

closed by asking the blessings of God to attend all.

Whakangaro, president of the Kopua-whara branch of the Te Mahia district was the last speaker. In his characteristic lively style he greeted and welcomed the Saints to Hul. He dwelt at some length on the Restoration of the Gospel. After singing, the benediction was pronounced by Erimana of Tahapau.

Afternoon meeting, 2 o'clock.—After the usual opening exercises consisting of singing and prayer, Elder Joseph M. Folkman president of the Hauraki district was called upon to speak. He gave a brief report of the condition of his conference. The great majority of the Saints were alive to their duties, while a few were negligent and lukewarm. Some new members had been baptized, some children blessed and a new branch organized.

Hoera Te Ruruku president of the Rangitoto branch of the Wairau district spoke next. In an able manner he portrayed the teachings of the primitive Apostles, showing the harmony between them, and the doctrines taught by the Elders of Israel today.

James C. Allen president of the Mahia district was also called. He gave a most encouraging report of his conferences. His was the largest district in the mission, containing the most members. Though some were weak the great majority were faithful and strong in the truth.

James W. Linford, presiding in the Wairau district gave an encouraging report of his conferences.

Atapata Meha Te Wirihana and Te Haate also testified to the truthfulness of the Gospel, and encouraged the Saints to be faithful to the sacred covenants they have made.

After singing the meeting was dismissed by Tamati Mete, of Te Mahia.

Evening meeting, 7 o'clock.—Inasmuch as there were so many Elders and Saints who could not understand the Maori language, it was decided that a meeting for them should be held in the new house which had been erected for the Elders. Brother Browning was called to take charge.

The native meeting opened by singing. Prayer was offered by Nikera. Singing. Elder S. J. Morgan was the first speaker. He reported the condition of the Bay of Islands district over which he presided. Though many were quite alive to their duties there were some who were spiritually dead and had lost the Spirit of the Gospel. Much of the time had been spent in preaching among outsiders who in most instances had treated the Elders with civility and kindness, though manifesting much indifference relative to the principles of the Gospel. Rumors about Hirini Whanga had been circulated amongst them, but since the reception of letters from the Maoris in Zion this evil had been much mitigated. The speaker then dwelt briefly upon the subject of Divine Authority. Elder Charles H. Embly president of the Poverty Bay district reported his conference. It was, generally speaking, in a flourishing condition.

Te Kepa, president of the Muriwai branch and Te Watewe Huka of the Maungatiki branch were also called and spoke most interestingly on the principles of the Gospel, testifying to the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Closing prayer was offered by Otene Suhitonga.

After the evening meetings were over the Elders and European Saints met in the new house and carried out the following programme:

- 1 Double quartette—by the Elders.
- 2 Indian club exercise—T. S. Brown-ing.
- 3 Short lecture John Johnson.
- 4 Instrumental music—J. Ellis and company.
- 5 Song—F. W. Ellis.
- 6 Speech—R. L. Bird.
- 7 Song—Mr. Waklay.
- 8 Song—The Elders.
- 9 Phonographic imitation—David Lindsav.

10 Recitation J. N. Lambert, music, guitar and mandolin, Ellis and Der-bidge.

Morning meeting, second day.—The attention of the meeting was called by President Gardner. The congregation sang a hymn after which prayer was offered by Rewi Mobera. Singing.

As before the European Saints and Elders met by themselves one of the brethren taking charge. The people had continued to gather until now between 600 and 700 were present.

In the Maori meeting Elder Willard Goff was the first speaker. He reported the condition of the Whangarei district of which he was president. As a rule the Saints were faithful and alive to their duties.

Reha Aperahama president of the Te Aroha branch of the Hamaki district gave a powerful discourse upon the first principals of the Gospel. He related his experience in having to abandon the teachings of the first church to which he had belonged, to embrace the principles of an unpopular Gospel, but he knew that though Mormonism was much hated it represented the true Gospel of Christ, and he was satisfied for that reason.

At this juncture, Kepa Te Whatamui an influential Salvation Army captain was permitted to speak. He had been invited to attend the conference and thanked his friends for the honor they had bestowed upon him. He gave a brief sketch of his life as a sinner, and how faith in Christ had changed his heart. He was pleased to meet with his people in conference though he differed from them in his religious opinions. He closed his remarks with a somewhat lengthy prayer and a hearty amen.

Wiremui Tahana followed. He commented upon the remarks of the previous speaker and portrayed clearly from Holy writ that "faith without words was dead."

The meeting was then closed by singing, and benediction by Ropata Riwal.

Afternoon meeting, 2 o'clock.—After singing and prayer, Elder George Bowles president of the Wairapa district, was called upon to speak. He commenced by giving a brief but concise report of his conference. Though not all were faithful, the majority were living Christian lives. He spoke in high terms of all the branch presidents and their counsellors. They were watching with fatherly care over their flocks. The fall of Adam, and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon were topics upon which the speaker treated at some length, producing abundance of scriptural evidence.

Paul Hopere, Eruha Te Maari and Pita Mohi, all able speakers, also addressed

the Saints. They dwelt principally on the fundamental principles of the Gospel and bore strong testimony to the truthfulness of Mormonism.

Meeting dismissed by singing and prayer.

Evening, Priesthood meeting.—According to announcement the members of the Priesthood met in the new house to receive instructions pertaining to their calling and responsibilities. After the opening exercises, President Gardner addressed the meeting. There were present as follows: Elders 65, priests 9, teachers, 12 and Deacons 3. Branch presidents 22, counsellors 18. Many instructions were given which would have a tendency to encourage the natives in their duties and callings. Some remarks were made relative to the annual conference in 1897, and also regarding the establishment of day schools amongst the natives. At the close many questions were asked all of which were satisfactorily answered by President Gardner.

When the audience had sang "Lord dismiss us" etc., Elder T. J. Morgan pronounced the benediction.

An evening testimony meeting with Elder Embley presiding, was held with the sisters and non-members of the priesthood that all might be engaged and mutually benefitted. Thirty-five testimonies were borne and the spirit of God burned in every soul.

To make the utmost of our surroundings a European meeting was held at Danivicke, at which a large number were in attendance. A most appreciative audience was addressed by Elders Pond and Bird. Thus three most successful meetings were held on one evening, the second day of the general conference. Feelings of gladness thrilled every heart for there was not a jar, not a discord, not a harsh word. All was peace, quiet and happiness.

Sunday morning, third day.—When the Saints had all met for morning devotions, Elder Goff read a letter from ex-President Paxman written to Maori Saints in conference. The natives were overjoyed to hear from their old time friends and brother. They had not forgotten his fatherly counsels and his interesting energy in teaching them the principles of the Gospel was yet fresh in their memories.

The Fast Day was observed by all the Elders and Saints, though the cooks were compelled to labor on account of the presence of so many visitors who did not understand the object the Saints have in complying with this divine command.

The regular meeting commenced by singing a hymn. Prayer was offered by Toe Singing. Elders Jens K. Nelson, David Packard and John Johnson presidents of the Waikato, Tauranga and Auckland districts respectively addressed the meeting on Gospel subjects and reported the condition of their various conferences.

Native brethren Paratene Tui Karaitiana, Rewi Maaha and Hamaiwaho also spoke, testifying in power to the establishment of God's kingdom in the last days.

The congregation sang a hymn, and the meeting was dismissed by Henari Apitari.

Afternoon meeting—2 o'clock. Before the commencement of the services a number of the Elders had gone to the river with six candidates for baptism.