

Elders Thomas Blackburn and Walter P. Rich, New Paris, Bedford county.
 JOSHUA SELLEY, President
 West Pennsylvania Conference.
 JOHN Y. BARLOW, Clerk.

CONDITIONS IN IOWA.

MATLOCK, Iowa, June 27th, 1897.

Having been called to fill a mission to the Northern States, I left my home on the 15th of December, 1896, and Salt Lake City on the 19th, at 7 a. m. Elders John L. Parcells, of Wallburg, Wasatch county, and Jonathan H. Hales Jr., of Perry, Bannock State, Idaho, were my traveling companions, and we arrived in Kansas city at 8.45 a. m. I there received my appointment to labor in the state of Iowa, and, having friends in this state, located in Tama county, my request to visit them was granted, and I stayed with them until the ninth of February. I was then appointed to labor in Marshalltown, Marshall county, in company with Elder Daniel J. McRae. After laboring there with him one month, his health failed and he was released to return home. I was then appointed to go and labor with our worthy conference president, L. A. Colvin, in the city of Des Moines, where I stayed until our conference, the 10th and 11th of April. Then I was appointed to labor with James D. Coon, of Ritter, Salt Lake county, Utah, in Lyons county, Iowa.

About the first of June, new companions were sent to us, Elder Enos Ormond having been appointed to labor with me; but, having sustained an injury to his body about two years ago, he could not stand the traveling in a thinly settled county, and was sent to labor in Sioux city. Elder John G. Watt was sent to labor with me; and since his arrival we have held some meetings, the most of them poorly attended. Most of the people are German and belong to the Lutheran, Presbyterian or Reformed German, which they say is good enough for them.

We travel here as the Elders do elsewhere, without purse or scrip. We do not find much prejudice existing against the Church in these parts, some of the people scarcely knowing that there is such a Church in existence as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or Mormons. Still, we find some good honest souls that are willing to investigate, and I believe that our labors will be crowned with some success.

Perhaps a few lines in regard to the people's financial condition here would be of interest to the readers of the News. I think that about half of the inhabitants here are renters, the land being owned by large landholders most of whom charge a cash rent of \$2.50 and \$3 per acre. The renters tell me that they raise thirty to thirty-five bushels of corn to the acre, for which it is hard for them to get ten cents per bushel now; the barley and oat yield is about fifty bushels to the acre, oats selling for ten and eleven cents and barley about sixteen cents. Wheat yields about twenty bushels to the acre and has been selling at fifty to sixty-four cents. I can hardly see how they can get a subsistence out of it if they had the rent thrown in; we have seen as much as seven and eight sections of land belonging to one man, in some cases they farming it with hired help, and in others renting it out. The outlook for crops in this part of the state

is rather poor this year, owing to having a dry and cold spring.

If there are any of the Saints that have friends in this part of the state of Iowa, and will correspond with us we will be glad to call on them. The people here, as a rule, are hospitable and kind to the Elders, in most cases telling us to come again if we ever come that way. The Elders of the Iowa conference are all in good health and enjoying their labors.

HENRY BISEL.

THE WORK IN INDIANA.

GREENWOOD, Indiana,

June 16th, 1897.

A few items of missionary experience, also an interview with one of the guards in charge of the Prophet Joseph Smith, in the year 1842, at Far West, Caldwell county, Mo., also at Liberty, Clay county, Mo., may be of interest to many readers of your valuable paper.

After conference, held at Columbus, Indiana, I was appointed to open up a new field in Johnson county, Ind., with Greenwood as my postoffice address, to labor with Elder Thomas S. Cook. It being but ten miles from Indianapolis, the capitol of the state, we went up and paid a visit with the Elders in that city. After taking in the sights for a day or two, including parks, museum, and state capitol building, a very beautiful structure, erected at a cost of two millions of dollars, and was eleven years in course of erection. We also visited the famous Soldiers' monument, which towers upwards of 300 feet, erected in honor of those patriots, whose lives were offered in the purchase of liberty and freedom.

After visiting a few days, we repaired to our field of labor, and at once began to find friends and many who would listen to our message. We found Greenwood to be the home of Dr. S. E. Wishard and wife, of "Utah Presbyterian" fame. We met many who were very kind to us and were well informed of affairs in Utah. After several days Elder Cook took the chills, and went up to Indianapolis, and Elder Nels C. Nelson, of Bloomington, Idaho, who was laboring with Elder J. E. Cardon, accompanied me for a few days.

We had a most successful trip, during which time we met Mr. Henry Tressler, of Brownstown, Johnson county, Indiana, one of the guards who had charge of the Prophet Joseph Smith, at Far West, Caldwell county, Mo., from which place he was taken to Liberty, Clay county, Mo. In the company were Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, John Taylor and others. The first night out from Far West, camp was made in the woods, at which time Mr. Tressler says he and the Prophet Joseph sat upon a log and broiled meat together on a log fire. He was also the steward during the imprisonment at Liberty, at which time he had many conversations with the Prophet Joseph, who presented him with a Book of Mormon, which is highly prized by him. He also saw the rolls of Papyrus from which the Pearl of Great Price was translated, and procured a piece of the bandage that was wrapped around one of the mummies exhibited by Mr. Chandler. He accompanied the prisoners from Liberty, Mo., to Nauvoo, Illinois, on a change of venue, and then returned to his home in Missouri.

When asked as to the real cause of the persecutions of the Saints, and the

character of them, he stated that the Saints were an honest, industrious, law-abiding class of citizens, and were persecuted and driven by a ruthless mob with no other purpose in view than plunder and to secure their homes and other property. While he says he could not see as they did religiously, he states they were an honest, Godfearing, virtuous people, and did not violate any of the laws of the state.

After an interview of about three hours, we left him with a hearty handshake, and a request to call on him again. Mr. Tressler is a bright, intelligent gentleman of eighty-six years, is well spoken of by all who know him, and bears his testimony to a man that Joseph Smith was an honest, law-abiding citizen.

Will conclude with many thanks for your valuable paper, which is ever a welcome visitor to the Elders.

FOSTER W. JONES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ALEXANDRIA, Sydney, N. S. W.,

Australia, May 28th, 1897.

Since my last to you I have continued to enjoy my labors, traveling by land and sea, to minister the word of God, about 1,300 miles, about half of this distance on foot.

In my visits among the people in Tasmania, I held many conversations upon the principles of the Gospel, also bore many testimonies to the truthfulness of the work of God. Many received the message with kindness, inviting us to call again. I traveled some with Elders William Harvey and C. A. Orme, on my long journeys and we were made welcome in almost every town we visited.

When we were not able to get assistance from the people of the parishes, we visited the ministers and in almost every instance were received by them. In some instances we would be amused, at the way these men would turn the scriptures; they would be allowed to go a certain pace without interruption, then they would be asked questions regarding some of the statements made; they would make some sort of an answer to hide up the truth, then the pure testimony would be given them. Some asked if we were not afraid to meet these men, and they were told that we rejoiced when we had a meeting with them. We were given shelter by every minister, but one, whom we asked. They all were very anxious to know how long we were going to be in town, and what we intended doing. In some instances we were only passing through the place, and needed shelter as night overtook us; they were much relieved when we told them we were not going to do anything as yet, but promised them a visit in the near future.

My visits in Tasmania came to an end, for a while at least, for, at the April Conference of the Church in the Australasian mission, I was appointed to preside over the N. S. Wales conference, and on the 7th of May, I took my departure from Saints and friends for my new field. After passing over a rough sea occupying two days Sydney was reached. Elders John M. Richie, one of my companion Elders, and returning Elder Nels P. Nelson, met me at the wharf and took me to the Bellevue house, the headquarters of the arriving and returning missionaries in this part of the world; there I met two other Elders, T.