

time President Young laid out this city as you see it today in the midst of sage brush, with not a house within a hundred miles of us. We built a fort around ten acres, three sides of adobe, walls eighteen feet high, and one side with logs out of the canyon. We then returned home and some two thousand men followed us. President Cannon here was one of the company that came in after we did.

Now what I wish to say is this: You gentlemen come here today; you see the city, you go through the country. Here are a thousand miles, I might say, through these mountains filled with cities, towns, villages, gardens and orchards, and the produce of the earth that sustains the people. Without this water, this irrigation for which you have met here today, this country would be as barren as it was in 1847, as we found it. This irrigation is what you have met to engage in and give your views upon. How I am satisfied it matters not. Whatever you decide upon in this matter and you unite upon, I am satisfied it will prove a great blessing, not only to Utah but to every State and Territory where these arid lands abide, and whoever occupies these lands of course has got to have the water to perform the work. We have had to do the same. We have had to learn by experience, and all that we have obtained in these mountains has been by irrigation. There are portions yet which have not been irrigated, and as one gentleman said here, if you can make two drops of water where there was one, or two spears of grass where there was one, you are a benefactor to mankind. I say God bless you in your efforts. (Applause.)

President George Q. Cannon was then invited to the front and said:

I look upon this as one of the most auspicious days to the Territory of Utah since 1865—the assembling of so many representative men from the various States and Territories interested in this great question of irrigation. I think myself that whatever the conclusions you may arrive at, they are sure to be of great benefit to all this country. The interchange of views, the mingling together and becoming familiar with each other's ideas must inevitably, I think, result in great good and I look for grand results to follow the meeting of this Irrigation Congress in Utah.

I think that Utah receives great honor in being selected as the place for your deliberations.

This question of irrigation is one, of course, that we have been deeply interested in from the beginning. I think that whatever any other section may claim in the way of priority in irrigation, we can claim that we are the first Anglo-Saxons who ever had recourse to this method of raising crops.

When we came here we found it absolutely necessary to water the ground in order to produce anything. I took my first lessons in irrigation when a boy, in 1848; I have had but comparatively little practical experience in the business since then, but it has become very familiar to me. We have not had much time to theorize upon it, but practically we have carried out this system throughout the length and breadth of our Territory.

There is one point that I think of great importance, and I think it worthy the consideration of this body. We have refrained, I was going to say, religiously, from forming large corporations to take possession of the water—we have not been taxed for our water in Utah, but settlements have combined together and by their own labor have taken the water out and have contributed by their labor in forming dams and digging ditches to obtain the necessary supply for their acreage. I think this is a very important feature in this Territory. We have not had to pay for our water; poor men could take land and could obtain water by their own labor.

Another feature of our system has been that we have had small holdings. When we settled this city the lots were divided out; each lot was an acre and a quarter. The lots were laid out such a way that the front of one lot faced the side of another. It was designed to be a city of villas and to have plenty of room. You see the breadth of our streets and the amplitude of our lots; this was the original design. Then, next to our city a tier of five acre lots was laid out, then a tier of ten acre lots, then a tier of twenty acre lots. There were no lots laid out of a larger extent than twenty acres. That there might be perfect fairness, we cast lots for these. The mechanics were expected to want five acres; those who were in a better condition it was thought would require ten acres, while the farmers received twenty acres.

My distinguished friend, President Woodruff, lived and sustained his family upon twenty acres of land, and I may say to his credit there is no better farmer in this country than he has been. He has been noted throughout all our community for his indefatigable industry, and though eighty-four years of age he mourned only last summer, "Well, I am growing old." He said this to me in such a way that I looked at him in astonishment, and said I, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, on Saturday, when I went home, I had some potatoes to hoe, and Will (his grandson, a boy sixteen years of age), kept up with me hoeing potatoes. That is the first time in my life that any of my boys were able to keep up with me hoeing." He has lived, as I say, on twenty acres of land, cultivated it and sustained and educated his family.

We have kept from monopolizing the land and been willing to have it distributed in small holdings, so that every man might have a foothold. I believe that I do not overstate the truth when I say that in no part of these United States is there a population containing so many people living on their own lands and owning their own houses as in Utah Territory.

I believe also in this artesian system. I have been a believer in it always and for a great many years. I believe that we can get large supplies of water from subterranean sources. I have experimented with this and I believe I have the honor of being the first person to own an artesian well in this valley or in all our valleys. I have sunk a good many wells and I find them very excellent. I have one now with which I water several acres—a well four hundred feet deep. I think when

we get experienced well-drivers in this country we shall find that we can bring large supplies of water to the surface that will aid us in cultivating our lands; for all that we have in this country is water.

There is no part of Nevada which you travel through, no country which looked any worse than this valley did nor any more unlikely to be productive than this valley did when it was first settled; but industry and skill have changed this valley into fruitful fields and orchards and there is no limit. Alkali land can be leached with water and can be made productive and our water is increasing.

In 1853, or thereabouts, there was scarcely enough water in City creek to water the gardens of Salt Lake City, and it was thought then that we had reached the utmost limit of our supply. But it is a fact that our water has increased in almost every stream throughout all these mountains.

I believe there is a kind Providence that watches over man, that wherever man goes Providence is there to aid him in his efforts. Legislators and others who do not particularly believe in divine interposition may attribute this to natural causes, that is, to the presence of railroads. I find some attributing the increase of rain to the presence of railroads, the rails running through—some to the increase of trees. Whatever the cause may be, it is undoubtedly the fact that man himself, his presence, the very fact that he is here and cultivates the ground, brings to him and to those associated with him increased blessings. We have proved it in this country.

Gentlemen, I trust that harmony will characterize your proceedings. I have no doubt it will. I am profoundly thankful myself that such a concourse of intelligent men from many States and Territories is here. We want Utah to be known. I believe that the gathering of this assemblage will lead to a better understanding of Utah and her people. No one in the world will yield with greater gratitude and satisfaction than myself to a more familiar acquaintance with Utah and her people on the part of our neighbors. We welcome Nevada, California, Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and all the States and all our neighbors. If there is anything we can do to add to the satisfaction of your visit we shall do it gladly. I invoke the blessings of God upon your proceedings.

#### BADLAM MOTION.

Mr. Badlam, of California, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this congress request the Federal government to place the control of all arid and timber lands located within the States and Territories west of the Mississippi river in the hands of the same, and when said lands are sold, a certain sum per acre shall be paid for securing title thereto.

That such States and Territories can at any time make the payment and secure title to such lands.

That each State or Territory containing arid lands shall enact laws and provide methods of redemption by irrigation suitable and applicable to its own situation and surroundings, and such State or Territory shall reclaim and sell such lands for a price under such conditions and terms as it may deem best.

Resolved, That this congress pass equitable resolutions requesting the govern-