

House of Representatives, and the visitor was escorted along the broad corridors, through the various chambers, and the Upper and Lower houses, where the richly upholstered chairs are arranged in senatorial style.

A visit was also paid to the library, which contains one of the finest collections of books in the colony. Pausing in one of the lobby rooms, an opportunity was given for a brief explanation of Mormonism, and a testimony was borne to the truth of the Gospel message.

In a previous letter, reference was made to the appointment of Elders Johnson and Goff to labor in Auckland, the largest city in the colony. Some years ago, there was a flourishing branch located here, but many of the members have emigrated, and others are scattered. After some inquiry and visiting, a number of old members have been found, numbering between twenty and thirty, though some have almost lost the spirit of the Gospel through being left so long without the ministrations of the Elders. A series of public meetings has been arranged for to be held in the Protestant Hall, and it is earnestly hoped that great good will result from the Elders earnest efforts.

Auckland is a city of about 60,000 inhabitants, and appears almost surfeited with churches. It is quite possible, however, that, in the midst of this babel of conflicting creeds and dogmas, some honest-hearted souls may hear the words of revealed truth, and recognize the Master's authorized Priesthood.

The weather has been extremely cold of late, and the rain storms have been very heavy. A few days ago the Aucklanders were surprised to witness a real snowstorm. No such occurrence has been known in the city before by residents who have lived here forty years. The newspaper comments were amusing, as many of the people had never previously witnessed such a novel spectacle and they therefore enjoyed the frolic of snowballing, for the first time in their lives. Some of the colonials evidently do not travel much, for the mountains in the south are often covered with a snowy mantle.

The damp cold winds, however, are very disagreeable and enervating, causing many of the sons of Zion to long for the sharp, frosty, but invigorating wintry winds so common in their mountain home. PHENIX.

GRAVITY SEWER SYSTEM.

There was a joint meeting of the members of the City Council and board of public works held in the council chamber last night. Mayor Baskin and City Engineer Young were also present. President McCornick occupied the chair.

The meeting was called for a special purpose—to discuss ways and means to bring about the completion of the gravity outlet sewer as quickly as possible. Mr. Doremus as chairman of the board of public works stated that the work would not be anywhere near completion by December 1st, the time specified by the contract. There seemed to be no prospect that the contractors would increase their force sufficiently to accomplish the desired end within the time, and it was most important that some cause of action be decided on

without delay. As to the present status of affairs Mr. Doremus said that the supplemental contract was signed on June 5. The contractors began work on June 15, since which they had completed the section immediately north of Ninth North street. Work was begun on the section south of Ninth North street on July 9, and on July 15 excavation began, and from that time to the present 9,500 feet of trench had been opened, 6,600 feet of which has been completed. To complete the 6,600 feet occupied eighty days, or equal to an average of eighty-three feet per day. To finish the trenching of the balance, 2,900 feet, would require ten days more. There is still untouched 7,800 feet of trenching to be done, which, at the same rate of progress would take 97 days, and the ten days to complete the 2,900 feet partly done would make 107, which would be after January 1 before the whole trenching would be done.

As to concreting, it was started on August 5th; and 5,500 feet completed in fifty days, equal to 100 feet per day. Of the part uncovered there is a distance of 4,500 feet to do, which would take forty-five days. There is a total of 12,300 feet to concrete to bring the sewer to its destination at the joint city and county building. The total length of finished concreting south of Ninth North is 2,200 feet, which occupied fifty days, equal to forty-four feet per day, and at the same rate it would require 343 days to complete the sewer. Mr. Doremus declared further that the contractors had been behind all the time, especially with the excavating. It was within the province of the city to take the work in its own hands and complete it at the expense of the contractors, but he did not advise such a course, as the city, having to provide plant and machinery and make preliminary arrangements, could not make as good time as the contractors could from this on, provided the latter were as anxious to get on with the work as the city authorities were that they should.

City Engineer Young was asked for a statement of expenditures up to date and an estimate of cost for completing the remainder of the system. In response thereto he presented the following:

Work to be done.....	\$ 90,615
Balance due on work done.....	16,776
Hold-back of 15 per cent on work.....	34,417
Engineering and inspection.....	4,000
Cost to procure balance of right of way	3,000
Sewer farm and erection of house for overseer.....	5,000
Total cost to complete the sewer.....	\$153,809
Expended to date.....	195,032
Total.....	\$349,841
Bonus allowed contractors under supplemental contract.....	25,000
Total cost of completion.....	\$373,841

Mr. Hobson, one of the contractors, in defending the slow-going course of himself and colleagues, attributed all the delay to the board of public works, the city engineer the City Council and the railroad strike. To the first named because they wouldn't allow the contractors to open up and work on three or four different points of the sewer at the same time, but insisted on them completing certain portions before opening up other portions; to the engineer because he hadn't given them grades and lines as fast as they wanted; to the city council because they hadn't

paid them the \$25,000 bonus quickly enough and to the railroad strike because it had prevented them from getting their material along. The changes in the specifications had also hindered them and so had the change in the proportion of the ingredients from which the concrete is made.

In answer to the question from the Mayor, "Can you complete the sewer by December 1st, if given all the sea room you want?" Mr. Hobson replied in the negative and added, "But with favorable weather we could in ninety days."

Clawson offered a resolution providing that the board of public works and city engineer be instructed to give the contractors the line and grade of the sewer to Fifth South and State streets and permit them to open up the trench the entire distance if necessary. Lost.

Clawson then offered the following resolution which after considerable debate was adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of \$170,000 be set aside by the city treasury for the completion of the gravity sewer to Fifth South and State streets.

Doremus offered the following resolution which was also adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the City Council and board of public works in joint session assembled that work on the gravity sewer outlet be prosecuted with the utmost dispatch in order to complete the whole of the work within the contract time if possible.

The members of the board of public works withdrew from the meeting and the Council appropriated \$18,095.96 to the contractors on last month's estimates and adjourned.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued bulletin No. 26 of the Utah weather and crop service for week ending Tuesday, October 2, 1894, last of the season as follows:

The week was cold, and in the main unfavorable for farming operations. Frosts were frequent, and the one on morning of Sept. 29th was severe. The storm of Oct. 1st was so cold that considerable snow fell. Threshing, hauling, and fall plowing have been delayed. Crops, for the most part, have been gathered, or are beyond the reach of adverse weather, but tomatoes were injured by the frosts, and fruit was blown down by high winds. Fruit is gone, except winter apples, late pears and peaches. Corn is now safely in the shock. Potatoes and some garden truck remains to be gathered. Where potatoes have been dug they are of fine size, quality and yield, and it is expected that the crop will be abundant.

The season has been one of general prosperity, but especially favorable for grain. Hay received some damage from the unusually abundant rains. The lucern seed crop was light. Wheat, as far as threshed, has yielded unusually well. Plowing is under way, and seeding of winter wheat; and although not a great amount has been done yet, a larger acreage than usual will be put in. Range stock has fared well. Cattle and horses are now coming down from the mountains looking in fine order.