

certain offenses should be dealt with, were asked, and President Richards answered all satisfactorily.

A testimony meeting was held with the sisters and those not holding the Priesthood, Elders Nelson and Peterson being in charge. Twenty-seven availed themselves of the opportunity of testifying to the truthfulness of the Gospel and the goodness of God.

A European meeting was held in the Foresters' hall, Graytown North, the speakers being Elders Fenton and Browning.

Tuesday, third day, 10 a. m.—Elder H. Lee Bradford, president of the Wairarapa district, in reporting said some of the Saints were lukewarm and indifferent, but he had hopes of the conference reviving them. Since his arrival in the district he had visited all the villages.

Arapata Meha, president of the Waipapa branch, said that it was our faith which had prompted us to leave our homes and attend the conference. Endorsed all that had been said, and closed by asking God to bless the Elders and fill them with the spirit of their calling.

Elder David H. Packard, president of the Tawanga district, reported nineteen additions for the past year. Spoke of the power necessary for a person to officiate in the ordinances of the Gospel.

Elder Hyrum Cook (T. J. O'Brien interpreting) spoke upon the divine calling of Joseph Smith and his successors as Prophets of God.

Elder James N. Lambert spoke a few words of counsel and encouragement to those present.

Afternoon meeting, 3 o'clock—The statistical report of the mission for the year ending December 31, 1896, was read by President Richards.

The audience was then addressed by Elders W. S. Dimond, R. A. Fenton and George Jarvis, each one referring to his labors in the mission field, and speaking upon Gospel subjects. Native brethren, Eroha Te Maari and Hoera Ruruku, also spoke, testifying of the great work being done towards the establishment of God's kingdom.

President Richards then presented the general and local authorities of the Church, and read the following appointments:

Ezra F. Richards, president of the Australasian mission.

W. C. Castleton, clerk.

To labor in the Bay of Islands—Joseph Markham, Mills B. Andrus.

Wangarei—Hial B. Hales, Geo. Burnham.

Waikato—F. M. Kirkham, Joseph S. Price, Horace Hollingworth.

Hauraki—Parley A. Waters, A. E. Asper.

Auckland—W. C. Castleton, Enoch L. Reese.

Wairarapa—Joseph A. M. Jacobsen, Bryant Meham.

Poverty Bay—S. E. White, Geo. H. Eyre.

Te Mahia—Jas. N. Lambert, C. J. Petersen.

Hawkes Bay—David Lindsey, H. B. Jensen.

Manakau—John H. Ellis, R. S. McKinnon, Wm. S. Dimond, Glendon L. Andrus.

Wairarapa—H. Lee Bradford, Almon T. Butterfield, R. A. Fenton, Geo. Jarvis, Hans Petersen.

Wairarapa—Walter Banof, Jacob E. Teepler, Hyrum Cook, Jedediah G. Casper.

Christchurch—Geo. S. Coleman, J. F. Derbridge.

Otago—Bryant Ashby, John H. Sargent.

Tasmania—O. A. Orme, John Clayson, Wm. Harvey, James Steadman.

Victoria—A. E. Carr, Horace W. Barton.

Adelaide—Walter Baker, Thos. Clayton.

New South Wales—Andrew Smith Jr., Wm. G. Park, Alma C. Lambert, John Ritchie, Alma Hubbard.

Queensland—Wm. Armstrong, Robt. Argyle, A. P. Hamilton, Benj. Olegg, Wm. Fausett, Henry Woodland, Wm. Robinson, Wm. Coray.

All were unanimously sustained. Home missionaries from each Maori district were sustained to assist the Elders from Zion in presenting the Gospel to the native people.

The following Elders having performed faithful missions were honorably released to return home in May: T. J. O'Brien, Jos. O. Allen, J. K. Nelson and T. S. Browning.

Evening session, 7 o'clock.—The audience was addressed by Elders Jacob E. Teepler, S. E. White, Hans B. Jensen and Chas. J. Petersen.

The meeting was then given into the hands of the Saints to speak as they felt led. Nineteen faithful testimonies were borne.

President Richards in a few closing remarks expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which the conference had passed off, and was thankful to God for the blessings He had bestowed upon us. Thanked all who had in any way assisted to make our conference such a success.

Evening meeting was also held at Graytown North, Elders Castleton and Browning speaking to a small but attentive audience.

During the conference we were favored with epistles from the First Presidency, President Wm. Packman and Zion's Maori association, which were applauded by both Saints and outside friends. Copies of the First Presidency's epistle were presented to the leading outside men and women and also the District Presidents' for distribution among the Saints.

Elders' meeting was held on Wednesday at 1 o'clock. Elder Richards made brief remarks, after which each Elder spoke in turn, relating experiences met with in preaching the Gospel, and bearing a faithful testimony.

Many matters of business were brought before the meeting.

The conference was now over; everything had conspired to make the conference a genuine success, and we all felt truly satisfied.

We hereby extend heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Tamahau Mahouku, Houni Rangit Te Kalwaho, Pua Rakau and other leading and influential persons, and in fact to all who had assisted in making the conference of 1897 such a success. W. C. CASTLETON,

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, April 17, 1897.

IDAHO WEATHER AND CROPS.

The weather of the week ending Monday, July 19th, 1897, was very warm and dry, conditions favorable

for irrigated crops. Such rainfall as occurred was in the form of light local showers, mainly accompaniments of widely scattered thunderstorms. The deficiency of precipitation, together with an abundance of hot sunshine and drying winds have been detrimental to unirrigated crops, though, in the northern section, and in parts of the western, there is sufficient moisture for present needs, owing to heavy showers of last week.

Reports as to the condition of wheat are variable; in general it may be stated that the early sown is doing exceedingly well in the northern section, and hardly as well, but still in fairly good condition in the western; while in the eastern reports concerning territory west of the Mississippi river, in which he gave the details of a scheme for holding a cowboys' tournament here during the Jubilee, and asked for an expression of opinion regarding an accurate estimate is difficult, but it is not believed that prospects are at all flattering. In the extreme southeastern part of the latter section the cereal is unquestionably poor, both as to its progress and as to quality and yield. The crop is heading in all parts of the state, and in the northern section harvesting will begin next week. The injurious effects of long continued drought early in the season are shown in the decidedly poor condition of dry land and late sown wheat; the crop will undoubtedly be short. Reports as to oats, rye and barley are very meager, but where such crops are grown the condition of wheat in that locality may be taken as a criterion. Potatoes and garden truck in season are generally in satisfactory condition, though a trifle backward in some localities. The first crop of alfalfa is for the most part cut and well secured, and the second crop growing well; the yield taken as a whole was hardly as good as last year's. The ranges remain in good condition but are gradually drying out. All fruits are holding their own, and no insect pests in damaging numbers are reported.

D. P. MCCALLUM,
Section Director, Idaho Falls, Ida.

Last Sunday morning James W. Drullinger of Folsom, Cal., took his 8-year-old daughter with him to pick blackberries in the ravine a few rods from his house. The child reached over a rotten stump, when a rattlesnake stuck its fangs into her left arm below the elbow and shoulder. Her father ran to her, and putting a bandage tightly above the wound, then he applied his mouth to the wound and sucked out the poison. Putting his child in a buggy he hastened to Folsom, where a doctor said the father had already done the best that could have been done. The doctor, however, dressed the wound. Mr. Drullinger took his daughter home and then went out and set fire to the stump, thinking to burn the snake out, when a whirlwind scattered the fire in the dry grass. He could not control the flames and the wind caused it to spread rapidly, burning his barn, which had just been filled with hay. He barely saved his house. Before the fire was subdued it burned a couple of other barns, spreading over quite a tract of country.