

is understood to enjoy that distinction. But the president spends nearly his entire time traveling in the different districts, paying particular attention to the Maori part of the mission; and when at Auckland rooms with Elders Johnson and Browning who rent a small apartment of an old lady on Grey street, No. 145, and board themselves. These two brethren have been appointed to labor in Auckland and vicinity, where they are endeavoring to raise up a branch of the Church. I am now making my temporary home with these Elders also, while I peruse the records of the mission, afterwards I expect to visit the different districts, constituting the New Zealand part of the Australasian mission.

ANDREW JENSEN.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, October 15th, 1895.

STATE LAND COMMISSION.

Please to permit us to draw the attention of the public, through the columns of the News, to some of the unjust and unwarranted propositions of the bill recently introduced in the House, by Bolitho, establishing a State Land Commission and defining its duties, as outlined in a morning cotemporary of the 25th inst.

We are informed that the board shall consist of five members, at a salary of \$1,500 each, to hold office for four years, the first members to remain for five years; and that for the purpose of locating these lands, the board is empowered to employ competent assistants, at a salary of \$4 daily; thus indicating that the duties of the commission may be merely supervisory, and a host of employees hired to do the locating of lands at unusually large salaries. Why so many commissioners at such high salaries? for it seems evident that the commissioners are not expected to put in all their time, as one of their number may be secretary, for which he may divide into the public funds for another \$1,500 per annum. Is this the economy that the condition of the State's finances calls for?

This board is given exclusive control of all state lands, with power to dispose of them in any way. Surely the Legislature will adopt some safe-guard whereby the rights of settlers and the public trusts will be protected.

Here's another galling provision of this extraordinary bill. Waterrights are expressly stated to revert to the State upon the expiration of a lease. Can that be true, and, if so, is it not a bold attempt on the part of the strong, to wrest justly acquired rights from the weak, and that too, in face of that protective provision of our State constitution, which confirms all existing water-rights to their owners? Or is it intended to turn the State into a vast corporation, to form the millions of acres of its vast domain, for all they are worth, and to keep its citizens in a state of bondage? For, whatever advantages may occur to other states by leasing their agricultural lands, here conditions are entirely different, and, whatever disposition may be made of other lands in the State, it is a self-evident fact that those farmers who have a right to the use of the water in any district should also own the land benefited by it, or there would be a conflict of interests that would prevent the leasing of such lands, and a profitable use of the waters in such cases. Such

conditions would prevent a full development of the great resources of our State, and repel the thousands of homeseekers who would otherwise settle within our borders.

While said bill contains some fair provisions, there are many that indicate that it will not be in the interests of the citizens nor particularly to the trust funds of the State. It opens the financial floodgates in a manner to alarm the taxpayers and every wellwisher of our State, in such a way as will surely insure the defeat of its obnoxious provisions, and lead to the adoption of such a law as will properly administer the great endowment bestowed upon the institutions of our State.

Respectfully,

AARON HARDY.

A. L. JENSEN.

JENS C. NIELSEN.

MONS. MONSON.

MORONI, Utah, Jan 27th 1896.

TALE OF THE SOUTH SEAS.

The following weird story of the sea was told by the master of one of the grain fleet now in port, the subject having been brought up by the reading of a dispatch published in a morning paper describing the sighting of a burning derelict in midocean.

The captain said: "I was from Liverpool to Adelaide with general cargo, and after passing the cape, took the southern route, putting in at Prince Edward island for fresh water. Here I found the inhabitants in a wild state of excitement over the continued washing ashore of remnants of human bodies, hardly a day having passed during the two weeks succeeding my arrival but what a torn and mangled arm, leg or trunk would be found on the northern beach of the little island. Some were those of men. Others of women, but all were fearfully bloated and distended apparently through the action of some gas.

"We had sighted nothing on the voyage to account for the drift of human remains on the island, and could give the little settlement no satisfaction as to what was the cause.

"After a two days' stop at Prince Edward's harbor we weighed anchor and put to sea. Nothing occurred during the day out of the usual, but as night closed in a strange glare was noticed down in the horizon, fitfully rising and falling, as though some gigantic bellows was alternately forcing a flame skyward and again subsiding.

"The light was directly in our course, and in two hours the cause of the glare was evident, for we had raised the hull of a burning ship, evidently iron, all three lower masts standing. The vessel seemed at a red heat. For ten minutes or so the flames would hover low along the bulwarks; then would come a dull report. Like a spurt from a volcano the haze would then leap skyward, only again to subside and lick along the rails and up the masts.

"In another hour we were lying hove to by the burning derelict and within two cable lengths of the craft. Then the mystery of the mutilated remains which had so excited the people, of Prince Edward island was explained.

"In each flashing blaze that followed the explosions aboard the derelict we could see hurled aloft strange shapes and fragments unlike anything I had ever seen stowed in a vessel's hold as

cargo. What these were we could not imagine, and it was fully an hour and a half before our curiosity was satisfied. There had come an unusual strong burst of flame, and on it was borne a larger number of odd things we had watched going skyward than we had previously noticed. The swash of the sea as the ship pitched ahead drowned any sound the objects made in falling back into the sea, and we had about given up learning what possible cargo the derelict had in her hold, when with a thud, a man's leg fell on the quarter-deck at our very feet. Then came another awful flash and our vessel, fore and aft, was spattered with the swollen remains of human beings, the distension of the fragments being horrible.

"Being to the leeward of the grewsome craft, a strong odor of gas came down on us that became almost overpowering and at last forced us to brace round our topsail yard and fill away. We had hardly been on our course twenty minutes when a deafening detonation filled the air, and, looking astern, we saw the derelict gradually settle and go down.

"Who she was or where she sailed from we never learned, but it is my idea she was a Russian ship bound for the Brazils, her lower hold filled with coal and petroleum, and her between decks loaded with emigrants, the cargo had probably taken fire, generating a gas that had suffocated the closely packed passengers in the hold and causing the awful boat I have spoken of. After the fire had reached a certain limit the explosions began, following as rapidly as the gas would form, and with their terrific force rending the bodies limb from limb. These remains had been carried along on the current which sets by Prince Edward island, and been landed on the beach to the consternation of the inhabitants."—Portland Oregonian.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

The services in the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon were presided over by President of the Stake Angus M. Cannon.

Choir sang:

Hark! Listen to the gentle strain
O'er hill and valley, grove and plain.

Prayer was offered by Elder Hamilton G. Park.

Choir further sang:

Great God indulge my humble claim:
Thou art my hope, my joy, my rest.

Elder Abraham H. Cannon addressed the congregation. He was gratified at seeing such a good attendance and trusted that the Lord's Spirit would be poured down in rich abundance. The speaker wondered if the Latter-day Saints realized the great responsibilities which devolved upon them as Saints. He feared that if the actions of some of them were taken for an answer, they would lead people to believe that very little that was given to the position they occupy in the Church. The speaker oftentimes felt that faith amongst the Saints was diminishing. In the early history of the latter-day work, they who went down into the waters of baptism were full of faith and devotion to Gospel principles. When sickness came into their midst they depended upon the ministrations of the Elders to make