

hear the reports of the different branches, and to be more fully taught the principles of life and salvation.

During our two days' conference at this place there were seven meetings held. All were well attended, and great was the manifestation of the Spirit and power of God.

President A. T. Wright, in his pleasing and able manner in speaking the Maori language, addressed the congregation by the power of God upon various principles of the Gospel. Especially did he exhort the Saints to continue faithful, and ever remember the covenants they made at the edge of the waters of baptism.

Elders Nye and Jackson, also being fluent speakers in this strange language, addressed the Saints upon different principles of the Gospel, as revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith in these the last days; and by their many biblical quotations proved that the Gospel as it was formerly preached by Christ and His Apostles has been restored to the earth with all its gifts, blessings and powers.

All the Elders being able to speak in the language of the natives, and their instructions being prompted by the Spirit of God, were greatly enjoyed by those present.

The testimony meeting held by the Saints will long be remembered by those who were present, so greatly were the Spirit and power of God made manifest. Both male and female, old and young, bore strong and faithful testimonies to the work of God, and the sweetness and solemnity of their songs and praises unto the Lord are beyond my power to describe.

Monday morning, the conference having adjourned, most of the natives left for their "kaingas," or homes, and four of the Elders started for Pautoro, the place of our next conference. President Wright and the other two Elders intended to follow them the next morning, but a heavy rainstorm, which commenced shortly after they left, made it impossible. The whole country next morning was flooded with water. The foundation of the house where we were stopping was buried in water two feet deep, and it looked as though we were at sea. This will give you some idea of the nature of the heavy rains in this country. In the afternoon the storm abated, and Wednesday morning we left for Pautoro. After three long but pleasant days' travel we arrived there and found the other Elders all well.

The natives at this place had gone to considerable labor in building "whares," or houses to accommodate the large number of natives who had already gathered. There was one "nickau whare," built after the old Maori custom, size 14x75 feet. In this building we Elders both ate and slept with over one hundred natives. Instead of having things served in the latest European style, as we did at our Whangarei Conference, it was more after the old Maori fashion of placing a pan of meat and potatoes before us, and everyone helping himself.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, 1889, the floor, or rather the ground, as there was no floor in the building, was crowded with natives, and the seven Elders who attended the Whangarei conference were present and occupied a rough bench at one end of the building.

The first conference of the Bay of Island district was called to order by President James S. Nye, who greeted the assembly in the love of Jesus Christ, and expressed his great pleasure in seeing so many attend the "hui." He invoked the blessings of the Lord to rest upon all assembled.

President A. T. Wright addressed the congregation in a spirited manner upon the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He greatly interested the natives in proving it to be a record of the journeyings of their tupunas, or forefathers, from Jerusalem to the land of America.

The principles of the Gospel were well handled by the Elders; also good instructions were given to the Saints.

During the two days' conference six meetings were held, all of which were well attended, and the Spirit of God was felt in abundance.

The showing of the statistical report was very good, and the Saints in general feel well, and express themselves as desirous of continuing faithful.

Ever praying for the welfare and triumph of Zion over her enemies. I remain your brother in the Gospel of Christ.

O. D. ROMNEY,

Clerk of Conference.

TAUTORO, New Zealand, September 30th, 1889.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

In the district court at Ogden, October 28, Judge Henderson rendered a decision in the case of Brigham Stowell et al vs. J. T. Johnson et al., which is of interest to all appropriators of water throughout the Territory. As will be seen by the statement in the decision, Stowell sold to Ogden in 1882 the right to put in pipes and use all of the waters of Waterfall Creek and half of Strong's Creek during the winter season for city uses. Those pipes were laid by the old Council and from there Ogden has derived its winter supply, when the pipes in the canyon would freeze. A short time before the old Council went out of office they purchased a further right from Colonel Swan who had previously bought it of Stowell. This water embraced the same quantity as that sold the city; in fact, the same water included in the former purchase, but it was really the use of it during the summer time, which was sold to the city for the sum of \$15,000. The Ogden officials began to connect the pipes at the mouth of the canyons for that purpose, and that move caused the trouble which occurred at that time. The other parties who, it now appears by the decision, owned eighty-six one hundred and sixteenths of the water during the irrigating season, objected to such a move, which would deprive them of

all the water except one-half of Strong's canyon. The pipes were torn out and at the time men were kept on the grounds to guard the spot. The decision is as follows:

The complaint alleges that the plaintiffs are the owners of certain real estate, describing it; that the plaintiffs are the owners of the right to use for irrigating said land and for supplying Ogden City with water, all the flow of Waterfall canyon creek and half of the flow of Strong's canyon creek; that more than ten years before the filing of the complaint the plaintiffs, their predecessors in interest and grantors, jointly constructed ditches, laid pipes and flumes from the natural channels of said stream to and upon their said land, and by means thereof diverted all the water of Waterfall canyon creek, and one half of Strong's canyon creek; and that for more than ten years last past they have openly, peaceably, uninterruptedly and continually used the waters aforesaid through said pipes. The complaint further alleges that the defendants have interfered with such rights. It prays for an injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with their rights as above set forth, and that the plaintiffs be decreed to be the owners of said stream aforesaid.

The answer of the defendants denies that the plaintiffs, or any or either of them, are the owners of the right to use, for irrigating the lands described in the complaint, or for supplying Ogden city with water, or for any purpose, all or any part of the two streams mentioned except a secondary right to irrigate thirty acres of their said land.

The answer denies in general the allegations of the complaint, and claims that the defendants, their predecessors in interest, appropriated the water of said creeks more than thirty years ago, and that they are the owners of the first or prior right thereto.

(Then follows a description of the creeks and the amount of water in each, how they flow from the mountains and unite into one under the name of Canfield Creek.) The decree continues:

The testimony shows that as early as 1848 settlers commenced to locate and improve land on the lower part of Canfield Creek and to irrigate their lands from this creek; and various settlements were made upon the creek extending along it easterly for several years, and probably, up to 1855 and possibly some later. These settlers irrigated their lands from Canfield Creek and the defendants are the successors in interest of these settlers.

The lands of the plaintiff are situated further east and on the north side of Waterfall canyon creek before it forms its junction with Strong's canyon creek; and their lands consist mainly of a level plateau.

Prior to 1862 settlement had been made upon these lands, but no great improvements made. Some small amount of irrigating seems to have been done and the water for that