

MORMON MISSIONARY WORK IN COLORADO.

How the Faith of the Latter-day Saints is Spreading in the Centennial and Other States Comprising the Group in Which it is Situated.

MORMON missionary work is attracting a good deal of attention in various parts of Colorado at the present time. This is particularly true in Denver, where the mission headquarters is located. There a large number of meetings have been held. New converts are constantly being made while others are investigating. The prospects for the future are bright, every indication giving promise of the accomplishment of much good.

Some opposition has been aroused, and obstacles calculated to impede the progress of the work have been thrown in the way. Generally speaking the persons responsible for such procedure are uninformed as to the ennobling and uplifting principles of Mormonism. Some of the clergy have joined in a hue and cry against "Mormon" propaganda, and in a few instances have succeeded in arraigning individuals against the "men from Utah" as they are called in Denver. Thus far, however, violent methods have not been resorted to, and it is likely none will be. There are thinking men and women in that city, as elsewhere in the Colorado mission, who regard Mormonism as a "real Christian force, which must be considered in that light sooner or later," as a prominent Denverite recently expressed himself.

It is readily conceded in Colorado that the Mormon missionaries are intelligent, energetic and respectable; that they are sincere in their efforts to do good, and that they are rapidly dissipating many of the false impressions that have prevailed concerning the faith of which they are such able and zealous exponents.

OPENING OF THE MISSION.

The opening of the Colorado mission may be said to date from the fourteenth of December, 1896 on which day Apostle John W. Taylor left Salt Lake for Denver with authority and instructions to begin the Gospel work in that state. He had for his companions Elders John H. Boshard of Provo, William C. Clive and Herbert A. White of Salt Lake. The ranks of this little vanguard were soon substantially augmented, as others without loss of time

this was done under the names of the East and West Colorado conferences. Simultaneously the mission authorities were impressed with the necessity of proclaiming the Mormon faith in the neighboring states and territories. The opening of the work in New Mexico soon followed, and at the beginning of the year 1900 there were three conferences in the mission—East and West

president. These positions had previously been filled in the order given, by Elders Horace S. Ensign, Frederick C. Graham, John E. Woolley, Charles E. McClellan and Jas.



GROUP OF MISSIONARIES WHOSE HEADQUARTERS IS DENVER.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
Ch. of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints.

1. JOSEPH A. McRAE, President of Colorado Mission.

2. Christian Petersen, President of East Colorado Conference.

4. Samuel G. Clark, Secretary of Mission.
5. John C. Darrington.
6. Frederick W. Wood.
7. Geo. A. Hishop.
8. Geo. A. Robinson.
9. Everard E. Cox.
10. Robt. J. Jones.

11. Daniel F. Johnson.
12. Lucy Grant.
13. Fannie Woolley.
14. Oscar G. Layton.
15. Wm. C. Hardy.
16. Robert H. Sildoway.
17. John Henry Payne.
18. Wilford S. Cragan.

3. Norman A. Brimhall, President Denver Branch.

19. William Osborne.
20. Joseph W. Haws.
21. Andrew Andersen.
22. John E. Coombs.
23. David H. Ward.
24. Cornell A. L. Decker.
25. John McCarrey.
26. Wm. O. Hardiman.

27. Seth A. Johnson.
28. Joseph S. Rasmussen.
29. Geo. W. Miller.
30. John T. Wilson.
31. Hiram W. Merrill.
32. William Everett.
33. Geo. E. Doty.

COLORADO MISSION TERRITORY.

THESE are five States and two Territories embraced within the Colorado Mission jurisdiction. They are: Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, New Mexico and Arizona. Collectively they contain numerous conferences and branches, and all are in a flourishing condition. The mission president is Elder Joseph A. McRae, and he expresses himself as thoroughly satisfied with the progress of the work. He has cheerful, energetic and intelligent corps of missionaries under his direction. Among them are two young women.

followed them there, and the missionary work began in earnest.

Naturally the first work in the Colorado mission was performed in that state, though the field was promptly extended, and Elders sent forthwith into Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico, which were included in this mission. Denver was the headquarters of the mission then as now, and gradually the work spread in the neighboring states, towns and counties, and soon many new members were added to the fold of Christ.

CONFIRMATION.

At the beginning of the year 1900 the mission was divided into three conferences, each having its own president and counselors. The first conference, known as the Denver conference, was held in that city, and the second and third conferences were held in Salt Lake and Provo, Utah.

MISSION OFFICIALS.

A conference of the entire mission was held in Denver on the 29th of April of the same year. President Joseph W. Taylor presided, and Elder Milton S. Weiss of the First Presidents of Sweden, attended. At this conference Elders Joseph A. McRae and James F. Griggs were sustained as counselors to the mission

EXPANSION CONTINUED.

Success continued to attend the labors of the Elders in the proclamation of the principles of truth in all the sections named, and further opportunity of doing good was recognized. So one more annexation to the mission was added. This time the expansion principle had been applied to Nebraska,



APOSTLE JOHN W. TAYLOR.
First President of the Colorado Mission.

and North and South Dakota. There were now five states and two territories in the mission.

On the 1st of March of the present year, President Taylor was released from his duties in presiding over the mission, and Elder Joseph A. McRae was appointed to succeed him in that position. The mission is now in a very prosperous condition, having all the

conferences that are named above together with flourishing branches in Denver, Pueblo, Ridgeway and Debeque in Colorado, one at Omaha and one at An-

great help to the authorities of the stakes, and there are seven of the latter situated in the states mentioned as comprising the mission. "We have found many who have drifted away from the body of the Church and their children have been baptized, and thus our work has been blessed in seeing some of the seed of Israel brought to a knowledge of the

TO ERECT CHURCH BUILDING IN DENVER.

JUST now the Colorado Missionaries are engaged in the laudable undertaking of providing ways and means for the erection of a Church building in Denver. For this purpose a fine site has been secured, and building operations will, it is understood, begin early in the new year. The plans have not yet been decided upon, nor is the exact cost known. Mormon architecture, however, is famed for its substantiality, and while the new edifice may not be pretentious, it is safe to say that it will in every way be a credit to its builders.

gus, New Mexico.

Writing to the Christmas "News" from Denver concerning conditions in the Colorado mission, President McRae says:

religion of their fathers. We feel that the hand of the Lord has been over us for good and that many will yet be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

"We contemplate the erection of a house of worship in the city of Denver and have already purchased the land to that end. Our observations have taught us the necessity for such a building, and we know that the Lord has blessed us so far in the efforts that we have made.

"Some opposition has been met but the people generally have been very hospitable to the Elders and have listened to our message with all the interest that we could hope when we take into consideration the prejudice that has existed for so long and the little understanding that the people have of

196 Frankfurter Allee, Berlin, Germany. Swiss—D. L. McDonald, president; 3 Bubenberg Strasse, Kirchfeld, Bern, Switzerland.

Netherlands—Sylvester Q. Cannon, president; Isaak Hubert Straat 129, Rotterdam, Holland.

Scandinavian—A. L. Skanck, president; St. Paul's Gade 14, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sandwich Islands—S. E. Woolley, president; P. O. Box 419, Honolulu, Sandwich Islands.

Australian—James Duckworth, president; 32 Toogood street Erskineville, Sydney, New South Wales.

New Zealand—J. E. Magleby, president; P. O. Box 72 Auckland, New Zealand.

Samoa—Joseph H. Merrill, president; P. O. Box 41, Apia, Upolu, Samoa.

Society Islands—Joseph Y. Haight, president; Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands.

SOME OF THE SPIRES AND DOMES OF DENVER.

DENVER is a well built city. While her business blocks are not erected on the "skyscraping" order there are nevertheless many that range between six and nine stories. The Equitable building leads. It is nine stories high, of white tile brick and granite with elaborately carved decorations. The Boston block, at Seventeenth and Champa, is of dressed brown stone with heavy carved trimmings. The Ernest & Cramer block, of most attractive architecture, and the Cooper building, the McPhes building, the Jackson building, the McMurtrie building, the Kittredge building and the Masonic Temple are the principal uptown blocks, while below Curtis street are the People's Bank building and the Railroad building. Its educational buildings are as numerous as the needs require, and all are modern and well appointed. A glance at the accompanying illustration will show that Denver has many handsome houses of worship. There are over one hundred and twenty church organizations in the city, and nearly one hundred church buildings, the most notable being St. John's Cathedral and St. Mark's (Episcopal), St. Elizabeth's (Catholic), Trinity (Methodist Episcopal), First Baptist, Central Presbyterian, Ansbury (Methodist), Central Christian, First Congregational, Temple Emanuel (Jewish) and Unity.

