

there, where he is now gradually recovering from his illness.

On Monday, Jan. 11 the State Legislature met and organized with the following officers:

#### SENATE.

President, Aquila Nebeker of Rich. Secretary, John E. Hansen of Salt Lake.  
Minute clerk, C. M. Jackson of Salt Lake.  
Docket clerk, Miss Alice White of Beaver.  
Engrossing and enrolling clerk, Thomas M. Evans of Box Elder.  
Committee clerks, L. C. Johnson of Salt Lake, and Miss Otella Halgren of Weber.  
Chaplain, M. L. Pratt of Utah.  
Doorkeeper, John G. McQuarrie of Washington.  
Watchman, Frank Jardine of Tooele.  
Messenger, Andrew Ferguson of Utah.

#### HOUSE.

Speaker, John N. Perkins of Weber.  
Minute Clerk—Mat. Thomas, Davis.  
Docket Clerk—Joseph M. Cobet, Salt Lake.  
Engrossing and Enrolling Clerk—Mrs. A. U. Hobson, Cache.  
Committee Clerk—George Hoyer, Juab, and Magnus Rolph, Sanpete.  
Chaplain—Rev. Ira N. Hinckley Jr., Millard.  
Sergeant-at-Arms—Aaron Johnson, Utah.  
Doorkeeper—Col. Sullivan, Weber.  
Watchman—J. M. Grant, Rich.  
Messengers—Frank Rippon, Summit, and Thomas F. Thomas, Salt Lake.

Elder George Bowles of the Ninth ward, this city, called on the NEWS having returned from a mission to New Zealand this morning. Elder Bowles left home May 21, 1893, and was first assigned to labor in the Wairarapa district. After nine months' labor in that locality he was appointed president of the district, remaining as such until the conference of 1896, when he was transferred to the presidency of the Waikato district, where he remained until released to return home.

Elder Bowles speaks very highly of the mission which he says is prospering nicely. The Europeans there are well disposed towards the Gospel and a good work is being done among them. The king of New Zealand resides on the Waikato island and Elder Bowles had the privilege of visiting him and his prophets. The Maori people are fast embracing the principles of the Gospel and those who belong to the Church are feeling well in the work.

The homeward passage was made on the steamship Mlowers, operated by the Huggard Parker company and captained by Charles William Hay. Mr. Hay and his officers were very kind to the company en route and showed them all kindness and respect. When out about eighty miles from Sydney, an accident occurred to the ship's boiler, but fortunately none of the company were injured although the accident was a very serious one. Two meetings were held on the ship, to the great enjoyment of all on board.

In the returning company were Elders W. F. Armstrong, D. H. Liv-

ingstone and Charles S. Crow of this city, Joseph Stevenson of Ogden, R. E. Scott of Provo and Jedediah and Willard Goff of West Jordan, as well as Elder Bowles and nine emigrating Saints.

Utah has cast its first vote for the President and Vice-President for the United States. It was done by the State presidential electors, Robert C. Lund, chairman, Henry W. Lawrence, secretary, and John J. Daly. The meeting was held at the secretary of State's office, and was witnessed by a large crowd of representative citizens. All the State officers were present, Governor Wells, Secretary Hammond, Attorney General Bishop, State Auditor Richards and members of both houses of the Legislature, including the lady members.

After the reading of the minutes of Saturday's proceedings and passing upon the certificate of form, Mr. Lawrence moved that the vote of the members be taken for President of the United States. The vote was taken by ballot and the secretary announced the votes of Lund, Daly and Lawrence unanimous for William J. Bryan, of Nebraska. Loud applause followed the announcement.

The vote for Vice President was then taken in the same form resulting in Daly and Lund casting their votes for Arthur J. Sewall of Maine and Lawrence voting for Thomas E. Watson of Georgia. Hearty applause again greeted the announcement.

Daly moved that they proceed in accordance with the law to ballot for messenger to carry the vote to Washington. Carried.

Lawrence then arose and said, "I don't think any convention has the right to designate who the members of this electoral college shall appoint messenger. I understand it has been done in this instance. To serve as a precedent for the future I wish to go on record as being opposed to the method, but out of deference to the gentleman named I intend to vote for him." A ballot was then taken and the secretary announced that the unanimous choice of the members was for Hadley D. Johnson Esq. The meeting then adjourned.

Observer J. H. Smith, of the weather bureau in Salt Lake City sends to the NEWS the following interesting report received at the local weather bureau office from the voluntary observer of the weather bureau at Grover, Wayne county, Utah:

GROVER, Wayne county, Utah, January 1st, 1897.—The year just closed has been phenomenal and paradoxical.

1. Opening with an ample water supply, yet experiencing a shortage by midsummer.

2. A late and unpropitious spring followed by a remarkable period of drill and cloudy weather which seemed to force a growth of farm crops and resulting in an earlier harvest than ordinary.

3. A dry, droughty summer with precipitation so unevenly distributed as to cause damaging floods.

4. Yet, withal, a genial fall, so that despite the feeling of unrest that nearly every one experienced, a fair average crop of staples were har-

vested, with the exception of potatoes.

Grover precipitation data for 1896 is not fairly representative, for it seems to be the only locality that has not been visited by cloudbursts or floods. The north and east side of Wayne in August and September respectively had rain and floods causing much damage, especially in the east part the end of September. Yet Grover district can show scars of terrible local floods in the not yet misty past. The rain did very little benefit to the ranges, so that range feed is short and stock have suffered, and are likely to suffer still more this winter. Eighteen hundred and ninety-six was a year comparatively free from epidemics, consequently was relatively healthy, winding up with grain realizing the highest market price that has been reached for a long time, v. z. here at 55 cents per 60 pounds.

HENRY CULLUM,  
Voluntary Observer.

PRICE, Utah, Jan. 6, 1897.

Thinking it might be encouraging to others, I write you a few items of a "Priesthood reunion" of High Priests, Seventies and Elders held in the Price ward on Tuesday, January 5th, 1897.

By courtesy of the board of trustees of Price town, the new spacious hall belonging to the town was given free of charge to hold the assemblage in.

At 10 a. m. the never-tiring bell of the meeting house was rung as a signal to congregate together, and shortly afterwards a program previously arranged was being carried out. The first piece was singing by the choir under the leadership of Brother Samuel Cox, which was very inspiring. Then came the opening prayer. Appropriate remarks were made by F. M. Ewell, of Spring Glen ward, Samuel Cox, of Price ward, and William J. Hill, of Wellington ward, who are presidents of the 101st quorum of Seventies. Songs and recitations were interspersed.

At 12 noon the majority repaired to the meeting house, where the committee of arrangements had a sumptuous repast spread out on tables in waiting, and in a very artistic manner. After a blessing offered to the Giver of all good, all proceeded with a will and a good appetite to appease the inner man. There was an abundance of good things, and great credit is due to the willing hands that prepared the same.

At 2 p. m. the assemblage again repaired to the hall, which is situated on the adjoining lot, to further continue the program. The speakers in the afternoon were E. W. McIntire and Bishop E. H. Horsley of Price ward, who spoke upon the organization of the Church and the order of the Priesthood, and duties devolving upon those holding the Priesthood. Selections by the choir, recitations and songs were rendered.

Friends and strangers were invited to meet with us, and quite a number of them could be seen to the assemblage. It was a time greatly enjoyed and long to be remembered.

A supper was given to the visiting friends from other wards at 5:30 p. m., concluding the evening with a ball which was one of the largest ever held in the ward.  
E. A. N.