

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GOSPEL IN NORWAY.

Christiania, Sept. 20, 1897.

On Sept. 11th and 12th we held our fall conference in our large and commodious hall, Osterhausgade No. 27. Your reader will remember that this hall is owned by the Church, the only place in the European mission where the Saints own their own place of worship. We had the honor of the presence of Elders Rulon S. Wells and Jos. W. McMurrin of the European mission and Elder C. N. Lund of the Scandinavian mission, together with twenty-six other missionaries from Utah.

Our conference opened Saturday evening and on Sunday three meetings were held. Not for a great many years has such an interest been taken in our conferences by strangers as in the present one. During our Sunday meetings standing room was at a premium. The principles of the Gospel were explained by our visiting brethren, and many testimonies were born of the divinity of the Prophet Joseph's mission and the restoration of the Gospel in our day. At the close of our last meeting three individuals applied for baptism and several others desired conversations.

All expressed their surprise in finding that the Gospel as preached by the Latter-day Saints was in unison with the teachings of our Savior and His disciples.

Much of the former prejudice against us as a people is being removed, as the people become more enlightened. Yet there are many who will still believe the blood-curdling stories that our enemies tell about us. As a specimen of what people will tell I can mention that an old lady here says her uncle was well acquainted with Joseph Smith and that she has it from good authority that the Prophet was born in Norway, and was sent to Sweden in a casket, because he taught false doctrine.

Conference President D. K. Brown's report was as follows: The conference has ten branches, each presided over by an Elder from Utah who is assisted by one or more Elders. Of the local Priesthood we have Elders 58, Priests 19, Teachers 21, Deacons 19, members 697. Total officers and members 814.

During the last five months we have visited in their homes 11,830 families, had 3,832 Gospel conversations, distributed 9,236 Gospel tracts, held 1,072 meetings and added to the Church by baptism 60 members.

Since our last conference Elder D. K. Brown and myself have visited all of the branches in Norway. At Trondhjem I met Elder Brown, and after a short stay at that place, the 27th of June found us on board the steamship Vesteraalen en route for Tromsø, the most northerly branch of the church in all the world.

On June 29th at 12 o'clock noon we landed at Tromsø. Here we were greeted by about twelve of our brethren and sisters. Even at 69 degrees 49 minutes north latitude Mormon Elders have previously found their way, and as a result of their labors had made happy this little band of Israelites by bringing to them the glad tidings of the Gospel.

We remained there about ten days, during which time we were busy spreading tracts and bearing our testimony to the good people of the far north. Our stay there seemed to us as one continuous day, the sun never ceasing to cast its brilliant rays upon the earth.

The following are the names of the Elders now laboring in Norway, and their places of labor for the coming six months: D. K. Brown, president of conference; N. K. Neilson, C. W. Peterson and Fred Schade for Christiania; M. E. Christopherson, Olavaus Johnson, Drammen; John Peterson and Hyrum Olsen, Frederikshald; Jakob Fikstad and O. H. Peterson, Frederikstad; Peter Olsen and George M. Smoot and Mark Williamson, Bergen; Chas. Poulsen and Hyrum Hogan, Trondjem; Chas. Knudsen and Chas. Thomson, Tromsø; Rangvald Karlsen and Lars Halling, Hedemarken; Hyrum Jensen and Jos. Targerson, Arendal; Genis Christansen, Stavanger.

Mail addressed to Osterhausgaden, No. 27, will reach any of the Elders.

N. K. NEILSON.

IOWA AND NEBRASKA CONFERENCE

The conference of the Elders of Iowa and Nebraska was held in Huntington hall on Broadway, Council Bluffs, Iowa. There were present twenty traveling Elders besides a number of local Elders of Omaha and Council Bluffs and Saints residing in those cities.

Elder Louis R. Kelsch, president of the Northern States mission, was also present.

The meetings began at 7:30 p. m. Oct. 9, 1897, and continued on Sunday, Oct. 10, and Monday, Oct. 11, with meetings at 10 a. m. and 2 and 7:30 p. m. on each day.

Elder Levi A. Colvin, president of Iowa conference, spoke on the atonement. Faith in the existence of God was treated on by Elder Lee S. Robinson. Elder Richard E. Yeates followed on faith and works, showing that even the devils believe, but tremble.

Elder Joseph F. Thomas was sustained clerk of the conference.

Elder Enos Ormond showed the necessity of repentance and what it is. He was followed by Elder James D. Coon who spoke of the difference between true repentance and the sorrow of the world. Elder Daniel E. Black spoke on baptism, showing it to be essential to salvation. Elder David Rishton showed that baptism was taught by the Apostles and performed by immersion. Elder Henry Bise! spoke on the Holy Ghost, his gifts and blessings. He was followed by Elder Isaac Coon on the same subject. Elder Coon bore a powerful testimony to the truth of the Gospel—the mission of Joseph Smith the Prophet and the succession in the Priesthood, of Brigham Young, John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff.

Authority to act in the name of the Lord was the theme of Elder Thos. D. Wallace, who showed that it must and can only come as in ancient times, through divine appointment. Elder Kelsch spoke on the subject "Mormonism and the Bible."

Elder P. J. Williams, president of Nebraska conference, spoke on the Gospel. Elder L. S. Mechem followed on Church organization. Elder J. A. Fawson spoke on the Gospel, its gifts and blessings, and bore his testimony to the truth of it. Elder J. G. Watt spoke for a short time on faith. Elder C. J. Smith spoke on the calling of Elders and showed how people could know of the truth. Elder Joseph Jones spoke on the apostasy and showed it to have been complete. Elder Parley Williams spoke, bearing his testimony to the truth of the things taught in the Gospel. Elder S. C. Jones spoke on the Gospel and the mission of the

Prophet Joseph Smith. Elder W. H. Garner expressed his joy in meeting where the Spirit of God is abundant and testified of the mission of Joseph the Prophet, and that Brigham Young, John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff are his legal successors before the Lord. Elder Joseph F. Thomas spoke on the restoration of the Gospel, and the Priesthood, with authority to act in the name of the Lord, to bind on earth and it should be bound in heaven.

The fields of labor and addresses of the Elders in Iowa are as follows:

David Rishton, Daniel E. Black, Parley Williams, Henry Bise!, Isaac Coon, W. H. Garner and Joseph F. Thomas, are all at Des Moines, Iowa, and letters sent there will find them.

Elders Enos Ormond, James D. Coop Jr., Thos. D. Wallace and J. G. Watt are at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Elders in Nebraska are R. E. Yeates and S. C. Jones, Lincoln, Neb.; while J. W. Jones and Lee S. Robinson are at Fairbury, Jefferson county, Neb.; P. J. Williams is at 2530 Parker street, Omaha; L. S. Mechem, 1439 n. Nineteenth street, and J. A. Fawson, Omaha.

The former president of the Iowa conference, Elder Levi A. Colvin, was honorably released to return to his home in Payson, Utah, and Elder Joseph F. Thomas was sustained as president of the Iowa conference in his stead.

JOSEPH F. THOMAS, Clerk.

GOSPEL WORK IN ARKANSAS.

Denmark, White county, Ark.,

Oct. 6, 1897.

The Elders of the Arkansas conference have just had another spiritual feast in their conference which convened Sept. 28, 29 and 30, near Denmark, White county, Ark.

Besides the Elders who have labored in the conference during the summer, there were present Elder William T. Jack, president of the Indian Territory mission, and four Elders just from Zion, viz: Sydney O. Rust, Herbert W. Webster, Jos. A. L. Larson and William Burton. They have the appearance of bright young men, and we think them a valuable addition to our Conference.

The Saints and friends did their best to entertain us, and their hospitality will not be forgotten.

The Elders all appreciated the timely counsel and instruction from Elder Jack. It came to us as inspiration, for experience had taught its necessity and wisdom. And we hope to be able to appropriate it in our future efforts.

There has been some sickness among the Elders during the summer, but none of them have had to return home on that account.

The good results of our labors are everywhere manifest. We frequently receive letters from different parts of the state asking for Elders to be sent to their section of country.

At the close of conference one sister applied for baptism. Four children were blessed.

The undersigned had the pleasure of accompanying Elder Jack on a visit to Saints and friends in Clay county. They were happy to meet us and we were pleased to find them enjoying the spirit of the Gospel so well. Our sympathy goes out to them on account of the trying circumstances in which they are placed. We had heard that their enemies had sworn to kill any Elders who came there again. But we made it a matter of earnest prayer and were permitted to come and go in peace. We had the pleasure of baptizing six persons and blessing four children. That makes thirteen members in that section.

While here Elder Jack divided