

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION.

A legislative committee of seven was chosen at the last meeting of the State Agricultural society. This committee was instructed to ask the farmers through the press to send to it any matter bearing on legislation of interest to farmers. The committee was further instructed to put these matters in proper form and lay them before the Legislature and work to get laws beneficial to agriculture in all its branches passed by the law-making body.

In accordance with these instructions we heartily invite the farm public to work with us and send such suggestions as to the individual or societies may seem best. Though any matter may be sent, it was particularly desired that the farmers express themselves in regard to the solution of the school land question and to irrigation laws.

The school lands, if settled before survey, as shown in the letter sent out on the subject, are subject to homestead and this is the only safe way to get a title to such lands. Several letters have been received in which men claim that by error they located on a school section; that these errors were caused through incorrect surveys, incorrect platings, and otherwise. It is my opinion that if the error occurred by fault of the government survey or by the fault of the government agents, the settler may homestead, while if the error occurred from other causes, the homestead would not hold good. In any case the settler will find that by establishing a bona fide residence of ten, twenty or even forty years, the department will construe everything possible in his favor. The only way to test the case is to apply to the land office for a homestead.

As to the disposition of the school lands by the Legislature, the farmers are especially requested to express their opinions. In doing this let reason rule and remember that these lands have been used without the payment of rent or taxes and that the schools must be kept up by direct taxation aside from the funds furnished by the interest on the money from the sale of the school lands.

Irrigation, after nearly fifty years of peaceful development, is now one of the foremost topics for proposed legislation. The cause of this violent shaking up is the presence of so many "water corporations," who will hold and operate the canals but will neither own nor cultivate the land. In the Governor's message occurs the following in regard to laws on irrigation: "For the filing and recording of rights already acquired through appropriation and the use of water." All agree that this would be a very desirable matter to bring about were it possible. This was attempted years ago, and after costing the Territory and the farmers thousands of dollars, it was found that the filings were worthless, and it was stated at our meeting that in the Salt Lake county office there were a great number of certificates that were never even called for after they were made

out by the recorder. The proposition was discussed at some length and it was thought well nigh impossible to effectually file and record rights after some of them had existed for nearly fifty years. It would be well for the farmers to intelligently investigate this matter and give their desires in the matter.

Attention is called to the leading measures of interest to farmers now pending before the Legislature viz: the Torrens land bill; the board of land commissioners; the new estray law; and the holding of farmers' institutes. It was thought desirable that once or twice during the sessions the legislative committee visit the capital and aid our friends in the Legislature in meeting objections to proposed measures. If this be done it will be necessary to raise some funds at once to defray expenses. The executive committee think best to ask the vice-president of each county to forward as a loan \$10 at once and then to keep back the money from the first twenty members from his county. The farmers all over the State are asked to join the State society and organize as rapidly as possible. The society is now out of debt and the executive committee hope to keep it so but the treasury is now without a balance.

All communications in regard to legislation should be addressed to the president at Logan. All money should be sent to P. A. Dix, secretary and treasurer, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Respectfully,

A. A. MILLS,

Pres. Utah State Agricultural Society.

THE HOLIDAYS IN MEXICO.

COLONIA JUAREZ, Mexico,
December 31st, 1895.

The past month has been a very remarkable one for the Mexican mission, now the Juarez Stake of Zion. Surely Zion is growing and opportunities being extended for those whose love righteousness and truth to enroll themselves in the royal family of our Father in heaven, and work the works of righteousness, and prepare themselves for the second advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. From Canada in the north to Old Mexico in the south are these settlements of the Saints of God, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy and blessed with the priceless principles of everlasting Gospel. What a joy to live in this day!

We have been enjoying the holiday season and filling our children's hearts with happiness. On Tuesday, the 24th, the children of the Primary association at Juarez gave a very interesting entertainment in the Juarez ward school house, which was filled with an appreciative audience. Brother William Clayton offered prayer, and The Mocking Bird was ably performed on the organ by Sister Maggie Bentley. The curtain rose on a tableau, "The maids keeping house;" an excellent one it was; they were washing, ironing, sweeping, hanging out clothes, peeling potatoes, apples and turnips, churning, mixing bread, etc.,

representing most everything in house-keeping. Sister Gertrude Stowell recited "Learn to keep house," giving excellent advice to the workers. Then followed a Christmas cantata. The singing of the children was excellent, reflecting great credit upon the officers of the association, Sisters Maggie Bentley, Sarah Clayton and Matilda Petersen, whose patient, earnest labors were crowned with success. A large Christmas tree covered with candles and presents filled the back of the stage. The choruses, "Shepherds watching their flocks by night," "Christ is born, the great Anointed," "Listen to the wondrous story," and others, were very well rendered. The appearance of Christmas, represented by Sister Sarah Clayton, with songs, and the introduction of her three dolls, represented by three tots, Tresey Snow, Pearl Romney and Margarita Bentley, caused much amusement, and the coming of Santa Clause and his distribution of prizes, at roll call, with sentiments, was very satisfactory alike to parents, who rejoiced in the children's happiness, and to the children themselves. It was a joyful occasion. Elder George Teasdale, in behalf of the parents of the children, thanked the officers of the primary association for their faithful labors in producing so interesting and charming an entertainment, affording all so much satisfaction and pleasure. He then pronounced the benediction.

On the 25th, at 10 a. m., there was a gathering of the Saints and another pleasant occasion, our choir and brass band, under the able leadership of Brother J. J. Walser, rendering good help to make the occasion a success. Short addresses, given by a number of the brethren on the day we celebrated, and the advantage of being true disciples of Jesus Christ, rendered it a profitable as well as a joyful gathering. In the afternoon the children enjoyed a social party, and in the evening the adults.

Weather clear and frosty, somewhat severe for this climate. Health of the people generally good.

UN HERMANO.

HINTS TO FARMERS.

MOAB, Grand county, Utah,
Jan. 10th, 1896.

You have said that your columns were open to all who had anything of interest to the public. Will you allow me to invite all farmers, horticulturists, apiarists and stock-raisers to contribute from time to time to your paper what they have learned in their pursuits? By so doing we can learn of others what we have not learned ourselves. If we will tell of our success and our failure, if we can learn by others' experience, we can save many a dollar in writing. Write nothing but what you know, and if we will take hold and exchange ideas, one with another, we can learn a great deal.

The trouble is with a great many farmers, they think there is nothing to learn in farming; but it is like arithmetic—the more one learns the more he sees to learn. The first thing to learn is that few of us know our A B C in regard to farming. At one time we had a school teacher here who asked one of my boys what pursuit he expected to follow. The boy said that