

## THE SODA FOUNTAIN.

The public have little conception of the amount of soda fountain business transacted in a city of the size of St. Louis. I don't know whether it is the spread of temperance principles or simply a sensible appreciation of a good thing, but the demand increases much more rapidly than does the population. And there is no limit to the number of new flavors that are produced every year, although many hundred still stick to the old time vanilla, pineapple and lemon. The amount of medicine that is dispensed through the agency of the fountain is almost fabulous, and men go through a whole course of tonics and enjoy the process when they couldn't be persuaded or frightened into taking a single dose in any other way. Some old toppers patronize certain flavors and mixtures and claim that they make an agreeable and palatable "pick-me-up."—*Ex.*

## NORTHERN STATES MISSION.

The Indiana Conference of the Northern States Mission was held at Robinson, on Saturday and Sunday, September 21st and 22nd; President J. E. Booth presiding. There were present of the traveling Elders: President Chas. G. Hyde, Theodore Tobiason, B. A. Stringam, Niels O. Mortensen, Nephi P. Heward, John M. Berry, Chas. D. Adams, Alfred Lund, Frank Hinkley, E. H. Bronson, Richard A. Thorley and John H. Davis.

The meetings on Saturday were not largely attended, but on Saturday night and Sunday the attendance was good. The people were very hospitable to the Elders, and did all they could to add to their comfort.

The speakers dwelt upon the first principles of the Gospel, the divine authority of the Bible, pre-existence of spirits, and the persecutions which must necessarily follow the true church of God. They also gave an account of the persecutions which have followed the church from the period when Joseph Smith first received the authority of the priesthood down to the present time, showing that it is in exact fulfillment of ancient as well as modern prophecy.

At the council meetings (held at the residence of Mr. Henry Jackson, on Monday) the general authorities of the Church were sustained. The Elders gave in a report of their labors for the past six months. President Booth offered some excellent instructions pertaining to their labors and the duties devolving upon them as missionaries of the Gospel.

Chas. G. Hyde and John M. Berry were appointed to labor in Green County, Ind.; Frank Hinkley and Chas. D. Adams in the western part of Ohio; B. A. Stringam and Niels O. Mortensen in White County, Illinois; E. H. Bronson and Richard A. Thorley in Pope County, Ills., and N. P. Heward and John H. Davis in the southern part of Indiana.

Theodore Tobiason and Alfred W. Lund were released to return home.

C. G. Hyde was sustained as secretary, and conference then adjourned. C. G. HYDE.

ROBINSON, Greene County, Ind., Sept. 27th, 1889.

## CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

It is often asked why England should have such an enormous difficulty in governing Ireland, and many writers of eminence have endeavored more or less satisfactorily to answer this question.

Mr. Samuel R. Gardner, in his interesting work "The Civil War of the Sixteenth Century" attributes the difficulty to two causes—first, the imperfect conquest of Ireland by the Normans, and secondly, the rapid assimilation of the first conquerors with the native population.

Neither of these reasons can be considered as conclusive, because they would equally apply to the conquest of England itself by the Normans. William the Conqueror and his immediate descendants had to deal with an imperfect conquest in England, and it did not require many generations to turn the Norman barons into Englishmen. In England and Ireland the same political phenomena present themselves—the assimilation of the natives and the invaders. We must therefore seek to find the reasons of Ireland's unrest in other causes. Both countries had submitted to a Norman conquest, but the process by which England had been welded into a nation only served to perpetuate the distractions of Ireland. Between the conquest of England and the conquest of Ireland there was nothing in common but the name. In England the army kept the petty chieftains in check, but in Ireland every man whose wealth or influence was sufficient to attract around him a band of armed men was in possession of a power which knew no limits, except in the superior strength of his neighbors. Every castle became a centre whence murder, robbery and disorder spread over the wretched country like a flood. Against these armed offenders no law was of any avail, for no authority was in existence to put it into execution. Each petty chief, with his little knot of armed followers, was ready enough to repel invasion from his own soil, but by no means eager to assist his neighbor against the common enemy. If he had any interest in the conflict he would willingly see his rival chief humbled by the powerful stranger from England. A Fitzgerald, an O'Neil, a Bourke or an O'Donnell cared little for the fate of the other chieftains of the neighborhood. It mattered little to the unfortunate peasants who tended their cattle over the bogs and mountains from which race their oppressors sprang. Everywhere bloodshed and confusion prevailed, with their usual attendants, misery and famine. Occasionally a spasmodic attempt was made to enforce the laws in Ireland; but the effects of these attempts passed away

as soon as the forces were withdrawn, and at last, when the war of the Roses broke out, they ceased altogether. In the meantime laws had been enacted prohibiting persons of English descent from marrying with the natives, wearing their dress, or adopting their manners. These of course only tended to widen the chasm already existing between the races.

The danger which England incurred from foreign powers, in consequence of the Reformation, compelled the English government to draw its attention to Ireland. That Ireland should form an independent kingdom was manifestly impossible. The only question was whether it should be a dependency of England or of Spain. Unhappily Elizabeth was not wealthy enough to establish a government in Ireland which should be just to all alike. Much was left to chance, and brutal and unscrupulous adventurers slaughtered Irishmen and seized upon Irish property at random. It is easy to be seen that the weakness of the central government and rivalry of the petty Irish chiefs have had much to do with the chronic state of disorder in Ireland. The conquerors, like the conquered, were Catholics during many centuries, so that the stumbling-block in the way of governing Ireland could not have been religion. The religious barrier between the two countries was an after-growth, which was naturally the consequence of England's acceptance of Protestantism, and Ireland remaining Catholic. From the time of William the Conqueror to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Catholicism was the religion both of Englishmen and Irishmen.

Some of the difficulties that England has always experienced in governing Ireland may be traced to the prevalence in the latter country of the tribal system of property, the memory of which haunts the Irish peasant even at the present day. According to this system, the land was the common property of the tribe, individual ownership being unknown. Although this system has long been superseded by individual ownership, the Irish peasant still retains the idea that the land is his by hereditary birthright, of which he cannot be deprived without gross injustice. Hence it would seem that peasant proprietorship of the land is the only method of making English rule tolerable in Ireland.

"There's nothing like leather" should be a standing toast among British criminals, as well as at the convivial meeting held by curriers, tanners and members of St. Crispin's craft. Thieves might appropriately pour out libations in its honor, and banqueting burglars drink with enthusiasm to its world-wide friendliness. Leather when utilized by human industry to constitute the sole of an English policeman's boot, is the habitual malefactor's best friend, to which he lies under countless and inestimable obligations. The sound of its creaky tread, distinctly audible at considerable distance, conveys to the burglar's attentive ear timely warning