

ference, with Jedediah Goff and Thos. S. Browning; Edward J. Palmer, president of Waikato, with Jens H. Nelson; Jos. C. Jorgensen, president of Waipua; Louie G. Hoagland, president of the Mahia; Charles H. Embley from Twian-ga Nui; and John H. Ellis, lately from Bountiful, but not yet appointed to his field of labor.

Some 23 native brethren and sisters came up on the Mararoa from the south to attend, prominent among whom were Elders Te Whata Hooro (Kaiti); Wi Pai Tarewa (Nuhaka); Te Kepa Mat-anohi, (Te Muriwai); and Tamati Nga Toto (Korongota.)

A goodly representation of native and European local Priesthood occupied prominent seats near the stand, while the ever vigilant Deacons with their long sticks were prepared to remind the inattentive of the solemnity and importance of the occasion.

Elder Johnson gave out hymn 117, and the whole of the conference joined heartily in singing "Te Ariki tohu." Elder Palmer offered the opening prayer, after which we sang "Ha whak-arongo nei te reo."

President Gardner's opening address of welcome was listened to with delight by this simple native race, who love him so much. He said in substance: "I feel weak in standing in your midst, but full of joy for the blessings of God bestowed on us during the past, and to be present at this northern 'Hui Tau' (yearly conference). I bid you welcome, inviting you to come here to listen to words of truth, that we may be saved and obtain eternal life together. We are not here to quarrel with those who differ with us in doctrine, but to teach them the Gospel and fulfill our callings before God. The Church of Jesus Christ was built upon Apostles and Prophets sixty-five years ago and now numbers over 300,000. We have assembled to obtain a feast of spiritual things. Let Saints and strangers be kind and loving to each other, and branch presidents take care of their flocks, lest they go astray. May we all be filled with the Holy Spirit and let our prayers ascend up to Almighty God, to the end that our souls may be strengthened to fight the good fight and keep the faith which has been delivered to the Saints in these the latter days. May God bless our gathering and inspire us all to keep His commandments."

Elder Charles B. Bartlett, president of the Bay of Islands conference, greeted all present and reported his field of labor. Was able to say that some, though not all, of the members were living up to the privileges of their calling. There was a little "pruning" to be done. Quoted Gal. 5; 22, 23 and 2 Peter 1; 3-7; to show what the Saints of God ought to be.

Elder Whaka Ngaro (Kopuawhara) said he was not ashamed of the Gospel. He had a testimony of this work, knew that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, therefore he and his brethren and sisters from the south had come to conference. Spoke on Church organization, the journey of Lehi to the American continent, the institution of the Gospel there, the scattering of Maori Israel, and their knowledge of their progenitors through the loving labors of the Elders. We must live by every word which proceeded forth from God and His Prophets.

All joined in singing "Tama ngakau

marie," and Elder H. T. Pita (Whangaruru) offered benediction.

The stewards' cry of "Haere mai ki te kai" rang out, and the Saints and Elders sat down to a repast laid on nice clean tables decorated with most lovely New Zealand flowers. It would task our Zion's daughters to outdo our dusky Maori maidens on occasions of this kind.

At 1:55 the second bell ceased to ring, and the afternoon session commenced by singing "E thu e te kingi Nui." Prayer by Elder Wiremu Pai Tarewa (Nuhaki).

Elder Hoagland gave out "Te take o te Hahi," after which Elder Te Whata Hooro (Kaiti), one of the translators of the Book of Mormon, preached the discourse of the conference. Was glad to stand up in this assembly under the influence of the Spirit of God. "If we had no preacher we couldn't hear the Gospel; without teachers we would be in darkness. It is past fifty years since the white man landed in Ngapuhi (Northern New Zealand), with his gospel, a gospel contrary to Scripture." The speaker quoted Rev. 22: 18, 19, to show that every strange doctrine will be overturned and its advocates punished except they speedily repent. The antediluvians rejected the word of God and were destroyed. God made man in His own image, yet the lower orders of animals together with the birds and reptiles accepted salvation. "Dwelt upon faith as the great moving cause, with many examples, such as Abram's, Noah's and Jesus Christ's. Traced the genealogy of the Maori people from Abram to Lehi. Showed also the same Gospel principles all through. "We have the Book of Mormon, the stick of Joseph and Ephraim, in which Gospel truths are explained." Proved Joseph Smith to be the Prophet foreordained of God to bring forth this great latter-day work. This was prophesied by Lehi 600 years before Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith preached these principles fourteen and a half years ere he was martyred. The Bible and Book of Mormon supported each other to the overthrow of all man-made Gospels and systems of theology. Rome was responsible for destroying the ancient Church from the earth, substituting therefor her own, and arrogating to herself supreme and divine power. Her children (churches who have come out of her), follow her footsteps and will receive of the punishments (see Revelations) if they don't repent. Ministers now-a-days preach for hire and divine for money. Compared baptism by immersion with sprinkling. "My father's people (Church of England) sprinkle children at eight days and call it baptism." Said his father's religion cost 70,000 lives to establish it, yet they claim to be followers of Him who said, "Thou shalt not kill." Encouraged the Saints of God in Ngapuhi to keep the faith, their only hope of eternal life. Invoked the blessings of the Lord upon all present. Intense interest was manifest throughout the entire sermon, of which the above is but a brief synopsis.

Elder Nikera Te Koro (Korongota), followed with good advice and instructions. He said, "I want to bear my testimony concerning the Gospel. By searching carefully the Holy Scriptures I have found this to be the true Church of Christ, restored to earth by God in these latter-days, together with the holy

Priesthood. I desire to be faithful to these principles and ask you to examine them. I sanction the utterances of the previous speaker. He has explained the difference between truth and error this afternoon. The fig tree is putting forth, the Gospel is being preached in all the world for a witness, plagues pestilence and war testify to the end. May God turn the heart of this people to the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. I am glad to be at this conference.

Sang "Oti kia whakama ahau," Benediction by Elder Heremaia Hikee (Klakohe).

The Maories began their greeting of "Tena koe," which came from every part of the building. Everyone present seemed to be happy. Elder Bartlett went to the home of Charles Smeath in Kawa Kawa, with four Elders, to tea, proceeding thence to the Public Hall and held a European service by appointment.

By 7:30 p. m. the hall was crowded. After the opening exercises Elder John Johnson occupied an hour on "The Apostacy," followed by Elder Jedediah Goff, on "The Restoration." The largest audience the despised Mormon Elders ever saw in this town listened with marked attention to the able brethren who spoke. No questions were asked at the close, however, though an invitation was extended.

At 7:50, conference continued, everyone having amply satisfied the inner man. Elder Markham gave us "He rongo pai te orange," and we all sang. Prayer by Elder Kaio Muhani (Hora Hora). Sang No. 135.

Elder E. J. Palmer expressed his pleasure to be present at this conference. Quoted Paul, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." There are two roads open to us, one to eternal life, the other to destruction. We are all agents to ourselves. Taking passages from Daniel, he dwelt at some length on Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation. Followed its fulfilment down the stream of time until the restoration of the Gospel in these days, quoting also from the prophecies in the Book of Mormon concerning these things.

Elder Wiremu Pai Tarewa spoke with great power on the organization of the Church of Christ in its fulness in these days. Being very old and his sight failing. Tharara Wehi Kore read the scriptural passages throughout the whole discourse. Some of the natives were inclined to be sleepy, but the speaker's strong, ringing voice, his energy, and superb Maori oratory acted like electricity on the congregation. All felt the influence of the Spirit of God which rested mightily on him. He asked the Lord to enlighten the minds of non-members, that they may see and embrace the Gospel. The old man's familiarity with the Bible and Book of Mormon is astonishing.

Sang "Ete kahui iti nei," and Elder Hoterani Rahi, (Tepaki paki, Napier), offered the closing prayer.

The Saints, strangers and Elders got together and practiced various hymns, singing well, and in excellent time. Then they got in little groups and talked of old times, many not having met for years. Nothing occurred today to mar our peace, except a "gunfiring" from Waikare, announcing the death of one of our sisters of that place, who has been ailing a long time. There are now over two hundred people attending