

districts and was pleased to meet so many who had remained faithful to their covenants.

He exhorted all the Saints to sustain the Elders by their faith and prayers, for they had left homes and families to minister unto Israel in this land, and were the true servants of God. He testified that all who obeyed the commandments of God would receive His Spirit to enable them to overcome their weaknesses. He further counseled the Saints to refrain from gambling and other kindred sins, that the Spirit of God might abide with them.

Elder Joseph S. Groesbeck, president of the Manawatu district, reported his labors in the south part of the island. There are five branches in the district, and most of the Saints are faithful and diligent in keeping the commandments of God. He had traveled amongst the Maori people for the past three years and was gratified with the progress that was being made, and it was always a pleasure to meet the people when they were striving to do right.

Elder B. Goddard addressed the congregation, referring to the visits in some of the branches and his pleasure to see such a large attendance at conference; taught the importance of attending to every duty and especially observing the instructions imparted by the servants of God, that the soul might be fed with the bread of life; commented on the parable of the ten virgins, and urged the Saints to prepare their hearts to receive the blessings of heaven.

Meeting was adjourned till 2 p. m., and was closed with singing hymn 40. Prayer by Henari Ruru.

The afternoon services were opened with singing hymn 28. Prayer by Te Watene Huka.

Elder John H. Burton, president of the Mahia district, congratulated the Saints on the good spirit that prevailed; stated that there were seven branches in the Mahia district, and very many earnest workers.

The presidents of the branches were all exemplary men, none of them using tobacco, but all striving to magnify their callings.

Priesthood meetings were held regularly, which were well attended. A Church school was organized in the district, with Elder James Hixson as teacher, and it was well attended by the Maori children, and great good was being done by it.

Elder Burton stated that he had attended four annual conferences in New Zealand, and always profited by the instructions given. He urged the Saints to continue faithful, and warned them against the seductive influences of Satan.

Elders P. P. Thomas, James Hixson and Te Hira Paea bore their testimonies to the truths of the Gospel and the blessings enjoyed by the Saints of God.

Te Hira Paea is president of the Uawa branch, and referred to Lehi's address to Laman and Lemuel and the lessons to be learned from it. He spoke fluently and interspersed his remarks with several beautiful metaphors.

A testimony meeting was held in the evening and the usual good spirit prevailed. Several hours were spent listening to testimonies of the Saints,

and all seemed to be anxious to speak of the goodness of God to His people.

SECOND DAY.

Conference was called to order at 10 a. m. by President Stewart and opened with singing hymn 89. Prayer by Elder Nuku.

Elder O. C. Dunford was the first speaker, and he reported Wairarapa district and stated that it was a great satisfaction to him to be able to give a good report. The presidents and the majority of the members of the five branches in that district are faithful in their duties and callings. They have great faith in the ordinances of the Gospel and in cases of sickness rely upon the power of the Priesthood and the administration of oil, believing that "the prayer of faith will heal the sick."

Elder Joseph S. Groesbeck read letters of loving greeting from President Wm. Paxman and President W. S. Bingham, which were very encouraging and gratifying to all the Saints assembled. Such spirited epistles from Zion have a great influence for good, and are highly appreciated by the members and the Elders.

Elders W. Gibson and E. Atkin bore their testimonies and referred to their labors and the blessings enjoyed by the Saints in the latter days.

Elder John G. Kelson, President of the Hawkes Bay district, stated that he had labored there for eighteen months and believed that the majority of the Saints in that district were rejoicing in the blessings of God through their faithfulness. The Maoris are subject to many temptations, and some have fallen into sin, but all who listen to the counsel of the servants of God, remain firm and steadfast. The Saints in Hawkes Bay district can testify to manifestations of the power of God in the healing of the sick. Elder Kelson rejoiced in the knowledge of the plan of salvation revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith in this dispensation, and testified to the truth of the principles proclaimed by the Elders.

Ngawaca, a Maori Saint from the Mahia district, addressed the conference on the organization of the Church of Christ. The true Gospel was preached to the Maori people for the first time in 1834, and many had received it gladly and remained steadfast since they were first baptized. He bore a faithful testimony to the Book of Mormon as the word of God and the history of the ancestors of the Maori people. He traced their history from Abraham, referred to the promises made to the seed of Joseph, and proved the fulfillment of the prophecies of the ancient prophets through the history of Lehi, Nephi and his descendants. His discourse was eagerly listened to and his beautiful illustrations and eloquent appeal held the large audience spell-bound, and touched the hearts of all present, for Ngawaca is a born orator and speaks under the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

Meeting was dismissed with singing hymn 158.

Prayer by Nepia Te Atu.

The afternoon meeting was called to order at 2 p. m., and opened with singing hymn 100. Prayer by Elder L. C. Rasmussen.

The Poverty Bay district was reported by Elder Oscar Andrus, who stated that there were four branches in good condition, and that the Sunday schools were doing a good work and were well attended. He complimented the Saints of the district for their faith in the ordinances of the Gospel; spoke of the blessings in store for the Maori people who were a branch of the house of Israel, their forefathers having left America as recorded in the 63rd chapter of Alma. The Elders had great satisfaction in their labors when the people were faithful, but grieved when they fell into sin.

Elder Lewis J. Hawkes stated that he had traveled in Tauranga district two years but could not give a very favorable report. Many of the people there were influenced and led astray by the old Maori superstitions and failed to rely upon the Spirit of God. There are many churches in the district and old Maori prophets and the Saints have much to contend with. Still the work was progressing and the servants of God realized that if they only assisted in the salvation of one soul it was worth all the sacrifices they had made.

Piripi Te Maori, a native Elder from the Wairarapa district, greeted the Elders who had come from Zion to preach the Gospel of Christ to the Maori people. He endorsed the words of the servants of God and testified to the restoration of the Gospel and the organization of the Church after the order and pattern recorded in Holy Writ.

The Gospel is being preached as a witness to all nations, and the people are urged to come out of the sins and iniquity of Babylon. Elder Piripi spoke very intelligently of the scattering and gathering of Israel, and testified that the principles taught by the Elders would prove salvation to the people if they would accept them. Meeting was closed by the congregation singing hymn 20.

A Priesthood meeting was held in the evening, where the instructions were given by President Stewart and questions answered on various subjects.

The sisters, also, held a testimony meeting and rejoiced in the Spirit of God. Thirty-two of our Maori sisters bore testimonies and every moment was occupied speaking of the goodness of God.

THIRD DAY.

On Sunday morning, April 10th, conference was called to order by President Stewart and opened with singing Hymn 103.

Prayer by Elder George Hales.

The statistical report of the Australian mission was read which showed a total membership of 2423 and 941 children under eight years of age, making the total number of souls, 3364. Of these 254 are Europeans, and the rest are Maoris. During the past six months there have been fifty-six baptisms and sixty-two children blessed. There are thirty Elders laboring in the mission, but Elders Joseph S. Groesbeck and John H. Burton have been honorably released to return to Zion.

Elder C. W. Taylor reported the condition of the Waiapu district in which