

# CHURCH AND MISSIONARY NEWS

## LESSER PRIESTHOOD DUTIES

### Important Conference in Utah Stake of Zion.

A conference of the lesser Priesthood of the Utah Stake of Zion was held in the Stake Tabernacle, Provo, Sunday, December 18, 1904.

There were present the Stake Presidency, members of the High Council, 12 Bishops, 12 Bishops' counselors, 27 Priests, 19 Teachers, and 463 Deacons. The singing of the morning session was furnished by the Provo Fifth ward choir, comprised principally of the young people ranging from 12 to 18 years of age, under the direction of Prof. J. R. Boshard.

After singing and prayer, President David John expressed his pleasure in meeting the lesser Priesthood of the Stake as a body in conference. He urged the Bishops to give all the encouragement possible to the young men holding the Priesthood. He explained to the young men the privilege they enjoyed in holding their positions in the Priesthood and exhorted them to live as becometh officers in the Church.

Reports were then given by the presidents of the Deacons' quorums as follows: Heber Ruper, Provo Sixth ward; Alma Johnson, Provo Second ward; George R. Hill, of Springville Third ward; Wm. T. Tew, of Mapleton, Geo. M. Smoot of Vineyard and Counselor Strong of Springville First ward.

Willard Smart then delivered a well prepared address on the benefits derived from attending to the duties of a teacher.

President Johnson expressed his pleasure at the attendance, and of the movement to have conferences of the quorums of the Priesthood. Nothing so well prepares young men for the duties of life as a proper training in the Priesthood.

At the afternoon session, President Keeler explained the relative importance of the Priesthood quorums and the auxiliary organizations of the Church. The Bishops should aim to equalize the work of the Priesthood, and the benefits deriving from the work of the Priesthood. Parents should encourage the Deacons in their duties, although they may seem simple.

Bishop Nelson of Provo Second ward addressed the conference on the subject of "fast offerings—the benefits deriving from the giving of the fast offering to the Deacon who visits the Saints."

Bishop Snow of Provo Fifth ward reported the condition of the lesser Priesthood quorums in that ward. Much of the work now being done by the auxiliary organizations, he held the benefits deriving from the quorums of the Priesthood.

Bishop Taylor of Provo Third ward spoke upon the results of the practical workings of the lesser Priesthood in the ward. He gave in detail the work to be done by the Deacons, the teachers and the Priest, and described the condition of a ward composed of men who had received proper training in these offices.

Counselor Brigham Johnson of Provo Sixth ward spoke upon the work of the ward teacher. He explained the qualifications of this officer in the ward and the manner in which he may be most helpful.

Heber Miller of Provo Third ward spoke upon the method of presenting the Gospel to the people of the ward. The Priest, he explained, should be a blessing and a comfort to the people in their homes, and in their humble way explained the principles of the Gospel to them.

Counselor David John, Jr., of Provo First ward spoke upon the nature and importance of the lesser Priesthood meetings. After describing the method of procedure in his ward, he spoke upon the restoration of the Priesthood to earth, and the necessity of knowing how to perform the several ordinances of the Gospel.

## FROM NORTH WEST VIRGINIA

### An Enjoyable Conference Held at Clarksburg.

On Nov. 25 and 27 the Elders of the North West Virginia conference met in Clarksburg to hold their semi-annual conference. Only those who have had similar experiences can fully appreciate the enjoyable time had by all present. The Elders who travel in the country look forward with eager expectation to the time when he can meet in conference capacity with his co-laborers in the cause of truth.

This meeting has not been an unmixt pleasure, for just as conference was beginning, President McQuarrie received a message stating that Elder J. W. Mantle had died at Baltimore. The first six months of his mission was spent in this conference, and we had all learned to love him for his faith, patience and genial disposition. On account of physical weakness Elder Mantle was sent to labor in Baltimore, where he could get the best medical advice and where he would not be subject to exposure. Encouraging reports occasionally reached us of his good work and improved health, hence the news of his death came like a "thunderbolt from a clear sky." We desire to express our sympathy for his wife and children and near relatives. We can feel your sorrow for we loved him as a brother.

After making arrangements for the transportation of the body and sending Elder P. M. Christiansen to confer with the Elders in Baltimore and complete arrangements for the care of the remains, President McQuarrie proceeded to carry out the conference program.

Four public meetings were held in the K. of P. hall. There were 18 Elders present, the majority of whom had the privilege of speaking to the Saints and friends in attendance. The meetings were brief but spirited, and showed a marked improvement in the

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## THE CALIFORNIA MISSION.

### Interesting Gathering of Elders and Saints at San Francisco.

THE twenty-first semi-annual conference of the California mission convened at the New Redmen's building, 730 Golden Gate avenue, San Francisco, Nov. 27, 1904.

There were present 23 Elders and many Saints from all over San Francisco and surrounding country. The morning session began at 10 a. m. with Conference President A. M. Davis presiding.

President Jos. E. Robinson made a few remarks, followed by Elder Geo. F. Newland, Jr., who spoke on the subject of pre-existence, Elder R. M. Corry on the restoration of the Gospel, Elder Jos. L. Smith on faith, and Elder H. J. White on repentance.

The afternoon session was held at 2 p. m. Elder J. Graham spoke on baptism, and Elder Lee R. Taylor on the general and local authorities of the Church were unanimously sustained in the usual manner, followed by an address by Elder J. G. Watt on salvation for the dead, and Elder H. W. Clark on the Book of Mormon.

The evening session commenced at 7:30 p. m. Conference President A. M. Davis made a few remarks, followed by President Joseph E. Robinson, who gave an instructive sermon on the Gospel plan, and here a powerful testimony to the divinity of the Latter-day Saints was given.

Monday at 10 a. m. Priesthood meeting was held at the mission headquarters, No. 609 Franklin street. The Elders gave encouraging reports of their labors since last conference, and reported their determination to continue their labors unceasingly in the cause of truth.

President Joseph E. Robinson gave valuable instruction, and future fields of labor were assigned.

Elders George F. Newland, Jr., D. E. Hepworth and one of our lady missionaries, Charlotte Burdick, were honorably discharged to return home.

Monday evening our regular conference social was held at Assembly hall, in which many participated.

Wednesday was devoted to a picnic at the Recreation grounds at Golden Gate park, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

Conference was then adjourned for six months, or until called.

Our old hall at No. 909 Market street has been abandoned, and meetings are now held in the New Redmen's building, No. 220 Golden Gate avenue.

ANNIE DEWITT JOHNSON, Clerk pro tem.

## CONFERENCE IN TEXAS.

### Interesting Meetings Held in Henderson County.

ELDER ALFRED G. WOODLAND, president of the South Texas conference writes the "News" as follows:

All the Elders laboring in South Tennessee met at Poyner, Henderson county, Texas, where conference was held on Nov. 19 and 20.

Pres. James G. Duffin met with us the first day of conference, and held three Priesthood meetings. He gave the Elders many useful instructions and encouraged them very much in their labors. He was unable to stay over the second day of conference because of other engagements.

Pres. Wm. Lee of the North Texas conference, was present during both days and addressed the conference. Three public meetings were held the last day of conference. The weather was bad, but a good many came out to hear us.

Elder Wm. H. Humble was released to return to his home in Victor, Idaho; while Elder Samuel O. Bennion arrived from Taylorville, Utah, to fill the vacancy.

A few Saints are gathering at Poyner and are making good homes. The prospects are bright for several other families of Saints to move there and make themselves homes.

All the Elders are well and are being treated fine by the people of Texas. The Era and "News" are welcome visitors and are read with interest by all.

## THE SAMOAN MISSION.

### A Successful Conference—New Church Dedicated.

THE general conference of the Samoan mission was held at Tuasivi, Island of Savaii, Oct. 22, 23 and 24, and was a grand success, being the most auspicious occasion and the largest gathering of Saints in the history of the mission, many coming from 20 to 100 miles in open rowboats.

All the conferences were well represented, over 600 Saints being in attendance. All the branches of the Upolu and Savaii conferences sent large delegations, and the large contingent of about 120 souls from the Tutuila conference, who had come over 100 miles by sea by steamboat Maori, at an expense of \$500 for the round trip, reflects great credit upon President James Ricks of that conference, and the corps of Elders laboring under him, as well as the Saints and school children, who had to labor with zeal to earn means to attend conference. On Friday evening preceding the conference, a concert was given by the school children from Tutuila with pleasing effect. The islands of Manua (of the Samoan group) were also represented by one convert.

Much credit is due also to the Elders

## and Saints of the Savaii conference, and especially those residing at and near Tuasivi, for the work they performed in preparing for this conference.

The large concrete meetinghouse at Tuasivi was completed for the occasion, and made ready to dedicate unto the Lord for a house of worship. The Elders, as well as Saints, had labored long and faithfully in the erection and completion of this house, which is indeed a credit to the mission.

The first morning of conference, Saturday, while the natives were busy preparing food, etc., an Elders' meeting was held, President Martin F. Sanders presiding, and all listened with much interest to encouraging reports given from the various conferences.

At 11 a. m. the first general meeting of the conference convened, and the fine meetinghouse was dedicated. President Sanders presided, and offered the dedicatory prayer.

After the close of the first meeting the Saints of Tuasivi, assisted by the Saints from other parts of Savaii, made an elaborate spread of their native foods, in keeping with their pretty custom of making presentations of food to visitors.

Three general meetings and Sunday school were held Sunday, and another general meeting Monday morning. Priesthood meeting was held Monday afternoon, in which the native Priesthood were exhorted to duty, and given their appointments to their respective fields of labor. Some were ordained to various offices in the Priesthood. They in turn spoke encouragingly of the work of their own various duties therein. Every branch in the mission has, for some considerable time, been supplied with a native missionary, which is a very great strength and aid to the Gospel work.

While the Priesthood was in session meetings were also held in separate rooms for the sisters, and the young men.

Concerts were given Saturday and Monday evenings, and parts were contributed by the Sunday schools. Our mission schools are very helpful to the cause of the Gospel.

Elders' meeting was held Tuesday morning, in which President Sanders turned the affairs of the mission over to his successor, Elder Theo. S. Court, who took charge and gave the Elders their appointments and instructions. President Sanders and Clerk Silas L. Fish were honorably released to return home.

There were 26 Elders and three sisters present at the conference, which included all the missionaries from Zion laboring on Samoa, excepting Elder Geo. A. Lewis, who remained on Tutuila to look after that conference. Their appointments were as follows:

Elder W. Woodruff Emery was appointed as mission secretary, with headquarters on Upolu. The following were also appointed to labor in the Upolu conference: Elders John Haselmann, J. F. Rupper, C. L. Smart, J. L. Burns, F. M. Young and wife, Eliza Peck and J. E. Hoyt and wife, and Sister Nellie Josling.

For the Savaii conference: John Frederickson as conference president, and Elders A. S. Workman, F. Kunkel, A. G. Meyerhoffer, I. F. Brim, F. D. Baird and G. E. Hawley.

For the conference: Jas. Ricks as conference president, and Elders Jas. I. Kirby, G. A. Lewis, S. F. Smith, R. E. Cloward, C. C. Whitlock and Miles W. Merrill.

Elders Claude Q. Cannon and O. L. Russell were appointed to proselyte in Manua.

The work on Samoa is in a prosperous condition, and the future prospects are certainly bright. Lands amounting to about 800 acres, of the most productive and well watered lands on the island have recently been purchased, and some of the other land amounting to some 1,000 or 1,200 acres have been negotiated for by the Church for the benefit of the natives.

On the evening of Nov. 4, Elders, Saints and school children met at headquarters in the evening, and sang a memorable farewell, filled with the spirit of love and warm feelings. When they reached Tutuila they were given another warm farewell, and took their departure for Zion and home the following day.

The "News" is a welcome visitor, and is much appreciated by all.

SILAS L. FISH, Clerk of Conference.

## CONFERENCE IN TEXAS.

### Colony at Kelsey Flourishing—School Well Attended.

THE North Texas conference was held at Kelsey, Texas, Nov. 15, 1904. President James G. Duffin, president of the Central States mission, met with the Elders and Saints. Conference President Wm. R. Lee and 16 Elders were present.

Five public meetings and five Priesthood meetings were held. All were well attended, every one enjoyed themselves, and were greatly benefited by the timely instructions, and the many words of comfort which were given. Each Elder had the privilege of speaking, and bore strong testimony of the divinity of the Latter-day work.

The Saints of Kelsey extended their hospitality to the Elders and visitors; all were made welcome, and the spirit of love was felt by all present. President Duffin gave many good instructions, and all were greatly benefited by his presence.

Elder David Dahle was sustained as Sunday school superintendent, and conferred to President Wm. R. Lee. The Elders were assigned to labor in the northeastern counties of the state. All left for their fields of labor, enjoying good health and with a renewed determination to further the cause of truth.

The health of the colony is good at present, and many new families of Saints are coming to make their homes here.

School opened Nov. 21, with Elder W. DeWitt Johnson and Sister Della Buckley as teachers. There are 69 scholars enrolled at present and many more to enter soon. W. DEWITT JOHNSON.

## NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE.

### Excellent Work Being Done by the Missionaries in England.

THE semi-annual Newcastle conference was held in Park hall, Toward road, Sunderland, Nov. 20, 1904. President Heber J. Grant of the European mission, President George E. Wilkins and 18 traveling Elders of the conference were present.

1904, was read as follows: Average number of tracts per Elder, 1,207; average books, 40; average conversations, 44; 84 indoor, and 189 outdoor meetings were held. Elder Horace T. Godfrey then spoke on the subject of obedience. President Grant exhorted the missionaries to be diligent in their work, and to be true to their lives, and to be an influence for good among the people of the world.

In the afternoon meeting, Elder William W. Hardy spoke on the religious condition of the world, and the necessity of unity. Elder Orson J. Hyde referred to the Gospel as taught by John the Baptist and our Savior.

President Grant spoke on the authenticity of the Bible, referring to many prophecies which it fulfilled, and of the fulfillment of the Latter-day Saints upon the Bible, and ask the people to honestly and prayerfully compare its teachings with the Gospel as taught by them. The seeds of truth planted by the Latter-day Saints are bringing forth a harvest in all lands.

In the evening meeting, Elder Albert Choules spoke on the atonement of our Savior, and its effects on us if we are faithful. Elder Edward A. Cottrell spoke on the Church organization. President Grant gave a strong testimony to the divinity of the Prophet Joseph's mission, and of the work which he was instrumental in establishing upon the earth.

The meetings were in every way successful, and a powerful spirit prevailed throughout the day. Several converts were reported by Sister Alice Butler, and the Middlesex choir, with Elder Robert Hazen, Jr., as leader.

Saturday afternoon President Grant met with the Elders, and instructed them in their labors. Monday evening the Elders, Saints and friends, participated in a social gathering, and all had an enjoyable time. J. MARLOW TAYLOR, Clerk of Conference.

## A WORKER HIGHLY HONORED

### Elders and Saints Assemble to Honor Mrs. Bertha Branagan.

AVON ST., No. 1610, La Crosse, Wis., Nov. 28.—Thinking perhaps you would like to hear from this part of the vineyard, I thought I would drop you a few lines. The La Crosse branch is doing fine with Elder James Grant of Thurber, Utah, as branch president and Elder J. G. Hocking of Verona, Wis., as secretary.

We have a fine little Sunday school and have good attendance considering the scattered condition of the Saints, and we are having lots of friends investigating the Gospel.

On Nov. 21 we had a surprise on one of our members, Mrs. Bertha Branagan, who had departed to Matamoras, N. Y. The evening was spent in singing, recitations, etc., ending with fruit and refreshments being served. One special feature of the evening was the reading of an original poem written by Elder James Grant in honor of Mrs. Branagan, which was read by her and as a good by send off.

Mrs. Branagan was a good worker in the branch and all miss her, but it is hoped the Elders in the eastern states will call and see her, for she is a true Saint and an arduous worker, and will be the means of accomplishing much good at Matamoras, New York.

## STAKE CONFERENCES.

### Saint Johns Stake Conference.

ANOTHER successful conference of the St. Johns stake of Zion was held on the 26th and 27th of November, at St. Johns.

The beautiful weather permitted the Saints living a long distance from here to make their way to the central part of the stake and participate in the spirit which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There were in attendance a number of the young people from our adjoining stake, and although a gloom was cast over the Saints in this stake by the sudden death of Lucy Greer, all seemed to enjoy the spirit of the conference.

The meetings were taken up entirely by local speakers consisting of the presidency of the stake and high counselors, and in listening to the reports of the Bishops from different wards. The subjects pertaining to the temporal and spiritual welfare of the people of this stake were considered, and from the reports given the Saints here are improving. This has not been an entirely successful year financially for the stake, but on account of the continued drought, but the prospects for the coming year are very promising.

Sunday evening was devoted to a joint conference of the Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. A., at which session a very interesting program was rendered, and instructions given regarding mutual work by the stake officers of these organizations. E. N. FREEMAN, Clerk.

### St. Joseph Stake Conference.

THE quarterly conference of the St. Joseph stake met in the amusements hall at Thatcher, Dec. 19 and 21. Although there were no visitors, there was a large gathering both days. A full week of rainy weather had left the roads nearly impassable, but it did not hinder the Saints from coming in fact, prospects are brighter than for years. The reports given by Bishops and presidents indicate a very healthy condition of the valley both ecclesiastically and temporally.

Five public meetings and five Priesthood meetings were held. All were well attended, every one enjoyed themselves, and were greatly benefited by the timely instructions, and the many words of comfort which were given. Each Elder had the privilege of speaking, and bore strong testimony of the divinity of the Latter-day work.

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After the usual opening exercises in the morning meeting, President Wilkins greeted the Saints and friends, and in brief stated the condition of the conference. He reported it to be in good condition generally. In most of the branches prospects are good, the Elders feel encouraged and are enthusiastic in their work. The statistical report for four months ending Oct. 21,

## A "WORKING" SCHOOL HOUSE.



New Brigham Young University Arts and Industries Building Dedicated This Week.

Provo, Dec. 24.—The new blacksmith building of the Brigham Young university was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies at Provo, Thursday, Dec. 22, at 12 o'clock. After the singing of "America" by the assembly the dedicatory prayer was offered by Vice President David John of the board of trustees.

The following citizens of the state donated forces and apparatus for the building: Supt. J. M. Tanner, Salt Lake; J. A. Eldredge, Woods Cross; Wm. M. Royance, mayor of Provo City; Dr. S. H. Allen, Salt Lake City; Judge J. E. Booth, Provo; State Treasurer J. D. Dixon, R. E. Allen, Provo; A. L. Booth, Provo; J. M. Marlock, Heber City, and the Broadbent brothers, Provo.

These donors were represented in a short address by Mayor Wm. M. Royance on industrial education. Oscar Young, the donor of the ground upon which the building stands, gave some spicy remarks in regard to the education of mechanics.

President Keeler, in behalf of the presidency of the university, thanked the donors for their generosity, after which the official signal to light the forces and sound the anvils was given by Principal E. H. Eastmond of the school of arts and industries, of which blacksmithing is a department. Before the lever of the motor was lifted that started the wheels and gave the blast to the forces, official remarks were made in the direction that hereafter in this building, the members of the faculty and instructors would heartily work for the acquisition of knowledge and upbuilding of character in the workman-student placed under their charge.

The Brigham Young University Brass band then rendered some stirring music outside the building. A great deal of interest was manifested by the students, especially the young men, who feel that a practical education is as worthy their consideration. All the participants of the school of arts and industries are engaged in fitting young men and young women for the practical lines of life, as well as giving them an understanding of theories and science.

Thirty-three students are now enrolled in the ironworking courses, and are doing satisfactory work, as a result of the thorough equipment of the shop. Should more young men demand this line of manual training, more apparatus will be provided for their accommodation. The Brigham Young university builds as its needs demand. Other classes of arts and crafts will be added to the curriculum of the school of arts and industries next year. The aim is to make this industrial branch of the university answer the demands of our industrial community.

Elder William Maxwell of Lake Point, Tooele Co., passed through this city Dec. 17, 1904, on his return from the Northern States mission, for which he was set apart Dec. 2, 1902. The conference of Iowa and Wisconsin was his field of labor, 15 months in the former and the remaining six months in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He has nothing but words of praise for the good people among whom he was called to labor. He made many warm friends. People as a general rule, he says, are beginning to see "Mormonism" in a more favorable light.

## Snowflake Stake Conference.

THE regular quarterly conference of Snowflake stake convened at Snowflake, Arizona, at 10 a. m., Saturday, Nov. 19, 1904, and continued two days. The stake presidency were in attendance, also the majority of the High Council, Bishops and other leading brethren and sisters, besides a very fair attendance of the Saints. A few of our brethren and sisters from St. Johns stake also attended.

Sisters Emma S. Woodruff and Sarah J. Cannon, who came from Salt Lake City in the interest of the Relief societies, were also present and addressed the conference. Dr. Joseph M. Tanner was here also, in the interest of Sunday school conventions and took part in some of the meetings of the conference, when the convention did not claim his attention.

The instructions at all the meetings were timely and full of interest. Particular attention being paid to the further development of our country, and the education of the young people growing up in our midst.

The reports from the various wards indicated a fairly prosperous condition in the irrigated districts; but dry farming failed on account of the long and severe drought which prevailed during the greater part of the year.

At the Priesthood meeting held in the evening of Nov. 19, the brethren unanimously voted to assist the people of Woodruff to rebuild their dam, which was lost in the great floods of last August. L. M. SAUVAGE, Clerk.

## RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder James Edwin Pace of Parley's Park ward, Summit Co., passed through this city Dec. 20, 1904, on his return from the Eastern States mission, for which he was set apart Nov. 4, 1902. The North West Virginia conference was his field of labor. The conference was in a prosperous condition. New friends are being made, and some are becoming members of the church.

Elder Mark Cook of Bountiful, Davis county, passed through this city Dec. 15, 1904, on his return from the British mission, where he was set Oct. 14, 1902. In the Bristol conference, where he labored, the Gospel is being disseminated by the Elders with marked success; many are investigating and many are anxious to hear the Gospel. The feeling of prejudice is being allayed.

Elder James Russell Holey of Mapleton, Utah county, reached through this city Dec. 19, 1904, on his return from the Eastern States mission, where he has been laboring since Jan. 6, 1902. The New York conference was his field of labor. The Elders and Saints are diligently working for the cause of truth with fair success.

Elder Leroy Boren of Provo, Utah county, passed through this city Dec. 19, 1904, returning from the Eastern States mission, for which he was set apart Jan. 6, 1902. The New York conference was his field of labor. He labored principally in Albany and Syracuse, N. Y., and also in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The work in this conference is progressing nicely, and people seem to give the Elders a better hearing than formerly.

Elder A. M. Marchant of Peoa, Summit Co., passed through this city Dec. 15, 1904, on his return from the Eastern States mission, where he was set Oct. 23, 1902. The conference of South West Virginia was his field of labor, where he reports the work progressing slowly but surely. The people as a rule are very friendly, but indifferent towards religion of any kind.

Elder Elvess Wallace Grange of Huntington, Emery Co., reached this city Dec. 19, 1904, on his return from the Northwestern States mission, where he has been laboring since Jan. 6, 1902. The conferences of Butte and Helena, Montana, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., were his fields of labor. He acted as president of the Butte conference, also in Helena and Tacoma. Was appointed as local president on the first of November over the different conferences on the coast. The work of the Lord is improving in the conferences named.

Elders Frank Ead, Thomas Duce, B. S. Young, Patriarch Henry L. Hinman and Stake President Edward J. Wood were the speakers. The spirit of the Lord was richly bestowed upon both the speakers and the congregation; who were a unit in all that was done, including the sustaining of the general and local authorities of the Church. The M. I. associations held a most instructive and interesting session. The young people heartily indorsed the