SALT LAKE CITY AND UTAH.

The Desolation That Brooded Over Them in Pioneer Days and the Fertility of the Present.

The January Pacific, just issued by the Union Pacific, gives the following pen picture of the founding, growth and continued progress of this city:

Since the first pioneer first saw the valleys of what is now the Territory of Utah, Salt Lake City has been our commercial and social center. To the late exploits of mankind there, under whatever conditions, Salt Lake City will continue to be the commercial and social center of the Territory. Many reasons concur to confirm this as a fact.

Viewed as Salt Lake City now presents herself to the stranger's eye, no conception can be had of the utter desolation that brooded over these valleys when, in 1847, the pioneer band reached its final resting place. The greater part of the present city stood on the Great Salt Lake, the Dead Sea of America, on the 24th day of July of the year named.

The story of the development of Utah is a record of seven-fold material work, of privation, and all the ills that follow necessarily, an isolation of 1,000 miles from the fundamental comforts of civilization. The late at one step is gradually the lot of all. The departure that led to those barren wastes was not from well-worn paths into those that were known to be comfortably. It was an utter abandonment of all traveled ways. It was launching upon a desert as wide, as impassable, as unknown as the great waters beside the skill of men had sounded their depths, measured their distances, and marked out a way by which the traveler could sail, with unerring certainty, where he was.

Salt Lake City was the pioneer of the great West, and growing out of her existence, directly and because of her, has been the civilization and development of the entire intermountain region. Not that the region would have remained forever desolate but for her, but certainly that its settlement would have been indefinitely delayed. Her importance as an advance guard, as inducing the habitation of the great West by proving that it was habitable, as a great factor in its civilization, cannot be denied, and, as the years grow older, it becomes more demonstrable evident that she is naturally and geographically in a position to command commercially, the adjacent territory is entitled to as the author or inter-mountain business and social civilization. Another reason for this pre-eminence is largely due to its early settlement prior to the discovery of gold in Colorado; and the peculiar views of the founders of the city drew upon them the attention of all classes. But these people made the desert blossom, and transformed the great valley into a garden. The cardinal maxim of the Mormons erred in agriculture, and while the tilling of the soil has been carried on as strenuously all these years mining has not been followed. The development of the mines in Utah has been principally the work of the Gentiles, and its mineral wealth at this time is largely contributed by them.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Increased Attendance Since the Holiday Vacation.

The winter term of the Agricultural College opened January 3rd with an increased attendance. More than 300 students have been enrolled so far this year. Among special improvements are the well equipped mineralogical and assaying laboratory, and the biological rooms. The winter courses in agriculture and in domestic arts are well patronized. The students are mostly back from holiday vacation, and the full class rooms would hardly indicate any break in the work.

Most of the officers remained steadily at their posts during the holidays working on subjects in their special lines.

Prof. Mills, besides advancing his bulletin on Irrigation of Farm Crops, started experiments in bowing with thirty steers and sixteen hogs.

Dr. Twombly spent some time in investigating hog cholera in and about Smithfield.

Dr. Drewer's time was spent watching the horticulturists at the farm and in writing a bulletin on Tuberculosis.

Professor Fortier gave his days and nights to the preparation of a bulletin on Sewage Waters and the Underflow of Rivers.

He also prepared a circular letter, asking of the prominent engineers all over the country information concerning the storage of water, the information to be embodied in a bulletin to be issued next August.

Prof. Mead was took advantage of the vacation to push along his Principles of Argumentation and Technique of the Novel. His Technique of the Drama has already been adopted as a text book in many leading universities of the land.

Professors Paul and Dyer, as well as Miss Kenyon, spent part of the vacation in Salt Lake City, partly for the college and partly for themselves.

Prof. Robinson and wife visited their parents in Agency, Iowa. The professor has ready for publication a bulletin on Vegetable Gardening, and is preparing another on Orchard Irrigation, to be printed soon.

Home changes have been made recently in the ranks of study. All the officers are now practically where for the first two years. In the third and fourth years the technical work of the various departments find place. German is made compulsory for all students during the third and fourth years. Two hours a week of history in the entire freshman year group attention to the culture side of the course. History is also placed one term in seven of year. The requirements for entrance will be slightly advanced after this year.

CONTEMPLATED CHANGES

In the Department of the Platte Which Includes Utah.

The headquarters of the department of the Platte continued at Omaha, says the World-Herald, is a large source of revenue to the city and the state. The department of the Platte covers the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming (except the part at Fort Yellowstone, National park), so much of the state of Idaho as lies east of a line formed by the extension of the western boundary of Utah to the northwestern boundary of Idaho, and all that portion of the state of South Dakota lying south of the forty-fourth parallel of north latitude. Also the post of Fort Meade, South Dakota, for payment only.

Brigadier-General John R. Brooke succeeds the department, and although he has the opportunity upon the retirement of General O. O. Howard in November of removing to the Pacific to assume command of the department, Omaha he preferred to remain in Omaha in command of the department, which is considered of great importance.

Dating back to Fort Crook, which is elsewhere mentioned, has under the supervision of Major Charles F. Humphrey, chief commander of the department, several valuable improvements. The government has also erected at this garrison a depot in and city now of the best distributors in the United States. Major Humphrey served two terms by battle. Every morning stories under his charge is distributed to the best materials, by the best methods and in lasting durability. The building consists of a central part for offices, and to each two wings for barracks, and two wings for storehouses, each 175x40 feet, two stories and basement. The entire basement is supplied with wooden floor. The building is a brick structure with stone foundation and slate roof, it is heated with steam and lighted with gas. Contracts for constructing Arthur Johnson & Bros., steam heating, J. L. Webster & Co., plumbing and gas, John Rose. The cost of the building, including steam heating, plumbing and gas, is $75,000.

The funds disbursed from the office of the chief quartermaster during the last year amount to $[illegible] by depositing money upon Fort Crook the amount is swelled to $[illegible].

The subsistence department of the United States army at Omaha purchases and distributes the following stores for various military posts in the West, viz: Pork, bacon, canned beef, flour, hard bread, cornmeal, beans, rosin, sugar, vinegar, soap, salt, green vegetables and some forty other articles of less. The expenditures for this purpose during a period of twelve months amounts to about $[illegible], and the prices paid for the articles, as well as their quality, compare favorably with other purchasing stations. All purchases are made under advertisement in newspapers or otherwise, the advertised proposals, the awards being made to the lowest bidder who produces a satisfactory article.

Colonel T. H. Stanton still holds down the desk of chief paymaster of the department of the Platte, although before 1890 he rolled around he may take a change of station from Omaha to Washington to become paymaster general of the United States army upon the retirement in March of the present incumbent of the office. The amount received and disbursed by the paymaster in the department of the Platte during the year 1894, is $1,[illegible],000.

Mrs. Jennie Decker.

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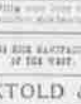

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