

or less extent and would be pleased to hear of our annual conference, I take pleasure in penning you these lines. At the "Hui Tau" of 1896, held at Taniaki, Hawke Bay, it was then decided that the Wairarapa should be the scene of our annual gathering this year.

Tamahau Mahupuku, an influential Rangatira of Papawai, though not a member of the Church, called the Hui at his place. For the past few months the place appoluted has presented a busy scene, as great preparations have been going on. A immense frame house which is to be used for large gatherings so characteristic among the Maori people had been erected, a portion of which was turned over to us in which our meetings were held.

On the 1st inst. Saints and Elders commenced to gather, and for three days following as each train arrived the air was rent by the music from a recently organized brass band, composed of young Maoris, and the shouts of the natives engaged in their "hokas." Of course the "whakakorero" was indulged in until a late hour on each evening.

On Saturday, the new house was formally opened by all partaking of a great feast.

Sunday, April 4th, our conference began at 10 o'clock, with several hundred Saints in attendance, and twenty-eight Elders from Zion. In the opening prayer the building was also dedicated.

I made a few introductory remarks, greeting all who had assembled and reporting briefly the condition of the work throughout the mission. I also compared the totals of the statistical report of 1895 with those of 1896, showing a total increase of 374. Of this number 237 are Maoris and 137 Europeans.

At the afternoon session a great many Europeans were in attendance, so the time was occupied by European Elders, through an interpreter, so that all could have the benefit of what was said. Three meetings were held each day of the 4th, 5th and 6th, during which time nearly all the Elders spoke, and a great many natives.

Halls had been secured at Carterton and Greytown North by the Elders laboring among the Europeans of the Wairarapa district, in which public meetings were held, as follows: Carterton Sunday afternoon and evening; Greytown North Monday and Tuesday evenings. The attendance at the meetings was not large, but those who did attend were very attentive.

Our Elders' meeting was held on the 7th inst. and, as before, proved the cream of the conference. Nearly five hours were consumed in testifying, relating experiences, speaking of the goodness of God, and asking and answering questions. Truly it was a time of rejoicing for us all.

The epistle from the First Presidency was received with gladness by our native brethren and sisters; each one listening attentively to catch every word contained therein. The epistle from the association and one from Elder Wm. Paxman were listened to most attentively. It certainly does the Saints good to know that they are not forgotten by the returned Elders. A few individual letters from Hiri-

Whanga were also read in our hearing.

The leading men from each district in attendance at the conference held a meeting to decide where our next "Hui Tau" is to convene. Wairarapa was again successful in securing it, and it is expected that next year will find us holding forth in the quarters we have just vacated.

The treatment received by us at the hands of the outsiders during the Hui was certainly commendable and deserves special mention. Tamahau virtually turned his dominion over to us. We were favored with delightful weather during the entire conference, which aided greatly in making everything pass off so smoothly.

Since the Northern conference in Waikato I have attended several district conferences, and am now en route for the South Island. I am pleased to report the condition of the mission as fairly prosperous, and the health of the Elders, with but one or two exceptions, very good.

All Elders join in sending kindest regards to members of the association, and in wishing you all success in your endeavor for good.

E. F. RICHARDS.

WAYNE COUNTY NEWS.

Loa, Utah, May 8, 1897.

Wednesday, May 6th, was the 70th anniversary of the birth of one of Wayne county's most industrious, energetic and worthy citizens, George Coleman, Bishop of Teasdale ward. Brother Coleman received the Gospel in his boyhood days and emigrated with his parents from England to Nauvoo in the days of his youth. He has been a good, faithful Saint all his life and one beloved and respected for his kind and genial spirit, his hospitable disposition and the noble example of honesty and integrity he has set his fellowmen. For a man of his years he enjoys good health, and this spring he was seen sowing grain and working upon his farm in weather when the young men, sought shelter and comfort by the fireside. There are few Bishops in Zion who more promptly attend to all their duties than he, and few there are who are more beloved and honored as fathers in Israel.

His birthday was appropriately celebrated by a large host of relatives and friends of Teasdale and adjoining towns assembling at the dwelling of the Bishop and indulging in the pleasures of the day. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon more than fifty adults, besides children, were seated at tables that fairly groaned under the weight of the delicacies and the rich things of earth spread thereon. After all had satisfied their appetites some retired to the summer house to scent the sweet fragrance and view the pretty flowers so tenderly nursed and cared for by the Bishop's amiable wife, while others strolled into the garden and orchard to listen to the twittering of the birds, behold the blossoming fruit trees and enjoy the beauties of spring. Later in the day all reassembled at the residence and an excellent program was rendered, consisting of music and song, poetry composed for the occasion, recitations and appropriate addresses delivered by Patriarch Frank-

lin W. Young, Elder Joseph Eckerley and Elder Gearson S. Bastian interspersed with cake and ice cream. A free dance was given to the children of Teasdale in the afternoon and one to the adults at night in honor of the occasion. All enjoyed themselves immensely; nothing transpired to disturb the peace, quiet and happiness of the merry throng; aged women and venerable sires sang and danced as they used to do in days of yore, related experiences of pioneer life, bore powerful testimonies of the Gospel and all rejoiced greatly in the goodness of God. May the God of Israel lengthen out the days of Bishop Coleman and crown his future years with comfort, peace and joy!

The wife of Bishop Matthew W. Mansfield, of Thurber, Wayne county, Utah, departed this life May the 6th, 1897, leaving a husband and six small children to mourn her loss, the youngest a babe ten days old. Sister Mansfield was a good, kind, hospitable woman, an affectionate mother, a devoted wife and a true Latter-day Saint, esteemed by friends and beloved by the Saints.

The funeral services were held at the Thurber meeting house on the 6th inst., when Patriarch Franklin W. Young and Elders Gearson S. Bastian and Joseph Eckerley addressed the people. The house was well filled and a large crowd followed the corpse to its last resting place. CLEWORTH.

ST. CHARLES NEWS.

ST. CHARLES, Idaho, May 9, 1897.

Bear Lake has just passed through another long and hard winter, with lots of snow yet in the mountains—a sure indication of plenty of water the coming summer.

Considerable grain and garden truck was planted last week. Some of the spring wheat is beginning to come up.

There was so much rain last fall that the ground was thoroughly saturated; then we had about two feet of snow fall since the first of February, and the ground not being frozen, as the snow melted but a very little of the water ran off, so the ground was in first class shape for farming.

Much of the winter wheat was killed, it is supposed, by there being so little snow in the early part of winter, and a hard freeze in November while the ground was very wet.

It has been very warm for some time for this time of year, until last Friday, when a cold north wind came up, and by dark a few flakes of snow fell. It cleared off before morning and froze very hard; it is still quite chilly.

Lucern is beginning to look quite green, also the grass on the foothills.

A very serious and painful accident happened a few days since to the thirteen-year-old boy of Alonzo and Amy Cook. It was about as follows: The boy was at the corral feeding the stock, when a horse that was loose, it is supposed, kicked at a cow, but missed her, the boy receiving the kick in the face, striking him over the left eye and breaking his nose. It was feared for a time that the eye was injured so badly that he would certainly lose the sight, but I am pleased to say there are hopes that such will not be the case.