

valley of Goshen. This accumulated water, which otherwise would run to waste, in the near future will irrigate about 1,800 acres of a valley extending from Utah Lake on the north to the foothills about Kimball creek, and from the hills near Santaquin to the Tropic range. From the dam at the commencement of the little canyon to the end of the canal it is about twenty-one miles. There are one and a half miles of fluming in the canyon, six feet wide by four deep, half round—a piece of the most artistic engineering in Utah. While this may affect the supply of stored water in Utah Lake, and to time be felt by those depending on the waters of the Jordan, I cannot help but commend the enterprise, and only wish that the people could own those reservoirs and canals themselves.

Sheep are now on the move; after shearing, which is a matter of no small moment in the south, the herder will have to get well back into the mountains to find feed, for unless more moisture comes, feed will be a scarce article in the valleys. Not a spear of grass is to be seen south of Fillmore, and a very little north until we reach Utah county.

Horses are being discriminated against very severely in the south. Owners of horses will not, in many instances, acknowledge their brands, preferring rather to disown than pay taxes on the stock.

Near Beaver, horses are being bought for from 50 cents to \$5 each. Their flesh is cooked for hogs, making all out of the fat and the hides are sold for leather purposes. Of course if you wanted to buy a good horse you would have to pay for him.

In the southern countries the people are to be congratulated on their loyalty to home industries, looking to their own interests and milking the cow they have so liberally fed. People of the larger counties and cities would do well to follow their example and profit by the common sense principles of

HOME INDUSTRY.

## WEEDS AND TIMBER.

FARMINGTON, Utah, March 26.—I have not taken pains to read all the minutes of the present Legislature, and have therefore missed reading the bill introduced in relation to compelling land owners to destroy obnoxious weeds; but I saw a brief notice of it. I hope the bill will include what some call wild lettuce, a plant that is rapidly spreading over many sections of the country. It must nearly resemble the Canada thistle, as a great many people mistake it for the destructive weed. Also I do think that it would be a good plan for the law not to go into effect until one year after its passage in order not to work so severe a hardship to owners of farms that are nearly overrun with these obnoxious weeds. If this plan is adopted I don't think it would cause many landowners to neglect destroying the weeds this coming season, as I think it will require two years' labor to make much of a successful showing in regard to destroying them.

I believe there was some talk in a previous legislature of passing a law making it the duty of sheriffs to extinguish forest fires. I do not think

the talk amounted to anything; or if it resulted in passing a law I do not think the law has resulted in any good, as our mountain fires generally burn until rain, or a lack of more timber stops the destruction of the few remnants of our former mountain forests. Within the last few years hundreds of acres of timber have been consumed by fire in our Davis county canyons, and little or no efforts have been made to extinguish the fires and I fear that the residents of our other counties are no better than we are. Hundreds of acres of ashes, and other hundreds of acres of stumps of trees are silent witnesses of the destruction of our "primeval forests," by fire and by the woodman's ax.

Since writing the above I have received and read in the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS, Mr. Whiting's statement under the heading "Two Theories Attacked," I must admit it is considerable of a surprise. I was intending to mention in this letter that most of our mountain fires on the south side of our canyons, the side that holds the snow or summer use; and on which is located the major part of the timber; and would have mentioned in connection with this loss of timber the, what I supposed was an established fact, that our water supply was thus diminished. Also I was going to ask you to favor the public by ascertaining and publishing some practical or feasible method of tree planting applicable to the denuded but rich mountain lands where nature in past ages provided such extensive and magnificent forests for the use of man.

Coal for fuel, and fencing wire instead of poles, have rendered us more independent or less dependent, on our mountain forests; and if Mr. Whiting is correct, and if what may be inferred from his letter is correct, it will certainly militate against the renewing of our mountain forests.

Mr. Whiting offers that the talk in regard to "timber laws" "are being pushed by a few that do not understand the situation." Also, "In regard to the timber holding the melting snows, this is another fine theory that will not bear investigation. \* \* \* I know this to be a fact, \* \* \* also that the timber retards the drifting of the snow. If the residents of this State will observe this coming spring, they will never ask for protection of timber for this purpose," etc. The statement I make above, as regards "what may be inferred from his letter," would, I think, justify an important change to be made in the heading of his letter; so it would read, "Three Theories Attacked," for I think that Mr. Whiting or any other intelligent man will not dispute the theory, or fact, that an increase of timber culture causes an increase of rainfall. And yet Mr. Whiting begins his letter with, "Just listen to my gentle voice this morning, in regard to the game and timber laws that are being pushed by a few who do not understand the situation." I hope that "the few who do not understand the situation" (as Mr. Whiting apparently does), and all other persons who are interested in timber culture, will not allow their interest to cease in "timber laws that are being pushed" on account of what he has said on the subject.

Articles are frequently published in newspapers and magazines attributing the gradual decline in the volume of water in our rivers to the destruction of the forests near the sources of the rivers. If our State Legislature, or our county courts authorize any officers to interest themselves in calling out men who are public spirited enough to volunteer to extinguish such fires, I think that more than one officer in each town or city should be thus authorized, so that in case of the absence of one of them, another could attend to the matter.

T. B. C.

F. S.—The first letter I ever wrote to a paper was on timber culture, and appeared in the NEWS over thirty years ago. Others have been published occasionally since that time.

T. B. C.

## INTERESTING MEXICAN NEWS.

COLONIA JUAREZ, Mex.,

March 10th, 1896.

We have just held a very interesting and instructive conference. It was well attended and an excellent spirit prevailed. I presume the secretary will send you the minutes and so will say no more on this subject.

We have had an epidemic of "la grippe" in all the State, more or less. At Colonia Diaz Bro. Oliver C. Wilson and a son of Bro. Andrew Jensen, died. At Colonia Dublin Bro. Geo. Patten has passed away and lately Bro. Geo. W. Russell was buried. He was taken with pneumonia and was only confined in his bed for a few days.

We had pleasant weather during January and February, but lately the proverbial March winds have been holding carnival. We are in hopes of a fruit crop this year. Many trees are in bloom and if we have no late destroying frosts we may expect an encouraging crop. Our good Bishop, George W. Sevey, has met with a serious loss. He built a handsome brick residence. It was an ornament to the town. I regret to have to record that it has been burned down. It was caused by having a stovepipe through the roof. Our people manifested a praiseworthy sympathy by subscribing off hand over five hundred dollars for his relief.

The colonies have come to the front of late by sending some specimens, the result of their industry to the Coyocan fair, at the City of Mexico. Our excellent manager of the board of trade, Brother Jos. C. Bentley, and the directors, had the thing in hand to attend to the forwarding of the exhibits. Messrs. Howarth and Stringham have been with us doing excellent work in photography. They have been taking views of all the principal public and private buildings, etc. Specimens were sent to the fair. The "Mormon" exhibition, we are told, was very attractive, exciting general admiration, and the views of the residences, schoolhouses, etc., were much admired. I am very happy to inform you that eleven medals and the same number of diplomas were awarded to our colonists. You can imagine how much better we will be known and appreciated by giving this exhibition of our patient labors, or rather the result of those labors which have been crowned with success. We learn President Diaz and Minister Leal were much gratified with our