

ABOUT THE SNAKE RIVER.

WILFORD, Fremont Co., Idaho,
June 10th, 1896.

I left Blackfoot, Bingham county, Idaho, Sunday morning, the 7th inst., on the 4 o'clock train, to Market Lake, passing Idaho Falls.

Market Lake is 233 miles from Salt Lake City, and is merely a railroad station, and for six miles south the track is in danger of overflow from the Snake River, which spreads out into a broad lake that is already nearly up to the rails on the track. All the gunny sacks at Idaho Falls are ordered filled with sand to defend the track from the rising Snake River, which is likely to overflow its flat banks in many places this year.

From Market Lake to Rexburg it is twenty-two miles. Judge Miles Romney Cahoon is a son of Mahonri Moriamon Cahoon, who it is said was named by the Prophet Joseph. The judge took us to the hotel, gave us our breakfast and took us over a rather rough road of twenty-two miles in two hours and fifty minutes, in time for the Bennock Stake conference. Our train was over one hour late at Market Lake, yet we were just in time for the first meeting. We had six very excellent meetings including Seventies and other meetings, and three meetings were appointed for Elder Stevenson at Parker, Wilford and Salem, after which President Thomas E. Ricks is to take us overland to Iowa, Bingham Stake conference where we expect to meet Elder M. F. Cowley. Thence we proceed on our mission to Montana, Washington and Oregon. I am looking over the bench land at Rexburg, overlooking the valleys and the Teton peaks which tower up into the clouds, with perpetual ice and snow; also the range of mountains of the Yellowstone basin and grand Yellowstone park, which is only about 60 miles from Rexburg. Henry Lake is at the head of the north fork of the Snake river while Jackson's Lake empties into the south fork of Snake river. There seems to be no end to the resources. There is water and land for one million people at least.

During our ride Surveyor John T. Smelly called our attention to a natural reservoir about one mile long and one-half wide. With very little labor this can be made into a deep lake, and he pointed out the survey he had made to build a canal to supply the reservoir with waste water to bring into cultivation the acres of excellent bench lands awaiting human aid. Many are availing themselves of the great opportunities thus offered.

Elder Peter Flamm volunteered to take us a ride over to Parker ward to hold a meeting. The place is only nine miles distant, but we traveled twenty miles to get there, heading the north fork of Snake river by way of St. Anthony, the county seat of Fremont county. It looked rather provoking to be obliged to go up the river so far, and then retrace our steps back again in the same direction, on the opposite side of the river; but the broad raging river could not be crossed except on the bridge. At St. Anthony the natural high stone abutments bring the river into about fifty feet space and here a bridge spans the river. Standing on this bridge one

see the cramped up, raging stream, foaming as it passes through its channel, with the divided foaming rapids both above and below, where it spreads out wide, rushing foaming and roaring. This is a grand sight. On either side of the gorge are two great eddies, and the fishermen have a grand time hauling in the mountain trout. There are two kinds; one is somewhat like the flesh of the salmon in color.

The timber on the crooked river marks the serpentine stream, adding to the wild country a degree of beauty, especially the numerous frill-like rapids which must be more than 250 yards wide. One man some time ago undertook to pass down through the narrow gorge in a boat. This proved the last effort of his life, as he landed into eternity.

About four miles down the river we arrived safely in a scattering country town called Parker, after one of the oldest settlers of this then termed worthless desert. Many of the settlers are on 160 acre lots. A meeting house marks the town. We were hospitably cared for by Delroy Stevenson, a nephew of the writer, who took us over his homestead, consisting of 240 acres—in which he has a partner. Never was I more surprised than looking over the 100 acres of wheat, 30 acres of oats, 15 acres of corn, and 4 acres of potatoes and about 2½ acres of hog pasture. This is divided up into two lots with a hog tight fence. Lots of young pigs are coming on for the fall. About one hundred is the yield each year of blooded hogs.

"From these two acres and timothy pastures," said Delroy, "last year I took \$400 in gold. I do not sell my grain; it is too cheap. I can ship hogs easier than grain."

To look over the face of the broad valleys, dry and barren with only a kind of wild plant resembling the sunflower covering the surface, one would be inclined to think the country good for nothing except wild flowers. But the building of four canals from ten to twenty-five miles in length, and carrying little streams in all directions has made the country a fruitful field. This valley differs materially from others. The canals have been brought out over the sandy loam which formerly was moved by the winds like clouds of dust, and the sub-irrigation, has changed the surface. Now where wheat could not be raised, from 35 to 60 bushels can be grown per acre. The irrigation ditches are from five to six rods apart, and the soaking sub-irrigates, the crops. Thus this loose sandy loam and an abundance of water have turned the barren deserts into fruitful fields.

At 6:30 p.m. the people of the scattering town were brought together into the large meeting house, and where so many came from was a marvel. There were the Millers and others of Farmington, Davis county; Bullocks of Salt Lake City, descendants of the historian, Thomas Bullock, recorder of deeds in 1948, in Salt Lake City, the first recorder of Utah. One outsider attended the meeting. He said this was the first Church he had attended for the past seven years and if what he had heard was Mormonism he would be pleased to hear more of it. On the following day we drove eight miles over to Wilford and held another meeting at 6:30 p.m.

At Salem I found a boy ten years old mounted on a sulky plow and plowing two acres per day. This was so different to our Salt Lake boys that out of curiosity I followed the boy turning up the soil, sage brush and all nearly one round.

"How old are you my little man?"

"Ten years."

"What is your name?"

"George Victor Harris."

"The Bleh-p's son?"

"Yee, sir."

"How far is it around this piece of sage brush land that you are plowing?"

"Just one mile, sir."

Since I have taken this trip around a portion of this broad country, and see that as far as the eye can see there is still more country, I add one and a half millions to my first estimate of the people that can be accommodated here. Although frosts exist at times, and winds occasionally blow, the elements will yet as in many other places be modified and tempered. Some years ago at Parker President John Taylor looked down a dry well eighty feet deep and predicted that that dry well should flow with water. Since those four canals have been brought out, not only does land sub-irrigate, but this dry eighty-foot well flows nearly full of water. At Salem alone there is plenty of land and water in abundance for numerous homes.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

AMONG THE CHILDREN.

The Sunday school conference of Utah Stake convened in the Stake Tabernacle Saturday morning, June 20th, at 10 a.m. On the stand were Elders George Goddard and Karl G. Maeser of the general superintendency, Elder George Reynolds of the Union board, the Stake superintendency, and a very fair representation of the ward Sunday schools of the Stake.

The singing for the morning exercises was furnished by the Provo Third ward Sunday school. After opening exercises Stake Superintendent Eggertson reported that notwithstanding a somewhat small attendance at the opening of the conference, the Sunday schools of Utah Stake were in a flourishing condition, and the several officers were earnest workers. The Stake superintendency had aimed to visit all of the Sunday schools in the Stake at least once a year.

A duet was rendered by Mr. John Johnson and Miss Ruby Roberts, of Provo Third ward.

Superintendent Clark of Oakland reported that their school had missed but one session since its organization, four years ago.

A class exercise was then given by the primary department of the Provo Fourth ward Sunday school, on the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Superintendent Elkins of Pleasant View gave a favorable report of their Sunday school; visits with the parents had been very effectual.

Assistant General Superintendent Maeser then addressed the conference. He said the children should have planted in them a testimony of the Gospel. The teachers, if they have not a testimony, should first seek to obtain it, and always ask God before going to Sunday school to aid them, that the object of the Sunday schools