

through from Erie to Philadelphia. There are also two large saw mills in the town, one of them cutting 120,000 feet of lumber per day; and one furniture factory, one large tannery and a dynamite factory near by.

At the present rate the timber is being taken out, if there is not oil found or some other enterprise started up before long, I do not know what all the people will do, as this is not a good farming country. The mountains are steep and rough and where the timber has been taken off, the hills look pretty much like a porcupine back, the stumps representing the quills.

The climate here is cold, with considerable snow in winter, which is a good thing for getting out the timber, as they sometimes slide logs over a mile down the mountains over the snow. On Sunday January 31st, the thermometer was fifteen degrees below zero, and Monday it was six below; and some days the thermometer did not rise more than three above zero.

We have met with some very good, kind hearted people since arriving here on the 17th of October, and quite a number of people are earnestly investigating the Gospel. I think there will be a bountiful harvest here in the future. Though we may not reap the harvest some one else may. We have made the acquaintance of the editors and leading officials of the county and city, and have some very good friends among them, of whom Mr. William L. Thomas the county treasurer, is an excellent friend. We had heard before meeting Mr. Thomas that he was a very contentious man and a sinner, but on getting acquainted with him, to our surprise we found him quite different. He has attended several of our meetings and we spent the evening of Saturday, January 30th, and all day Sunday with him. He seems to be very well pleased with our preaching. We find quite a number of people here who believe in the Bible and do not want private interpretations put on the scriptures, and they have never belonged to any church.

Some of the ministers are feeling bad about our being here and say all they can to hinder us, and warn their congregations not to attend our meetings. One minister remarked a few days ago that he thought it a shame for us to come here and raise such a disturbance in the other churches and breaking them up; but we tell them we have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. We do not wish to tear down any person's belief. Our duty is to preach the Gospel and build them a better Gospel-house, and if they do not wish to accept it we do not want to tear them down and leave them in a worse condition. Our mission is to help exalt mankind as much as possible; yet we find the clergymen opposing and trying every plan to hinder us; but their efforts are like an advertisement to a business firm, it only causes the people to think like the Jews did with Paul when they exclaimed, "But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against." So they come out to hear what we have to say, and then they find we preach the Gospel, they are greatly disappointed and come again to see if we teach the same Gospel all the way through.

We are getting better known all the time and people are beginning to think

that we are not out preaching of our own accord but that we are called of God to preach His Gospel.

Your valuable paper comes regularly and is read with great interest; and after we read the papers we give them to our friends who are always thankful for them. The people are very kind and hospitable and the good work is progressing.

JOHN R. CRAWFORD,
JOSHUA SELLEY.

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.

T. C. FLAT, Feb. 15th, 1897.

Our Conference commenced with a Priesthood meeting at the home of Brother Higdon and concluded with another in the parlors of our friend Mr. Gagman. A number of public meetings were held in the district school house, the trustees giving us control of the same during our sojourn in the locality. A kindly competition was entered with by our friends in their efforts to outdo each other in kindness toward the Elders. After each session of our most interesting meetings, the Elders were taken to the homes of the various friends in order that all might become acquainted.

In connection with the various subjects spoken on by the Elders of this particular conference Elder Andrew Kimball, president of the mission, gave a lecture on the Gospel, illustrating the same on a black-board extending across the hall. The house was filled to its full extent and judging by the remarks of satisfaction, the lecture will do considerable good. In company with Elder Kimball was Elder John M. Knight, assistant secretary, of the mission, who also took an active part in the public meetings. Elder Kirkman's sweet tenor voice, singing the songs of Zion was greatly appreciated by all those who were so fortunate as to be present.

A box supper was afterwards given, partly in honor of the Elders, and to use their ability while here. It was one of the most interesting entertainments that ever had been given in these parts. Elder B. D. Nebeker was master of ceremonies; and one who witnessed the demonstrations would certainly be convinced that the numbers, given by the Elders were well received. There were mandolin and guitar duets by Elders Nebeker and Kirkman, solos by Elder Kirkman and the comic and pathetic recitations of Elder Knight and Elder Kimballs. But the most interesting and beneficial of all was the fast and testimony meeting, the striking feature being the power with which the Holy Ghost was poured out upon our Elders when each one stood up and bore a powerful testimony of the truthfulness to the work they were engaged in. It was the first time some here had felt the burning impression of that divine influence which accompanies all who will comply with the glorious truth brought forth through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The following Elders are laboring in the Oklahoma Conference:—

John J. Gallacher, Charles M. Holmes, Franklin Raleigh, George V. Morris Jr., Thomas G. Naylor, Charles H. Robison, John M. Kearns, Even Evanson, William Spillmor, Wells Hess, John A. Eardley, our conference president, and B. D. Nebeker, our conference secretary.

After a hearty shake of the hand and

"a God bless you," we separated, going to our respective fields of labor, with the determination to travel without purse or scrip and with a full assurance that God would administer to His servants. May the prayers of the Saints be offered up in our behalf that we may enjoy health and have the Holy Spirit to be with us continually is the wish of all Elders of the Oklahoma Conference.

BYRON D. NEBEKER, Secretary.

BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE.

REXBURG, Idaho, March 3rd, 1897.

The quarterly conference of the Bannock stake of Zion, convened in the music hall here Sunday and Monday February 28th and March 1st, two general meetings being held each day and a Priesthood meeting on Sunday evening.

The weather was fine and the building was filled each gathering.

Elder Thomas E. Ricks was the only one present of the stake presidency, both his counselors being at present engaged with the legislature at Boise. There were present, however, most of the bishops and other leading brethren of the Stake.

The opening session Sunday, was devoted to exercises by the Sunday schools of Rexburg, which rendered a program, in a very creditable manner, similar to that being given the same day by the Sunday school children in Salt Lake, in honor of the ninetieth anniversary of President Woodruff's birthday.

During the other sessions of our conference many incidents in the life of our venerable president were spoken of by the speakers, Elders Ben E. Rich and M. W. Pratt particularly dwelt upon Brother Woodruff's life, work and labors, touching upon topics of the subject familiar to many and refreshing and gladdening the hearts of all present. So also here, like in the chief city of the saints, and among many similar gatherings held these two days throughout the length and breadth of Zion, was there a spirit of love and esteem manifested and diffused among us, encouraging all to emulate the life of our worthy Prophet, Seer and Revelator.

Elders F. S. Branwell, James V. Mason and George Cole and others spoke during conference giving many practical lessons to the saints in our labors both temporal and spiritual.

Elder Amos Atkinson, resumed missionary from the Friendly Islands, gave an interesting account of his labors among the people on those distant shores.

Home missionaries were called and sustained to travel in the Stake for the next three months.

President Ricks reported a healthy condition of the Stake in all the organizations thereof. He reviewed the doings of conference and bore testimony of the trunk of the spirit that had been poured out in so rich abundance to us at this time.

The choir sang an anthem and benediction was pronounced by Patriarch A. E. Hinkleley.

JAMES GILLESPIE, Stake Clerk.

Charles Brunson, a seventeen-year-old boy addicted to the use of strong drink, killed himself at Davisville, California, March 9th, by swallowing strychnine.