

behalf of all the Church authorities were kindly expressed, and in a most feeling and forcible manner he told their love for and interest in the Maori people. A thrill of joy had filled their hearts since so many of the natives had accepted the Gospel. The speaker then traced the history of the ancestry of the Maoris since 600 B. C., when Lehi and family left Jerusalem. The dealings of God with them were vividly portrayed, also the introduction of the Gospel amongst their remnant. He dwelt quite extensively upon the necessity of keeping correct genealogies and records, that when the time came for the Maori people to work in the temples for the salvation of their dead kindred, they might be able to make their labors complete. He warned the natives against changing their names after they had been baptized.

The meeting closed by singing hymn No. 99, and the benediction was pronounced by Karene Kerei of Maikato.

At the afternoon meeting, President Gardner presided. Singing the 96th hymn. Prayer, Pouaka of Waikato Paki. Singing No. 64.

Elder Willard Goff was the first speaker. He referred to the mission of John the Baptist, following with a portrayal of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The teachings of primitive Christianity were compared with our present system of religion. The coming forth and divine authority of the Book of Mormon were clearly evinced from the scriptures, showing that no antagonism existed between its teachings and those of the Bible.

Arapata Meha, president of the Waipawa branch in Hawkes Bay district, then spoke. The teachings of the servants of God had been interesting to him and he knew they were true. The power of the Priesthood was manifested through the Elders of the Church. Wicked men in this age of the world were taking unto themselves authority to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel. They practiced on the sick, and deceived the ignorant. The Gospel in its fullness, with its gifts, graces and blessings, had been restored to earth and it was the duty of every Latter-day Saint to live in accordance with its requirements. The speaker closed by bearing a faithful testimony to the truth of Mormonism.

Elder Embley said that the teachings of servants of the Lord were that men should evade all evil and do right always. Wisdom was promised to all who would seek in faith, and great blessings were held out to the enduring faithful.

Wiremu Takana, counselor to the president of the Tamaki branch of the Hawkes Bay district, said it was a law in the primitive Church that men and women should be born of water and of the Spirit. That same law was binding on mankind today. The same principles which were taught by Christ and His Apostles were advocated by Joseph Smith and modern Apostles. The Gospel taught in olden times had been restored in this dispensation. Great rewards were held out to the faithful children of God. Even great promises had been made to the Maoris. It was declared in the Book of Mormon that provided they would keep the commandments of God, not many generations should pass away before they should become a white and delightsome people.

He exhorted his brethren and sisters to be firm to the end.

Elder James N. Linford, president of the Wairau district, reported the condition of the Saints under his jurisdiction. The great majority were true to their covenants, and endeavored to lead a Christian life. The subject of prophecy and spiritual gifts was briefly but plainly dwelt upon. Closing prayer by Te Awapouri.

Evening meeting.—Owing to the heat being so oppressive in the house, it was decided to meet in the open air. A lovely lawn just in front of Aperahama's house was chosen, the porch serving for the stand. It was a beautiful picture to behold, our dusky brethren and sisters all pleasantly seated on the grass, eager to hear the inspired teachings of the servants of the Lord.

After the customary opening exercises Reha Aperahama was called to speak. As president of the Te Aroha branch he reported the condition of its members. He said the Christian world possessed much faith, but were awfully ignorant of the true Gospel. He treated upon the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph, showing that God had revealed His mind and will unto him for the guidance of His Church.

Paora Hopere president of the Ngamawahia branch of the Waikato district referred to the early appearance of ministers amongst the Maoris. These had inculcated false doctrines into the minds of the natives, which had no tendency to make the people better or to draw them nearer to God. He said many professed modern Christians had centered their faith in a God without body, parts or passions, and were worshiping him instead of the true and living God. The character and attributes of the God of the Bible were then nicely portrayed, much scriptural evidence being adduced. He urged the Saints to be faithful in the performance of every duty, and not to give away to evil practices.

Elder C. B. Bartlett, president of the Bay of Islands district, reported briefly the condition of his conference. Though some had been dilatory, the great majority were endeavoring to live the life of Saints. The speaker referred briefly to salvation for the dead. He urged the Saints to be firm and immovable in the faith which they had espoused.

Singing hymn No. 86; prayer by J. M. Folkman.

Second day, morning meeting.—President Gardner called the attention of the congregation, as they had assembled again on the lawn. After singing by the congregation and prayer by Tamihana Te Whareraupo. Elder Joseph C. Jorgensen was called upon to speak. He reported the condition of the Waipari district, of which he was president. He had experienced much joy and satisfaction in his efforts among the Maoris, and as his labors were now completed, and as he was about to return to Zion, he desired to thank his brethren and sisters for the kindness they had manifested towards him. He exhorted the Saints to give heed to the counsel of the Elders and live in accordance with the requirements of the Gospel.

Elder Hoagland, president of the Te Mahia district, said it would be the last time he would have the privilege to address the Saints there, as he was about to return to Utah. His heart was full of gratitude to the Maoris for the

interest they had shown in him, and his earnest desire was to continue to labor for their welfare. He implored the blessings of Almighty God upon all who were manifesting an interest in the establishment of the cause of truth.

Otene Pomare, of Korongata, Hawkes Bay, spoke in power upon the principles of the Gospel. He declared that a persistent indulgence in evil practices would call down the displeasure of God upon the sinner. It was only through compliance with the laws of God that men would inherit His kingdom.

Elder Christian Petersen, president of the Tauranga district, spoke. (At this juncture the rain began to pour down in torrents, and the assembly were compelled to move inside. When all were quiet again the meeting proceeded.)

Elder Peterson's labors in Maori-land were also at an end, and it was with reluctance that he bade adieu to his Maori friends. The most pleasant hours of his life had been spent in their midst, though often he had passed through hardships; he urged the Saints to hold fast to the truth and continue to work for their exaltation. He closed by giving a brief report of his district.

Whahapau Pomare, a young native orator, delivered a powerful discourse on the subject of Church organization, bringing much scriptural evidence to bear upon it. He closed by testifying to the restoration of the Gospel, with authority delegated to man, to officiate in its laws and ordinances.

Elder Abbott, president of the Manawatu conference, made a few closing remarks. He also was among those who were released to return home. His heart was full of love for the Maoris, and he sincerely trusted that they would prosper in good works, and so live that they could lay claim upon the blessings of God. He spoke briefly upon the destruction of the wicked.

After singing, Tiahomiro pronounced the benediction.

The afternoon meeting commenced with the usual opening exercises, after which Haura Watene of Orakeihoraho, and Hamuera Toko, president of the Te Horo branch, Bay of Islands, were called upon to speak. They bore faithful testimonies to the truth of the Gospel. They were desirous of keeping the commandments of God.

Elder Jens K. Nelson, of the Waihatu district, then represented the condition of his conference. Some of the members were dilatory and slack in attending to their religious duties. Many were doing well, and taken on the whole there was a spirit of progress manifested. Nine new members had been baptized, and ten children had been blessed. He urged the Saints that notwithstanding they should be persecuted they should be unwavering in their determination to serve God.

Elder Frank Nebeker, president of Hawkes Bay district, gave an encouraging report of his labors, and the condition of the Saints in his district. Thirty new members had been baptized, and the prospects for more in the near future were very encouraging. Having been released to return home, he felt to bear his testimony to his brethren and sisters and encouraged them to be faithful and true to their covenants.

Elders Johnson and O'Brien and native brethren Taratara, Te Awapouri, Wehi, Paki bore their testimonies and were desirous of laboring for the cause of truth.