



FROM FAR AND NEAR

also gave a lecture, which consisted of a mass of falsehoods and misrepresentations and shameful attacks upon the Church. All these lectures have resulted in the organization of a committee of 25 or 30 of the most prominent church men and women of the town, with Rev. Dunning as their leader. They propose to adopt the same methods that the "Mormon" Elders have, in making a house to house canvass and scatter anti-"Mormon" literature throughout the city. The Elders here are George W. Bruce, Le Roy Boren, John O. Garfield and Eugene Bingham. They anticipate great results in their favor from this excitement.

Asking for an Address.

The following letter from Schuyler, Neb., Feb. 25, is signed by Elders A. F. Acord and T. R. Lee:

The work of spreading the Gospel moves very smoothly with us here. Many of the old and respected residents have visited Salt Lake City and some have lived for a few years among the Saints. They are all "long and loud" in their praises for the "Mormon" hospitality. Some of them remember when nearly all differences were settled amicably out of courts in Zion, and very highly commend that idea, as well as the cure we take of the poor.

Those who have visited Utah in recent years refer with joy to their treatment and the courtesy of guides and of the Bureau of Information, as well as the wholesome appearance of our flourishing cities.

We have many friends, and a few investigators.

Mr. W. M. Montgomery of Schuyler, Colfax county, Neb., would like to get the address of Bro. David Tracy. Any one knowing Bro. Tracy will confer a favor upon us by giving the present address. He at one time lived in Weber canyon.

We have been holding meeting in the Baptist church at Rogers, also in some of the school houses near Schuyler. When warm weather sets in we expect to hold some street meetings in Schuyler.

DEATH OF A MAORI CHIEF.

Tamahau Mahupuku Suddenly Called Away.

Elder Leo A. Bird writes from Masterton, N. Z., Feb. 2, concerning the death of Tamahau Mahupuku. Elders who have labored in the Wairarapa district of New Zealand, and have partaken of the hospitality of the Maori chief, Tamahau Mahupuku, will no doubt be surprised to hear of his sudden death, which occurred Jan. 14, 1904, at the little Maori village Pahi-awa.

Though not a member of the Church he has indeed been a friend to the Elders. His coffin was hermetically sealed and was buried in the ground four days before burial, in order to give all Maoris who desired the privilege of attending the funeral.

Free transportation was given to all Maoris by the railroad company.

The number of Europeans and Maoris who attended the funeral was estimated at 2,000. Deceased was in his 67th year.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.

Important Business Attended to At a Recent Gathering.

The following report is sent by Elder E. H. Walker, secretary of the Indiana conference, Feb. 20, at 2 p. m. in the O. R. C. hall, 135 north Delaware street, Indianapolis.

Elder Asahel H. Woodruff, president of the Northern States mission, gave the Elders some valuable instructions. The General Authorities of the church were sustained. Elder Asahel H. Woodruff was sustained as president of Northern States mission and Elder Herman E. Ellisworth was sustained as his secretary.

Elder Edward Chamberlain, president of the Indiana conference, was honorably released to return home, and Elder George A. Little was sustained as his successor.

Elders D. H. Hopkins, Henry Esplin, C. M. Holbrook, Leo E. Shurtliff, James E. Henrie and Oscar A. Anderson were honorably released to return home.

The first two public meetings of the conference were held Saturday, 7:30 p. m., and Sunday, 11:30 a. m., at Engineers' hall. A number of the Elders bore very interesting testimonies of the Gospel. The closing session was held at the O. R. C. hall, where our regular Sunday evening services are held.

Elder D. H. Hopkins, retiring president of the branch, gave an interesting talk on "Revelation." Elder A. H. Woodruff followed with an interesting talk on "Mormonism" in its true light. A good attendance was had at all meetings. A select quartet furnished excellent singing throughout the conference.

With the death of this estimable woman, the Elders of this conference lose one of the best friends in their missionary labors. The Elders of the South Texas conference, solicit the sympathy of the Saints in behalf of the bereaved family.

The deceased was a widow, her husband having gone home about 15 years ago. Sister Behringer leaves quite a large family, but no small children, there being only three of her children yet unmarried and they are all of age. She, like many others, received the assurance from heaven that she had accepted the true Gospel, and she was given power to overcome many of the weaknesses of the flesh, a blessing for which she always felt to give the Lord the honor.

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STAKE CONFERENCES.

Report of the Conference Held at Loa.

Loa, Utah, Feb. 15.—The thirty-ninth quarterly conference of the Way of Zion was held at Loa, Utah, Feb. 15 and 16, 1904. Elder Willis E. Robinson presided. There was a good representation of stake and ward officers present and all the meetings were well attended. The Sunday school session of conference commencing at 10 a. m.

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Always the same.

Always the same.

Always the same.

Always the same.

Always the same.

Always the same.

Always the same.

Sunday morning was addressed by Elders Moroni Lazenby, Christian T. Peterson, Joseph Eckersley and Willis E. Robinson after the Sunday school exercises. The subjects treated were punctuality, thorough preparation for class work and the Word of Wisdom.

At the afternoon session, Elder Robinson traced the history of the Church from the beginning and showed that the Lord had overruled the plots of the wicked so that instead of working injury they had proved profitable to His work and to the Latter-day Saints.

Elder Joseph Eckersley presented the general and stake authorities of the Church, all of whom were sustained by unanimous vote. He then spoke upon the temporal and spiritual progress of the Latter-day work and its glorious destiny.

At 7:30 p. m. a conference meeting of the Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A. was held, when good reports and timely instructions were given by stake and ward officers.

Sunday morning, 10 a. m., Patriarch Elias H. Blackburn gave a powerful testimony and discourse upon the inspiration of the Lord as manifested in the lives and labors of the modern prophets and apostles. The Latter-day Saints, he encouraged industry and hoped the Saints of Wayne stake would be just as faithful in building up these waste places as were the early pioneers in reclaiming the barren waste of Salt Lake and Utah country.

Elder George S. Bastian made a plea for contentment on the part of the Saints living in Wayne stake. He urged that by industry and good works we try and fulfill the prophecies relating to the growth and prosperity of these valleys. We should deal kindly with the transgressor, and interest ourselves in the improvements and salvation of the youth of Zion.

At the closing session Elder Moroni Lazenby gave a good report of the religion class work and urged parents to support this grand cause, which had for its object the proper religious training of the children.

Elder Deseret U. Hickman gave some practical advice on temperance matters and commented upon the improvements being made by our young people.

Bishop Hiett E. Maxfield showed how natural it was for children to imitate their parents and elders. He commented upon the duties of ward officers and pointed out the necessity of the people producing by their labor many of the products that are now being shipped to us from the east.

Elder James P. Knight said he had traveled by rail 28 miles to attend the conference. He had the honor of being acquainted with Joseph Smith and the leaders of the Church from the beginning and knew them to be men of God. He had passed through the experiences of pioneer life and related to their lives to behold the growth of the great Latter-day work.

He realized the Saints of Wayne stake had a great mission before them in building up these waste places, but hoped they would prove faithful to their trust.

Elder Seth Taff said he hoped to see the day when the Latter-day Saints of this country would not be held in contempt by the non-"Mormons" because of their poverty. We should learn to utilize the facilities that are about us for our temporal prosperity and comfort.

The Lord would greatly bless his people if only they will be studious, industrious and keep His commandments. Elder Robinson then pronounced the benediction and the benediction was pronounced by Elder George R. Pratt.

An important item of news was inadvertently left out of the previous conference report. It related to the appointment of Elder George S. Bastian as first counselor and Elder Joseph Eckersley as second counselor in the stake presidency.

JOSEPH ECKERSLEY, Clerk.

CONFERENCE IN BUTTE.

Progress of the Work of the Lord In That Section.

Elder J. V. Leonard, president of the Butte conference, writes from Butte, Mont., Feb. 25.

The Elders and Saints met in conference on the 21st inst. at the Little hall at 902 Utah ave. At the appointed time, 10 a. m., we were most delighted to see the attendance, and the conference did we realize that our place of meeting was too small. Owing to the good labors of the Elders and the newspapers and the anticipated visit of Elder M. F. Cowley, there was scarcely standing room, and all three of our meetings were well attended.

The forenoon meeting was taken up mostly by the Elders laboring in Montana.

Elder M. F. Cowley expressed his pleasure for the privilege of being permitted to come and attend this conference. Said that all Saints were expected to be witnesses for the truth and the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and that all must be bold in standing for and defending the principles of the Gospel. Showed how the Christian ministers and learned men of the day had failed by argument to overthrow the work of God and could not prevail against the pure Gospel.

The afternoon meeting was more largely attended than the forenoon session. After several of the traveling baptemes performed, we have six who have been baptized and are now members of the Church. We feel encouraged with the prospects before us, and trust that the Lord will strengthen us for the burden that is before us, by searching out the honest in heart in this city.

Elder G. W. Hulise and I have been laboring here for the past five months, and it has kept the two of us busy, visiting the Saints and waiting upon the sick. We have in our midst a very

sick friend, who met with a severe accident some two months ago. James Johnston, he has been investigating our teachings for some time, and his home has always been open to the Elders. Brother Johnston is very low, and the end is expected some moment. We feel to sympathize for his loved wife and child.

The "News" and Era are read with interest at our headquarters, 902 Utah avenue.

BLACKFOOT STAKE.

The First Conference Held in That Part of the Church.

Blackfoot, Idaho, Feb. 15.—The first conference of the new Blackfoot stake convened at Blackfoot, Feb. 13 and 14, Elder Elias S. Kimball presiding.

Elder Hyrum M. Smith, of the Council of Apostles, and Golden Kimball, of the First Council of Elders, were present and gave excellent instructions to the assembled Saints.

Elder Kimball and his counselors, L. R. Thomas and Don C. Walker, in addressing the meeting spoke of the pleasure they had experienced on visiting the wards of the new stake to find a spirit of unity and good will prevailing.

The reports from the Bishops of the various wards were of an encouraging nature.

Sunday morning the general and stake officers were presented and unanimously sustained.

Four very interesting sessions were held, at all of which the hall was filled to its utmost capacity. It was estimated that at least 1,200 people were in attendance.

The Saints generally are enthusiastic over the new organization and sincerely believe it will result in much good.

J. T. CARRUTH, Stake Clerk.

All the native Saints, was plainly evident from their smiling countenances, hearty handshakes and expressions of good will toward the Elders when the time for parting had arrived.

The mission work is progressing very satisfactorily, and while there are not as many baptisms now as there were a year ago, yet it is the universal belief that the members are becoming stronger in the faith.

Elders Williams and Maybin arrived in the field on the fifth of this month and have a sufficient knowledge of Spanish to enable them to go to work at once.

STAR VALLEY STAKE.

Report of the Last Quarterly Conference.

Afton, Wyo., Feb. 16.—The quarterly conference of this stake convened in 1904 meetinghouse, Feb. 13 and 14, 1904. Elder George Osmond called the conference to order at 10 a. m. and welcomed the Saints. The Bishops reported the various wards favorably.

Some of the quorums were reported by the presidents. Elders Stephen K. Wilbur and Thomas Yeaman, who were "boys" in Nauvoo, gave us short sketches on the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith, they being personally acquainted with him.

The time on Saturday afternoon was occupied by the brethren giving brief sketches of their experiences in the Church, and singing by Brother Edward Davis and others. On Sunday there was a Sunday school session from 10 to 11 a. m. Elder Osmond said he was pleased to note the progress of the Sunday school work in this stake.

Elder Anson V. Call spoke on the necessity of discipline.

Elder Ephraim Jensen of Salt Lake City gave a powerful discourse on the doctrine of repentance.

Elder William O. Hardman, a returned missionary, spoke of his mission. Elder Osmond called the attention of the Saints to the building of the stake tabernacle.

The singing by the choir was highly appreciated and a good spirit prevailed throughout the conference.

WILLIAM H. KENNINGTON, Stake Clerk.

CONFERENCE AT ANACONDA.

Interest Manifested in Meetings Held at That Place.

The subjoined communication, dated Missoula, Mont., Feb. 27, is from Elder A. S. Beck:

The quarterly conference of the Anacanda branch convened in the Dewey hall, Sunday, Feb. 19, 1904. All the Elders who are laboring in the state of Montana, in number, were present; also Elder Nephi Pratt, president of the Northwestern States mission. We were also favored by the presence of Apostle Matthias F. Cowley, and Elder Ezra P. Richards. The conference had been thoroughly advertised throughout the city. The papers had shown us every courtesy in helping to spread the news and inviting all to attend. When it became known that Apostle Matthias F. Cowley, co-counsel of Senator Reed Smoot, would be present, great interest was manifested among the people. Three public meetings were held, Elder Nephi Pratt presiding. All of the Elders spoke, each occupying a portion of the time. Most of the time was given to our visiting brethren, Elders Cowley and Richards. In the evening the hall was literally packed and the audience listened with great attention to the eloquent discourse delivered by Elder Cowley upon the divine origin of the Book of Mormon. Elder Cowley also spoke of the agitation which was now being carried on against Senator Reed Smoot. He also spoke of how the different sects were beginning to adopt various doctrines which have long been taught by the Latter-day Saints.

The work seems to be progressing in this part of the world and the Elders are working diligently for the spread of truth.

The "News" and Era are welcome visitors and are much appreciated by the Elders.

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RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder John Daniel Plamm, of Rexburg, Idaho, returned Jan. 4 from Germany, wither he was sent June 11, 1901, to fill a mission. He labored in the Königsberg conference till Feb. 24, 1902, when he was banished. He then went to labor in the Dresden conference, laboring part of the time in the city of Dresden.

Elder Jonathan H. Killack, of Huntington, Emery county, who was set apart Jan. 14, 1902, for a mission to California, returned Feb. 2. He labored for three months in Humboldt county, six months in San Francisco, six months in San Bernardino, and then presided for six months over the Los Angeles conference and three months over the San Francisco conference.

His wife and children went to California when he was released, and they came home together via Portland and La Grande, Oregon, where they had a pleasant visit with relatives. Elder Killack had the pleasure of baptizing some and made many friends.

Elder Emanuel Bollschweiler, of the Fourteenth ward, this city, returned Feb. 19 from the German mission, whither he was sent Oct. 1, 1901. He labored in the Berlin conference, in the cities of Magdeburg, and Breslau with success. The first named is a new field and a very promising one. The branch in Breslau is in a flourishing condition. Though the Elders are not allowed any freedom here, the work is making slow but sure progress.

Elder Clarence M. Holbrook, of Bountiful, Davis county, returned Feb. 27, from the Northern States mission, whither he was sent Jan. 21, 1902. His field of operations was in the Indian conference, and reports a pleasant and prosperous mission, 11 months as traveling Elder, eight months as secretary, and lately looking up friends in the northern part of the state.

Elder William T. Witten, of Ogden, Weber county, passed through this city Feb. 27 on his way home from the Colorado mission, to which he was sent Nov. 25, 1902. His fields of labor were in Denver one month, six months in Pueblo, Colo., and vicinity. He reports the work in this field making satisfactory progress, and reports the work there making good progress, and the Elders doing a splendid work.

Elder Leo E. Shurtliff, of Baker City, Oregon, who was set apart April 22, 1902, for the Northern States mission, reached this city Feb. 27, on his return homeward. He labored in the Indiana conference, part of the time as secretary. He reports the work making fair progress in the Hoosier state.

Elder Horace Cutler of Fredonia, Arizona, passed through this city Feb. 25 on his way homeward from the Southern States, whither he was sent June 2, 1902, to do missionary work. He labored in the Kentucky conference with excellent success, and reports the work there making good progress, and the Elders doing a splendid work.

Elder William E. Osborne, of Spring City, Sanpete county, passed through this city, Feb. 26 on his return from the Colorado mission, to which he was sent since June 25, 1901. He labored for 16 months in east Colorado, one year in South Dakota, and the remainder of the time in Nebraska. He reports a successful mission, making many friends and some converts, and disposed of much "Mormon" literature.

Elder Albert Herman, of Montpelier, Idaho, reached this city March 2, on his return from a four-year mission to Turkey, being set apart about the last of April, 1900. He presided over the mission during his entire absence. He reports the work in Turkey, owing to internal national troubles, making but slow progress. Many are really converted to the truths of "Mormonism," but are afraid to make any religious change in their lives. The Elders have much difficulty in avoiding banishment, as the government is suspicious of all foreigners and are rather afraid they will make trouble in their intercourse with the people. But for the friendly interference of United States Minister Leishman, Elder Herman would have been banished. The minister and all the American consuls are very fair and friendly in their intercourse with the "Mormon" Elders, and protect them whenever necessary. The only real enemies the Elders have are the American sectarian missionaries, who by lying and misrepresentation make matters as disagreeable as possible for the Elders. They are the chief instigators of the movement to banish our missionaries. Consul Davis of Alexandria and Minister Leishman made branded proofs of the accusations made by the ministers, and as they could not produce proofs, the decree of banishment against Elder Herman was rescinded.

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