

Bushman, a man of sterling worth and long experience, presides as Bishop of the St. Joseph Ward. His first counselor is Joseph C. Hansen, a son of Jens Hansen of Spanish Fork, Utah; he has charge of the work on the dam. The second counselor is Henry M. Tanner.

On the 9th inst. I visited the defunct settlement of Obed founded by our people in 1876, but vacated in 1877 because of the going out of the dam, and also, because of the unhealthy location, it being in close proximity to an extensive swamp. The old fort walls still stand and most of them are well preserved, as well as the gable ends and rock chimneys of quite a number of the houses. Some of the founders of Obed afterwards became some of the first settlers of Snowflake. Obed was situated on the south side of the Little Colorado river, opposite St. Joseph, and about three miles southeast of that place.

On the 10th inst., in company with Presidents Jesse N. Smith and Joseph H. Richards, I visited the old sites of Sunset and Brigham City, about twenty-five miles below or northwest of St. Joseph. The state of the weather was such as to initiate me quite thoroughly into the realities of a genuine Arizona desert blizzard. In the forenoon it was wind and sand, in the afternoon wind and snow. I have seldom regretted the leaving at home of a heavy overcoat more than I did that day, and had it not been for the wise forethought of the Bishop who prevailed upon me to suit my person to his overcoat, and some quilts which we brought along, it might have fallen to the lot of someone else to write the history of the settlements of Arizona. It was truly a cold day; and I have afterwards learned from the papers that the same storm the following day in its travel eastward swept over the states of Colorado and Indian Territory and that several persons perished from it in Oklahoma. Winds are very frequent in Arizona, in fact that is one of the most unpleasant features of some of our Arizona Settlements. The winds, particularly in the spring of the year will blow, and blow hard, but seldom so hard as on the day when we visited old Sunset.

Sunset was founded by Lot Smith and company in 1876; the settlement consisted of a picket fort about twelve rods square, situated on the river flat about four miles from the present town of Winslow, on the Atlantic and Pacific railway, but on the opposite side of the river. Sections of the picket inclosure and nearly all the rock walls and chimneys of the pioneer's houses are still standing, but everything is desolate, the whole landscape looks dreary and forbidding; and the lonely graveyard on the hillside only, reminds one of a population which was once but is no more. The brethren who were with me expressed their lonesome feelings; for here they had often listened to the songs of Zion as they were sung by a devout people, and here in by one years they had enjoyed the inspiration of heaven as the word of God had been dispensed to the multitude who assembled to worship before God, Sabbath after Sabbath when this place was the headquarters of the Little Colorado Stake of Zion.

The ruins of "old" Brigham City, now occupied by only one family, are

seen across the river about one mile southwest of the Sunset site. We approached to within fifty rods of it, but were unable to cross the river at the old mill site, hence, after making our calculations and getting our geographical bearings, in order to write more intelligently about the place, when the history of these two defunct settlements of the Saints shall be written, we returned to our good and warmhearted friends in St. Joseph, thankful to find shelter from the fearful storm which had made our journey so disagreeable.

Taylor is a settlement presided over by Bishop Zechariah B. Decker, and situated on both sides of Silver creek, three and a half miles above Snowflake. A "modern" suspension foot bridge, 200 feet long, connects the two sections of the town. This bridge is so strongly built that even the "heaviest" lady in the settlement can cross over in safety, provided the wind don't blow too hard. It is claimed by the good people of Taylor that their bridge will compare very favorably with the great bridge which connects the two cities New York and Brooklyn, when the difference in population is duly considered. The Taylor ward consists of forty-six families (or 323 souls) of Saints. This includes also the little village of Shumway, which is situated on Silver creek, four miles above Taylor. The natural advantages of Taylor are very similar to those of Snowflake. An incorporated irrigation company controls the irrigation interests of both settlements.

Situated away up in the pine timbers near the top of the Mogollon mountains is the little settlement of Pin-dale, where the people raise grain without irrigation and obtain water for culinary purposes from wells. This is a most romantic place, and though the settlers have struggled hard to make a living in times past, the prospects ahead now seem to be better, and the people are determined to stick to it. Twenty-one families, or 115 souls, presided over by Bishop Niels Peterson, constituted the membership of the ward.

Show Low ward comprises all the scattered settlers on the Show Low creek, a tributary of Silver creek. There are five villages within the limits of this ward, namely, Juniper, Adair, Ellsworth, Fairview or Woodland and Pine Top. From Juniper, the settlement further west, to Pine Top eastward the distance is 22 miles. The Bishop (Brother Hansen) resides at Woodland. Except at Ellsworth where the people irrigate their lands from the Show Low, dry farming in the heavy pine forests is the predominant feature in the Show Low ward, the strength of which is 34 families or 202 souls. Accompanied by Pres. Jesse N. Smith I have visited all the settlements in the Snowflake Stake and have preached to the Saints in their different localities. I have also gathered the historical information that is wanted. I found the Stake records in a first-class condition, Elder Joseph Fish, who until quite recently, acted as Stake clerk and historian, has done excellent work. Besides keeping the general Stake books and recording the ordinary minutes up to the date he left the Stake, he has written a general history of the Church in eastern Arizona, including historical sketches of

the different wards and settlements in this region of country.

The quarterly conference has just closed in Snowflake and I am about to start for the St. Johns Stake. I shall long remember the good Saints here, whose appreciation of my labors in their midst made it a pleasure to administer to them.

ANDREW JENSON.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

PANGUITCH.

The quarterly conference of Panguitch Stake of Zion met in Panguitch Feb. 24th. Present were Elders J. W. Crosby, M. M. Steele and David Cameron, members of the high council, and Bishops Miller, Peterson and Johnson. The meeting house was filled to overflowing.

Elder Miller spoke on faith, repentance, obedience and duty to each other, of financial troubles and necessity of economy; also on the evil results of profanity. Elders I. Hatch and David Cameron spoke on faith, repentance and baptism and the necessity of inspiration in the interpretation of the ordinances of God.

President Jesse W. Crosby presented a report of receipts from various wards and thought it very favorable, considering the state of affairs, loss of crops and financial distress. He compared our faith with the religious denominations of the world and the rewards to be received by serving God, and said that our tribulations have been beneficial in making us more careful and patient with the faults of others; also of the evil effects of backbiting.

Elders G. L. Heywood, S. O. Crosby and Wm. Owens spoke on faith and good works, and Elder M. M. Steele on the development of the faculties of mind and body and the necessity of improving our talents. Elders Joe. Cameron, Albert Clark and Albert Haycock spoke on the hard times, duties of parents and children, the necessity of brotherly love, and the sin of idleness.

General and local authorities were presented and sustained and conference was adjourned to an unknown date. Prayer by Jesse W. Crosby.

GEORGE DODDS,
State Clerk.

ST. JOHN'S.

Our two day's quarterly Stake conference closed this afternoon. It commenced on Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Elder Andrew Jenson who is now traveling through this Stake for the purpose of obtaining historical data, was present at all the meetings and gave several historical sketches which were exceedingly interesting.

The speakers during the conference were, of the presidency of the Stake, David K. Udall and Wm. H. Gibbons; Patriarch Henry J. Platt, Elders Andrew Jenson, Wm. Maxwell, one of the Mormon Battalion, and Joseph H. Frisby of the Snowflake Stake. Of the seven wards of this Stake, five were reported by their respective Bishops.

At the Stake Priesthood meeting held on Sunday evening, March 4, Joseph Udall was sustained as first counselor to Bishop George H. Crosby of the Union ward, to succeed Henry L. Marble, removed. On account of this change, Joseph