

paid or salaried pastor, of all denominations, principally the Baptists and the Sabbathists. The latter claim they have their missionaries coming from America also, but, up to date, I have not met any yet.

Some very amusing incidents occur at times, as for instance, in one case we were told we were spiritualists, and had power to raise up the dead from their graves, which we quickly disproved. Another old lady was baptized thirteen years ago and is about sixty years of age. Her husband is so afraid he will kidnap her and marry her that he has forbidden us the house, and all the talk won't alter his mind. Still another is, that when once women are emigrated into Utah, correspondence with friends is entirely forbidden them. These are only a few of the many absurdities that are brought to bear against us behind our backs, as the ministers are the rulers of the people in this free (?) country, and all sorts of threats are brought to bear against Mormonism.

On Sunday, June 27th, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., we held our semi-annual conference of the west part of Switzerland, Cafe des Alps, Bern, to an attendance of about 200 persons at each meeting. Among those on the stand from Zion were the following Elders: President Rulon S. Wells and Joseph McMurrin, of the European mission, both from Salt Lake City; President P. Loutensok, of the Swiss and German mission, from Eureka, and his secretary, W. F. Olsen, from Coalville; George C. Grahl, Brigham City; H. E. Bowman, Provo; Oscar C. Barton, Kaysville; G. Buhler, Midway; Adolph Hafin, Santa Clara; Arthur Porter, Logan; N. Baugarter, Bountiful; and Philip Maycock, John F. Howard, Theodore Nystrom, W. J. Heckman, Charles Gerber, Conrad Muller, and George J. Coulam Jr., from Salt Lake City. We also had the pleasure of having in our midst, Elder George Romney, Bishop of the Twentieth ward, and his wife and son, who arrived in Bern in time to take part in the feast, they being on a tour through Europe.

The morning session opened promptly at ten, seats fairly well filled; and, after singing by a combined choir from Berne and Biel branches, in the German language, and prayer being offered up, we proceeded with our business, and conference commenced. Brothers Buhler, Olsen, Muller and Heckman each discoursed on the main principles of the Gospel and the belief of the Latter-day Saints, and testified to the truth of the Gospel as brought again on the earth through Joseph Smith, the Prophet, revealed by an angel from heaven. Elder Lautensok then presented the authorities of the Church for consideration, and all were unanimously accepted. The report for five months was then read, showing the following: Members (including Priesthood), 286; baptisms, 39; houses visited, 2,467; invitations received, 421; Gospel conversations, 1,965; tracts and books distributed, 3,265; meetings held, 266. We then adjourned until 2 p. m. About sixty persons partook of the banquet in the dining room hall, and a good time was indulged in for an hour and a half.

Promptly at 2 o'clock, all assembled again and the time was well occupied by Presidents Wells and Loutensok, whose counsel and teachings were a benefit to all present, and were a rare treat to us missionaries.

About 6 p. m. a great many left for their various homes, so that the evening meeting, which commenced at 7 p. m., had a light attendance. Elder McMurrin and Bishop Romney spoke in the English language, which was translated by our mission president, and the remainder of the time was occupied by Elders Maycock, Baugarter and Grahl, the latter speaking in French, and all others in German. So our conference came to an end.

The Spirit of God was with us throughout, and the weather could not have been better. Such a brotherly and sisterly spirit prevailed, feasting on the good things spiritually and bodily, which our Father in heaven provided. The singing was rendered in magnificent style by the combined choirs under the leadership of Brother Weltstein, of Bern.

Monday at 9 a. m., we met in Priesthood meeting, where reports were rendered from all, and we had the pleasure of receiving some good counsel and fatherly advice from Brothers Wells, McMurrin, Romney and Loutensok, and which, I pray God, we may all live up to, and we will succeed. At 2 o'clock we adjourned for another six months. And after getting photographed (twenty Elders present), we each departed for our various fields again, with renewed strength to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

Our situation on the boundary makes it the most romantic and picturesque country in the world; with its Roman torture castles, its caves of retreat for the early Christians, its scene of the Huguenot butchery, and its battle grounds.

We need more laborers, as we must work singly; and being a country where two and three languages are necessary, the demand upon us is sometimes greater than the supply.

We gladly look for the NEWS as our friends and families keep us well supplied, and through its medium we find many addresses.

WILLIAM J. HECKMAUN.

MISSIONARIES IN ILLINOIS.

WOODLAWN, Illinois, July 12, 1897.

Having seen but little in your valuable paper from the Southern Illinois conference, we thought a few lines from this field would be of interest to your many readers.

We have just returned from an extended trip, having visited all the Elders of this conference in their different fields of labor. We found them all enjoying the best of health and the spirit of their missions.

Leaving this place on May 7th, we arrived in Johnson county on the 14th, and were cordially welcomed by Elders M. J. Ballard and John A. Coon, whom we met at the hospitable home of Brother W. W. Betts. This being our old field of labor, we can assure you that the three weeks spent there among the Saints and many friends, were ones long to be remembered. While there we assisted our co-laborers in holding fourteen well attended meetings; also were requested to hold services in the cemetery on Decoration day, which we did, and were greeted by an audience of about three hundred people, who had gathered on this occasion.

The work in this field is progressing rapidly. We have now a regular or-

ganized branch, three Sunday schools, a meeting house in course of erection, and a membership of about sixty-five.

Our next visit was with Elders J. W. Francom and P. F. Durfee, whom we assisted in holding a week's open air meetings, which were all well attended, and much interest shown.

June 25th found us visiting Elder D. A. Lowry in Xenia, Clay county, who is alone at present. After spending a few pleasant days there we wended our way to Effingham, Effingham county, where we found Elders W. E. Abbott and D. M. Guest. While there we applied for the court house in which to hold meetings, but owing to the existing prejudice, we were met with an emphatic refusal. We were also denied the privilege of holding a few street meetings. Not to be outdone we went out in the country for two miles, where we held two good meetings. Owing to the excessive heat, we concluded to travel by night to our next point, Vandalia, Fayette county, the old state capital. It was there that we spent Independence day, in company with Elders E. S. Sheets and S. L. Bunnell. Leaving there on the 5th inst., we reached Greenville, Bond county, the same day, where we met Elder George A. Hill, who took us out in the country ten miles, where Elder E. Christiansen had just finished a series of meetings. There we remained a few days, visiting the many friends the Elders had made since opening up this county last winter.

July 9th found us once more at our headquarters in Woodlawn, we having walked a distance of 457 miles.

In view of the fact that the five last named fields are comparatively new, no Elders having been in them previous to last winter, we think that the following report for June is quite encouraging: Families visited, 251; re-visited, 172; tracts distributed, 956; books sold, 19; meetings held, 107; children blessed, 3; baptisms, 7; Gospel conversations, 399.

Too much cannot be said of the hospitality shown the Elders by the people in general throughout Southern Illinois; and the prejudice that exists against our people is fast disappearing. Considering the progress that has been made by our little band of energetic and zealous workers during the past few months, it is but a question of a very short time, when our brethren on the sunny side of the Mason and Dixon line will have to "look to their laurels."

V. E. CANDLAND,
President of Conference.
C. E. DINWOODIE,
Clerk.

A MISSIONARY REPORT.

RIPLEY, Miss., July 20, 1897.

I left home in Holden, Mulard county, Utah, on the 23rd of September, 1895, and Salt Lake City on the 27th, en route to the Southern States mission, and in due time at Chattanooga, Tenn., I was assigned to the North Alabama conference, over which Elder Bird Murphy presided, but Elder Albert Matheson soon afterwards took his place, the former being released to return to Zion. I labored with Elder David Hubbard, in Tippah county, Miss., for some time, then was removed to Etowah county, Ala., to labor with Elder George T. Wride, where I enjoyed my labors for some two months, when I received word from Elder Matheson, that I was to meet