

county. Elder John M. White is stationed at Athens, Texas, as secretary of the conference.

HYRUM ANDRUS,  
JOHN J. GALLACHER,  
ALBERT S. NEWMAN,  
RALPH J. HARDING.

### WITH THE BEAR IN ALASKA.

Herbert W. Spear of Quincy, who is an engineer in the revenue cutter service of the government, was suddenly ordered to go to Alaska on the cutter Bear toward the latter part of last November. Engineer Spear had been serving on the Gresham, on the great lakes, when he was ordered to the Grant at Port Townsend on the Pacific coast. When he arrived at his post he found government orders waiting him there, which directed him to take command of the engineer's department on the Bear, and accompany that vessel on her trip to the relief of the ice-imprisoned whalers at Point Barrow. There was no time to make preparation for the voyage, and Engineer Spear was obliged to leave without having a chance to write to his people in Quincy.

His family have received messages this week from Alaska, where the Bear is in winter quarters. This is the first opportunity that Engineer Spear has had to communicate with his people. Writing from Ounalaska, Engineer Spear says: "I was wholly unprepared for this trip in the way of clothing, but I did manage to buy three flannel shirts, a pair of trousers and some heavy shoes and a few other articles of Mr. Whitworth, who had been north last season. You know this expedition was fitted out partly by the government and partly by the newspapers of San Francisco, the Call and the Examiner. The newspapers furnished the food and most of the clothing, and the government did the rest. I arrived so late that I didn't get much clothing, though what they furnished the officers isn't worn very much, for they evidently expected we were going to spend the winter in a temperature of about 50 degrees below zero.

"Each officer was furnished with a suit of fur clothing, consisting of a parky (a thing like a shirt, with a hood to it) and a pair of trousers, one pair of Mayinky boots (made of seal-skin, with the hair on and with walrus hide soles), three suits of underwear, two of silk and one of chamolai skin, and some very heavy socks to wear with the above-mentioned boots, and mittens and caps galore. Out of this outfit I got a fur suit, the boots, one suit of chamolai skin underwear, some socks and a cap. As for food and provisions, we were loaded to the hatches with it. Besides what we had below, we had a deck-load of barrels of salt beef and other truck. We have stuff enough aboard now to feed 500 men a year. The distance from Seattle up to this place is about 1,700 miles, and we made it in 10 days. The weather was very good, with the exception of about 30 hours, when we were hove to in a gale, and had to use oil to keep the seas from coming aboard. We arrived here on December 2th, and took some coal aboard, and on Saturday, the 11th, at 1 o'clock in the morning, we left for Sledge Island, about 400 miles to the north of this place, but we did not reach it, for when about 80 miles away we encountered heavy drift ice, and the temperature of the sea water was 29 degrees, so it was deemed best to hunt for some other place to land the party (that was going overland to Point Barrow. On Wednesday, December 15th, we anchored off Cape Vancouver, and here we succeeded in landing the relief party. At a little village (of Eskimos) they were fortunate enough to find a trader, who had dogs, sleds and all the parapher-

nal necessary for an overland trip, who would take them to St. Michael. The overland party consisted of Lieuts. Javis and Bertholf and Dr. Call. From St. Michael to Port Clarence they will take reindeer belonging to the government and drive them to Point Barrow, a distance of 600 miles.

"After landing the party we came back here, stopping at the Seal Islands, St. Paul and St. George, arriving at noon on the 23rd of December. Here we are for the winter and spring, for there is no chance of getting into the Arctic until the middle of next July, and we will probably not leave here till June. There is nothing here only a trading station for the Alaska Commercial company and the North American Trading company. Each company has its representatives here, and a lot of mechanics building wheelbarrow boats (stern wheel steamers) for the Yukon river. One of the leading men of the N. A. T. company said aboard here that there was between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000 of gold dust at St. Michaels to go to the states on the first boats. We will probably be the first boat to get to St. Michaels, and that will be in June some time. Of course we will try and get into the Arctic as soon as possible, and it will probably be August before we reach Point Barrow. Then if the whalers are in destitute circumstances, the orders are to take them aboard and bring them to 'Frisco. In that case we ought to reach 'Frisco in September some time, but the general opinion seems to be that on our return here from the Arctic, the whalers, if we get them, will be transferred to some other vessel and we will go to St. Michaels, and stay there till the season closes. In that event we will reach the coast about the first of November."

Engineer Spear has been in the revenue service for a number of years. He was aboard the Gallatin when she ran ashore a few years ago, and he narrowly escaped with his life. He was expecting a transfer from the lakes to the Manning, on the Massachusetts coast, when he got his orders to go to the frozen north, but, like a good servant of Uncle Sam, he went at once to his new and uncomfortable post of duty.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

### Y. M. M. I MISSIONARIES.

Castle Gate, Utah, March 4th, 1898.

Tonight we finish our labors in the Improvement cause for Sevier and Emery Stakes, and I feel sure that the remembrance of the joyful time we have had here with the Saints and our friends will never fade away. We have held three public meetings and have enjoyed them all, and we know the Spirit of the Lord has been with us all. Much praise is due to Bishop Lamph and his counselors, as well as the president of the M. I. A. and his counselors, as also all the Saints, for they have been alive to their duties and have done all that could be asked of them to help us along in our work.

We intended leaving for our homes this morning, but the Saints would not listen to it. So we held a meeting tonight, which was interspersed with songs and recitations, and when 10 o'clock arrived, the sisters brought forth an abundant supply of picnic, and soon the whole congregation were busily engaged in devouring the turkey, chicken, and sweatmeats that were provided in abundance. I always enjoy a picnic, but I more than enjoyed this, for such a good spirit came along with it that one could not help enjoy it.

This little ward, although in a mining camp, is doing as well as any ward in the Stake, because those presiding are alive and full of energy, and we feel to say, God bless them. We have

been kindly received in all the wards in this Stake, as well as in the Sevier Stake, and in Emery Stake there has been added to the Improvement rolls 415 names; there were already on the rolls 413. Only 13 refused to join. We feel well towards all the people where we have labored, and trust they will continue on with the work. The Elders with me are John Crawford, Nels Madsen, Joseph Hubbard, T. C. Young, Benjamin Tolman and William Salt who have all labored earnestly and faithfully, and we only hope that much good may be realized from our labors.

I am yours in the Gospel,  
JOHN F. CHIDESTER.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

In 1774 Philadelphia was the largest town in the American colonies. Estimates of the population, which are all we have, differ widely, but it was probably not far from 30,000. A single city now has a larger population than all the colonies possessed in 1774, and there are in the United States today 104 cities and towns of over 30,000 inhabitants. Figures alone, however, cannot express the difference between those days and our own. Now a town of 30,000 people is reached by railroads and telegraphs. It is in close touch with all the rest of the world. Business brings strangers to it constantly, who come like shadows and so depart, unnoticed, except by those with whom they are immediately concerned. It was not so in 1774, not even in Philadelphia, which was as nearly as possible the central point of the colonies, as well as the most populous city. Thanks to the energy and genius of Franklin, Philadelphia was paved, lighted and ordered in a way almost unknown in any other town of that period. It was well built and thriving. Business was active and the people were thrifty and prosperous, and lived well. Yet, despite all these good qualities, we must make an effort of the imagination to realize how quietly and slowly life moved then in comparison with the pace of today. There in Philadelphia was the center of the postal system of the continent, and the recently established mail coach called the "Flying Machine," not in jest, but in praise, performed the journey to New York in the hitherto unequalled time of two days. Another mail at longer intervals crept more slowly to the south. Vessels of the coastwise traffic, or from beyond seas, came into port at uncertain times, and after long and still more uncertain voyages. The daily round of life was so regular and so quiet that any incident or any novelty drew interest and attention in a way which would now be impossible.—Senator Lodge in Scribner's.

Concerning the dismissal of cattle-stealing cases at Lewiston, Idaho, some time ago, Hon. W. J. McConnell, United States Indian Inspector, says in an official communication to Judge Piper, in which he demands their reference to the grand jury: "I find that by the evidence of Mr. John Barton, it was established that the stolen cattle were delivered to the individual who shipped them away from the place; by Mr. Kettenbach, who was held by the probate judge, and that Mr. Shaw, the party to whom the stolen cattle were delivered, gave Mr. Kettenbach a check for them when he (Kettenbach) turned the cattle over to the aforesaid Shaw. As I deem the action of the district attorney in filing the motion to dismiss the defendant sufficient evidence that he, the aforesaid attorney, does not desire that a conviction be had, I suggest that your honor name some attorney of standing at the bar to take charge of the case in place of the district attorney."