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THE SAMOAN MISSION.

The following report of the semi-annual conference of the Samoan branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints held at Fogatuli, April 29th and May 18th, has been received by the First Presidency:

This conference, which we had long looked forward to, was convened at Fogatuli, a small village situated on the west side of the island of Savali, and some 200 feet above the sea. The Saints of the Laleanlee branch, with Elders C. W. Poole, and Abelbert Twitchell, arrived by boat and walked some twenty miles to reach Fogatuli, a journey of some sixty miles in all. None of the Saints living on the south and east sides of the islands could attend, as they were hindered through some of their village customs, which had to be attended to. If they had failed in this it would have ended in their houses being burned over their heads. Thus Elders C. R. Thomason and J. H. Carpenter had to walk alone some 55 miles, and reached Fogatuli about an hour before Elders Poole and Twitchell, on Friday afternoon April 28th, where we were received by Elders J. H. Merrill and C. H. Bridges. It was indeed a joyous meeting for us all after six months' separation. Here was a nice bamboo plated house for us to locate in, which had only just been completed an hour or two before our arrival, and which will stand as a monument to the untiring zeal and energy of Elders Merrill and Bridges, who sawed the lumber, some two thousand feet, notwithstanding rain or sun and the many difficulties attending such a work in Samoa. It is a building 16x32 feet and made entirely of native lumber. We thus have a nice meeting house which we have long felt the need of. It is unique in its kind and gives us much prestige on that side of the island. It will be productive, we feel, of a great deal of good.

Saturday, April 29th, was usefully employed. The morning was taken up in preparing food, etc., for our feast, which we held about noon and consisted of the usual Samoan fare on such occasions, viz., taro, chicken, pigs, bananas, cocoa nuts and food prepared from the same, and also some three sharks which had been caught that morning and which the Samoans think considerably of. The

feast is one of the great items with Samoans. When it was over, we had some native dances. The Saleaula school boys, nicely attired in their native style, with oiled bodies and decorated with bright berries and flowers, went through a series of very pretty figures while in a sitting posture, singing at the same time. Among one of the items was a piece on the journey of Lehi and family to America. When they had finished the Fogatuli people gave their dance in return. The rest of the afternoon passed in the athletic sports of running races of various kinds which created much amusement for the spectators as well as profit to the successful contestants. In the evening all assembled in the meeting house, and a very pleasant evening was spent in presenting prizes to the school children for their labor and studies during the past six months, some forty-five children more or less, getting some little prize, according to the diligence shown. This, together with singing and music, closed a very enjoyable day.

At midnight, just as we were going to bed, we were agreeably surprised to see Elder Geo. E. Browning, president of the mission, appear to gladden our hearts. We had almost given him up, as Fogatuli is very difficult to reach from Upolu, and there were many hindrances to his coming, among others the severe sickness of Elder Morgan, who had to return home by the steamer on April 26th. Elder Browning had come 35 miles that day, mostly on foot, and was just about worn out with his long and tedious journey. Only his desire to reach conference in time could have induced him to attempt such a journey in the short time he had to accomplish it.

On Sunday, April 30th, a meeting of some seventy souls convened in the new meeting house at 8 a.m. The Elders present were George E. Browning, J. H. Carpenter, C. H. Bridges, A. Twitchell, J. H. Merrill, C. R. Thomason and C. W. Poole. The meeting house was dedicated to the Lord, Elder Browning offering the dedicatory prayer. Elder Poole then addressed the conference on the principle of baptism, stating that the earth had already obeyed that principle and would soon be ready for the baptism by fire, when it would be purified, thus inculcating obedience to the same law by all mankind.

Elder Merrill followed, speaking on the kingdom to be set up in the last days as seen by Daniel in the stone cut from the mountain without hands, which was to fill the whole earth. He referred to the state of the sectarian world as Paul stated to Timothy would be the case in the last days, when people would turn from the truth to believing in fables.

At 11 a.m. Sunday school was held, some fifty being present. Elder Merrill presiding Elder of the Salega district, presided at this and all subsequent meetings of the conference. All present were greatly pleased to listen to the exercises of the children which consisted in narrations of items in I Samuel, such as the call of Samuel, anointing of Saul, also of David, and his slaying of Goliath. Some half dozen boys and girls also gave an account of items from the Book of Mormon bearing on the journey of Lehi and family to America. The Laleanlee school boys and girls thus gave evidence of the care and attention that Elders Poole and Twitchell had expended upon them. The Fogatuli school children tendered in unison and singly an interesting exercise on the first principles of the Gospel, prepared by Elder Merrill for the occasion.

The afternoon meeting convened at 4 o'clock with about sixty persons present. The names of the First Presidency Twelve Apostles, the Elders and local staff laboring on Samoa were presented by Elder J. H. Carpenter to the conference and were all unanimously sustained by the congregation. Elder Browning then addressed the conference. He referred to Jude 17-19 verses; the necessity of getting a testimony of the work of the Lord; the restoration of the Gospel in our generation, and to some of the evil habits of the Samoans, notably the smoking of tobacco, and counseled them to refrain from the same.

At 7 p.m. a testimony meeting was held for the Saints. Some sixty people were present. Six native brethren and sisters addressed the meeting and gave most excellent testimonies to the truth of the work. This occupied about two hours.

On Monday, May 1st, the meeting was called to order at 7 a.m., by Elder Merrill. Elder C. H. Bridges addressed a congregation of about 50 persons and exhorted them to diligence in the work and obedience to