

IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

SENECA, S. C., Jan. 23, 1896.

The work is progressing very nicely here; there are about thirty-two Elders making a house to house canvass in this state, and besides those there are a lot of local Priests and Deacons and Saints, who seem to be doing much good towards spreading the Gospel. We held a fast meeting in the Seneca branch the first Thursday in January, 1896, and in that meeting it was resolved the Saints would turn over a new leaf for 1896; they would fast and pray one day in each week for their people, not that they might be brought into the Church, but that their eyes might be opened, that they might be born again to see the kingdom organized here with Apostles and Prophets as it was when Jesus was upon the earth; for He said that except a man is born again he can not see the kingdom of God. It has not been a month yet since this work was started and we can see the change already in the people. Elder Frank L. Beattie (the president of this conference) was here a few days ago; he liked the plan and said he thought he would instruct all the Saints in this conference to follow in the same channel.

My companion, John W. Hepworth, has just returned home on account of bad health. But Elder Beattie furnished me with one of our local Priests (Brother Robert Cleveland), who makes an excellent companion; he was once a member of the Baptist church and was thoroughly convinced that we had the Gospel before he would join our band; he is now quite a worker in the Church.

People are continually coming to us for tracts and we expect to do a good work next spring, as this is the time for investigating and the spring and fall is the season for baptizing. The winter has been mild until now; we have not seen any snow yet this winter and but very little cold weather. Cotton brings a better price this winter, and the farmers are feeling well over it; for the last two years cotton sold at from 4 to 6 cents per pound; this year it has been about 8 cents.

Your Brother,
JAMES A. SMITH.

GOOD REPORT FROM OKLAHOMA.

WELCOME DISTRICT, Oklahoma,
January 23, 1896.

After the long siege of dry weather rain started to fall in Oklahoma in small quantities last July; not a day too soon, as it required immediate work to get sorghum seed and corn sown in time to have it mature before cold weather set in. Enough of the above mentioned products were produced, in most instances, to carry the people through the winter until spring. While the diet is not of the best they are thankful for what little they have raised.

Since last fall encouraging changes have taken place. The land was in excellent condition for sowing just at the proper season. Copious rains have occurred and it is claimed that signs indicate the fall of plenty of rain in the future. At this writing a beautiful shower has commenced, which makes things look the more promising. The

earth is well moistened to a great depth, and the farmers state that without more rain — if nothing unforeseen occurs, good crops of grain are ensured. The wheat stands three inches high and well together, already, and from a distance the sloping green hills make a beautiful sight. Cattle can be seen on the growing grain; the wheatfields making excellent pasturage, and milk obtained from cows thus fed is one of the most appetizing foods an Oklahoma Elder gets just at present. It is pleasing to note the difference of expression on the faces of the people. A few months ago all were hopeless and discouraged. Now they are apparently happy and jubilant over the flattering prospects next summer of a bounteous harvest. Notwithstanding the drought of last year, and part of the year before, more grain was sown last fall than at any time since the opening. Seed wheat was imported from other states by means and distributed among the farmers. At harvest the former are to receive one-fourth of the entire crop delivered at the nearest railroad station. If a failure occurs the farmers are out nothing but their labor.

The Elders here are laboring hard for the dissemination of the Gospel. To an extent they are handicapped by reason of the condition of the people. It is a fact, however, that although the people are in indigent circumstances, the Elders as a rule are well taken care of, I believe that more hospitality has been shown us recently than at any time since the opening of Oklahoma. It may be that this change has resulted through the adversity of which they have been subjected to. Be that as it may, we have no great reason for complaint. There is opposition, however, here as elsewhere. It is surprising to see even in a country like this, the great number of preachers that reside here, and as it is a fact that the efforts of the different churches are combined against the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ, we have our ratio of lively experiences.

During favorable weather, protracted meetings are constantly in session sometimes as many as three at one time are in operation on a single township. Last evening as there was a revival in session near our stopping place, Elder Frank Raleigh, of Salt Lake City, and myself attended. The pastor, after delivering a short sermon, requested all who had a testimony to get up and bear it. Quite a number arose stating they were the children of God and were saved, etc. As the invitation was extended to all, I acceded by arising and bearing mine. He had made the assertion that no church or organization was necessary in these days, that if men did not stay clear of creeds and pet theories, they would be led to hell. He belonged to no church and his name was on no record, and he was free from sin, sanctified and saved. When I told him where we came from and the Church we represented, allies were directed at once upon us, the preacher himself appearing somewhat discomfited. Directly after sitting down I was requested to remain awhile after the services. The meeting was brought to a hasty close, and the congregation of over a hundred remained to discover

the result of our coming together. I went forward and shook hands with the pastor and we instantly became involved in an extemporaneous talk. He asked many questions, trying to affirm his belief by the Bible, that no organization was necessary and that his doctrine was an exact pattern of Christ's. His questions were answered and the replies proved somewhat a quietus to his rising queries.

Following are the names and addresses of Elders now laboring in this conference.

E. L. Saunders, G. V. Morris, Norman, Cleveland Co., O. T.

Albert Brown, Even Eveneson, Choctaw City, O. T.

Frank Raleigh, Wm. E. Newman, Marshall, Logan Co., O. T.

Your Brother,

WM. E. NEWMAN.

GREAT CANAL CONTEST.

Permit me to insert a few lines in the NEWS for the benefit of your many readers on a matter of momentous interest to the people who are interested in what is called the People's canal on west side of Snake river, Idaho. It grieves me to have to write on such a matter so vital to the welfare and happiness of the people concerned. I hope the sentiment of the loyal hearted will so crystallize that, by the aid of all patriotic lovers of loyalty and right, the calamity will be averted.

The stockholders of which I am a member are mindful that the agent of the American Falls Power company has been to Boise to see our state board with reference to setting aside over sixty-six thousand acres of desert land, under what is known as the Carey law, to be reclaimed by the aforesaid company, and that this action has brought trouble upon the People's canal people through the action of the state board in this matter. I also understand that the agent of the American Falls Power Co. has notified the officers of the United States land office at Blackfoot not to allow any more land to be entered in the region set aside, under the Carey law, by the state board. This is a direct blow at the People's Canal company.

The American Falls Power company's magnanimity will be to sell to the state or the people of the People's Canal company land which, if acquired through the state board, will cost them fifty cents an acre, for an advanced price, with water stock for it at ten dollars an acre, and fifty cents or more, in money, a year for cleaning and repair of their canal per acre. Does the company give the stockholder the right to vote on his water stock to rectify any evil, in case a money shark gets in? I think not. From the above shown facts as to the Power company, which at least is very powerful in name, the settler under it has but two things to look for, namely: taxes and the grave.

Now as to what the People's Canal company will do and has done, I will explain: The People's canal starts from the west side of Snake river about ten miles above Blackfoot and takes a southwesterly course toward the American Falls where it will cover a broad country of arid sage-brush land,