

he had labored for some time past. There are six branches in the district, and most of them are quite strong and the people are diligent in observing the requirements of the Gospel. There has been much sickness in the district and it was a notable fact that where the members called in the Elders to administer to the sick, they were healed by the power of faith, but many of those who had no faith in this ordinance were visited by death. He warned the people against seeking after the riches of the world in preference to laying up riches in heaven, and urged them to be diligent in keeping the commandments of God.

Elder Hans Madsen, president of Hauraki district; Elder T. Stanford, president of Waikato district and Elder John M. Hendry, president of the Bay of Islands district, reported their respective fields of labor and testified to the work of the Lord and the restoration of the Gospel in the latter days.

Meeting was closed with singing hymn 134. Prayer by Hirini Whanga.

The afternoon meeting was opened with singing hymn 130. Prayer by Eruera Taituba.

The sacrament was administered by Joseph S. Groesbeck and John H. Burton.

Elder O. C. Dunford presented the names of the general authorities of the Church, and the president and Elders laboring in the Australasian Mission, all of which were unanimously sustained.

Elder Milton Bennion reported the Whangarei district, in which there were nine branches. The European Saints of the district were faithful in bearing their testimonies and were not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, and they observed the law of tithing. Public meetings have been held as often as houses could be secured, and many questions were usually asked; warned, the people against falling into sin and showed the fulfillment of prophecy in the destruction of the cities of Ninivah, Babylon and Jerusalem.

President W. T. Stewart had rejoiced in listening to the Elders and all who had given instruction and borne testimonies during the conference. It is very necessary for all the Saints to study the scriptures so that they could testify unto their own people and spread the truths of the Gospel. A great deal of instruction had been given to the people, and they had been warned against sin and its consequences; referred to the desire of many of the Saints to gather to Zion, and stated that they would never be qualified to gather with the Saints of God until they refrained from adultery and other evils and were able to abide the laws of heaven. He thanked the Saints who had made such sacrifices to attend conference and prayed that the Spirit of God might ever be with them.

Meeting was closed with singing hymn 162. Prayer by President W. T. Stewart.

A testimony meeting was held in the evening and the spirit of testimony rested upon the people. The Saints spoke freely, several rising together in their eagerness to speak of the goodness of God, the sisters taking a prominent part. Our meeting lasted five hours

and forty-five Saints occupied the time. Thus ended a most enjoyable conference, and one long to be remembered by all who had the privilege of being present.

The next annual conference will be held at Te Hauki. PHOENIX. PORIRUA, Wellington, N. Z., April 20th, 1892.

A GIGANTIC SCHEME.

It is not generally known that one of the greatest enterprises tending toward the redemption of arid lands, ever made in this Territory is now being carried out in the Sevier valley, in Millard county. Such, however, is the case and the indications are that the projectors of the scheme will be rewarded with the success they so confidently anticipate and upon which they have already expended a large amount of money.

The undertaking consists of the construction of an enormous reservoir between the two branches of the Sevier river about twelve miles on an air line below and southwest of Deseret. Centrally located between the forks of the river is Swan Lake, a shallow and sometimes almost stagnant body of water fed principally by the Sevier. Surrounding it is a cluster of depressions known as mud flats, varying in size from one to a thousand acres and more. These are admirably suited as

RECEPTACLES OF WATER

for irrigation purposes and are annually filled by the Sevier during high water times. Nine miles of heavy dykes are being thrown up around them. More than one-half of the work is finished, and if no unforeseen obstacle arises the dykes will all be built within sixty days and the water turned in June 15. Eight camps of graders, consisting of three hundred and fifty men and two hundred and twenty-five teams are now employed on the dam and the building of canals will commence in a very short time.

The reservoir when complete will cover an area of nearly 11,000 acres of ground, or a little more than twenty square miles. It will have an average depth of twelve feet of water, seven feet of which can be drawn off to irrigate the thirsty land below. There will be three distributing canals. The first will tap the reservoir on the northeast side and run to the southwest a distance of twenty-two miles over a country with a slope of about eight feet to the mile. Much of the way it will be built

ON TOP OF THE GROUND,

will be forty feet wide at the bottom and five feet deep. The estimate cost of construction is \$2300 per mile. Its course is considerably above and around the west side of the old Sevier lake. From this will be a branch canal ten and a half miles in length. Another canal which is intended to supply water to the land lying adjacent to the banks of the old river channel, is called the Sevier canal. It leaves the reservoir on the west and pursues a southwesterly course for fourteen miles. Midway between these two canals a third has been surveyed and is designated as the Island canal. It is ten miles long and will cover 20,000 acres of ground, most

of which is very fertile. In all there will be

FIFTY-SIX AND A HALF MILES of canals. In addition to these general distributors there will of course be a great many ditches dug. It is claimed that sufficient water can be stored to irrigate 100,000 acres of farming and meadow land.

The Swan Lake Reservoir company with a capital stock of three fourths of a million are the projectors of the enterprise. W. H. Rowe, of Z. C. M. I., is president; Geo. A. Lowe, vice-president; Frank Knox, secretary and treasurer and C. W. Aldrich general manager. On Friday last an excursion party of about forty ladies and gentlemen, under the direction of General Manager Aldrich, went south over the Union Pacific to inspect and enter some of the land embraced within that section of country just described.

Among the party was a representative of the DESERET NEWS. Two special cars (a passenger coach and an elegant Pullman palace sleeper) were occupied by the excursionists, all of whom enjoyed themselves immensely. The special cars were sidetracked by the regular Milford train on Friday midnight, one hundred and sixty-seven miles south of this city, and at an early hour Saturday morning the party was conveyed in four horse carriages and wagons to the reservoir five miles west of the railroad. A crisp and bracing breeze was blowing across the desert, and when camp was reached everybody was as hungry as the traditional Indian hunter. A splendid breakfast had been prepared by the French cook and his assistants and was spread upon a sixty-foot table in the canvas dining hall. The rapidity with which it was cleared of the many good things with which it was laden was the cause of frequent bursts of merriment throughout the remainder of the day. At 10 a. m. fresh teams were secured and a drive of twenty-five miles in a serpentine course over the trackless prairies was commenced. Several members of the party spent the most of the day in locating quarter and half sections of land upon which to file on their return to the city while others amused themselves in hunting for grasses, flowers, cactus plants, flints, pottery, curious shaped stones, toads, insects, and in fact anything that could be brought home as a souvenir of the trip. Some miles below the reservoir is located what is known as

THE OLD BATTLEFIELD,

so called presumably for the reason that it is believed that ancient Indian or other tribes met there in deadly combat, perhaps many hundreds of years ago. Upon this spot can be found thousands of arrow and spear heads, pieces of stone hammers and fragments of pottery ware by the wagon load. Only a few miles above this and along the east side of the reservoir is a dark volcanic formation known as Black Rock Ridge. It rises abruptly up out of the desert to a height of probably five hundred feet and is six miles in length. Here are other and perhaps more convincing evidences of aboriginal inhabitation. The cliffs which generally present great irregularities of surface are here and there interspersed with spots which are comparatively smooth.