CONFERENCES IN ARIZONA.

Labors of Elders Goddard and Reynolds Among the Sunday Schools.

ERASTUS WARD,
St. Johns Stake, Arizona,
August 7th, 1894.

Editor Deseret News:

Twelve hundred and sixty-one miles travel by railway over the Rio Grande Western, Colorado Midland, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and Atlantic and Pacific lines brought us (Elder George Reynolds and myself) to the Navajo Springs, Arizona, after which a fifty mile stage travel per team, over a sandy desert, landed us safe in St. Johns, the destination to which our first appointment required our labors. We left Salt Lake City on Tuesday evening at 8:30 p. m., July 31st, passing our way through Utah, Colorado, New Mexico into Arizona. On reaching Trinidad, Col., Thursday, August 2, at 1:30 p. m., we found U. S. sentinels pacing the station with guns and bayonets on their shoulders, as a guard against trouble from the strikers, and we also noticed a large card hanging from one of the windows of the train on which, in large print, was the following: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Two ladies inside the car had charge of it, one of whom had a similar card in front of her breast. A few miles further brought us to a tunnel on the divide between Colorado and New Mexico, at either end of a guard of soldiers still remain to protect it against the threatened injury by the recently excited strikers. They were evidently getting tired of their protective service, having been several times disturbed with rain which had poured down in torrents, and their tents afforded them scarcely any protection.

We reached Navajo Springs at noon on Friday, August 3rd, and were glad to find our Stake Superintendent John W. Brown with his team to conduct us to St. Johns. He is the son of an old friend, T. D. Brown, well known in the early settlement of Utah. We traveled slowly over the deep sand, through partial rain and wind, until after 10 o'clock p. m. In the conveyance our blankets were soon spread, two occupying one end and one the other; thus closely bedded in we lay, until almost about 3 o'clock the following morning (Saturday), August 4th. Starting long before any break, we reached St. Johns, Arizona, at a quarter to seven o'clock. After being refreshed under the hospitable roof of our friend Brown, we were ready by 10 o'clock to commence the first meeting of our two days' Sunday school conference.

As a preliminary, we held a short interview with the Stake and other authorities, and as long as the program of exercises had been prepared, either by the children or otherwise, we had to depend upon the direction of the Spirit of the Lord to guide us in our meetings. President D. K. Udall and his counselors, Elders Freeman and Allen, were with us at all our meetings. His home is at Sugarville, Union ward, thirty-five miles from St. Johns. We held five Sunday school meetings, at which all that was necessary to be said on Sunday school matters was attended to. The following ward schools were represented: St. Johns, Union, Eversus and Nutrioso. The Articles of Faith, and the prayer on the bread and water were recited by different classes in concert. Remarks were also interpreted by Stake Superintendent Brown and his assistants, Elder D. K. Udall, and his counselors, and Bishop Anderson, of St. John's ward. The visiting brethren occupied the balance of the time. A meeting with the presidency and other leading authorities was held at the close of Sunday morning's meeting. The members of the 104th Quorum of Seventies met after the afternoon meeting was dismissed, and were addressed by Elder George Reynolds on items of importance pertaining to their calling. An evening meeting at 8 o'clock closed our labors in Saint Johns, which is the county seat of Apache county, Arizona. The meetings throughout were well attended, and the spirit of the Lord visibly enjoyed. In connection with other instructions pertaining to the general conduct and advancement of Sunday school work, the Word of Wisdom was not omitted. The unanimity of feeling that pervaded the congregation on this important subject was truly gratifying. This was made manifest by an almost universal expression of their determination in the future to observe it.

In accordance with the wishes of the Presidency of the Stake, we left St. Johns on Monday to attend two meetings with the members of the Union ward, which comprises the Saints residing in Springerville, Eagerville, Amity and the regions round about. Union ward, in Round valley, is 35 miles distant from St. Johns, which we traveled up team, driven by Elder E. N. Freeman, late of Ogden City. We reached Springerville on Monday night, and were welcomed by the family of Prime Coleman, one of the earliest Indian missionaries in Southern Utah.

Tuesday, August 7th.—Two miles from this place is a settlement called Eagerville, where lives Bishop George H. Crosby, son of the late well known Utah Pioneer Jesse W. Crosby, and also Elder D. K. Udall, who is president of this Stake of Zion. From the scattered condition of the Saints we were truly astonished and gladdened to find such large congregations attending the three meetings held at 10 a.m. and at 2 and 8 o'clock p.m. Here we met with one of Uncle's earliest merchants by the name of A. V. Greer, whose business was conducted under the firm name of Shirr, Greer & Hamer.

Wednesday 8th we left Union and after a pleasant ride of 35 miles, we reached Eversus ward, presided over by C. I. Kemp at whose house we were welcomed.

Thursday 9th. Here a ward conference was held where we had been invited to attend by Elder Udall, and a portion of the time in the morning and afternoon meetings were allotted us to speak on Sunday school matters. The evening meeting was occupied mostly by a sermon on the 10th of Mormon by Elder George Reynolds (by special request).

Here our labors close in the S.L. Stake at 8 p.m. Eversus ward contains 22 families, about 100 souls, who possess 320 acres of land (the most part of it mesa) is mostly cut up, enough water is raised to irrigate it. The Bishop has thirteen acres of wheat filled with several thousand inch bearing trees, including apples, pear, peach, apricot, plums, etc.

Tomorrow, Friday, we leave on a 35 mile ride to Snowflake, at which place we hold a two days' Sunday school conference on Saturday and Sunday.

GEORGE GODDARD.

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 18, 1894.

We take added to our friends in Eversus ward, St. John's Stake on Friday, Aug. 10, and after a ride of thirty-five miles, driven by Samuel Baird, (grandson of Father Camp who built and lived in a large house in the Thirteenth ward, Salt Lake City, many years ago) we reached Snowflake between 4 and 5 p.m. and were welcomed at the house of our esteemed Stake Superintendent, J. A. West. In the evening we had a pleasant visit with Jesse N. Smith, president of the Stake, and other authorities, and talked over the object and purpose of our visit, viz., to hold a two days' Sunday school conference.

Saturday, Aug. 11, at 10 o'clock we were greeted with a well filled meeting of parents and children; also at 2 o'clock, and another at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 12. We had the pleasure of holding three more crowded meetings, at 10, 2 and 7, besides a Seventies' meeting at 4 p. m., at which Elder Reynolds imparted special instruction and filled up the presidency of the Eighty-third Quorum by the appointment and ordination of two to fill the vacancies. At the above meetings all that was necessary to all and to encourage perseverance, brought home to Rivers parents and children in the race of life and improved methods of conducting our Sunday school work was imparted and thankfully received. Our instructions were interspersed with remarks from superintendents from Snowflake, Woodruff, St. Joseph, Taylor, Shumway, Juniper, Shipaw, Fairview, Pleasant and Clear Creek. Remarks also were made by the Presidency, Bishops and Stake superintendency, and a number of other exercises by the children of several schools.

Snowflake is a very beautiful settlement of about 700 inhabitants, with water seats and shade trees on either side of the streets, and many commodious and well-built residences. Fully 90 per cent of the Saints are observers of the Word of Wisdom. All the families live in their own houses, and only one is under mortgage. There is no saloon there, and no profane of any. Our old friend Charles Shumway, 89 years old, we had the pleasure of meeting; he was one of the 70 and met missionaries who left Salt Lake City on the 23rd of April, 1847, and the only pioneer of 1847 living in Snowflake. We also found our particular friend Ralph Romney, ward mayor, whose welcoming way will be seen in the organ of some which have so many years been spread over what is known as the Eagle Gate. He was a resident of the 20th ward. He is still hale and hearty, though not so young as he used to be. The almost universal stringency in monetary matters is scarcely felt in Snowflake, except in the low price of sheep, wool, etc. The other articles of export are lumber and other hay, a good market being found for it in Fort Apache, nearly 70 miles distant.

Our meetings were characterized by the rich outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord, and a tone of unalloyed pleasure was universal throughout the entire congregations. They were held in the Stake meeting house, which needs further improvements being made in the gallery, etc., to render it complete in its accommodation for the public. A vote was called and unanimously responded to, that all the means needed for its accomplishment would be forthcoming.

After our Sunday evening meeting, we bid adieu to our many warm-hearted friends, and left Snowflake in company of Joseph Clawson, son of Moses Clawson, who lived in the Second ward, Salt Lake City, in the early days. We left Snowflake at 8:15 p.m., and after traveling 28 miles in an open conveyance, and our road encumbered by the rain of the morning, we neared our destination by crossing the Little Colorado river. On reaching the right side of the river, the bank was so high that it was impossible for our team to ascend. They made the attempt in a partial but desperate effort, and to prevent a serious disaster, we current manager having such wonderful control of his horses, quietened them in thirty perilous situations. While he succeeded in maintaining them from the conveyance and got them on the bank, after which he prepared to cross the water, and assisted us along the bridge, thereof of which was on the track. We then wended to Holbrook station near by, where Brother Berryhill and myself were accommodated with a bed on the floor at the store, while our baggage's owner, Two of our brethren, Brothers Farnsworth Decker, went with Brother Camera and succeeded in getting the conveyance out of the river.

Monday, August 13, at 11 o'clock to 4 a.m., our train left Holbrook station, homeward bound, about 1,300 miles travel.

During the last two days the earth has been drenched with between of rain for hundreds of miles through Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Washouts were therefore experienced both on the railroads and along team travelling from place to place. By the blessing of our Heavenly Father we escaped injury from all of them. Before reaching Deseret we were detained between two and three hours, and in many instances where the water was rushing about our tracks we had to slacken our pace, so that on arriving at Grand Junction, Wednesday morning, August 15, at 8 o'clock, we found ourselves eight hours behind time, and instead of reaching Salt Lake City at 1:15 we did not arrive until 9:30 p.m.

GEORGE GODDARD.

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