

minister to Japan is the best we have had for years, and the consul general at Yokohama is a practical lawyer, who is ready to do anything he can for American business men. The minister to Corea is more of a college professor than a business man, but the private secretary, Dr. H. N. Allen, is as full of horse sense as an egg is full of meat, and the legation will probably take good care of American interests. Now that the Chinese envoy Yuan has gone away, there will be a chance for Americans to get concessions. A year or so ago Mr. James R. Morse, a New York capitalist, and others, had persuaded the king to allow them to build railroads and to open the gold mines. Had their arrangements been completed, this war between China and Japan would never have occurred. At least it would not have been based on the poverty of Corea. The gold mines of the country are very rich, and the nobles would have gotten so much money out of them that they would not have had to oppress the people. Consequently, there would have been no rebellion and no cause for war. Morse knows all about things in Corea. He has been engaged in the export trade there and in Japan for years. When his majesty became hard up not long ago, he sent a cablegram to New York asking Morse to come out to Corea, and cabling him that he would give him concessions for railroads and mines. Morse organized his company at once. He went to Seoul and was just about to conclude the deal when the king changed his mind. The papers in fact, were all ready, and they were to be signed the next day at eleven o'clock. At about six a message came to the American legation from the king that the deal was off, and he would not make it. Morse of course, was very angry, and he left Corea in a huff. He may go back again now. He is better posted on the situation there than any other man in the far east, and he has the confidence of the king and the people.

GEN. GREATHOUSE'S AMBITION.

It is a good deal of a question as to how this deal was broken off. I have heard it said that it was through Yuan, the Chinese minister. I have also heard it whispered that Gen. Greathouse, the adviser of the king, was the cause of its not going through. As the story goes, Greathouse wanted a large percentage of the stock and the profit and Morse and his friends objected to giving it to him. Greathouse knew the value of the mines and he is probably after them today. He has spent years in the mining regions of California, and it is said that he went from Yokohama to Seoul to look into the mining prospects of Corea. I talked with him somewhat about the gold regions. He says there is no doubt but they are of great extent and very valuable. The gold is found in large nuggets and dust. It is mostly gathered by placer mining. A little quartz is crushed by laying it on stones and rolling other stones over it. There is no modern mining machinery, and the man who gets the concession will have a great fortune.

SENATORS HEARST'S BLACK HILLS MINES.

I have already written something of Gen. Greathouse's experience with Senator Hearst. He was mourning during my stay in Seoul that Hearst was not alive and out in Corea. Said he one day: "If I had George Hearst here I

could know at a glance the possibility of the gold mines of this country. God never created a better judge of mines than he. He knew instinctively as to the trend of a lead and was ready to bank millions on his judgment. No one thought much of the Ontario mine when he bought it. It cost him \$40,000. He spent \$20,000 on it and himself and his partners cleared between five and six millions out of that mine alone. The Black Hills mines of South Dakota never paid until Hearst invested in them.

"The ore was of such a low grade that it produced only from \$3 to \$4 per ton. There was plenty of it, but it did not pay to mine it. Hearst went out and took a look at them. He bought them and he put up the biggest mill in the United States to develop them. He spent a great deal of money before he was able to make them pay, but he finally succeeded and since then \$25,000,000 have been taken out of those mines by himself and others."

MRS. SENATOR HEARST'S ALLOWANCE.

I here referred to the magnificent residence which Senator Hearst's widow owns in Washington, and asked Gen. Greathouse if it had not probably been built out of some of that Black Hills money.

He replied: "I don't know as to that. I was, you know, George Hearst's lawyer, and I know that he gave a great deal of the Black Hills property to his wife. It was through me that he did so. I knew of the ups-and-downs of mining and was anxious that he should settle something on Mrs. Hearst. He delayed the matter always, however, saying that whatever he had was hers. One night as we were sitting around the fire after dinner I noted that he seemed to be feeling in very good spirits, and I brought up the matter of settlement. I told him that he ought to give his wife 5,000 shares of the Black Hills mines. He replied that he would like to do this, but that his shares were all hypothecated with his partners, and that they had not begun to pay. I replied that I would arrange the matter with his partners and that I would risk their paying in the end. He replied he would give Mrs. Hearst the shares. I did not allow the matter to grow cold, but then and there I took a pen and wrote out the agreement. The next day, the stock was transferred. Within a month it began to pay fifty cents a share every month and Mrs. Hearst got for years \$2,500 a month out of her Black Hills mining property. This was \$80 a day and she could have built several houses out of such an income."

Frank G. Carpenter

CONFERENCES IN SAMOA.

Minutes of the annual conference of the Samoan branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, held at Fagali, Upolu, Samoa, April 6th and 7th, 1895. Elders from Zion present: J. W. Beck, J. B. Barton, J. A. Rasband, L. B. Burnham, W. G. Sears, S. Hutchings, J. C. Knudsen, W. P. Silver, C. Jensen Jr., A. Jensen, A. A. Lemon Jr., S. M. Walker, H. L. Horne, W. A. Moody, F. Cluff, D. Kippen, A. Olsen and J. D. Dangerfield, also Sister Ella A. Moody, Saints from Saleaula, Foga-

tuli, Salelavalu and Fagalii, numbering about forty souls, and other natives and foreigners sufficient to swell the number to seventy-five, were also in attendance. Elders O. Barrus and C. A. Allen were prevented from attending as they were just having their turns with an epidemic known as the "danger fever," which has swept over the land. Since then we have received word from them, stating they are fully recovered and enjoying health and labors.

Conference began Saturday morning at eight o'clock when Elder J. W. Beck, president of the mission, called the assembly to order and after opening exercises were over, he made a few remarks, wherein he thanked our Heavenly Father for His mercy extended towards us in once more permitting us to assemble in this capacity after a space of three years and a half—it being that long since the Saints have met in general conference here. He invoked the blessings of the Lord upon us to the end that our gathering might be a profitable one.

Elder L. B. Burnham next spoke, referring to our Savior's saying, recorded in Matthew vii, 14-20. He encouraged the Saints to be firm in their convictions and remain faithful; also spoke concerning keys restored to the earth and the necessity of authority.

Elder W. G. Sears followed and quoted from II Timothy, iii, 1-5, and dwelt upon the same, urging the brethren and sisters to be diligent and mark well the condition of the world how that it is ripening for its baptism with fire.

Elder J. B. Barton, the next speaker, stated in his remarks that it was impossible to serve two masters, and read Matthew vi, 24 to substantiate the same. His counsel was to seek earnestly the straight and narrow path.

With his remarks our session ended and at two o'clock we held English meeting, when all the missionaries arose and bore testimony. Appointments were made, and a good time was had.

At our 3:30 afternoon session, Opapa, a teacher, (native) explained the necessity of apostles, prophets, etc., quoting from the Corinthians for the testimony.

Elder A. A. Lemon Jr., followed; spoke regarding the apostasy, and cited his hearers to the writings of Amos and John for references; explained the facts pertaining to the re-establishment of the work of the Lord in these days.

Elder C. Jensen Jr., was the next speaker. He gave facts concerning the true mode of baptism from the writings of Mark, John and Paul; and questioned any other form than that which these sacred writers make us acquainted with.

The subject was also taken up by Elder J. W. Beck, who defined its meaning and worth, having no occasion whatever to use any further proofs than those contained in Holy writ.

Our meeting at 7:30 Sunday morning was attended by a hundred natives, our numbers having been augmented by people from adjoining villages. Elder W. G. Sears addressed them on the second coming of our Savior, proofs being extracted from the writings of Paul, Zachariah and Matthew; advised the Saints to be watchful of coming events and prepare for His advent.

Elder L. B. Burnham, who followed, spoke of the signs of the times and showed how literally events spoken of