

there. The following day we all boarded the steamer *Argyle* and after a pleasant ride of five hours arrived at Shortland.

On reaching Kiri kiri, the place of conference, we found a number of Maoris who were preparing for the reception and entertainment of those who might attend conference. The next day after our arrival we were joined by other Elders and natives who had come overland from the Waikato and Ngatiporo tribes, enlarging the company of Elders to twenty in number and about two hundred natives including a large number of outsiders. That spirit of friendliness and sociability which generally characterizes a Maori but prevailed in abundance, and the people of the Hauraki district, of which Elder T. C. Young is President, did all they could to make things pleasant and comfortable.

At 10:30 a. m. Friday morning, January 9th, conference opened in a large and commodious house, President Bingham presiding. Meeting was opened with singing by the congregation and prayer by Elder Young.

President Bingham in a short and well delivered speech stated the object of the gathering and expressed his thankfulness in again having the privilege of meeting with the Saints in conference capacity, after traveling among the people of the north with some of his companions for the last few months. He gave a short account of their trip into the extreme north end of the island and of the people of those parts who had never before been visited by the Elders. There were some who favored the Gospel and were, on a whole, a religious and Bible-reading people, but the prospects for proselyting were not the best. Some few, however, would perhaps be baptized at some future visit of the Elders. The districts of Bay of Islands, Whangarei, Waikato, Nauraki, Tauranga, Poverty Bay, Mahia and Hawk's Bay were reported by their respective presidents. The reports, though quite favorable in many respects, showed that some of the members were drifting into unbelief and becoming indifferent to the ordinances of the Gospel and laws of the Church, and were being excommunicated for their persistency in sin and practices of evil; while those who have firm testimonies of the truth of the gospel were endeavoring to the best of their abilities to perform their duties and live as become Saints.

Meeting closed with prayer by a native brother.

The afternoon services were opened as usual and Elders N. S. Geddes, H. S. Cutler and others occupied the time in an interesting and instructive manner.

After the evening meal we all retired to the long Maori house and had prayers, after which we engaged in a general good time of singing songs, hymns, duets and so forth, in which the natives always take the greatest interest and pleasure.

Saturday morning meeting opened at 10:30 with singing and prayer by Elder Milton Bennion. Elder Peter Beck who was the first speaker, gave good instructions to the Saints and was followed by others of the Elders and native brethren.

At 3 in the afternoon meeting opened with singing and prayer by Elder Joseph Roskelley. Elder Johnson occupied some time in speaking on the first principles of the Gospel. Elders Joseph S. Dame and others, with native brethren, occupied the remaining time in an interesting manner.

In the evening a Priesthood meeting was held with the native members of the Priesthood and the Elders present.

Sunday morning was cloudy but pleasant. Meeting opened with the usual exercises. The Sacrament was administered and President Bingham occupied the time in speaking upon the principle of tithing. Inasmuch as many questions had been asked regarding that principle of the Church he took the present opportunity of speaking upon it to the Saints assembled.

Meeting closed with singing, and benediction by a native brother.

In the afternoon the general authorities of the Church, President of mission and Elders were presented and unanimously sustained in their positions and the remainder of the time occupied by Elders Nye and Young in speaking and Elders Hendry and Cutler in singing a duet.

In the evening a European meeting was held, the congregation being very attentive and apparently desirous of knowing our doctrines. A testimony meeting of the natives was also held at the same time in the long Maori hui house.

On Monday morning the gathering dispersed, most of the people left in various directions for their homes. The Elders held a council meeting and on Wednesday left for their fields of labor, all feeling strengthened and blessed in having come together.

HEMI,

Clerk of Conference.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan. 16, 1891.

CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council was called to order at 7:45 Feb. 17th, by Mayor Scott. The following members answered to roll call: Anderson, Noble, Armstrong, Pendleton, Wolstenholme, Pembroke, Spafford, Pickard, Heath and Parsons.

PETITIONS.

Petition of John Wise for a merchant's license. Committee on license.

B. F. Kesler asked that a spill and watering trough be placed at the corner of Third South and Third West Streets. Committee on waterworks.

Richard Morse et al. asked that a certain ditch in block 55, Plat A, be repaired. Referred to the supervisor, watermaster and city engineer.

The Fifteenth Ecclesiastical Ward asked for the remission of \$93.10 taxes paid on lot 7, block 81, by mistake. Committee on claims.

Joseph Smith asked that the order compelling him to connect his premises with a sewer main on First East Street be rescinded. Committee on sewerage.

A. W. Stevenson et al. asked that vendors be prohibited from selling their wares on the street corners. Committee on license.

E. Kelly asked for a rebate on liquor license. Committee on license.

I. L. Sackett and William Lawler, proprietors of the Bijou Theater on Second South Street, asked that the Council appoint Mr. Charles Gates as special policeman. Granted.

John Shepherd asked for a renewal of his lease of the North Bench sand pits. Committee on public grounds.

Carlyle & Bernard asked that the unexpired portion of the term of their liquor license be remitted. Committee on license.

Cunnington & Company and two hundred and two other business men asked that the merchants' license be abolished. Committee on finance.

J. W. Summerhays et al. asked that Alma Timpson be appointed special policeman, without pay. Granted.

H. F. Hapgood et al. asked that electric lights be placed on Fifth Street at the corners of B; D and F Streets. Committee on improvements.

WANTS THE OLD FORT BLOCK.

The following petition was read:

"To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Salt Lake City:

"Gentlemen—Several weeks ago I petitioned your honorable body for a lease of what is commonly called the Fort block of this city, for a term of years, at a nominal rental for depot purposes of the Deep Creek Railway. I was induced to file my petition because of the fact, well known to all, that there exists a necessity for a railroad running west from Salt Lake City into the State of Nevada. Our citizens were so anxious that the road should be built that they had in the past given every reasonable assurance of their desire to furnish such aid as they could in furtherance of the enterprise. For several weeks past I have been engaged in the preliminary work necessary to be done before commencing the active work of railroad building.

"It is well known and universally conceded that the Fort block, for which I asked a lease, is not located in a section that renders it particularly valuable for public purposes and the inhabitants of the city have never yet received in any way any benefit from the block. It is so situated as to be valuable for depot purposes.

"Although there seems to be a unanimous desire upon the part of the public to aid and hasten the building of the projected railroad, the policy of leasing the block for a term of years at a nominal rental has been questioned in some quarters, and the matter has remained in abeyance since my petition was filed.

"Under the circumstances, I herewith submit an amendment to my former proposition. I propose now to purchase the Fort block upon the following terms:

"1—I will pay to the city the sum of \$150,000 for said property, when 200 miles of road are constructed.

"2—The deed for said block to be executed by the city and delivered to me, and the sum mentioned to be paid by me to the city when 200 miles of the Deep Creek Railroad shall have been built to the west and cars running through from this block. This petition to be granted upon the express condition that work be commenced upon said road within ninety days and continuously prosecuted until said 200 miles are built, excepting only such delays as may be caused by the elements or such other things that are unavoidable; said road to be built to Deep Creek within eighteen months, and the balance of 200 miles within two years from this date.

"If my proposition is accepted, the city will receive a fair compensation for the land, and at the same time it will aid the railroad project and enable the company to build the road. The city will not part