

CORRESPONDENCE.

AMONG THE INDIANS.

A brief account of a visit to the Indian settlement of Washakie, in this county, may be of interest to your readers. Washakie is located on the west side of the Malad Valley, about twenty miles northwest of Collinston and sixteen miles south from Malad City.

A little over fifteen years ago the Indians composing the colony were settled a few miles north of Bear River City, but inducements offered them in the Malad Valley in the shape of an increase of water for irrigation purposes caused their removal to the present location. For the last fifteen years they have resided there and during most of this time have been presided over, as a branch of the Mormon Church, by Bishop Moroni Ward.

For a time the colony was managed on the co-operative plan, but dissatisfaction at this grew among the red men, no doubt partly caused by the accidental destruction by fire of several thousand bushels of grain, a fine saw mill in the mountains north of Malad and a store and valuable stock of goods at Washakie, the loss aggregating about \$12,000, none of which was covered by insurance. These heavy losses made it a struggle to keep the colony in running order. The land and other property was divided equally among the Indians and perseverance and good management have brought wonderful results. With the exception of several "wick-i-ups," which it appears a hard matter for some of the Indians to abandon, the town has the appearance of any other settlement, containing many neat and comfortable frame residences. The population of the ward is about two hundred, mostly Shoshonee. Regular Sunday meetings are held in the large meeting house and a well attended Sunday school of which Ammon Publegg is superintendent, D. N. Carlon Hootchew is assistant superintendent, and Willie Ottogary, a bright looking, intelligent lad of twenty-four years of age, is secretary. A Deacon's quorum of about twenty members is one of the organizations, as is also a branch of the Elder's quorum. The district school is taught by Mr. Lewis D. Jones, of Samaria, and has an enrollment of thirty-nine. The Indian youths pay fair attention to their studies. While into some branches of learning, such as arithmetic and grammar, it is a very difficult matter to give them an insight, there are other branches in which they excel, and a specimen of penmanship from each scholar which was tendered me from Mr. Jones shows that this branch is one of them.

The inhabitants of the village dress as neatly as is usually seen among the race, and unlike many of their brethren in other localities, they appear to have a desire to earn what they need and use and to improve their condition, both financially and mentally.

They love amusements and an entertainment and dance given them one evening of this week was patronized until the meeting-house was filled to overflowing. To the serene portion of

the entertainment they listened with marked attention while the comic part would convulse them with laughter. In dancing they show aptitude and when a "quadrille" was called six sets of the dusky people of all sizes and ages tripped the light fantastic to the usual American calls. A few of them can also make a fair showing in round dances.

Besides the families of Bishop Ward and Mr. Jones, the school teacher, there is only one other family of white people in the settlement, that of a Mr. Zundel, who formerly had charge of the branch. These two last named families only reside there, however, during the winter months, leaving Bishop Ward, his kind wife and interesting family as the only white inhabitants of the village during the summer months. The patience and zeal manifested by them in what to some would be an almost unbearable mission, should receive the emulation of every citizen of Utah, as it would be a hard matter to find a colony of Lamanites anywhere in the West which have been brought to a higher plane in any respect than have the inhabitants of Washakie.

J. FRANK FICKERING.

COLLINSTON, Utah, March 3, 1894.

FROM HARRISVILLE.

HARRISVILLE, Utah, March 2nd, 1894.—In my communication of Feb. 17th, I omitted to say that the low price of wheat could not be attributed to over production so far as this place is concerned; for the 8,743 bushels raised here from about 600 acres would only give (after deducting seed) about 12 bushels to each person living here, or about one pound of flour per day to each person. From an approximate of last year's wheat on hand there may be a shortage before harvest. And this, too, in a farming community, with an army of stalwart peasants. The only manufacturing industry is the Anderson Pressed Brick company. This, when in full double shift operation, employs about 70 persons, for eight months in the year. But even this industry has of late had a hard struggle, and in these depressed times has occasionally had to close down. They have now about one million of brick of all classes on hand; with three-fourths of a million in kiln ready to burn, which will take near 250 tons of P. V. lump coal.

I noticed during the past season the farmers had to resort to hog-raising to get money to pay taxes. Some few got their taxes from fruit, and others by working on the roads for county borrowed money, thus bonding, future posterity to pay it. Well might Spencer Clawson of the Salt Lake City Council have dubious omens of thus putting ourselves into bondage to tide over present issues. Better that we return to our primitive industries, and set up in our domiciles a working bee hive—or we may have to depend upon a Moses to deliver us from Egyptian bondage.

Father Burnett of this place, who was guard at the Utah Penitentiary in

the sixties, has passed his 80th annual mile stone, his friends gave him a pleasant surprise. He and his good dame paddle their own canoe, running a small store without soliciting contributions from the community.

Three of Huntville's most progressive citizens leave shortly on a missionary tour. The young folks of the place are doing a good work in getting up entertainments to assist them to their fields of labor.

I see in one of your contemporaries a notice of the death of the president of the Maricopa Stake, resulting from the kick of a horse some months ago. But they have not got the name correct, which should be C. I. Robson. [The News had it right!] Friend Robson was well known in Salt Lake county, where your correspondent was his neighbor when he ran the paper mill in Sugar House ward for T. B. H. Stenhouse.

He was also well known in Weber county, where the family were raised. It is remarkable that he should meet his death in a like manner as his brother James P. Robson did seven years next April—from a kick of a horse—while plowing in his garden in Plain City, Weber county. This was followed by such sad circumstances that I feel assured your readers will pardon a short recital of the same. His wife, the amiable daughter of the late respected Joseph Skeen, died eight months after, leaving a babe two weeks old. This babe followed its parents just eight months after its mother's death. There were left two sons and three daughters, who were strongly attached to their uncle Charles I. Robson, and he to them. He also has three brothers, Thomas, William and Ralph who left Plain City some years ago, and settled in Idaho.

Yours,

P. L.

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Quarterly conference was held at Marshall, Oklahoma, February 24th, 25th and 26th. Traveling Elders present, Reese M. Harper, presiding Elder of the mission, John A. Lowe, in charge of the Oklahoma conference, and A. N. Wallace, Geo. S. Ashton, John A. Stephens and E. M. McArthur and Priests David and Levi Holt. During the first two days the meetings were of a generally instructive and testimonial character. The Spirit of the Lord was greatly enjoyed, the Elders and Saints were encouraged in their labor of love, while the visitors were impressed with the truths uttered and the spirit and genius of the work. Our young Elders with but limited experience showed marked improvement, a steady development towards their important callings. Testimonies and expressions of the Saints showed that they were being benefited by the Gospel of Christ which they have embraced. The Elders were greatly benefited by their meeting together in a Priesthood meeting on Monday where they exchanged experiences and suggestions, receiving some valuable instructions from their presiding officers. In the evening a branch and Sunday school were organized. Priests David and Levi Holt were ordained Elders and placed in charge, the senior in charge of the little branch, while Levi Holt was chosen superin-