

Elders are preaching with power, and the people appear to see that this is the only true religion, and that nothing can ever remove it from the earth again, and investigators are found on every side. During the past two months some sixteen souls have been added to our membership (a phenomenal work for this country), being presented with a new life through baptism for the remission of their sins, making a covenant with their Father in heaven to worship and obey Him in all His commandments. An account of one of these baptisms might be interesting. On this occasion nine persons were baptized at one time. It was nearly ten o'clock at night before this was accomplished as we did not desire to be disturbed. The moon was at its brightest, and several people witnessed the ceremony, Brother Bangarter doing the baptizing, and after all was completed, each one wended his or her way to their various homes, only to meet again on the following day (Sunday) to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, through the laying on of hands, and they had then entered into a new life, for which they will receive the rewards according to their merits. I do not believe I ever saw a happier band of people than these nine persons were when we congratulated them as brothers and sisters for the first time. Brother Porter was with me and confirmed some in the French language. This occurred on the beautiful Biel lake. Since then some more have been brought into the fold from the Chaux-de-Fouds branch through the efforts of Elder Heckmann, who is also doing great work in that district single-handed, which lies on the boundary line of Switzerland and France, and has made many friends for the Gospel there. Several children have also been blessed into the Church during this period, and on my last tour through this conference I find excellent prospects for more members, six applications for baptism being now under consideration from the boundary district.

On the 22nd of this month we held a large open air meeting in the woods close to a French village called Preles. President P. Lautensak of the Swiss and German mission and his secretary, Elder Olsen, accompanied by the travelling Elders and Saints from the Berne conference, united with us in this meeting and as it was a new departure, an account of it may not be out of place and will interest your readers. Meeting was opened with prayer from Elder Heckmann, after which Elder Olsen addressed the people on the first principles of the Gospel in the German language, he being followed by Elder Porter in French. The latter had hardly commenced when a brass band stationed themselves within twenty-five feet of us and commenced to play, lustily accompanied by the yells of the small boy from the village. This disconcerted us, and for a few moments silence reigned in our camp, when President Loutensak took Brother Porter's place, and, having a powerful voice, addressed the people in German, holding them to a complete silence, while he gave them the glad tidings that the Gospel of Christ had once more been restored to the earth, never more to be removed. While he was speaking some of the Elders tried to induce the would-be musicians to desist and go away, but as they were hired to disturb us, our appeal fell on deaf ears. Tracts were distributed to the listening multitude, whose numbers had been swelled by the brass band performance, and were spoken to on the Gospel, and in fact the sympathy was with us. We carried on our program in spite of the music, until we were through, closed

by singing "Eine herde und ein Hirt," and prayer by Brother Buhler. The visitors numbered some 100 people and were addressed also by Elders Bangarter and Whitmer in the French language, who expounded the principles of the Gospel in the most excellent manner.

This is a sample of some of the trials and tribulations the Elders in this conference must meet with, and it only strengthens us in our work and faith. The Preles branch was organized last December with six members and were a part of what was once a temperance society. A hard feeling was created when one of our Elders was invited to address the society at their meeting, which resulted in the disbanding of the society, by the baptizing of these six, and the formation of a "Mormon society," hence the cause of the disturbance, as the pastors are bitterly opposed to us.

On the 27th, three more souls were added to the fold by baptism, and were confirmed the same evening by Elders Bangarter and Heckmann, and there are still many souls investigating the Gospel of Christ, and inquiries are received daily for Elders to visit them, and where one missionary is employed, three could very conveniently be used, as the hearts of the people have been softened towards the true disciples of Christ. We have many friends in this conference who aid us in our work, and sisters as well as brothers expound the Gospel wherever opportunity permits.

We could use many more missionaries in this country, and if the young men would only come out this way, we will assure them a good field to labor in as God ever opened up to men, and an experience which one can never forget.

The "News" is always a welcome visitor and many read it with interest. Keep the good work going and God will bless us until the end.

Very respectfully,

Your brother in the work of salvation,  
NIKLAUS BANGERTEN.  
From East Bountiful, Utah.

### BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE

The Bannock Stake quarterly conference was held in the Music Hall, Rexburg, Sunday and Monday, Sept. 12th and 13th. There were present Elders Geo. Reynolds and Thomas Hull from Salt Lake City, the Stake presidency and most of the Bishops.

Sunday, 10 a.m.—Elder Geo. Reynolds spoke of the evils that are among us which he regarded to some extent as the mercy of God in order that the Saints might be tried; a virtuous people are strong in body and mind, but whenever a people cease to be virtuous they dwindle to nothing as has many times been exemplified in the history of the world; we must also be united and respect the rights of others and when wrong is done make restitution. Elder Thomas Hull said the purpose of our Father in heaven is to make us a people that shall be known throughout the earth for purity, virtue and power with God, and they we may become the kings and rulers of the earth; a people led and taught by revelation, brought out of the evil of the world have no business to partake of evil; men have no right to expect virtue from women if not themselves virtuous; young men going from home have no right to go "seeing the sights" as it is called; after visiting and witnessing the doings in places of evil, even if not partaking thereof, it is not possible ever again to be as pure in mind.

2 p.m.—Elder Fred Smith, returned missionary from the Southern States, reported his labors there. He had enjoyed his mission and realized the im-

portance of the duties of the Elders to go forth and preach the Gospel whenever called.

Elder Thomas Hull treated upon the virtues of love, peace and goodwill, and wished to inculcate in the hearts of the Saints a desire for mutual promotion and not the engendering of foolish strifes and contentions; explained the advantages this people possess of settling difficulties—our troubles should not reach the teachers but certainly never further. Elder George Reynolds said we have to be tried and proven; it is often asked in the world what life is and the learned cannot solve the problem, but God has revealed it unto us; we are the sons and daughters of God, sent here to develop our former existence, taking bodies up and spirits to fit us for future progress; the speaker also discoursed upon the proper training of children, and said parents who knew the work engaged in to be of God and who neglect the training of their children aright are traitors to the cause.

Monday, 10 a.m. The Bishops reported their wards in satisfactory condition. Elders W. T. Rigby and Thos. E. Bassett of the Stake presidency, spoke upon topics of interest to the Saints, both from temporal and spiritual standpoints; as the development of the country, building of townsites, duty in rendering of our means for the support of schools and missions, honor of the Priesthood, etc.

2 p.m.—Elder George Reynolds spoke of undivided allegiance to God and the promises predicted thereon, and the doctrine of the Fatherhood, which dignifies us above all other religions; we should not belittle the work of our Father and His Son Jesus Christ nor be vain of the Priesthood, seeking to usurp among our fellows, but we should bless and not curse. Elder Thomas Hull warned the young men and women against the efforts that are being made to allure away from the paths of truth and virtue; he wanted a reform in our amusements and a return to the old times when the aged were wont to associate in the dance with the young.

Elder Thomas E. Ricks had been blessed during the conference and felt renewed for his work in the Stake for the next three months; counseled the people to retain grain for bread and seed and those who are able should lay away for future years of scarcity; he thanked the visiting brethren, the choir and the proprietors of the hall for the parts all had taken in making conference a success.

Choir sang, We thank Thee O God, for a Prophet.

Benediction by Patriarch A. E. Hinckley. JAMES GILLESPIE,  
Stake Clerk.

The compulsory education law in Indiana has added 25,000 children to the number in the public schools. At this rate the Hoosier state will know a thing or two in a few years.

Malad, Idaho, Enterprise: The ever pushing people of Samaria have in contemplation an enterprise which, if successfully carried through, will add immensely to the wealth and prosperity of that community. They propose to erect a large dam to conserve the waters of the Big Malad. There is some apprehension as to whether or not the character of the soil is such as will hold water under heavy reserve, but those well informed are inclined to think there is not much danger. State Engineer Mills will probably visit the site in the next thirty days and give the Samaria company the benefit of his advice and experience. The incorporation to undertake the work is the Samaria Water and Irrigating company.