



CHURCH NEWS

FROM FAR AND NEAR

ELDERS' EXPERIENCE.

Attacked by a Rev. Gentleman, They Make Friends.

In a letter dated Love, Butler Co., Ky., March 3, the following experience by Elders Silas L. Richards and Wm. C. Macfarlane is related:

We were invited by a gentleman to come into his neighborhood and visit him. He had known two other Elders, Charles Udy and Joseph Call, and was very favorably impressed. Elder Wm. C. Macfarlane and myself made our way through the woods and found him at sunset one evening, and as soon as we informed him we would like to hold a few meetings, he and his brother went around and gained permission for us to hold meetings in the Clinton schoolhouse at this place, and we held our first meeting that night. The meetings grew larger every night, and the major part of the people seemed interested.

During our stay here an old gentleman, a "Campbellite" preacher, died of old age and general debility. We were asked, almost every night, to come and sing hymns and pray in the room where he lay.

The night before he was buried we were asked to come to the house, after our meeting in the schoolhouse, and hold services. There was a large crowd, and I spoke of preexistence, and explained salvation for the dead. Most of the people gave good attention, while some few could not understand it.

Two days later, as we were holding what we intended to be our last meeting, I had just commenced speaking when in came a man whom I had met before with a book under his arm. I was greatly aided by the Spirit of God in telling the story of "Mormonism" in a brief way, and then Elder Macfarlane bore testimony.

Then came the gentleman with the book, and pulling his overcoat off, he said he did not want to treat us except as gentlemen. He flourished an encyclopedia and said it was true, having the testimony of the good and noble men of our Union and was backed by the president, senate and Congress of the United States. He had a sore eye and could not read, but he would let any person he desired to read, and prove what he said.

He attacked Brigham Young and the Prophet Joseph. He spit and said we were not needed in a "Christian" country, as soon as I saw through the fog how untrue his statements were and called him to repentance, but he was in such a hurry that he pushed through the crowd and started off without his overcoat.

We have gained good favor among nearly all the people and have some investigators, while our opponent made many enemies.

WAS A "MORMON" AT HEART.

Experience of One Who Heard The Gospel.

A friend of the "News," Brother A. M. Thompson, writes from Whitney Crookings, Allegheny, N. Y., as follows: I remember the first Elders that I ever saw. They came to my house to get permission to preach in our schoolhouse. I being a trustee of our school district at the time, I gave them the permission asked for. When the time arrived for "religious services," as they called it, my wife and children went to hear him. To my surprise there were four or six Elders at the meeting. The Elder in charge, who came for permission to preach, was Elder Woolley of Boulder, Utah. The Elders held several meetings, and I had the pleasure of hearing them explain the Gospel. I listened with attention several times, but could not see any difference between the doctrine they taught and the Bible. I was a member of the "Free Will Baptist" church at this time. I could see a great difference between the doctrine that I had been taught and the doctrine of the Elders. But in many things I differed with the "Free Will Baptist" and when asking for information, I did not get any satisfactory answers. But when I came to investigate the doctrine of the Latter-day Saints I found that I had been a "Mormon" at heart for a long time, although I had never seen any "Mormon" literature, until the Lord sent His humble servant to my door, and I feel that I cannot thank the Lord enough for sending His servants to bear the everlasting Gospel to me.

The 26th of last July, Elders T. J. Richardson and William H. Hadfield organized a Sabbath school in our school district, and I was chosen superintendent. We held two Sabbath schools at the Thorn Tree schoolhouse (Thorn Tree being the name of our district) when there was a notice served on the trustee of the district forbidding any more "Mormon" meetings or Sunday schools in the schoolhouse. But, thank the Lord, my house was open to all that would attend, and we held our Sunday school up to the 3rd of January, when the snow was so deep that we postponed the school until summer. We have seven members of the Church in our neighborhood. There were four baptisms, including my three children, the past summer.

CONFERENCE IN OHIO.

Elders Laboring in that State have a Profitable Conference.

This report is sent in a letter from Elder O. C. Thurber, dated Cincinnati, Ohio, March 1. The Elders laboring in this state, with the exception of two who are laboring in Cleveland met in semi-annual conference capacity, in this city on Feb. 21, at our hall at 216 Elder street. Our first meeting convened at 2 p. m., with our conference president, Elder G. W. Ekris, in charge. Owing to a steady downpour of rain and the icy paved streets, there were not as large an attendance as there would have been had the weather been more favorable. After the usual opening exercises, Elder Ekris briefly compared the manner in which the "Mormon" Elder goes forth

into the world to preach the Gospel, to that of other denominations.

The writer was then asked to address the congregation.

The next to speak was Elder Arthur J. Kirk, who compared the treatment of the Latter-day Saints with the treatment bestowed upon the Apostles and Saints by the world in the early ages.

Elder Leonidas Fisher was the next to speak. His subject was the Persecution of the Saints, and the loyalty of the Church to the government.

At 7:30 p. m. meeting was again called to order by Elder Ekris, Bro. G. O. Beckstead was the first speaker. He dwelt upon the first principles of the Gospel. G. W. Ekris then spoke at length on revelation.

Priesthood meeting went over until Tuesday at 10 a. m., when the Elders all met in the parlor at our quarters, on Walnut Hills, and enjoyed for more than two hours, the testimonies, and experiences of all present. All left the next day for their different counties, feeling greatly encouraged.

A number of applications for baptism have recently come to us from various parts of the state, which will be attended to as soon as the weather permits.

The "News" and Era are greatly appreciated by the Elders, and are factors for much good in our conference.

We have changed our headquarters from 2233 Kemper Lane to 2461 McMichael avenue. Any one having friends who would like to visit, should write to Elder G. W. Ekris, box 33, station D.

MEETING WELL ATTENDED.

Elders and Saints at Seattle Have An Enjoyable Gathering.

The following report is sent by Elder Oliver Pickett, from Seattle, Wash., March 11:

The Saints and Elders of Seattle met in conference about the 6th inst. Elders from Victoria, B. C., Vancouver, B. C., and Tacoma, Wash., also were in attendance.

Three meetings were held during the day, all being well attended. Elders Pratt and Cowley occupied most of the time. Two Priesthood meetings were held on Tuesday and Wednesday following. There the Elders had the opportunity of relating their experiences and bearing their testimony.

Many of the Elders who for the past year have been laboring on the coast have been assigned to labor in Montana and Idaho.

Elder Pickett has had charge of Seattle conference 17 months, or since it was first established. Elder James G. Widdison, Jr., is appointed to succeed him.

There is a branch of the Church here numbering about 45; also a Sabbath school and two Mutual Improvement associations are enjoyed and much benefit realized by the Saints. Seventeen have been baptized since establishing the branch. A few have applied for the ordinance in other parts of the conference. Many thousands of families have been visited and tracts left with them. Hundreds of meetings have been held.

The conference address is P. O. Box 682.

The "News" is a "light on our path and a guide to our feet" in every respect.

PROGRESS IN MICHIGAN.

The Elders Report Good Results of the Efforts of Enemies.

Elder Parley Moyle, writing from Battle Creek, Mich., March 2, reports as follows:

The semi-annual conference of the Michigan conference convened in the Trades Council hall of this city, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28, Elder George A. Little, presiding. The opening services were occupied by the Elders who spoke upon the first principles of the Gospel.

Sunday morning the Elders and Saints met in testimony meeting. The Elders bore testimony of the blessings received from our heavenly father, and the Saints said they felt well in the work of the Lord.

The afternoon meeting was well attended. Immediately following the afternoon services the Elders and Saints met in Priesthood meeting.

The Elders were given their assignments and some of their honorable releases to return home. They also gave reports of their work since the previous conference.

Elder George A. Little who has been presiding over the conference for one year, was released from his labors here to take charge of the Indiana conference, and Elder E. H. Brown sustained to succeed him. Brother Little Woodruff talked at length upon our labors.

The concluding services held at 7:30 were well attended.

The work is progressing in this part of the Lord's vineyard and the harvest in heart are being gathered out from the world.

While opposition has not been entirely abated friends are being raised up to the Elders. Our good "Christian" associations, on learning of the Latter-day Saints conference to be held in their city did all in their power to stop the meeting. They appealed to the mayor, but were disappointed in learning that their cause was "just" but he could "do nothing for them," so long as the "Mormons" were within the law in their proceedings. They then endeavored to induce the manager of the hall to withdraw the permission to use it, but they failed in this. Lastly, they tried to take an action with which to prohibit the conference from the people of Battle Creek of our awful doctrines. But this served us well. It brought out some who probably would not have come otherwise.

As the people are becoming more acquainted with the Latter-day Saints, the old threadbare stories are dying out, and the fair-minded people of Michigan are beginning to recognize something in "Mormonism" that is superior to the world.

During the past year friends have been made, and some baptisms performed.

IN FLORIDA.

Question of Polygamy Brought Up In a Conference.

in heaven and obedience to the will of the Father.

While Elder C. E. Ferrin was speaking, President Ben E. Rich entered the hall. He spoke during the remaining time, explaining how the Elders occupied the same position as those commissioned by Jesus; that they taught the same Gospel.

At the afternoon session Elder Bingham spoke on general Gospel topics, and was followed by Elder E. Hasken, who spoke on obedience. Elder Rich spoke of the primitive and Latter-day Saints, and bore a powerful testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph.

At the evening session Elder C. A. Wright spoke of the Spirit of love and will, which characterize the gathering of the Latter-day Saints in all parts of the world.

On Feb. 29 the Elders met in Priesthood meeting and all had the privilege of bearing testimony and stating the progress made where they had been laboring. Elder Rich urged them to be diligent in the work after returning home, and not to get indifferent.

March 1 the Elders again met and received their appointments.

Elder Bingham was transferred to Mississippi, Elder Davis to South Carolina, and Elder Walker to Virginia, to preside over those conferences.

Elder C. A. Wright was chosen to fill the place of Elder Bingham as first counselor.

The places of Elders Davis and Walker at Key West will be filled by Elders Hogan and Overton, transferred from Mississippi conference.

It might be interesting to know that the work in Florida has not always been smooth sailing. Just before the fire in 1901 two of the Elders were expelled from this city. Now we enjoy unrestricted liberty—our street meetings are well attended. The Elders are working from house to house, sounding the message to those who will listen. Friends and converts are being made and much praise is being ascribed.

The "News" and Era are much appreciated by Saints and Elders.

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STAKE CONFERENCES.

ALBERTA STAKE.

Report of the Quarterly Conference at Cardston.

Cardston, Alta., March 1.—The quarterly conference of the Alberta stake was held at Cardston Sunday and Monday, Feb. 28 and 29, stake president, Elder Edward J. Wood with his counselors, Thomas Duce and Sterling Williams, presiding. A good representation of the presiding officers of the stake and wards were present.

The Sunday morning services were devoted to the Sunday school cause, the exercises and reports were very interesting, and were appreciated by the congregation.

The reports of the Elders and officers of the various stake organizations were satisfactory.

During the afternoon session Elder Wood presented the names of the general and local authorities, all of whom were sustained by a unanimous vote. Elder Henry E. Wynder, Sr., reported the High Priests' quorum. Sister Joseph Wood reported the Relief Societies. Bishop J. A. Hammer reported the Cardston ward to have 983 Church members.

Patriarch Henry L. Hinman, and John A. Woolf, Elders J. Wood, Thomas Duce and Sterling Williams delivered excellent discourses, the general theme of their remarks being an exhortation to the Saints to live nearer to God by keeping all His commandments, to be humble, diligent and forgiving, to each other in manner of intolerance, to honor and support each other and the legitimate and beneficial industries established in our midst.

Patriarch Hinman especially referred to the hearty support and patronage of the people to that industry. At the request of Elder Wood, Patriarch J. A. Woolf blessed the people, their lands, and their animals. He blessed the fruits of the soil from injuring the crops, and promised the Saints abundant harvests, and deliverance from debt, providing they would live their religion.

Elder Wood thanked the Saints for attending conferences, filling the meetinghouse at every session. He referred to the urgent necessity of a stake tabernacle, but said it would not be required of the people until their financial condition had improved.

The music and singing were excellent, and added very much to the enjoyment of the conference.

The health of the people is very good there being nothing more serious than the "flu" in a few families. There is comparatively no poverty here. The children are increasing so rapidly that we are compelled to enlarge the Cardston schoolhouse by one-third.

E. A. LAW, Stake Clerk.

KANAB STAKE.

Brief Report of the Recent Quarterly Conference.

Kanab stake quarterly conference was held in Kanab Social hall, March 6 and 7. There were present of the authorities, the Kanab stake presidency, and all the Bishops but one; also Elders Richard G. Lambert and John Woolley of Salt Lake, and Davis stake respectively. The principles of the Gospel were spoken upon in a spirited manner, by the speakers, and faithful testimonies were borne. The General and local authorities were unanimously sustained.

Elder John H. Watson was chosen as second counselor to Bishop R. J. Cutler of Glendale. We had a very enjoyable time at our conference, the weather being pleasant and the ground dry.

The Primary held a conference Friday afternoon previous to our quarterly conference, and the Seventies held their conference on Sunday between 12 noon and 2 p. m.

The health of the people is good. While there seems to be a spirit of uneasiness of approaching hard times, the people do not feel any way discouraged, but desire to put their trust in the Lord for the future.

FRANCIS L. PORTER, Stake Clerk.

BIG HORN STAKE.

A Much Enjoyed Conference at Cowley.

Byron, Big Horn Co., Wyo., March 7.—The Big Horn stake conference held at Cowley, March 5 and 6, was a very pleasant affair. Many subjects were touched upon. Particular attention was given to honoring the Priesthood, being true to each other, and family

devotions. All seemed to enjoy the teaching.

The Bishops reported general peace among their people, and an increase in tithing in all the wards but one. Considerable concern is felt about the indebtedness of the people. They were counseled to live within their means and improve their farms so that they could stay at home with their families.

There was a very large attendance, and at the Priesthood meeting held Saturday evening, Sunday morning was devoted to Sabbath school work, at which the subjects of honor to parents and Word of Wisdom were touched upon. Sunday afternoon the general and local authorities were sustained, by unanimous vote. Very valuable instructions were given by the stake presidency. They expressed their thanks for the blessings enjoyed in our conference.

Sunday evening was devoted to the Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. meeting. Monday was devoted to Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. association conference, at which an excellent spirit prevailed.

The singing at all the meetings was furnished by the Cowley choir, which was one of the most interesting features of the conference. Great credit is due their conductor, Edward Johnson. EMANUEL THOMAS, Stake Clerk.

TAYLOR STAKE.

Saints in Canada Enjoy Conference Meetings.

Raymond, Alta., March 7.—The quarterly conference of the Taylor stake of Zion convened March 6, in the Magrath assembly hall, at 11 a. m., Elder Heber S. Allen presiding.

There were present the stake presidency, High Council, Bishops, presidents of quorums, and auxiliary or organization officers.

Among the visitors were Elders E. J. Wood, Thos. Duce and Sterling Williams, of the Alta stake.

The opening address was by Elder Heber S. Allen, in which he congratulated the Saints upon the good health, peace and prosperity they enjoy.

Elder Sterling Williams of the Alta stake spoke on the educational side of life. The Bishops and other presiding officers gave good reports of work done since last conference.

Elder Duce, Duce of the Alta stake spoke on the temporal salvation of the Saints in Canada.

The Sunday evening session was in charge of Mark H. Brimhall and Jennie B. Knight of the Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. A. The subject of the evening was the Word of Wisdom and the consistency of correct living.

Elder E. J. Wood of the Alta stake, read an article by a Mrs. Lookwood, a New York lawyer, on the Expulsion of Senator Snoot from the U. S. Senate. In this article she called on the women of America to reclaim the fallen of their sex in their own cities and leave the "Mormon" people alone.

Elder J. Wm. Knight spoke of the necessity of people being systematic in their work, both temporal and spiritual.

Elder Theo. Brandley dwelt upon the necessity of magnifying our callings in the Holy Priesthood.

There were a number of other speakers. GEO. H. BUDD, Stake Clerk.

ST. GEORGE STAKE.

Report of a Profitable Quarterly Conference.

St. George, March 14, 1904.—Our regular quarterly conference convened on Saturday at 10 a. m. When the conference session convened, President Joseph W. McMurrin and Elder John W. Woolley came in all unexpectedly. A good attendance greeted the visitors.

Elder Snow reported that the stake presidency had visited all of the large stake with the exception of Land and Preston wards of Nevada, situated 200 miles from here. The people of this stake have made their high water mark in tithes and offerings as compared with former years. All of the stake organizations are working in harmony one with the other.

The subject of education received a considerable share of the attention of the conference and Professors W. N. Hunt and Lewis Merrill of the Agricultural college and County Superintendent John T. Woodbury gave the people the benefit of their ideas along these lines.

President Thomas Judd of the state board of horticulture gave a very fine talk upon the possibilities of Dixie, and advocated the abandonment of hay farming and the culture of raisin grapes.

Elder Richard Lambert made some pointed remarks upon the power of example.

The morning session of Sunday was entirely surrendered to the stake Sunday school union board, at which they made their reports of work done and progress made.

Elder McMurrin made some fervid

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and stirring talks dealing with the stability of the work of God, and promising that the children of the fathers would not fail away and allow the work to go within the next 25 years that stirring events would transpire and that the youth should know of a surety that this was indeed the work of God.

The conference was characterized throughout by the most excellent singing, and a good spirit prevailed. The attendance, especially Sunday afternoon, was very large. The weather was so warm and pleasant that no one was kept away on account of storms.

At the Priesthood meeting the question of the establishment of a forest reserve was discussed and after a very full discussion it was unanimously decided by the people that they were in favor of its establishment from the north boundary line of the county down as far as Dameron valley, 20 miles south

of the north line of the county. ARTHUR F. MILES, Clerk.

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