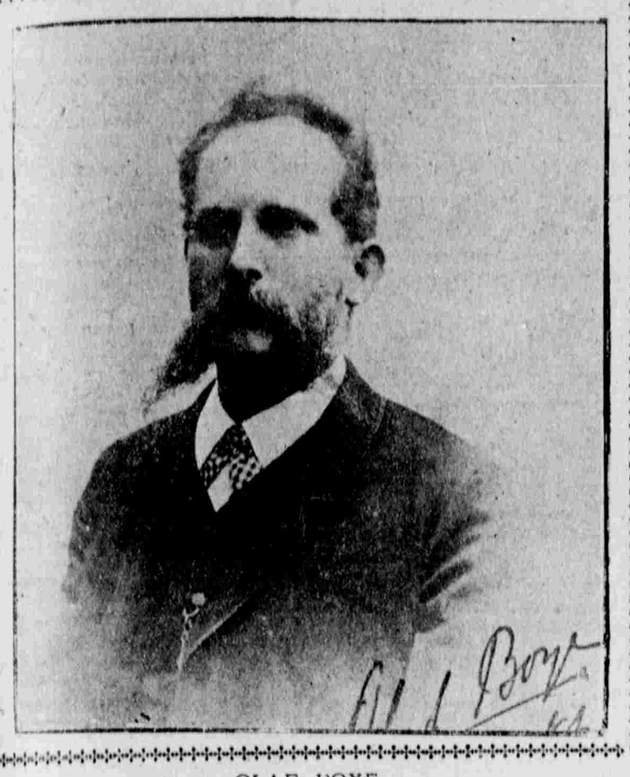
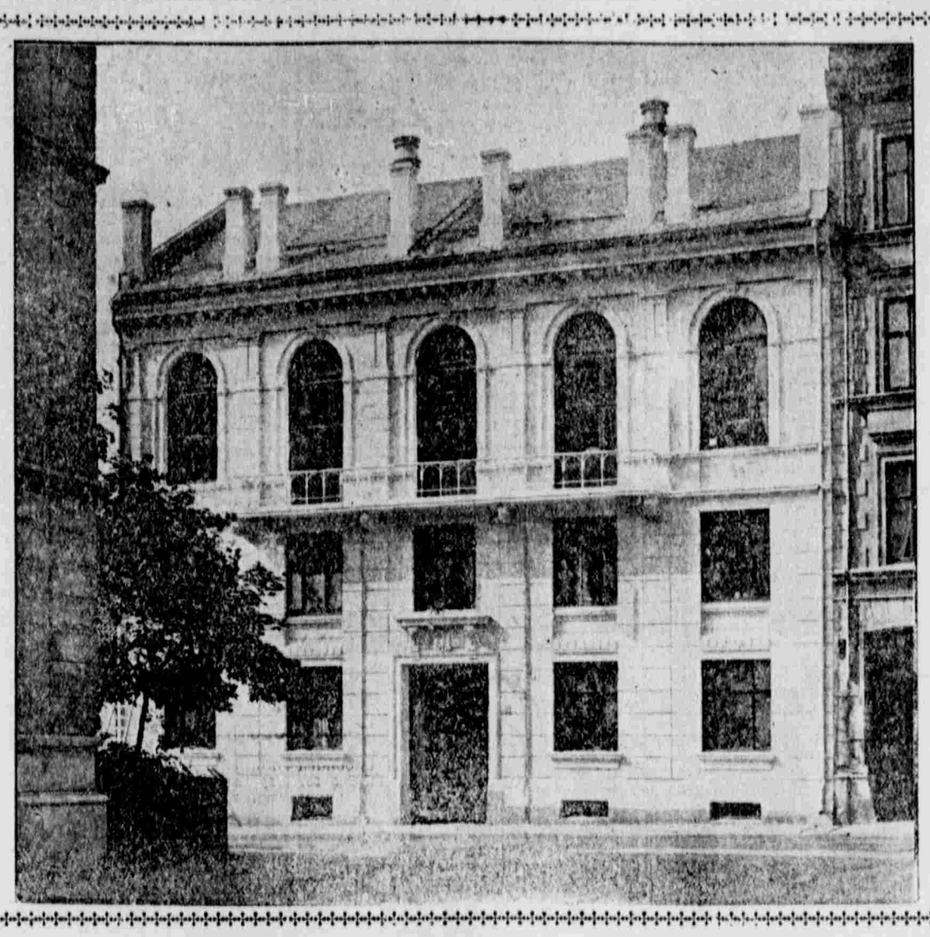
Story Of The Building OF THE L. D. S. Mission House At Christiania



OLAF BOYE,

Architect of the Christiania Mission House.



EXTERIOR OF THE CHRISTIANIA MISSION HOUSE.

INTERIOR OF THE CHRISTIANIA MISSION HOUSE.

THE BYE BROTHERS,

Two Well Known Contractors Who Built the Mission House.

The beautiful building herein shown is beyond doubt the neatest and most complete house of worship belonging to the Latter-day Saints in all Europe. It was begun in August, 1902, and dedicated July 24, of this year. It occupies the location of the old L. D. S. meetinghouse in one of the principal streets in Norway's beautiful capital—Christiania.

In 1869 Elder Christian D. Fjelsted, who was then presiding at Christania, agitated the idea of buying ground and building a meetinghouse in that city. Shortly after Elder Fjeldsted returned to Utah a local Elder by the name of Engbert Olsen laid before the then president, Elder Peder Brown, a plan for carrying out this idea. This was laid before the presidency of the Church, and accepted. Buying a piece of land in a suitable place, money was borrowed on the land with which to lay a foundation. Upon this foundation more money was obtained for the first story, and again upon this for another, etc., until a really good building, with a comfortable hall for meetings in it, was finished. The first and second stories were rented to families, the upper floor being used for church purposes. The rental paid the interest on the money, and the advancement of valuation of the real estate in that locality (as it became central in the fast growing city) finally cleared the total indebtedness. The dedication which occurred July 23, 1871, of this house became a noted event, and one awakening a great interest in the work in this land. The Saints from branches all over Norway taking part. Elder Martin Christophersen, then a young man in charge of the branches at Frederikhald and Frederikstad, chartered a boat and the members of the two branches were brought in a body to the dedication. A few years afterwards in digging the foundation for an adjoining house, the foundation was so undermined that it began to settle, and useful and profitable as the structure had been for 30 years, it gradually became unsafe for use, and a desire to build an entirely new building became evident. Nothing was done, however, until one night in 1902, when Elder Willard Christophersen, then president of the conference, heard the crash of timbers giving way. Fearing danger to the big congregations which were accustomed to meet there, he at once reported both to mission president Anton Skanchy, and to the building inspectors of the city and proceeded to rent another hall, in which to hold meetings. At first the inspector, though realizing the building was in bad shape, did not discover the imminent danger. Later on closer examination they found one of the main beams supporting the roof broken, and the walls crowded out to danger point, and condemned the building.

THE NEW BUILDING.

To let the property lie idle was out of the question and Elder Christophersen placed the situation strongly before President Skanchy, who had just finished the building at Copenhagen, and urged that the matter be placed before the First Presidency and the Church at home. This was done, and in due time instructions were received to proceed at once with removing the old buildings and erecting a new one. The necessary funds for fairly starting the work were appropriated.

Not a day was lost. The services of Architect Baye were secured, (a gentleman who proved not only capable, but who gave invaluable service throughout the building of the house, aiding so much that all concerned felt it was providential that they were led to him). He skteched the entire plans, which were accepted. By Aug. 1, 1902, the old building was cleared away and the excavation for the new one made ready to receive the new foundation, which was looked after with great care. Contract for it was given separately to Mr. Hans Christopherson, a specialist in this line of work. The whole surface of the excavated ground was covered with a thick layer of cement, broken rock and iron rails, making a very solid and substantial foundation. The contract for the rest of the building was let to the Bye Bros., contractors, who proved themselves also most raliable, honest and businesslike. Work progressed as rapidly as practicable through the fall, winter and spring, so that by July 1, 1903, the house was entirely finished.

The main building consists of three stories, above a well arranged basement. The first and second consists of apartments rented out, there being sufficent room for five families, all of which are now rented, bringing in a revenue. The entire third floor is taken up by the main hall, or "meetinghouse." It is 58 feet long by 40 feet wide, (inside measurements), surrounded with a gallery. The whole is estimated at about 500 seating capacity, but it is known that over 600 have several times been fairly comfortably held within its walls. It is very artistically decorated. Indeed, it is claimed that it is the neatest and most comfortable hall in Christiania. It is lighted throughout with electricity, and has all modern conveniences. Behind the main building, as seen in the photograph, there is a wing, in the basement of which is the room with the baptismal font. The first story contains the conference office and conference president's rooms. The second floor has rooms for the Elders laboring in the Christiania branch; also kitchen and bathroom. On the third floor is a small hall for smaller gatherings, such as Priesthood meetings, Relief society and M. I. A. meetings, etc.

Elder Willard Christopherson of this city, who has just returned home, and who had immediate charge of the work of building, under Mission President Anton Skanchy, (the latter having his headquarters at Copenhagen, throwing most of the responsibility upon the former), speaks in the warmest terms of the courtesies and privileges extended to him by the various officials of the city of Christiania as well as the contractors and builders. The commendable fact that in all the labor done an intoxicated person was never seen about the building, as a workman, speaks volumes for the character of the latter, as in the old world, "sobriety" is a very unusual thing among workmen, and in all the business transactions connected with the building prejudice, injustice or unfairness of any sort was an unknown quantity. The house is one more creditable monument to the Latter-day Saints of the old world.

IN THE SOUTH.

The attempt to carry out the recent decision of the American Federation of Labor to organize the unskilled negro laborers of the south into labor unions is encountering a great deal of resistance on the part of the white race in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Organizer Leonard has been driven out of Vicksburg and it is reported that the federation will appeal to President Roosevelt to interpose and assure to him protection in that town.

The New Orleans States, which has been a strong sympathizer with union labor, declares that the organization of negross into labor unions ought not to be tolerated by the whites.

It predicts that persistency on the part of white unions in encouraging such organizations will bring about the ruin of labor unionism in the southern states. It expresses the conviction that the most insidious and dangerous movement made toward the amalgamation of the white and black races in this country is the disposition of the Federation of Labor to organize negro unions.

There is, in the judgment of the New Orleans States, but a step between industrial fraternity and social equality, and a very short step at that.

It denounces the experiment undertaken by the federation as not only a foolish, but a perilous one.—Harper's Weekly.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Pigmies seem to have existed in Europe until quite modern times, although the race is now known only in the central part of Africa. A German ethnologist, G. Thilenius, finds that some skeletons exhumed near Breslau, in Silesia, show an average height of only 4 feet 9 inches, and Swiss remains described by Koliman were but 4 feet 6 inches in average height. Even smaller were the remains recorded by Gutmann frm Lower Alsace, near Colmar, some specimens measuring not more than 4 feet. These pigmies were well formed and fully developed, and it appears that those of Silesia must have lived as recently as 1000 A. D.

Not least in importance among recent apparatus in the oxygen-acetylene blowpipe. As a source of high temperatures, it is much less expensive, and more convenient than the electric furnace, and it yields greater heat than the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe, from which it differs only in the use of acetylene instead of hydrogen, with no difficulty in obtaining the combustible gas. It can give a temperature of more than 4000 degrees C, fusing any of the ordinary metals, while the highest limit of the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe is about 3000 degrees.

The time-honored faith of French vine-growers in cannon-firing as a means of resolving hail into rain, has been brought into discredit by recent experience. They still cling to their remedy, however, although it has been shown that the vortex rings of gas or smoke from the guns used cannot reach higher than 450 feet, while the hail clouds are about 1,200 feet high. Dr. Vidal is making new experiments with a gun throwing rings to a height of 1,500 feet.

Recruits for the British army show that the working people are becoming smaller, lighter and more narrow chested.

Filling the pores with sugar has somewhat surprising effects upon wood. The process, as devised by W. Powell of Liverpool, consists in immersing the wood in heated sugar solution for some hours, the time varying with the wood, and then driving off all moisture in an oven. No previous seasoning is necessary. The spongy fiber is converted into a compact ligneous substance, and it acquires greatly increased durability and strength, with resistance to changes of temperature and moisture, and even to fire. A special advantage is that the softer and cheaper—and even defective—woods can be made to serve many purposes in place of expensive hard woods. The sugar does not dissolve out, and it does not promote fermentation and the growth of destructive organisms, but it produces some remarkable chemical or physical transformation in a manner not yet understood.

The breeze that daily sweeps landward from the ocean has only a moderate height. A British meteorologist notes that very few measurements have been made, but that a captive balloon used at Coney Island some years ago passed from the cool inward current to the warm outward one at a height of 500 to 600 feet, and that at Toulon, in in 1893, the sea breeze was found up to about 1,300 feet, the off-shore current being distinct at 1,900 to 2,000 feet. Last year, on the west coast of Scotland, Dines found that kites would not rise above 1,500 feet on sunny afternoons, when the on-shore breeze was blowing.

Pumice stone, which is the common abrasive for soft materials, varies much in grain and hardness. An artificial pumice stone is now made from ground sandstone and clay by Schumacker, at Bietigheim, in the valley of the Enz, and is being used in place of the volcanic product. In ten reliable grades of grain and hardness it is adapted for varied work in leather, waxcloth, felt, wood, metal and stone.

A study of bird migration from the Kentish Knock lightship, at the mouth of the Thames, 21 miles from land, has been undertaken by W. Eagle Clarke, of Edinburgh.

Applying rye pollen to the nostrils, Prof. Dunbar of Hamburg, Germany, has produced symptoms of hay fever in persons liable to the malady, obtaining no effect in persons who were immune. Further experiment indicated that hay fever poison is a soluble toxin, contained in the starch of the pollen of the grasses. Hypodermic injections of the pollen produced hay fever symptoms in 15 minutes, which increased for four hours, with violent swelling about the puncture on the forearm. In an immune the injection caused simply a slight swelling. Finally rabbits were injected, and after several weeks yielded a serum that could neutralize the toxin.

French botanists have been amusing themselves by causing leaves to swim about in water in a very mysterious and animal-like way. The Peruvian or false peartree (Schinus molle) is a tree much grown in France, and a piece broken from one of its leaves and thrown upon the water soon began to glide over the surface. The propelling force is the essential oil issuing from the break. The phenomenon is shown even more strikingly by Pittosporum Tobira, a pretty Chinese shrub, and M. Lequet mentions his delight at seeing these leaf fragments glide about like water-bugs or spiders, turning to and fro, pirouetting, and making continual circuits. To ensure success, the water surface must be free from oil.

A new English epidemic is characterized by intolerable itching and the presence beneath the skin of nodular hardenings a little larger than mustard seeds. The severe itching is increased by heat, cold or scratching. One Birmingham doctor thinks the infection is due to a parasite of milk and vegetables, another suggests that it is the "craw-craw" of west Africa.

The zebrula, the cross between the zebra and the horse, has been under test in Germany, and is claimed to be less liable to disease than the mule, livelier, and better adapted to transport work.

The electric discharge between two vessels of mercury in a partial vacuum is the most efficient form of artificial lighting yet discovered. In a recent test by W. C. Geer, the mercury terminals were about four-fifths of an inch apart, and an arc of two inches in length was produced by a direct current of 110 volts. Nearly 50 per cent of the energy supplied was converted into visible light. Turning to other lights, the Geissler tube showed an efficiency of 32 per cent, the incandescent lamp 10; acetylene gas, 10; the incandescent electric lamp, 6; and the Argand gas burner, 1.6.

The temperature limits of life are much more widely separated than we once supposed. Bacteria are now known to develop and multiply at 72 degrees C; and Prof. A. Macfadyen, of London, has exposed such organisms to 190 degrees C; below zero for six months without harming them, while they even survived 250 degrees C. below zero.

One of the most interesting of metallurigical processes is the manufacture of Japanese swords. A recent description states that the steel is produced in thin laminae from magnetis iron ores and ferruginous sand, and the work upon the weapon begins with the fixing of one of these plates to an iron rod, which serves as a handle. Other sheets are soldered on until the mass has a length of six to eight inches, a width of two inches, and a thickness of one-fourth to four-fifths of an inch. Brought to white heat, the bar is doubled upon it self and hammered to its original form, the process being repeated 15 times; and four similar bars are then heated and soldered, this process being repeated five times. These operations give superimposed layers so thin that a sabre is estimated to contain at least a thousand sheets of metal. Alternate layers of iron and steel are sometimes soldered together, and a veined appearance is thus given to the blade.

The biophone, a new German phonograph, produces pictures as well as sounds. It shows, for instance, the singer giving a song.