branch for the last three months and my companion is John E. Groberg of Farr West, who arrived about three weeks ago. We are giving this city a systematic house to house canvass. The people generally receive us well and many accept our tracts with profuse thanks. The Saints in this branch number ninety-seven. They pay an honest tithing and keep the Word of Wisdom. The latter principle was emphasized by our former president, T. Toblason, of Salt Lake, and the good work is being continued with excellent results by his successor. Elder Toblason also organized a Sunday school which now flourishes under the able supervision of Brother Nils Soderberg and of which we are justly proud. Last month we were obliged to organize a branch school in Krokslet, three miles from the hall. I have a class in English which already numbers thirty members. One-third are non-Mormons and more are joining.

Every Elder in the conference enjoys good health. Following are their names and addresses:

Andrew Anderson and J. D. Amundson, Dragsgatan, 18 Norkoping.  
Aug E. Rose and Joseph H. Jensen, Qar. Juno 6, Trollhattan;

William Anderson and John W. Lawson, Ostra Karlslund 6 Joutkoping;

Peter S. Olson and J. P. Lofgren, Molltorp;

Alfred Svenson and Rudolph Larson, Norra Vagen 22 Halmstad;

Fred Peterson Vingaker, Aaron Lundberg, Lofta Dalen, H. M. Pearson, Charles M. Olsen, John E. Groberg, Husargatan, 46 Goteborg.

The "News" is a most welcome visitor. If any reader desires a good place to preach the Gospel, we bid him welcome to Sweden.

CHARLES M. OLSEN.

## CONFERENCE IN WISCONSIN

Oshkosh, Wis., Oct. 8, 1897.

The Wisconsin conference of the Northern States mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was held in Fond Du Lac, Wis., Oct. 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Temperance hall. There were present from Chicago Elder Louis A. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission and Elder E. M. Boyer, president of the Northern Illinois conference, with all the Elders of the Wisconsin conference Elder John J. Simmons at their head. Seven meetings were held and fairly well attended by the public. The first principles of the Gospel were taken up and thoroughly ventilated by the Elders present: Faith was ably handled by Elders Croft and Jones; repentance by Elders H. K. and H. Christensen; baptism by Elder Kupp, Boice and Lynn; the Holy Ghost by Elders Nealson and Larsen; also the following subject: "What is Mormonism and the authenticity of the Book of Mormon as proven by the Bible?" by Elder E. M. Boyer, and "Is God a Personal Being?" by Elder Louis A. Kelsch; "Apostasy and the restoration of the Gospel," by Elder Croft and closing remarks by Elder John J. Simmons.

This with the beautiful singing of the Saints and Elders under the able leader, Elder E. W. Croft, constituted the program carried out at our conference. Our Priesthood meeting was held on the 5th, and very encouraging reports were made by the Elders of some of the fields they had been laboring in. Many timely suggestions were made and good counsel given by the brethren for the advancement of the cause of truth. We truly had a spiritual feast while we were together and it will long be remembered by those that were present.

We hear of the good times our brethren of the South have and the beautiful field they have to labor in, but we of the North do not envy them because we think we have the best field in the world. It would be unjust if I did not mention the kindness of the Saints and friends of Fond Du Lac, who spread before us the rich bounties of life and bade us partake, which I can say all did to the satisfaction of the inner man.

The presiding authorities of the Church were unanimously sustained. The Elders received their appointments as follows:

Elders John J. Simmons and John E. Boice, Appleton, Outagamie Co., Wis.  
Andrew Larsen and Hatch, Fond Du Lac, Wis.

Hyrum Christensen and Edward W. Croft, Fond Du Lac, Wis.

Herman K. Christensen and R. M. Lynn, Manasha, Winnebago Co., Wis.  
L. T. Jones and James Nelson, Racine, Wis.

B. S. Rupp and Fred Brooks, Oshkosh, Winnebago Co., Wis.

All the Elders are enjoying good health. Your brother,

B. S. RUPP, Sec. Con.

## THE MESA ENCANTADA.

The main point in the discussion of the verity of the myth in connection with this famous rock seems to have been left out of account.

After scaling the Mesa last July I stated that to my mind it had not been

inhabited. Mr. Hodge's party went to the top in September, and finding certain relics, maintained that it had been inhabited. It seems to me, a great deal depends upon what is meant by inhabited. A temporary visit cannot in any sense constitute such a position a permanent residence. The cairn-like pile of rocks, which I am glad Mr. Hodge so clearly decides is a cairn, is possibly the best proof of a mere visit, for even primitive people are not given to building cairns in their back yards. They construct them to commemorate some visit or feat, and such a monument I believe this one to be; but my travels in the West and southwest for more than twenty years have taught me caution, since I have found many similar piles in that region which were due only to erosion.

"If a village or permanent residence had ever existed on the top of the Mesa, all traces of it have been completely obliterated," was the answer given by Mr. Hodge to an intelligent citizen of that part of the country, to a direct question upon this subject, shortly after his climb. If so, why try to construct a technical proof of inhabitation, based upon the finding of a few relics. I am sorry that Mr. Hodge has not made any statement over his own signature, for I cannot impute to him the ideas advanced by some of his friends, who have appeared in print to attack us, as for example: In the early summer it was stated that two years ago he had tried to make the ascent, but was unsuccessful, because of the precipitous character of the rocks, which seems quite reasonable, in view of even his experience this summer. But it is now stated that he refrained from going to the top at that time out of regard for the superstitions of the Acomas. It appears, however, according to one friend, that after my atrocious attack upon their myth the Acomas were only too glad to have him go to the top, because he could give an authoritative opinion on the subject. According to another friend some of these same Acomas appeared upon the top of the rock while he was there by using his ladders, and were quite inimical at first, but were soothed by coffee and other agencies.

Strangely enough most of these things were found after these men had been allowed to wander about upon the top of the rock. I sincerely hope that some safeguard was taken to prevent their throwing suspicion upon the various finds; but from the reports it seems such was not the case, since they were allowed to find things up there when away from the white men. I cannot believe that an acute archaeologist like Mr. Hodge would tolerate such a procedure. It is also noteworthy that Mr. Hodge's friends do not mention the finding of a single relic by himself.

Mr. Hodge does not appear to have convinced several of the white citizens of the region, who have held and now hold positions of honor and trust in these Pueblos, that the Mesa was ever inhabited. Their opinions are certainly worthy of some weight as evidence, and when they describe the myth as a pure dream, after a residence of many years in the country, I am inclined from the facts which I was able to observe upon the top of the Mesa still to believe that while the top may have been visited, no evidence exists at present of its ever having been permanently inhabited.

The existence of that rat upon the top of the rock seems to have troubled some people; to me is easily explained by the existence of bird's nests and eggs in abundance upon the rocks.

My investigation has been criticised as being too cursory to admit of its being thorough, and that I was driven off