

In conclusion, permit me to remark that I scarcely believe you meant to be understood as saying that none but interested parties and those who lack patriotism are in favor of free coinage. Yours. H. D. J.

THE BANNOCK STAKE OF ZION.

BY ANDREW JENSON.

IONA WARD.

James E. Steele, Bishop; Aaron W. Beach, First Counselor; Cadwalader Owens, Second Counselor.

Iona Ward (formerly Sand Creek) embraces a tract of excellent farming land lying east of Eagle Rock and skirting the low hills on the east side of Snake River Valley. Its boundaries are described as follows: Commencing at the foot hills and running thence west on the township line, between townships 1 and 2 to the southwest corner of section 33; thence north along the section line to Willow Creek, thence along Willow Creek to the bridge on the county road, thence due east to the foot hills, thence along the base of the foot hills to the place of beginning. The ward is about nine miles long from north to south and five miles wide from east to west. It took its first name from a stream of water called Sand Creek, which flows from Willow Creek and takes a southwesterly course to what is known as the Sand Hills, where it partly sinks. In its uncultivated state the land is mostly covered with sagebrush, except along the creek, where the water has killed off the sage and a thick growth of blue grass has taken its place. In the spring of the year the water in Sand Creek is generally very high, which is caused by snow melting on the low hills on the east. The Iona townsite, consisting of 160 acres of land, is the southeast quarter of section 1, township 2 north, range 38 east. It is seven miles southeast of Eagle Rock, the nearest railway point, and thirty-five miles by way of the Big Buttes ferry, southwest of Rexburg.

As a part of the Iona Ward there is a branch organization called South Iona, embracing the south end or three tiers of sections. At this place meetings and Sunday schools are held regularly in private houses. Steps are now being taken toward the erection of a meeting house. The farming land in South Iona is flat and fertile.

HISTORY.—That part of the country now embraced in the Iona Ward was uninhabited until the year 1883, when a few Latter-day Saints from Utah settled at different points along Sand Creek. Among the first settlers were Joseph S. Mulliner, Rufus W. Norton, Cadwalader and C. J. Owens, Geo. P. Ward, Wrol C. and Ole Olsen, Henry Dahlstrom, James C. Reynolds, Joseph and George Longhurst, and others. These early settlers at once began to build houses, fence their lands and make water ditches, and when the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal Company was organized, most of them subscribed for stock with said company, and went to work in earnest constructing a canal to convey the water from Snake River into the natural channel of Willow Creek. This canal, which was surveyed by Andrew S. Anderson in June or July,

1884, taps the river at a point near the canyon, about twenty miles northeast of the Iona townsite, takes a southwesterly course, is seven miles long, and thirty feet wide in the bottom, and cost \$27,500. It was completed in July, 1886. The Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal Company has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000, afterwards increased to \$100,000. In 1888 it bought the so-called Anderson Company's canal for the sum of \$40,000. Both canals will carry 30,000 inches of water, sufficient to irrigate that many acres of land. Besides the Iona lands, many farms in Willow Creek Ward, above, and Taylor Ward, below, are irrigated from the canals.

June 17, 1884, Apostle Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant and President Thomas E. Ricks visited Sand Creek and held a meeting in the open air at the ranch of Rufus W. Norton, and organized the Saints in this locality into a branch of the Church with Cadwalader Owens as presiding Priest. This was afterwards under the name of Sand Creek branch attached to the Louisville Ward.

June 23rd and 24th, 1884, a townsite (originally called Sand Creek townsite) was surveyed by Andrew S. Anderson, but it was subsequently jumped by a certain party, after which the present townsite was surveyed.

At a special meeting held at Sand Creek, May 23rd, 1886, at which Apostle John W. Taylor and President Ricks and others were present, a ward organization was effected with James E. Steele as Bishop, and James C. Reynolds as his First and Cadwalader Owens as his Second Counselor. These brethren were all ordained High Priests and set apart to their respective offices. The ward was named Iona, after a small town in Palestine, the meaning of which is beautiful.

On the same occasion a branch organization called Taylor was effected on Lower Sand Creek, when John Priest was set apart to preside, under the direction of the Iona Ward Bishopric. This is what is now known as the Taylor Ward.

Owing to the failure to secure their townsite for some time, and other causes, the people did not have a meeting house for several years. While under a branch organization the Saints met for public worship in the house of Cadwalader Owens and afterwards at the residence of C. J. Owens. In the winter of 1886-87 the brethren assisted Ole Olsen in putting up his house, a log building 16x26 feet, near the townsite, and in this meetings, Sunday schools and day schools were held until 1887 when the present meeting house, a respectable and substantial white sandstone building, 24x40 feet in size, was built at a cost of \$1,500. It is the only rock meeting-house in the Bannock Stake. The first meeting was held in that house in the spring of 1888.

The first Sunday school at Iona was fully organized with John F. Shelley as superintendent, June 20, 1886; but a temporary Sabbath school had already been in working order for about three months previous. A Relief Society was organized Aug. 1, 1886, with Elvira C. Steele as President.

In the fall of 1886, a townsite, embracing 160 acres, was secured at a

cost of \$200. This sum was paid for the relinquishment of the land which was claimed by Hyrum Timoth; it was entered by the Probate Judge of Bingham County as the Iona townsite, after being surveyed by Joseph A. Clark, the county surveyor, into ten-acre blocks, divided into eight lots each and with streets six rods wide.

In February 1887, Acting President Robert L. Bybee and Stake Superintendent Edmund Paul organized the Y. M. M. I. A., with John F. Shelby as President.

During the winter of 1887-88 the first day school was taught by John F. Shelby.

Counselor Reynolds having removed from the ward, Aaron W. Beach was set apart as First Counselor to Bishop Steele, at a district conference held at Iona, July 21 and 22, 1889.

Nov. 26, 1889, the south end of the ward was organized by Bishop Steele into a temporary branch called South Iona, with Arthur M. Rawson as presiding Priest. On the same occasion James A. Owen was appointed and set apart as superintendent of the South Iona Sunday school.

LABELLE WARD.

Winslow F. Walker, Bishop; John G. Morgan, First Counselor; John B. Dilts, Second Counselor.

The Labelle Ward embraces the south end of Poole's Island, which is separated from the main land on the north by the principal branch of Snake River and on the south by the "Dry Bed." The length of the ward is about twelve miles, with an average width of about two miles, and contains twenty-four square miles. The townsite is the south-west quarter of section 3, township 4 north, range 39 east, Boise meridian. It is seven miles southeast of the Menan townsite, a little less than three miles in a straight line northwest of Lyman, on the opposite side of the main branch of Snake River, and about eleven miles northwest of Rexburg. By way of the Big Buttes ferry it is twenty-three miles from Rexburg.

Most of the people of the Labelle Ward reside as yet on their quarter sections, but preparations are being made to build on the townsite. The farming land is level and fertile, and the island affords plenty of wood and water. There are a number of non-"Mormon" settlers.

HISTORY.—The early history of the Labelle Ward is identical with that of Menan to which it originally belonged. That part of Poole's Island, now included in the Labelle Ward was first settled in May, 1884, by Winslow F. Walker, William R. Scott, John G. Morgan, George A. Browning and others, who built several houses that same fall.

At a meeting held at the residence of William F. Walker, June 14, 1885, and at which Bishop Robert L. Bybee, of Menan, presided, a branch organization was effected, embracing the Saints residing on the east end of Poole's Island, with William F. Walker as presiding Priest. John G. Morgan and John B. Dilts were called to assist him. This branch organization was named Cleveland, in honor of the President of the United States, and was a part of the Menan Ward. It existed until May 21, 1886, when a special meeting was held at Cleveland,