

Written for this Paper

BANNOCK STAKE, IDAHO.

REXBURG, Idaho, Sept. 27.—To understand just how widespread this part of the country is, it is necessary to make a trip by team through it. The stage line gives a very fair idea of the situation, but not a complete one. Leaving St. Anthony it heads off for the southeast and in a drive of three miles enters the village of Wilford, named in honor of President Woodruff. It takes nearly as long to get out as in, for the reason above suggested, that it is a place of magnificent distances. When once its limit is reached and passed on the south we immediately enter the town of Teton—or Teton "city," as they have it hereabout. This is not because of any metropolitan characteristics which it presents, but as a kind of distinguishing term, there being a Teton basin some six miles further east.

Six miles further on and south and south of west is another "city" where the houses are no nearer together than the flight of a rifle ball and which therefore spreads itself over enough territory for a good-sized country. Evidences of thrift and substantial advancement meet the eye wherever it may turn. The farms are well fenced, the domiciles of human and quadruped are commodious as a rule and invariably comfortable, while improved agricultural machinery is everywhere.

Those who think that newspapers and books are not read extensively should undertake a historical anachronism or departure from recorded national facts, and see if he is not at once or soon after called down! The people know a good deal about such things as well as the more substantial things of life, and it is a real pleasure to talk on political subjects to the audiences that gather on short notice. These are nearly always large, attentive and composed of both sexes and all ages. The speaker, I find, need not hesitate about diving into the intricacies of the tariff on steel rails, the bounty on sugar, or the opposition to the income tax; they know something of each and are quite willing to know more. I say know more, not merely hear more, for they as well as other people are sometimes practiced on by demagogic upstarts whose rule of action is deception and whose utterances are the grossest misrepresentations, who cannot be true to friend and foe too, and think that false statements or slanderous allusions are legitimate campaign methods. But the race of such, I predict, will end as summarily here as elsewhere, and the sooner the better.

Through the enterprise of an Idaho Falls company the places named and all others on the line from that city to St. Anthony are soon to be in telephonic connection with the world abroad. By reason of the stage running both ways, each has a mail service twice a day. Just think of it—a telephone service and semi-daily postal visitations at places which a short time ago were considered some distance from anywhere! Wait till the reverberating snort of the iron horse smites the landscape—and you will not have to wait very long—then see or least hear of a community where the ratio of wealth and general advancement is equalled by few and excelled by none

whose age is not more than double that of the settlements of northern Idaho.

The Bannock Stake fair opened here yesterday morning. The brass band, which by the bye, has a well deserved reputation for excellence throughout the state, preceded and accompanied the opening with some lively airs, and in a short time the scene was one of general activity. The attendance was quite large at the beginning and gradually increased throughout the day. People in considerable numbers kept stringing along till the afternoon was well advanced, and these added to the local population, made an encouraging assemblage and imparted an appearance of liveliness all around. A visit confirmed all that had been claimed for the exposition, and even thus fortified in advance there were many gratifying surprises.

Finer vegetables and domestic handiwork were never seen since the time "Adam delved and Eve span." There are, for instance, turnips, solid and sound, that could not be placed in an ordinary water pail; beets from two to three feet in length and six to ten inches in thickness at the butt; potatoes in all varieties as large and fine as ever gladdened the heart of a Milesian or stimulated to renewed effort the persevering husbandman; cabbages so large and sound that one of them with the customary appendages would make a meal for the Utah National Guard; splendid large apples and other fruits, notwithstanding the fact that the seasons here are not considered favorable to pomology; better corn and grain than can be found elsewhere in this region, not even excepting our own productive centers; and in short the diversified blessings of nature with no protection stimulus but that of the strong arms of the grower, and no other bounty than that which naturally results from the possession of such magnificent compensation for the toil expended in getting it. The displays of artistic skill, needlework, embroidery and various articles of curiosity and vertu are too large and varied to mention; the same may be said of the stock and poultry, and of all it will be recorded that it was complete, that nothing more could be asked. Ubiquitous and urbane, with a broad smile of satisfaction upon his ruddy countenance at this outcome of the labor of love to which he and his efficient aids have devoted so much time, energy and means, is President Ricks. Explaining things minutely and answering questions before they are asked, the visitor finds in him at once an indispensable chaperon of the present occasion and living encyclopedia of information regarding the origin, progress and development of the work whose results are now for the first time partially grouped and arranged for the inspection and admiration of the onlooker. Everywhere is the handiwork and good management of the Fair committee, visible; these are T. E. Ricks Jr., chairman; James Gillespie, secretary and treasurer; John T. Smellie, Niels Nielsen and John Watts. Long may they and the good people who have strengthened their hands live to enjoy the fruits of their labors!

Hon. Edgar Wilson, Republican candidate for Congress, speaks here tomorrow night. Thus far the Democrats have held the most meetings—more, in fact, than both of their opponents combined; and there is to be no letting up until the 6th of November, when the last rays of the sinking sun have shed their subdued glow upon the field of strife. K.

NORTHERN STATES CONFERENCE.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa,
Sept. 25th, 1894.

According to previous appointment, the conference for the Northern States mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Huntington Hall at 10:30 a. m. of the 22nd inst. Elders D. F. Stout and Wm. J. Butterworth, the former president of the Northern States mission and the latter of the Iowa conference, were present, together with the following named brethren: George A. Beal, Joseph M. Jepson, Miles F. Weaver, Jens J. Jensen, Stephen A. Bunker, Joshua H. Cook, Hans J. Neilson, Philip J. Garn, Austin Kearns, traveling Elders, and of the newly arrived Elders from Utah: Chilion L. Miller, Joseph M. Green, Joshua R. Clark, Fredrick J. Christensen, Otto Johnson, Henry L. McMullin and George A. Whitlock.

All the Elders spoke during the conference, and those who had been traveling in their different fields of labor reported success in every instance. A number had been added to the Church, and a great amount of prejudice had been allayed; a friendly feeling was manifested for the Elders in most places.

The newly arrived Elders manifested a humility in expressing their feelings as to their willingness to perform the mission that might be assigned them, that was praiseworthy in the highest degree. We were favored with the presence of Charles A. Hall, of Kansas City, late president of the Hedrickite church, who was also at one time identified with the self-styled Re-organized church. Brother Hall was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints some time since, and on Sunday morning, the 23rd inst., he was ordained an Elder. Elder Hall occupied a portion of his time on Sunday afternoon, spoke on the condition of the world at the time of the coming of the Messiah, and that the world was in the same condition when the Prophet Joseph Smith, through the aid of the Lord, established the great latter-day work. He handled his subject in a masterly manner, proving himself to be a Biblical scholar, and in possession of the Spirit of God.

Elder Stout occupied the rest of the time of the afternoon meeting in an able and convincing manner. He spoke first on the second coming of the Savior, and proved by numerous quotations from the Scriptures that His second coming would be a literal one. He also spoke on the Priesthood and produced many indisputable facts that the Priesthood held by the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the same held by the Savior and His Apostles.

The general authorities of the Church and those of this mission were present.