Samoan Conference.

The semi-annual conference of the Latter Day Saints commenced at Pagalii, Upolu, Samoa, on October 8th.

At an early hour in the morning the Samoa boat arrived, bringing a number of the Saints from the south side of the island. Shortly afterwards the Apia boat, well filled with Saints, arrived from the west end of the island. After the customary greetings, and the singing of the ave, the morning meeting began, President George E. Brown-ing presiding. The following missionaries were present: President George E. Browning, R. M. Stevens, H. L. Bassett, George E. Atiel, L. A. Bailey, A. Tuitibell, George McCune, C. W. Fale, Thomas H. Hilton and C. E. Summerhays. President George E. Browning made a few opening remarks and then Elder C. W. Poole was called upon to address the congregation. Elder George E. Atiel followed. Benediction by Elder George McCune.

At the afternoon meeting Elder L. A. Bailey was the first speaker. Next came Elders C. E. Summerhays and R. M. Stevens. Benediction by Thos. H. Hilton.

After this meeting the Saints indulged in athletic sports, competing for small prizes furnished by the missionaries. In the evening the company gathered in the meeting house to witness the "siva" or native dancing. The missionaries sang some English hymns and played selections on the harmonicas. After drinking a bowl of "ava" the meeting broke up.

On Sunday morning meeting was called to order by President George E. Browning. Elder H. L. Bassett presented the names of the Apostles, of the authorities both local and general, and of the missionaries laboring in Samoa. These were all sustained by unanimous vote. After reading a report of the mission, Brother Bassett made a few remarks, and exhorted the Saints to faithfulness.

Elder George McCune spoke on the plan of salvation.

Benediction by Brother Hopa.

Afternoon meeting was also called to order by President George E. Browning, who announced the ordination of Brother Faalogo to the office of Teacher. The ordinance was performed at the hands of Elders Browning, Stevens, Tuitibell and Bassett. The president then addressed the assembly, instructing the Saints to put aside all thoughts of a temporal character, and concentrate their minds on things of the Lord.

Elder A. Tuitibell endorsed the words of the former speaker and offered a few observations on baptism.

An evening meeting was held, when President Browning invited all who felt inclined to rise and make a few remarks, the following Saints responded: Hopa, Papalii, Faiusa, Faalogo, Tapua, Naiai, Taauasi and Mala. Two others, Tafuna and Tala, nonmembers of the Church, also spoke. Elder T. H. Hilton bore a faithful testimony.

Conference adjourned for six months. Benediction by Elder George McCune.

H. L. BASSETT, Clerk.

THE TUTUILA SAINTS.

On the morning of Saturday, Sept. 13th, the Tutuila Saints assembled at Afao, in their new meeting house, on the occasion of their semi-annual conference. Brother A. L. Green, local president, presiding. The following mission missionaries were present: Brother George E. Browning, president of the Samoan mission and adjacent islands, Elders A. L. Green, A. W. Harding, F. Vancott, R. E. Dimond, William Low and James Hicks. Of the native Priesthood there were present—Isaac, Manoa and Lemafa. A congregation of about seventy assembled. The first speaker was President Browning. He gave some excellent instructions. Congregational singing; prayer by Brother James Hicks.

At 3 p.m. the Saints assembled. The speakers were Brothers James Hicks and Wm. Low. Benediction by President Browning.

Shortly after the close of this meeting three baptisms were performed, Brother Robert Dimond officiating in the ordinance. The remainder of the afternoon was passed very pleasantly, the Saints engaging in athletic sports.

On Sunday morning the Saints again met to continue their religious services. President Green presided and presented the names of the general and local authorities, traveling missionaries, etc., all of whom were sustained by a unanimous vote. A report was read showing that nineteen baptisms had been performed on Tutuila in the last five months. President Browning explained the duties of those holding the lesser Priesthood. Four Teachers and two Deacons were then ordained and the three natives who had been baptized the day previous, were confirmed. Addresses were given by Brothers F. V. Vancott and Isaac. Benediction by Brother S. Manoa.

At 10 o'clock a.m. a Sunday school meeting was held. An interesting programme was carried out, consisting in part of reading, answering questions and reciting the Articles of Faith. Singing.

Afternoon meeting was called to order by President Green. Interesting remarks were made by Brothers R. E. Dimond, A. W. Harding and A. L. Green.

An evening meeting was held and the following Saints bore testimonies—Lemafa, Isaac, Visili, Iufi, Fiatele, Tele, Seui, Tutuila and Viga.

Conference adjourned for six months.

KEEPS OUT OF SIGHT.

YET THE WORK OF THE STAGE CARPENTER IS IMPORTANT.

Next to the Stage Manager the Stage Carpenter Is Probably the Person with the Most Authority Behind the Scenes of a Theater—His Duties.

As the public must know, every well ordered theater has connected with it a body of officials who are never seen on the stage except by accident. This mechanical staff differs in size and ability, but a fair manager for a good house will comprise a stage carpenter and his assistant, a property man, a fireman, two firemen and a gateman. We still call him a "gateman," though the closed full of locks and inverted buttons manipulate electricity instead of gas in most modern houses. The new mode of lighting is more expensive than gas, but it is easier to manage and there is much less danger of fire from it.

By the way, speaking of fires, the awakening of the authorities in most cities to a consciousness of the danger from fires in theaters makes no end of trouble for the stage carpenter, as well as vast inroads on the pockets of the manager. In addition to the electric lights, Mr. Mitough has lately added to his theater a new asbestos curtain and a great pipe for water, which runs along in the flies and can be made to drench instantly every part of the stage should a fire break out among the inflammable mass of scenery and properties which must be always at hand.

Even in these days, when many combinations travel with carloads of special scenery, the theater must have a fair stock of its own. Drawing room scenes, wood scenes, cottages, kitchens and even barns must be in stock. These can be changed indefinitely by a few small set pieces to be used in front, thus affording a variety to those traveling companies who are willing to use the scenery belonging to the house. This is always desirable from the manager's point of view, as the cost of getting special scenery in and out of the theater is considerable and is always at his expense.

On the other hand, it is less troublesome than you would suppose to fit special scenery, when it is used, to the requirements of different houses. The only difficulty arises in the case of a very small theater, where the scene sometimes has to be cut and lapped.

There is a great deal of difference in the ease with which scenery may be handled. Take, for instance, the opera scene in "Cleopatra." The one used by Mme. Bernhardt was made in France, and was so heavy and massive that it gave no end of trouble wherever it went. Fanny Davenport's was much lighter and more easily handled, although the effect was more elaborate. We could prepare it in a very short time and without the slightest hitch. Some actors and stage managers are much more fastidious one than others.

Mr. Mansfield is the most exacting person in this respect that I know. More things have to be hired for a Mansfield engagement than for any other three companies. Another very trying season for the stage carpenter is when grand opera comes to town for a week and the bill is changed every night. Seven performances, each one with different scenery and properties, involve a lot of troublesome detail for some one.

Every theater has its own paint frame and paint bridge, and when new scenery is required the scene painter usually comes and does the work on the spot. Everything concerned in this stagesetting is short lived, and soon becomes very shabby on near view. In drawing room scenes the upholstered furniture is cared for as well as possible, but the constant hasty handling soon makes it battered and worn. In fact, the best material for sofas, cushions, bric-a-brac of large size, even for chairs, is the papier mache, with which a clever property man can work such wonders. It is light and easily handled, and stands hard knocks remarkably well.

The stage carpenter usually gets his plan of the scenes required for a coming attraction some time in advance of the engagement. He must meet as many of the needs as he can out of his stock in hand, and then arrange for the manufacture or rental of the rest. He must be on hand at every performance to see about the actual work of changing the scenes, and be ready to set straight any accident which may occur. His business is a regular trade, as in fact is that of every person on the mechanical staff of the house. The carpenter must even accompany the flyman in his perilous duties aloft if occasion requires.

By the way, I once had a flyman who was an old sailor, and found that a nautical career was the best possible training for the business. He was the handiest man at getting around I ever saw, and if a rope broke he could splice it with marvelous speed. Besides all these duties the stage carpenter attends to repairs in other parts of the house, and makes improvements wherever he can. I have just come this morning from the skylight, where we need larger openings for the escape of smoke, warm air, etc. The ventilation around a stage must be quick and thorough, so that when powder is used in volleys all smoke and odor will pass quickly off.—B. F. Morrison in Kate Field's Washington.

Chased by a Wild Car.

"I was chased once by a box car," said Harry G. Moore, an experienced man. "It was out in Colorado, the land of steep grades and sharp curves. We were sliding down the mountains one day with a baggage car and two coaches. I was on the rear platform looking at the road when I descried a box car coming down the grade at a rate of speed that was appalling. It it struck us we were done sure, for it would smash the entire train into kindling wood and pile it up in one of the gorges. Our only hope was either to outrun or wreck it. The engineer caught sight of it at the same instant that I did and put the lever down among the yellow pots. It appeared impossible that we could hold the track on the sharp curves while moving more than a mile a minute, but we did, and the box car continued to saw wood.

"If we could once get to the foot of the grade we would be safe, but that was soon seen to be impossible. Rapidly as we were going the box car continued to gain upon us, and now we could see that it was loaded with iron. Something must be done and that quickly. All the passengers had fled into the forward coach and were hanging on to the seats. I signaled the engineer to shut off, set a brake hard on the rear coach, pulled the pin and the engineer opened the throttle. We had not gone 100 yards before the box car ran into the coach and sent splinters flying a quarter of a mile high. Both went plunging over into a chasm."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Perhaps it would not be a bad idea for Champion Corbett to take George Francis Train's advice to "stand on your laurels and quit ring for stage." His great victory in the prize fight would be a send off that would serve to advertise him for ten years.

The bicycle boy is now the only rival Nancy Hanks need fear. Her best trotting mile has already been beaten by the champion wheelman, Arthur Elmermann. In his great run at Springfield, Mass., he made a mile in a fifth of a second less time than Nancy's best.

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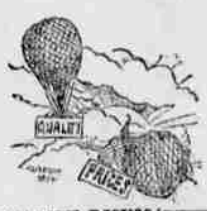

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