



NEW ZEALAND MISSION.

The Work of the Lord is Said to Be Progressing.

Elder D. E. Davis, secretary of the New Zealand mission, writes under date of Auckland, N. Z., Feb. 26:

During the year 1903 the organization of a new conference was effected. There were a sufficient number of Saints to organize two branches of the Church, and these new members displayed their integrity and interest in the work by making a request that the annual conference of 1904 be held in their district. Their desire was complied with and we accordingly look forward to a time of rejoicing at Moawhango, Wanganui, April 1, 2, and 3.

Two district conferences have already been held and each branch in the conference has a Relief society organization. The conference president, Elder Geo. T. Hisslop, and Ratana Hakopa, counselor in the Kaiawa branch, have recently completed a tour through the Taupo, Rotorua, Hauraki and Bay of Islands conferences and returning to Wanganui by way of Waikato, Ngati-maniapoto and Taranaki.

Sisters Emma E. Wright and Takara Takana, presidency of the Mission Relief societies, in company with Emma E. Adams of Oakley, and Mariana Arani of Moawhango, have made a visit to all the Relief societies in the northern part of the mission and report them all in a healthy condition.

Besides the above named sisters there were a number of Elders and Saints from the Waikato, Taranaki, Hauraki, Auckland and Bay of Islands conferences in attendance at the annual northern conference which convened at Waihou, Hokitika (Bay of Islands conference) Jan. 29, 30 and 31, 1904.

The conference was characterized by the attendance being almost exclusively Church members, and had it not been that the messenger of sorrow arrived Sunday morning Jan. 31, bearing the sad intelligence that Kiri, the four-year old daughter of Henare and Mary, had been claimed by the flames the night previous, the conference would have had nothing to mar the quiet and comfort of those assembled. This child, with others, had been left in the care of its grandparents at Auckland. A fire commenced in the cookhouse and as a result the house is missing, one spirit has taken its flight, a mortal body is reduced to ashes and several others, in their endeavor to rescue, narrowly escaped the reaching arms of the flames. The parents and relatives of the child, who are among the shining lights, bore the trial bravely.

At conference seven regular sessions were held, besides a Relief society conference and a Priesthood meeting. The former was presided over by Mission President of Relief Societies Emma E. Wright. The speakers were Emma E. Adams, Mariana Arani and many others, among whom were the Kaitiaki, Kara, and Karo. The former bore a powerful testimony in regard to the truth of the Gospel and the latter made some very interesting remarks. The work of the sisters in this part is progressive and all are energetic in the discharge of their duties.

Among the speakers of the conference Eru Nehua, of Whakapara again made himself master of all in a short, doctrinal display of common sense, sarcasm and wit.

Many of the formerly weak Saints were present at the conference, full of energy and desirous of living in accordance with the Gospel. Reports were given to the fact that several branches, which have been considered ready for the purger, have seen the error of their way and are now retracing their steps. Generally speaking, the Bay of Islands conference is furnishing flattering prospects and is one of the most prosperous conferences in the mission.

Elder P. S. C. Goring of Whangarei conveyed Sisters Emma E. Wright and Geneva E. Adams from Whangarei to Waihou and a company of 15 Elders and Saints were conveyed from Hukerenui to the place of conference, a distance of 12 miles, by Anderson Christy of Towai.

The Shattam Islands, situated 536 miles east of Lyttelton, with an area of 20,600 acres, not having had the Gospel carried to them, Elder Karl G. Cannon was sustained to bear the message of truth unto the people there. Elder M. C. Woods was sustained as mission architect, Elder P. J. James appointed to labor in Hawkes Bay, Sister Geneva E. Adams appointed to the Bay of Islands, and J. W. Silver sustained as general traveling Elder among the natives of the South Island, to labor principally in the Canterbury and Otago districts.

A delegation from Hauraki was present and made a request that the conference of 1905 be held in their district. The request was granted.

After the close of the conference Elders L. L. Bates, J. W. Gardner, G. T. Hisslop, Ratana Hakopa and Rowi Maaka, the latter two local native Elders, accompanied the bereaved parents to their home. The scene was most solemn.

During the year 1903 one Elder was acknowledged by the New Zealand government as an officiating minister, viz., D. E. Davis. At the beginning of 1904 President Bartlett made an application that six of the Elders be recognized by the government; this was declined, but after some delay we have succeeded in having two for the present year, viz., President C. B. Bartlett and D. E. Davis.

Many of the returned Elders will well remember the kindness shown them by Tamahau Mahupuka, a chief of the Hauraki, and non-member of the Church. We regret having to inform them of his mortal career having been brought to a close. He has rendered very material assistance to the Elders and Saints for many years. We also announce the death of Henare Tomoana, a chief of Hawkes Bay.

The Elders and sisters in attendance

at the above mentioned conference were as follows: President C. B. Bartlett, Secretary D. E. Davis, Relief Society President Emma E. Wright, Counselor Takara Takana, Geneva E. Adams, Mariana Arani, J. W. Gardner, A. Y. Tiffany, G. T. Hisslop, J. C. Reeder, J. S. Thompson, P. G. James, E. S. Hawkes, A. W. Asper, G. Cowley, L. L. Bates, W. M. Paxman, L. J. Bowen, M. C. Woods, also Rowi Maaka and Ratana Hakopa, native Elders.

IN NORTH CAROLINA.

An Enjoyable and Profitable Gathering by Saints and Elders.

The following is dated Wilmington, N. C., March 15, and is signed by Elders E. S. Greenwood and A. W. Kartchner:

The Elders of North Carolina Conference assembled on Harker's Island on the 5th and 6th of March and held conference. Besides the fifteen Elders Pres. Ben E. Ritch was in attendance and championed the cause of truth.

The first meeting was held Saturday at 3 p. m. Elder E. S. Greenwood presided and in a brief address welcomed all present. On Sunday the meetings were held, with large attentive audiences.

The place of meeting was a neat little meeting house recently erected by the Saints and friends of the island. Priesthood meeting was held in which the Elders reported their work. Elder Ritch instructed the Elders in their duty.

The people of the island furnish a fruitful field of labor for the Elders of Israel. Many have accepted the Gospel. The Elders were very hospitably entertained by the people. After four days among them a small sailing vessel was boarded by the Elders and they were carried back to the main land, and their departure in different directions.

Elders Wiley Dalton, Edwin Spencer, Joseph D. Lester and Othello Roundy having filled honorable missions were released to return to their homes. The many good articles found in the "News" and "Era" furnish much pleasure to us while laboring in the ministry.

IN VIRGINIA.

Elders in the Field Hold an Interesting Conference.

Elder F. J. Sorenson, writing from Richmond, Va., March 13, reports as follows:

Twenty-six Elders, including Elder Ben E. Ritch, met at Bagley's Mills, Lunenburg Co., Va., in conference on the 13th and 14th of March, 1904.

Six very interesting meetings were held, in which many timely instructions were given. A good portion of the Spirit of the Lord was present.

At Priesthood meeting held Sunday morning, all the Elders in turn, were given the privilege of expressing their feelings in regard to their work and also stating the condition of their health, which with but one or two exceptions, was good. Each bore a faithful testimony to the restoration of the Gospel.

All enjoyed the remarks of President Ritch, who occupied the greater portion of the time in our Sunday meetings.

Many of our most experienced Elders have been released to return home, within the past few months, but our ranks have been replenished by the arrival of new Elders from Zion.

Elder John Walker, lately from Key West, has been chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the release of our former president, and was unanimously sustained as such at our conference. While assembled, President Ritch, and the Elders who had labored under the names, the parents and relatives of the child, who are among the shining lights, bore the trial bravely.

At conference seven regular sessions were held, besides a Relief society conference and a Priesthood meeting. The former was presided over by Mission President of Relief Societies Emma E. Wright. The speakers were Emma E. Adams, Mariana Arani and many others, among whom were the Kaitiaki, Kara, and Karo. The former bore a powerful testimony in regard to the truth of the Gospel and the latter made some very interesting remarks. The work of the sisters in this part is progressive and all are energetic in the discharge of their duties.

GOOD MEETINGS AND REPORTS

Conference Held at St. John, Kansas, Much Enjoyed.

Elder Cyrus S. Robertson writes from St. John, Kan., March 18:

The Elders and members of the Church of this conference met Sunday and Monday, March 13 and 14, in their semi-annual conference. Fifteen Elders bore a convincing testimony to the divine mission of Joseph, the Prophet.

Elder James G. Duffin, president of the southwestern States mission, spoke of the testimony of President Joseph F. Smith before the United States senate committee. We held six public meetings in the latter-day Saints' meetinghouse, which were well attended, also five Priesthood meetings, where Elder James G. Duffin gave the Elders some very good counsel in regard to their duties in the mission field. The Elders reported the mission in a prosperous condition.

The offices of the St. John branch were filled by ordaining Brother Emory Campbell and Sylvester Henline to the office of an Elder and setting them out as counselors to Elder George W. Baker. Brother N. E. Baker was ordained to the office of a priest, and set apart as the first assistant superintendent of the Sunday school; the officers of the Relief society were also set apart.

Elder W. S. Muir of Randolph, Utah, was sustained to fill a vacancy in the 28 month's mission in Kansas.

The Elders attended the sixty-second anniversary of the Relief society, which was held in the latter-day Saints' meetinghouse, where all seemed to have an enjoyable time.

The Deseret News and Improvement Era are good missionaries in this conference.

MEETINGHOUSE DEDICATED.

An Important Event in the History of the Colorado Mission.

The subject report is sent by Elder J. E. Wilson. It is dated Denver, Colo., March 15.

The dedicatory services of the Colorado mission house were held Sunday, March 13, 1904. The capacity of the auditorium was taxed to furnish seating room for those who were in attendance. The room had been tastefully decorated for the occasion with plants, flowers and flags.

Remarks on the history of the building were made by Elder Joseph E. Wilcox, who was present. He also announced the death of Henare Tomoana, a chief of Hawkes Bay.

The Elders and sisters in attendance

at the above mentioned conference were as follows: President C. B. Bartlett, Secretary D. E. Davis, Relief Society President Emma E. Wright, Counselor Takara Takana, Geneva E. Adams, Mariana Arani, J. W. Gardner, A. Y. Tiffany, G. T. Hisslop, J. C. Reeder, J. S. Thompson, P. G. James, E. S. Hawkes, A. W. Asper, G. Cowley, L. L. Bates, W. M. Paxman, L. J. Bowen, M. C. Woods, also Rowi Maaka and Ratana Hakopa, native Elders.

The dedicatory house was offered by Elder Joseph A. McKee. Remarks were made by Elder Lorin M. Mendall on the Gospel message, and by Elder M. Steele on the history and growth of the Church in the west. Elder McKee gave the mission. The address was made in a most impressive manner.

The presidents of conferences and the Elders labored not too far distant from Denver, came to be present at the services and greatly enjoyed the privilege. Fully half of the congregation was made up of non-members.

This is a commendable work of considerable importance to the spread of the Gospel on the eastern borders of Zion; and a nucleus is formed which are long with, no doubt, grow into a prosperous stake of Zion. In considering the growth of our borders one is reminded of the words of the psalmist concerning the tabernacles of Israel, namely, "Lengthen her borders and strengthen her stakes."

An account of this event would not be complete without giving credit to Elder M. F. Cowley for the zeal he has shown in soliciting contributions from the Saints in Zion, and forwarding the same to the mission. The aid thus afforded has run into thousands of dollars. This loving service is appreciated more than words can express.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE.

Report of a Series of Interesting Meetings in That Field.

The subject report is dated St. Paul, Minn., March 16, and signed by Elders Willard Facer and Geo. T. Cobbley.

The Minnesota conference on March 5 and 6, 1904. Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock p. m. most of the Elders met in Minneapolis and were paired off to go and hold street meetings and invite the people to attend our conference meeting at 8 o'clock in the evening. After the street meetings we gathered at our hall. Meeting was called to order by Elder A. M. Croft. There was a very pleasant attendance.

We were honored to have present with us from other fields of labor, Elder A. H. Woodruff, president of the mission, and Elder John A. Hyde, and branch president, Elder C. L. Ruckeret, who was in the field from Michigan conference. The speakers were endowed with the Spirit of God and gave to us a feast of good things.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock we all met in St. Paul Central hall in a fast and testimony meeting. Many strong and powerful testimonies were borne by the Elders and Saints. The officers of the Church were also sustained by the Saints and Elders. Some changes were made. Elder A. M. Croft was honorably released to return home.

Willard Facer was named as his successor. Elder John Sanders being called to do labor in another part of the conference, Elder Geo. T. Cobbley was sustained as his successor as secretary of this conference. Elders Carter and Davis were released to return home, and Elder H. Ostlund was transferred to Chicago. Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock all met in the hall. In the evening we assembled again at the hall. Elder A. H. Woodruff was the main speaker, talking for his subject, the pre-existence of spirits. We also had with us two reporters, who were very eager to catch every word that was spoken.

Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock all the Elders met in a Priesthood meeting and received instructions from our president. The Elders also reported their work.

Tuesday evening we were favored by a picnic party, given by the ladies of this conference in our hall.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.

Agitation Results in Desire to Hear the Gospel.

Elder Ashton Bartlett, in a letter dated Milwaukee, Wis., March 15, submits the following report:

Our semi-annual conference just closed goes on record as an enjoyable and successful gathering. Services were held as follows: Saturday evening, March 12, Sunday afternoon and evening, March 13, these three in the Lincoln hall, a most commodious and popular hall in the center of the city. Three more were held in our hall at 1118 Fond-du-Lac avenue, a special fast meeting Sunday morning, Priesthood meeting Monday morning and a special meeting Tuesday evening, to hear Bro. Matthias F. Cowley who arrived in Milwaukee early in the morning.

Every circumstance bent to the success of our conference, even the weather, which had been threatening snow until after the close of our last public session, then it began and proved to be the heaviest fall for 17 years. In the way of advertising, we circulated several thousand handbills, and for the balance we are indebted to the Smoot investigation at Washington. The newspapers were full of it and because of the excitement it created, the press published everything we wrote, or said, and a "little" gave space for photos of conference visitors, in fact had space for everything that had the name "Mormon" attached to it. Thus our meeting was heralded far and wide resulting in an attendance of over 200 and 200 people at each service in Lincoln hall.

Elder Asahel H. Woodruff, Secy. G. E. Ellsworth, Elder Heber C. Snell, Sister Lizzie Thomas-Edwards, and Elder Henry Claydon, of Chicago, Elder John A. Hyde and Elder Royal H. Barney, who succeeds Elder Hyde to the presidency of the Wisconsin conference, and nineteen missionaries, made up the personnel from Zion, present at the opening session which was very well attended.

The spirit of the conference throughout was excellent and much interest was manifested among the people of this city. The speakers and their subjects during the three sessions are as follows: Elder John A. Hyde, on "The mission of the Latter-day Saints in the world," German E. Ellsworth, "The first principles of the Gospel," C. L. Ruckeret (in German) "What the 'Mormons' are doing in Wisconsin and about the Book of Mormon," Ashley Bartlett, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the kingdom of God that the Bible says was to be set up in the last days," Abram D. Taylor, "how the un baptized dead may receive the baptismal ordinance so they may enter into the kingdom of God," Frederick Grunder (in German) "Church organization," and Geo. T. Cobbley, "The Sunday evening session was devoted entirely to the consideration of the Book of Mormon by Elders Heber C. Snell and Asahel H. Woodruff. Several came up and purchased books, others were anxious for tracts.

One of the pleasing features of our conference that counted much toward its success was the solo work of Sister Lizzie Thomas-Edwards, "O My Father, Thou that dwellest," "O ye mountains high," "A dream of paradise," etc.

were among the numbers so beautifully rendered in the full rich voices which added greatly to the spirit and interest of the meetings. Thus we were enabled to entertain while we preached the Gospel to the many who came out to hear us.

Monday morning Brother Matthias F. Cowley came into our hall and met with the Elders in Priesthood meeting. After giving in reports, we listened to instructions, words of encouragement and inspiration from Bro. Cowley. In accepting the Saints came together and received the same blessings, and the three days proved to be a time of rejoicing indeed. Two baptisms have since been performed. It may seem strange to some, but it is not an unusual thing, that we are to be openly opposed by the religious societies, whenever we begin to succeed. The fact is becoming generally known that the Milwaukee church is to erect a meetinghouse, and the presence of so many "Mormons" here at once, and so prominently too that the papers print our photos and devote whole pages to us, has startled the W. T. U.'s, and other like organizations. We read in the morning paper that the unions will send a delegation up to our meeting next Sunday to hear what we preach, as a preliminary to the future actively upward of these societies. We hope they do not fail to send them. Also, it is rumored that the erection of a church building here will call for a protest by these "Christian" workers. If it was a brewery instead, they would not blow the dust of their trousers but would be satisfied.

Our president, Elder John A. Hyde, was released to return home, also Elders A. D. Taylorson, James R. McKiven and M. R. Bigelow. Two new Elders have been sustained, Samuel T. Leitch and Truman R. Heblen. At Priesthood meeting the assignments were made and the Elders are now off to work again.

BRANCH CONFERENCE.

Elder Matthias F. Cowley and Nephi Pratt Visit Tacoma.

Writing from Tacoma, Wash., March 15, Elder D. G. Evans says:

On March 3 Apostle M. F. Cowley and Elder Nephi Pratt of the Northwestern States mission, accompanied by Sisters Florence Benson and Nellie Oram, two lady missionaries from Boise, Idaho, met with us and held an evening meeting, which proved a grand success. Elders Cowley and Pratt gave many good instructions on the principles of the Gospel. The two visiting sisters furnished us with excellent music and singing.

On Sunday, March 13, the quarterly conference of the Tacoma branch was held in Parker's hall, Tacoma avenue. The following conferences of the mission were represented: Elder Nephi Pratt, in charge, from Boise conference; Sisters Florence Benson and Nellie Oram, from Seattle conference; Elders O. B. Pickett, Isaac Hansen, W. W. Stevens, Hyrum Mechan, Clara Darrington, Nephi S. Johnson, James G. Widdison, Jr., William Hopkins, A. W. Ball, from Victoria, B. C.; Elders S. U. Hatt, John Haynes, Alonzo Raymond, J. R. Osborn, from Vancouver, B. C.; Elders David Frank, P. F. East and U. J. Mitchell, from Tacoma; Elders D. G. Evans, J. M. Brown, E. S. Hansen and Nephi Haworth.

There were two sessions. The first convened at 2 p. m. and was presided over by Elder D. G. Evans. Elder O. B. Pickett spoke at some length upon different principles of the Gospel, Sister Florence Benson, accompanied by Sister Nellie Oram, rendered a very beautiful solo. Elder S. W. Hatt spoke upon the mission of Elijah and the divine calling of the Prophet Joseph. Elder Nephi Johnson bore his testimony. Elder Pratt spoke upon the unpopularity of "Mormonism" and the restoration of the Gospel.

At 7:30 Elder James Widdison spoke upon the blessings that God conferred upon Abraham. Sister Florence Benson bore her testimony. Elder Nephi Pratt spoke upon the origin and destiny of man.

Conference then adjourned for three months.

In Tacoma we have a small but live Branch of the Church, with many warm friends. The people in Washington seem to be causing people to enquire after us.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

SEVIER STAKE.

Quarterly Conference Held at Richfield.

The Sevier stake quarterly conference was held in the stake tabernacle, at Richfield, Utah, March 12 and 13, 1904. There were in attendance, Elder Rudger Clawson of the Council of Apostles, and Elder Jonathan G. Kimball of the First Council of Seventies. Elder Wm. H. Seemiller was also present, having just returned from St. George, where he spent the winter in the interest of his health, and he seemed much improved.

The two sessions on Saturday were devoted largely to the giving of reports by Bishops and heads of stake organizations. Elder J. G. Kimball was the principal speaker at each session. Faith and works, patriotism and loyalty were his themes. Elder Clawson arrived Saturday evening. Sunday the attendance was very large, at both sessions. At the forenoon meeting, several Bishops reported their wards, and the Relief society, Young Ladies' associations and the Primary were also reported.

Apostle Clawson read from Doctrine and Covenants, section 97, regarding the judgments which will be poured out upon the wicked, and commented on that text.

At 2 p. m. the tabernacle was filled. Elder Seemiller was the first speaker. The General and stake authorities were all sustained.

Elder J. G. Kimball spoke upon the subject of tests, and said that in the past the Saints had been tested in various ways, and mentioned some of them. He said a test was again coming and prayed that all might be able to endure it.

Elder Rudger Clawson informed the Saints that on Jan. 2, 1904, \$50,000 of the Church funds were liquidated, and spoke of the future of the people.

The Elders choir, under the leadership of Prof. Chas. J. Olsen, furnished the singing.

At the conclusion of conference Elder Farley Anderson was ordained a Bishop, to preside over the Koosharem ward, with Edward C. Bagley and Orson H. Anderson as his counselors.

Elder John E. Gledhill, Jr., was ordained a Bishop to preside over the Vermilion ward, with James O. Iyle and John Tholman as his counselors.

Niels P. Nielsen was ordained a High Priest, and Chas. H. Nielson was ordained an Elder.

Sunday evening the Mutual Improvement associations held a conference at which the visiting brethren were present. J. M. LAURITZEN, Stake Clerk.

NORTH SANPETE STAKE.

A Most Impressive Gathering at Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Pleasant, March 14.—The quarterly conference of the North Sanpete stake was held at Mt. Pleasant, Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6. Elder C. N. Lund presided.

Remarks were made Saturday morning by the stake president, Bishop C. J. Christensen of Ft. Green, Bishop C. Christensen of Chester, Bishop J. W. Stewart of Milburn, Elders Joseph L. Jolley and Simon T. Beck of the High Council, and Patriarch Edward Cluff.

A very favorable report of the condition of the stake was given in the

afternoon session by the stake president.

Bishop James C. Petersen of Fairview and Asst. Supt. C. J. Jensen of the stake Sunday schools, spoke on the labors of the ward and organization over which they preside.

Elder Rudger Clawson, of the Council of Apostles, addressed the Saints on the responsibility which rests upon the presiding Priesthood in their various capacities in the Church, and the justice of God in dealing with His people.

President Anthon H. Lund said in part that men should not seek the Priesthood only for the honor of holding the same, but should magnify their calling. We must, he added, be called for the position he holds in the Priesthood, but for the faithfulness with which he performs his labors.

At the close of the meeting Elder Daniel Haugen was ordained Bishop of the Mt. Pleasant North ward with Thomas West as his first, and George Petersen as his second counselor.

At 7:30 p. m. a meeting was held under the auspices of the Y. M. and L. M. I. associations of the stake, presided over by Supt. John S. Blain, and Sister Annie D. Stevens. The young people were addressed by the visiting brethren on timely topics, particularly on the necessity of studying the principles of the Gospel and the power of concentration of mind.

Sunday morning the children of both wards of Mt. Pleasant met in Sabbath school session, in which President A. H. Lund and Elder Clawson spoke to them. Conference reconvened at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

The first speaker was Elder P. Mattson of the stake presidency. He was followed by President Anthon H. Lund who delivered a most interesting and impressive discourse on the first principles of the Gospel.

The General and stake Authorities of the Church were presented by President George Christensen and unanimously sustained.

In the afternoon meeting the statistical report of the stake was read by the clerk.

Sister Wilhelmina Ericksen, president of the stake Relief society, gave a brief report of the labors of that organization.

The Religion class work of the stake was reported by Supt. A. Morz.

Elder George Christensen of the stake presidency spoke of the goodness of God to His people.

In conclusion Elder Rudger Clawson addressed the Saints on the subject of unity.

The singing, under the leadership of Conductor Andrew L. Larsen, was most creditable and added much to the enjoyment of conference. A. MEIZ, Stake Clerk.

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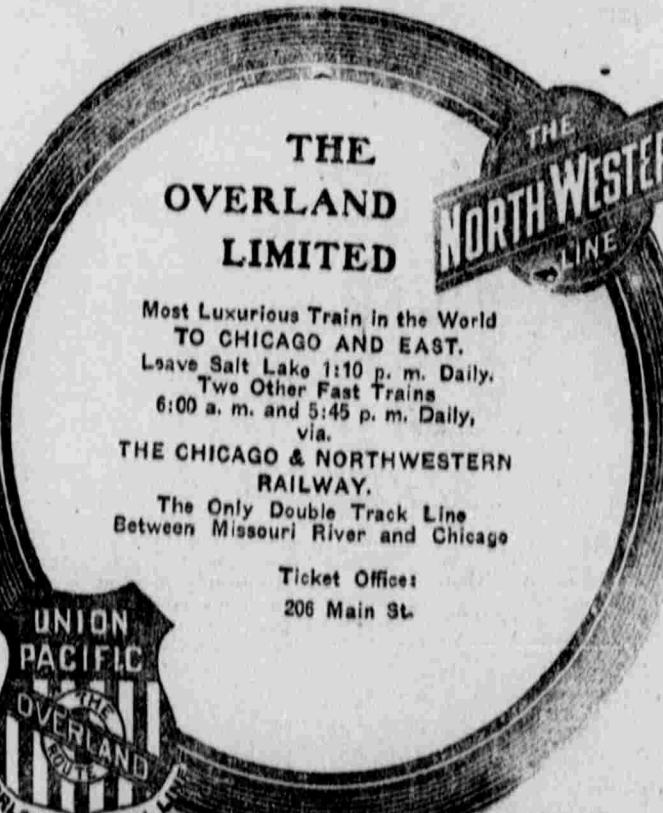
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