

government, proud of past achievement, and confident in our hope of the future, with greeting to our sister states and gratitude to our parent government, pledging unfaltering loyalty to the Union, and trusting in the God of nations, we clothe ourselves in the full habiliments of Statehood.

HOOPER ITEMS.

HOOPER, Utah, Jan. 6, 1896.—Will you kindly permit me through your columns to report an item or two in connection with that portion of our town located just north of the Davis county line and known as the North Hooper ward; and to inform your many readers that although we are located about four miles west from the railroad tracks, on the eastern shores of the briny inland sea, and consequently somewhat isolated, as it were, we still have interest in common with them, and are trying to perform our part in the great work of redemption.

On Monday, Dec. 30, the officers, teachers and scholars of our Sabbath school, with as many of the parents and friends as could be accommodated met in our commodious meeting house at 10 a.m., when the following program was ably rendered:

First was an exercise from the primary department, entitled the New Covenant. It certainly deserves special mention the rendition being excellent and the sight a most impressive one. To see about seventy-five or eighty little innocents kneeling and with clasped hands and bowed heads reverently reciting the Lord's prayer did not fail to bring tears of joy to many eyes. This was followed by a song from the entire department, entitled Christmas Belle, and was also well rendered.

Next were two class exercises from the first intermediate department, subject, the life and labors of Jesus Christ, from Sunday School Union leaflets one to thirty: Class 1 answering in concert questions from leaflets one to fifteen, and class 2 from sixteen to thirty, each showing thorough acquaintance with the lesson.

The second intermediate department gave a very excellent exercise on Church history from Deseret Sunday School Union leaflets.

The work of the theological department was on the restoration of the Gospel, in two parts; first, from the young ladies, and second from the young men, each class showing by the individual work of the students that thorough and efficient work had been done by teachers and scholars alike; the same can truly be said of each department and class.

Nor was the beautiful music and singing any the less worthy of note and special mention, the exercises throughout being well interspersed therewith.

The program being ended, remarks highly commending the efforts of all concerned were made by Assistant Stake Superintendent Jacobs, followed by Superintendent R. Ballantyne, who spoke words of encouragement and comfort to all. Words of satisfaction were also spoken by Bishop Wm. W. Cullid. All present seemed to partake largely of the spirit and influence of the Gospel which was abundantly poured out by the Giver of all good.

After the closing exercises four hundred sacks of nuts and candy were distributed to the teachers and scholars, mothers with babies, etc.; after which all those who desired repaired to the amusement hall, where, after partaking of picnic, dancing was freely indulged in until about 5 p.m., when the day's exercises were closed with prayer, and all repaired to their homes feeling well repaid for the exertions made and the efforts put forth to make each other happy, and feeling that the day was one long to be remembered by all.

Our ward organizations are in excellent working order and our poor well provided for.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 1st, we were treated to a light shower of sleet, of a decidedly salty nature, which considerably changed the appearance of objects in its course by the salt contained therein.

A branch from the R. G. W. down to our settlement seem to be quite a topic of conversation at the present time, and is looked upon as one of the probabilities of the near future. It could not fail to be a source of revenue to the company, in the hauling it would get, and also the coal trade it could have. Let it come; it will be a benefit to our town.

OBSERVER.

A LEAF OF MY JOURNAL.

TAKAHIAI, New Zealand, Oct. 25, 1895.—Cloudy and stormy. Your correspondent in company with the native Saints of this place are anxiously waiting the arrival of Saints from adjacent branches, as tomorrow is the day appointed for our district conference.

Our waiting has not been in vain, for about 5 p.m. the arrival of President Gardner, Elders J. H. W. Goff, C. B. Bartlett, Jos. Markham and a company of twelve Maori Saints was announced by one of the native sisters who welcomed them from a distance in the old familiar style, "Haere mai Haere mai."

After shaking hands and rubbing noses till all were quite satisfied, a warm nourishing supper was served out in earthen dishes and a nice white cloth spread upon the floor served as our table, supper over and the remainder of the day was spent talking with old friends whom we had not seen for a long time.

At 7 p.m. the bell tolled the hour for Karakia, which consisted of a hymn, chapter from the scriptures and prayer, at the close of which the natives of this place arose and greeted their guests and the Elders; natives in turn responding according to Maori etiquette and all apparently were happy, especially did the Saints' countenances assume a cheerful glow while our worthy president, Brother Gardner was speaking in reply to these many speeches of welcome and respect to him, as he referred to his first visit to this village and the fond remembrance of the past in connection with these Saints, he being the first to convey the glad message of great joy and administer its ordinances unto them.

About 10 p.m. lunch was prepared and we partook of the same freely, after which small crowds gathered in different parts of the building, sang hymns and talked; at a late hour all retired to rest. About 3 o'clock a.m. our

peaceful slumbers were disturbed by the arrival of Brother Andrew Jensen and Salate who left Whangarei per boat but had been delayed through calling on friends at Graham's town, and inconvenience rendered from the tide and darkness of the night. Beds were soon prepared and all retired to the arms of Morpheus.

Saturday morning October 26, still raining, 7 a.m. all assembled for morning karakia, breakfast. About 8:45 a.m. the people began gathering in our whae karakia (meeting house) until the hour of service arrived, there were about sixty persons present.

Elder J. H. W. Goff, president of the Whangarei district, called the conference to order and gave out hymn page 94. (President W. Gardner offered the opening prayer; sang from page 91.

Elder Goff then arose and made a few opening remarks, explaining the object of our gathering together and the importance of Elder Andrew Jensen's mission amongst us; closed his remarks by encouraging all to be firm in the good work we have started out in.

Historian Elder Andrew Jensen addressed us for about an hour, Elder Goff interprising. He had brought a special greeting from the First Presidency of the Church and from each of the Twelve Apostles.

He spoke briefly on the early history of the Church and how the Gospel had been taken to the isles of the sea; of the islanders' great progress in the Gospel, and delivered a special greeting from them to our New Zealand Saints; concluded after giving a short account of his travels from island to island.

Wiki Te Pirihiri, one of the leading chiefs and president of the Takahia branch, arose and expressed his great joy in meeting with the Salate and Elders. He desired all to live their religion as he knew it was true.

Singing from page 70. Benediction by Native Henare Ti Pirihiri.

Service commenced at 2 p.m. by singing from page 166, Koutuwa katoa. Prayer by Kairi Mahau; hymn page 108.

Elder Chas. B. Bartlett, president of the Bay of Islands district, addressed us for about an hour on Church organization, showing that Prophets are indispensable officers of the Church of Christ; quoted from 1 Cor. xii, 27—31; also gave us the key whereby we might know true and false prophets.

Te Taihua, a native, and consular of the Te Horo branch, expressed his joy at being present; encouraged all to be faithful. The word call us the new church; it is not new, but the old Church of Christ revealed again to the children of men, and I know it to be true.

Elder Theo. Finlayson, president of the European branch at Opuwhanga, said he was pleased to meet with the Salate and min to his voice with the rest of them. He dwelt a short time on the principle of tithing, showing how he had been blessed since practicing that principle, to the end that he is about to obey another one of God's great commandments, which is gathering out from Babylon.

Sang from page 24. Ngawati Te Pirihiri dismissed.

Evening services called to order at 7 p.m. Sang from page 156. Hoati Tanahiti Pitia offered prayer. Singing. Harmawera, Maori Elder and president