

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELDS.

Southwestern States Mission.

St. John, Kansas, June 9, 1898.

Kansas conference of the Southwestern States mission convened at St. John, June 3rd, 4th and 5th. Elder James L. Nielson, president of the conference, presiding. There were present of the Elders from Zion: Wm. T. Jack, president of the mission; Louis E. Iverson, F. L. Copening, James L. Nielson, P. W. Dunyon, H. W. Noble, Wm. Stillman, D. W. Stone, J. P. Anderson, H. H. White, S. B. Hazen, J. J. Larkin, D. M. Nelson, Geo. N. Atkinson, C. F. Hulet, Wm. Burton, F. C. Fuller, C. W. Goodliffe, H. U. Russell, E. C. Winn and D. L. Miller; also Sister F. L. Copening, who arrived in the mission field April 13th, she being among the first sisters to be called and set apart to this great work. Moderate good health and an excellent spirit prevailed throughout the entire conference. Although our public meetings were not attended as numerous as we would have wished, on account of the busy season, an enjoyable time was had. The sermons were short and spirited. Many compliments were passed on the musical feature of our conference. This is an accomplishment that is to often neglected by the young men of Zion. We believe that some person should suggest that all of our young men be encouraged to join the choirs in their respective wards and develop their vocal talent. Elders who can sing will rarely lack friends.

At our Priesthood meetings, the Elders each give favorable reports of their labors for the past six months and spoke of the many manifestations of the goodness of the Lord to them, whereby their faith had been strengthened and their determination to further His purposes in the earth had become more intense. An interesting feature of this meeting was the report given by Sister Copening of her labors, in company with Sister Ida Breckenridge of this city, who is also a faithful, conscientious member of the Church. These two sisters had been appointed to canvas the City of St. John, holding Gospel conversations, distributing tracts and to form the acquaintance of the people, inviting the children to our Sunday school and the parents to come to our meetings. Their report showed favorable progress. Of the one hundred and twenty-six families visited as reported, only two had refused them admittance. They were received kindly by the majority and many warm requests to call again. One hundred and thirty-five tracts were distributed, and sixty-one Gospel conversations had, the greater part of which were with people with whom our Elders could never get the privilege to explain the Gospel.

It seems that our sisters who are called to labor in the Lord's vineyard will supply the "missing link" and become an important factor in getting the restored Gospel before all the people of the earth before the glorious advent of the Messiah.

The Elders in the mission generally are in good health, full of the Spirit of their labors, with every indication that they are doing good, faithful service.

Your Brother,
WILLIAM T. JACK.

East Arkansas Conference.

Bradford, Arkansas.

Conference has come and gone, and the Elders of the East Arkansas conference have returned to their fields and more determined than ever to do their duty in the service of the Lord, sowing seeds of truth and bringing souls to Christ.

It was unquestionably the best conference we ever attended. Never did we see the power of God, nor the spirit of revelation, so plainly manifested; and some thing that never can be forgotten. It seemed that we were prepared to receive it, for we had fasted and prayed to the Lord to know His will concerning us, and to have His Spirit poured out upon us and upon the people, and when it came we were almost overcome with joy. It was a testimony that we will always be thankful for.

Could our friends in Zion see such a noble band of brethren actuated by such an abiding faith and filled with such love for each other, for their fellow men and the cause of God, they would not, it seems to me, entertain a doubt as to the divinity of the cause we represent.

Elder William T. Jack, president of the Southwestern States mission, was in attendance, and we were greatly stimulated by his kind and loving words of counsel and instruction that flowed as a stream of inspiration from his lips.

At the close of one of our meetings in which he occupied most of the time, several came forward and said that it was just what they wanted to know.

Elder Jack was accompanied by Elders Joseph J. Richardson and Byron H. Alfred, late of the Cherokee conference and now on their way to Kansas to labor.

These brethren have greatly distinguished themselves as missionaries. Through their humility, faith and diligence they are able to carry with them an influence that has great weight with the Elders and the people. Their visit was much appreciated.

Our conference was all the more interesting from the fact that we were able to hold it in a meeting house of our own.

The Elders each contributed a few dollars towards the erection, and the building was done principally by Elders Brown and Peterson. Several of our friends assisted us by way of hauling lumber, etc. We would make special mention of T. M. Chapman, Sam Cooper and E. S. Ferguson.

As the Elders have done considerable preaching in this neighborhood, the first principles of the Gospel were not dwelt upon very much during conference. The restoration of the Gospel; the necessity of Apostles and Prophets; the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith; and the office of the Holy Ghost as a witness of truth, were the leading subjects treated by the speakers, and each theme was creditably handled. Each bore a powerful testimony of the truth of these principles.

As might have been expected, where so much of the power of God is manifested, it would awaken a corresponding exertion by the powers of darkness. As we were singing the second hymn in our last meeting, the house was attacked with a volley of eggs. A little excitement was created at the time, but it soon subsided until the meeting was over.

Next day there was quite a stir among the people, and no doubt, the ruffians were surprised to find so little sympathy on their side. Through the indefatigable efforts of a few of our friends, the guilty parties were discovered and they were made to see what we could do with them if we would, but we decided to forgive them. They seem to be ashamed of themselves now.

On Sunday, the 22nd inst. we had the privilege of organizing the first Sunday school in this part of the mission. Considerable interest was shown and

we have great faith that it will be a success.

With such bright prospects before us in this vicinity, we confidently hope through the blessings of the Lord to build up a good branch of the Church.

The following Elders now compose the East Arkansas conference:

John H. Peterson, Richard R. D. Brown, Sidney C. Rust, Ashted Taylor, Herbert W. Webster, Orson Folkman, M. M. Grow, Hosmer M. Markham, Leander L. Clifford, Elmer L. Penrod, Charles M. Malin, James W. Welsh, Peter M. Hixson and Geo. E. Wilkins, quite an array of bright young men, who will no doubt be a power for good among the people.

Elders Folkman, Malin, Taylor and Welsh have been sent to the city of Little Rock to open up the work there.

Elders Peterson and Brown remain here to take charge of the Sunday school and direct the labors of the Elders and Saints in different parts of the conference.

JOHN H. PETERSON, President.

Manitoba Mission.

Brandon Conference, June 15, 1898.

The Manitoba mission like all other new fields is gaining ground slowly. As the people are so prejudiced, it is almost impossible to get a hearing.

In the month of December, we were favored with a visit from Elder C. O. Card of Cardston, who, while with us, organized a conference known as the Brandon conference, with Brandon as headquarters and Elder W. S. Baxter as president under Elder Card. Elder A. G. Barber having been released to return home some time previous on account of having weak lungs, we were assigned our fields of labor as follows: Elders A. M. Merkley and James G. Stuart at Souris, a small village 24 miles southwest of Brandon; Elders Frank May and S. A. Johnson at Minnedosa, 35 miles north of Brandon, and Elders W. S. Baxter and your correspondent at the headquarters of the conference. Each pair of Elders have been holding meetings once a week all winter with a very small attendance. In Brandon we have a nice, large hall, carpeted and seated with chairs. We pay \$75 per year. It seems that the Manitoba climate does not agree with people who are subject to lung complaints, as two of our Elders have been obliged to return home on that account. Elder S. A. Johnson was compelled to leave us in the month of March. Elder Baxter accompanied him, but returned the latter part of April. Since that time we have been anxiously looking for other Elders to make our force stronger. Some places we have had to abandon on account of Elders having the mission. We are holding three and four meetings a week in the country school houses, which are better attended than those in the towns, as the country people seem to think for themselves more than those who are visited more often by our opponents. Some months ago Elder Johnson and myself were travelling in our usual way, visiting the people, distributing tracts and explaining the gospel to them. Leaving friends one morning we traveled twenty miles without anything to eat. We called on a great many people, but were obliged to sleep in a straw stack. At such times there is great comfort in the words of Christ to His Apostles: "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you."

EDWARD LEAVITT, Clerk.

In Germany.

It was nearly Christmas time last year while I was performing missionary duties in the Dresden conference, Germany, that a letter came from headquarters in Bern, announcing that I