

pearl oysters, some of them have been known to remain under the water for a little over three minutes. They dive all the way from 100 to 125 feet in depth.

The Society Islands group embraces quite a number of islands and is made up of two divisions. Tahiti and the Austral Islands, both of which are of volcanic formation, form one division, while the Tuamotu group makes up the other division. The latter group of islands is of a coral formation and consequently agriculture thereon is an impossibility. The coconut, however, is said to thrive and flourish better on these islands than elsewhere, the product of the Tuamotu islands being easily distinguished from that of the other isles by its sweet flavor. The only animals on the Tuamotu group are the pig, the dog and the cat.

The islands are of an oblong shape and vary from 10 to 100 miles in length. In the center of each is a lagoon, into which the natives dive for pearls and pearl oysters. The Elders in traveling from one island to another, do so by means of small boats, some of which are so small that people not acquainted with sailing in them would shudder at the thought of attempting navigation by means of such insignificant affairs. The natives, however, are always on hand to render assistance to those who feel rather diffident in making the voyage to them. One feature on the islands which becomes somewhat distasteful to the foreigner, is the poor mail service, as it is said to be no uncommon thing to receive mail some ten or eleven months after the date upon which it was written.

Elders Woodbury and Larsen return home in splendid health, none the worse for their experiences in the South Seas. They have enjoyed their labors exceedingly and feel that God's blessing has been with them while away. There are now on the islands seven Elders, all of whom are in good health and energetic in their labors. Elder Cutler who has presided over the mission for some time is expected to return home as soon as his successor arrives in the field.

IRON COUNTY PROSPECTS.

HARMONY, Sept. 20th, 1896.

I find the people of Iron county quite decided in their opinions on political questions, and very many express their views in a very intelligent manner, showing that they have given some consideration to the various questions at issue. While the cry, "Give us silver, silver," possibly predominates among both sections of the great political parties, there is a very strong element in this section of southern Utah who, while they offer no objection to the development of gold and silver mines and the free coinage of silver, consider that the development of the natural resources of their own country would bring about a better condition financially and that the benefits derived would be everlasting; hence they say "Give us iron, iron! We have the ore in abundance and that, too, of the richest quality. Give us a railroad through this country and Cedar City and vicinity would become a great manufacturing center for iron and steel."

Men are not only sanguine but en-

thusiastic in this matter and to them the word "fail" is not known. They fondly hope the efforts now being made by Thomas Taylor and others will finally prove successful and capital furnished.

The sheep industry in this country has proved a great blessing and benefit to the people generally. One company known as the Cedar Co-operative herd has dispensed many thousands of dollars annually among the people, the gentleman giving figures as follows: \$17,000 for herding, freighting and supplies to herds; \$16,000 in dividends; a total of \$33,000 for the year, and this large amount nearly all distributed among the people of Cedar City. The company have been in business twenty-seven years, and never failed to pay a dividend of from 5 to 15 per cent. They commenced with 3,000 head and their herd today numbers 23,000. In addition the company own fifteen quarter sections of land in the mountains, used for grazing purposes. The company also run a sheep store which is well stocked with goods, and they consider themselves in a good condition.

Iron county is to be commended for its efforts to sustain and maintain home industries. I was shown very good leather for sole and other purposes; two calf skins tanned exclusively with the cannalga process deserve especial mention as first class goods. The leading men seek to promote and encourage these industries of various kinds by patronage, and they usually hold yearly fairs for the exhibition of these varied products. One will be held this year in Cedar City. In order not to be behind their neighbors north and south they are now putting in a complete roller mill for the manufacture of flour, the estimated cost being about \$6,000 for machinery and the enlargement of flume and reservoir. I was somewhat astonished to learn that Cedar had imported over 30,000 pounds of flour, principally from Utah county, this year, the necessity for buying so largely in a strictly agricultural country being short crops, the old burr mill only running half time. It is to be hoped the farmers will feel encouraged and plant more extensively, and keep the new mill well supplied and stop this drain financially for flour.

This part of Utah is no exception to the north in the almost total failure of the fruit crop; but a wise providence seems to have intervened and the mountains are filled with the so-called wild fruits—elderberry, raspberry, chokeberry and other kinds, and the people generally are availing themselves of the opportunity afforded and gathering them in abundance, so that the good housewives are making their jellies and preserves as of yore.

I found the grain crop generally very light; in the early spring no rain, and the snow on the mountains almost a failure. The grain suffered for lack of water but the later rains have been beneficial to lucern and the corn crop which is considered very good and many are sorry they did not plant more barley. I was much surprised when informed that the three settlements of Harmony, Kanarra and Hamilton only threshed a little over 6,000 bushels of small grain, about 5,000 of this wheat, the balance oats and barley.

The people are thankful for their good corn crop. I am told they had 11,000 bushels last year of small grain.

Dairy going to the mountains I find is very largely carried on in this section. Many families leave the valleys and make their homes in the mountains, making cheese and butter. They are now returning to their permanent homes, it being somewhat frosty in the hills. Sheep are largely herded in the mountains and many sheepowners are shearing them, the practice being to shear three times in two years.

I had the pleasure of an introduction to the good lady who was the first white female child born in Utah, Aug. 9th, 1847, she being present when one of her grand children was being blessed by the Elders last Sunday. Just fancy the third generation! How time flies!

TWIN BROTHER.

ST. GEORGE STAKE CONFERENCE.

Appointments were made at headquarters for the annual Stake conference of the Sunday schools to convene in St. George on Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of September, and for the Stake regular quarterly conference to be held on Sunday 13th and Monday 14th insts. In view of this the Stake presidency and High Council decided to allot Saturday and up to noon of Sunday to the Sunday school conference, and Sunday afternoon and Monday to the regular Stake conference. This arrangement proved to be satisfactory to all concerned. Elder F. M. Lyman had sent word that he would be with us, and in due course he began his ministerial labors in this Stake by holding meeting with Rockville ward, having with him President Edwin D. Woolley of Kanab Stake, and having been met by President McArthur of St. George Stake. From Rockville these brethren journeyed to St. George, holding previously arranged meetings with Grafton, Virgin City, Toquerville, Leeds and Washington wards; at each of which the people showed their appreciation by large attendance and close attention to the addresses of the speakers.

Promptly at 10 on the morning of Saturday, the 12th, Stake Superintendent Richard Morris began the Sunday school conference in St. George Tabernacle. After opening exercises the Stake superintendent reviewed the Sunday school movement from its inception to its present status in the Church. An impromptu program was rendered, interspersed with reports from different wards; morning service concluding by brief remarks of Elder Lyman. The afternoon service consisted of the publication of reports, rendition of selections by classes, interspersed by musical pieces; concluding by a discourse on Sunday school topics by Elder Lyman.

Sunday morning after the opening exercises the Sacrament was administered, Sunday schools reported, and Elder Anthony W. Ivins, our old-time fellow-worker, but now president of the Mexican mission, delivered an address on religious training; after which the general authorities of the Church and the authorities of the St. George Stake were presented and unanimously sustained, the only change in the Stake authorities being that Thos.