

THE MEXICAN COLONIES.

Description of the Best Routes for Colonists, together with a Great Deal of Valuable Information About the Climate and Soil; Also regarding Customs Duties, Purchase of Lands, etc.

JUAREZ, CANTON GALEANA, Chihuahua, Mexico, Sept. 24, 1888.

Editor Deseret News.

Since writing you in July, the "Frontier Customs House" has been removed from La Asencion to Las Palomas, near the "Line," and 37 miles south southeast from Deming, N. M. Here-with we send you the published notice for the benefit of such of your readers as may need the information. We also desire through the News to answer several questions that have recently come to us in correspondence, and give some general information for the benefit of persons visiting this country.

The best summer and fall route is to come by the Sevier Valley from Nephi, Juab Co., Utah, to Panquitch, about 125 miles; Hilledale, 13; Orderville Dairy, 10; Upper Kanab (Sage Valley), 14; Johnson, 21; Navajo Wells, 8; House Rock Springs, 30; (Carry water over Buckskin Mountains) Jacob's Pools, (heavy sand) 12; Soap Creek, 12; Badger Creek, 8; Lee's Ferry, Colorado River, 11; Navajo Springs, 8; Sheep Pen Tanks (water west of road 1/2 mile), 10 1/2; Limestone Tanks (water south of road 1/2 mile), 8; McLeilan Tanks (water west of road 1 mile), 8; Cottonwood Tanks, 11; Willow Spring, 13; Meancoppy Wash (water uncertain), 14; Little Colorado River, 10; Black Falls (up the river), 26; Grand Falls (sandy), 14.

Teams starting from Utah later than the 1st of November may be safest to continue the journey from this point via Flagstaff to Camp Verde, thence to Phoenix and Mesa City, following the line of the S. P. R. R. to Deming—in a warmer and safe winter route. But if the season is open and favorable, continue south-easterly on Little Colorado from Grand Falls to San Francisco Wash, 15 miles up the river to Sunset (over a bench half the way), 20; St. George (on river) 26; Holbrook, 10; Woodruff, 10. From here the road via Pima, St. Joseph Stake, turns off; but to continue—from Woodruff to Erastus (or Concho), 35 miles; Omer (or Round Valley), 30; Coyote Springs, 9; Stanley's Ranch, 12; (Next) 12; Short Horn Ranch (branch station), 15; Wilson's Ranch (Tuleroso route), 25; Bacca Plaza, 13; thence follow down San Francisco River; Pleasanton (Williams valley), 51; White House, 23; Gila River, 8; Mangus Springs, 10; Oak Grove, 18; Apache de Hue, good road, 14; Hudson's Springs, 9; Mimbres (water doubtful), 6; Field's Wind Mills (bring water), 14; Deming, N. M., 7.

If the emigrant turns off at Woodruff to go to Pima, the distances are from Woodruff to Snowflake (about) 22 miles; Cooley's Ranch, 24; Camp Apache, 40; Black River, 21; Ash Creek, 27; Camp Thomas, 27; Pima, 12, which is said to be very rough and rocky; these distances are reported to me by Elder W. C. McLeilan.

There is another route which may be traveled in winter from St. George, Utah, to Santa Clara, 5 miles; Conger's Ranch, 8; Beaver Dams, 23; Bunker-ville, 12; (down Rio Virgin) Mouth of Muddy, 35; Bonnell's Ferry (Colorado River, 24; Mountain Spring, (carry water from river, desert road), 48; Quail Spring, 10, buy water; Chloride Flat, 12; Mineral Park, 7; Canon Station, 4, toll gate, wagon 50c., buy water; Hackberry, 23, carry water; Rock Tanks, 15; Cottonwood, 7, hilly road; Imases Rancho (Willows), 6; Lookout Springs, 5; Fort Rock, 4; Muddy Tanks, 9; Wilder's Ranch, 9; Oaks and Willows, 9; Walnut Creek, 15; Cross Hotel, 12; Williamson Valley; Tonto Spring, 13; Dixon's, Skull Valley, 8; McEntier Ranch, 8; Kirkland Valley; Ritter's Ranch, 9; Date Creek, 11; Black's Ranch, 8; Wickenburg, 22; Seymour, 10; Agua Fria, 28, carry water; Hayden's Ferry, 26; Mesa City, 7; Casas Grande Station, 35, on S. P. R. R., thence along the old emigrant road about 255 miles southeast to Deming. Water has to be bought at several of the stations. The distance is more than on the upper route, but safe in winter, and most of the way a better road, especially from Salt River Valley.

We now quote the questions of correspondents and answer as best we can.

Q.—A writer from Sanpete Co. asks: "What chance is there for getting land, and on what condition can we get it?"

A.—There is no land office system as in the United States, lands being held under Government Grants to individuals and titles continued in their families; also large tracts sold by the government to individuals or companies; also lands granted to towns or municipalities. Under the latter, persons who are limited in means can buy farms and procure the best title at from \$5.00 to \$20.00 per acre for lands improved as good as Utah's best lands, with canal and water right secured to the land. Our "Colonization Company" have several hundred acres of such lands they can negotiate provided small companies of 10 to 20 families will unite and send their own agent to us ahead of their coming with the means to pay for land; then they can settle together and have their own schools, etc. Other-

wise they would be isolated and have mixed associations, unless they prefer to unite with the present colonies. The conditions of pay for lands are: Cash, cattle, horses, wagons and in fact available property of any kind. In buying grazing lands, in large tracts, from the government or from individuals, prices vary from 15 cts. to \$1.25 per acre.

Q.—If a family have not sufficient to help themselves after getting there, what prospect for work, so a man can support his family?

A.—The prospect for labor is limited, being only in the mines, and amongst ourselves, or on stock ranches, the Mexican labor is so cheap, from 50 cents to \$1.50 per day. The Mexican people as a rule, have few wants, and little enterprise, a result of past unfavorable conditions, yet those of us who are here, live and prosper. True we have to a degree to return to first principles, and start our spinning wheels for stocking yarn, etc., but provisions and lumber are cheap, and we are not cursed with so-called civilization as now in Utah, but as in former days there we can in Juarez leave our washed clothes on the line over night or our tools in the yard, and sleep without locks on our doors and travel our streets and roads in safety at any time.

Q.—Is it a healthy country?

A.—Yes. Good, even, temperate climate, 4,500 feet above sea level at the east foot of the Sierra Madre mountains. Mexicans do not cut hay for winter. Grass is abundant, and stock winter and do well on the range the year round. Snow is rarely seen, and does not stay long when it does fall.

Q.—What is the product of the country?

A.—All that is produced in Utah, wheat, corn, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, etc.; the staples being corn, chili and beans.

Q.—What sized wagon is best suited for that country?

A.—A 3-inch or 3 1/2-inch Mitchell, Cooper or Balu.

Q.—How much load to a single team?

A.—A good average team, about 1,500 lbs. Two span will do best on a single wagon, unless a company are together to help each other.

Q.—What provisions should we bring?

A.—Only what you need between prominent places, which you can best determine by inquiry on the road; but start with grain enough—chopped for team—to reach Panquitch. There supply to reach St. Joseph or Holbrook on the A. P. R. R., and so on.

Q.—What are the prices of clothing in Mexico?

A.—Woolen goods are cheaper than in the United States, but boots, shoes, hats, also cotton goods are inferior and higher in price, and when brought in are liable for duty.

Q.—What custom's duty is there?

A.—There is a heavy rate of duty on all dry goods, 90 cents on a pair of shoes; all kinds of amade fabrics from 40 to 100 per cent, stoves 5 cents per pound and other iron-ware are high. Only where colonists are admitted free on listed application to us at least 60 days in advance of their arrival on the frontier, as previously noted. All bedding, personal apparel which has been worn, garden and other tools you have and cannot sell for value, bring with you, they are free. Wagons, harness, geldings pay a duty (unless admitted free for colonists on application) but stallions, mares, mules, cows and other stock come in free. Duties are payable in Mexican Silver.

Q.—What kind of money is best to carry there?

A.—New York exchange or coin. Bring along what you need, and make your exchange for Mexican silver at Deming, El Paso, or any frontier point where you can do the best.

Q.—How about railroad rates for visitors?

A.—We refer those who desire to visit this land to Wm. C. Spence, Box B, Salt Lake City. We learn that visitors and colonists very favorable rates for the round trip are in prospect, which will also benefit our residents who wish to visit friends in Utah, or attend conferences there.

The first duty of the colonist on reaching Deming is to arrange to pass the custom house, and go there direct. At Deming, if you need to buy a stove or any other merchandise, that is a good market, and El Paso is still better. We enclose you the circular letter of Messrs. H. Quast, at Deming, and Axel Bulle, Las Palomas. We are recommended to employ the latter to make out our papers for passing the custom house, it being important to have this done correctly and in the Spanish language. Colonists bringing goods or merchandise in such amount that the duties on said goods would exceed \$90.00 must have consular papers made out at Deming, before crossing the line, which will cost \$2.50. Mr. H. Quast does this business. However a large family can divide such amount and have two sets of papers in the name of two members of the family so as to save making out consular papers at Deming, thus avoiding delay, although the making of each set of papers will cost an equal amount aside from the duty assessed at custom house.

Some have asked how they can reach the colonies from Deming. Report says a railroad is soon to be built from Deming to Las Palomas, but for

the present travelers go with teams. Elder Geo. Barber has been running a team and wagon from Diaz colony to Deming and expects to continue, reaching there about the 1st and 10th of each month. He carries freight and passengers, the latter for \$4.00 each. There are other teams which travel the road hauling merchandise, etc. But such as desire and are prepared can hire living outfits at Deming, where a family of our people could do well financially in opening a boarding house, and have teams for the accommodation of immigrants and visitors.

It is well understood that on this frontier there are many persons of a filibustering and adventurous type, who profess to have lands, mines or cattle to sell in Mexico or elsewhere. If they think you have money, or if you are a "Mormon" or profess to represent the "Mormon" people, they will give you much of their time and attention and display their grand land schemes, but the wise and prudent will understand, being guided aright.

We wish to impress colonists with this fact that all papers have to be made out at Las Palomas, when the amount of duty does not exceed \$99; and when in excess of that amount have consular papers made out at Deming; and before you leave there to cross the line address one copy by mail to the secretary of Hacienda, at City of Mexico, one copy to the administrator at Las Palomas, registered, and carry a copy with you, also the two registered receipts, from the post office, as evidence of having complied with the customs regulations.

We give the rate of duty on a few articles:—Wagons 3 cents per pound, harness 75 cents per pound, saddles \$1.00 per pound, Gelding horses \$40.00 each, wagon covers 91 cents each, on stoves over 40 pounds weight 5 cents per pound, under 40 pounds 10 cents per pound, window glass 12 cents per pound gross, nails and screws, 5 cents per pound, butts, locks, etc., 10 cents per pound, boots \$1.25 to \$2.50 per pair, shoes 45 to 90 cents per pair, hats 20 cents to \$1.00 each, tents (new and used) 10 cents per pound, if used, free, new furniture 7 1/2 cents per pound, music and other books 1 1/2 cents per pound, with paper covers, free; Flour 5 1/2 cents per pound, bacon 12 1/2 cents per pound (what you need on the way is free), seeds for garden and horticulture free, dried fruit 5 cents per pound, trees and plants (alive) free, concentrated lye, free, starch 4 cents per pound, sugar 7 1/2 cents per pound, coal oil 35 cents per gal., carb. soda 7 1/2 cents per lb., sewing machine \$1.25 to \$2.50 each, cutlery 10 cents per lb., earthen and stoneware 7 1/2 cents per lb., glassware 10 cents per lb., potatoes 1 1/2 cents per lb., soap 9 cents per lb.

Such articles of domestic use as soda, starch, bluing, etc., all drugs and medicines for family use are generally admitted free, but if in large quantities and saleable condition, would be liable to duty; sugar and soaps of good quality are made in Mexico and at reasonable prices. We favor as far as possible interior and home purchasing, in view of the above tariff on imports.

With desires for the success of Israel, we remain yours very truly,
A. F. MACDONALD,
W. D. JOHNSON, JR.

CONFERENCE IN TENNESSEE.

BRIGGS, Unicoi Co., Tenn., Sept. 28, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

I enclose a brief summary of the East Tennessee Conference, which was held in Terapin Valley, Hawkins County, Sept. 22 and 23. There were present Presidents Wm. Spry and C. A. Merkle, and Elders Allen R. Cutler, Ira W. Hatch, W. E. Curtis, Joseph Houston, J. M. Thomas, Jas. F. Hunt, P. M. Shumway, E. S. Larsen, J. W. Cook, H. S. Jolley, John R. Hindley and Harmon Price.

The conference was called to order at 10 a.m. by President C. A. Merkle.

After singing and prayer, President Merkle announced the object of the conference. Elders J. Houston, U. E. Curtis, J. M. Thomas, Allen R. Cutler and Prest. Wm. Spry addressed the assembly during the morning session.

Convened again at 2 p.m. After the opening exercises Elder J. W. Cook, Ira W. Hatch, H. S. Jolley and John R. Hindley occupied the time very profitably.

Sunday, 23d. Meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. After the usual opening services Elders James F. Hunt and P. M. Shumway occupied the time. After meeting those present partook of a bountiful repast at the house of Brother John Beals, where the conference was convened.

At 2 p.m. the conference was again called to order. To open the meeting a song was sung, composed by Elder W. E. Curtis, its title being "The Fishers and the Hunters." The conference was then addressed by Elders E. S. Larsen, Harmon Price, President C. A. Merkle and Wm. Spry.

The conference was reported in a flourishing condition. One or two fields that were pretty thoroughly worn out were abandoned. The Elders were then allotted to their several fields of labor, several being released, and we separated, many of us to meet no more till we meet in our mountain home.

Yours in the cause of truth,

HARMON PRICE,

Clerk of Conference.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A miner named Carpenter was rather seriously injured in No. 4 mine, Rock Springs, Wyoming, on Thursday, by a rock falling and hitting him on the shoulder and back.

The king of the Belgians has been visiting in Scotland. He is a very quiet man and he went about in knickerbockers and hobnailed boots so that no one suspected his rank, and as he did not look in the least like a king he was allowed to enjoy himself in peace.

Professor Pickering, of the Harvard College Observatory, regards the so-called "canals" of Mars as areas of vegetation—possibly immense cultivated tracts. The canals are usually some 30 to 150 miles broad, by 2,000 or 3,000 miles long, and most of them appear in parallel pairs.

Public opinion even in England is waking up the necessity of placing severe restrictions on pauper immigration. At the Trades Congress which has just been held at Bradford, England, a resolution was passed favoring the exclusion from the country of semi-pauper immigrants, unless they are skilled workers.

During the past year France has had 7,572 suicides, one-fifth of them in and around Paris. Of these 1,963 were traced to mental aberration, 1,228 to physical suffering, and only 483 to want and fear of it. Domestic trouble and alcoholism were the chief moral causes. Disappointed love resulted in 200.

* Observations at 67 stations in Spain show enormous differences in the annual rainfall, which is no less than 138 inches on the Serra da Estrella, and only 11 inches at Lerida, in Catalonia. The minimum rainfall at all stations occurs in July and August, and the maximum fall at some stations in May and at others in October.

The *Farming World*, of Edinburgh, Scotland, reports that at a recent meeting of breeders of Shetland ponies, in Glasgow, complaints were made that Iceland ponies had been imported into Scotland and then shipped to America and sold for genuine Shetland ponies. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and arrange some plan to prevent further deception of this kind.

Dr. Nansen, who proposes to cross the eternal snows of Greenland, has been heard from as late as July 17th, when he had landed at Inisalle, within sight of Cape Dan, latitude 60 deg., and hoped to get across to Disco Bay, about four degrees further north by September 1st, in time to catch the latest Danish vessels homeward bound. He had tried to land June 9 but there was too much ice.

Puppymania is bad enough, but in England a cat-fad has set in, which is as worse. Queen Victoria this year went from Windsor to Osborne and took a number of cats with her. Now whenever any fashionable lady transfers herself from one site to another, she takes along a lot of cats. It must be very entertaining to the men to be obliged to troop about with a set of felines. It is bad enough to be burdened with trunks and band-boxes, but cats are unnecessary annoyance.

Philadelphia has a new religious sect whose title is fearfully constructed. It is "The Ecclesia of Israel; the Cliz or Worshipping Congregation of Our Father's Kingdom on Earth." They have revised the opening sentences of the Lord's prayer so that they read: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; thy hand of power our sons do fear; thy ear of love our prayers do hear; thy voice of light illumines our feet; unto thy house our steps we bend; thy kingdom has come; now let thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The new chief justice is the smallest man of the Supreme Court of the United States, weighing 125 pounds, and being 5 feet 6 inches in height. Associate Justice Gray is the largest measuring 6 feet 5 inches in height, and pulling the scales at almost 300 pounds. Justices Bradley and Blatchford are about an inch higher than the chief justice and weigh twenty pounds more. Associate Justice Harlan is next to Gray in height, 6 feet 2 inches being his distance from the ground and 250 pounds his weight. The other justices are an even height, being between 5 feet 9 and 10 inches.

The fifth volume of Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography* is passing through the press, and will be ready for delivery in a few days.

Among the important articles are those on "Wm. H. Prescott," by Dr. S. A. Allibone; "Henry H. Richardson," by Rev. Philip Brooks, O. D.; "The Randolph Family," by Moncure D. Conway; "General Philip H. Sheridan," and "William T. Sherman," by Prof. Henry Coppee; "Charles Sumner," by George W. Curtis; "Horatio Potter," by the Rev. Morgan Dix, D. D.; "George Ripley," by the Rev. O. B. Frothingham; "James Knox Polk," by J. Henry Hager; "Whitlaw Reid," by Col. John Hay; "Baron von Steuben," by the Rev. J. T. Headley; "George Edward Pickett," by General Bradley T. Johnson; "Peter and Gerrit Smith," by Rossiter Johnson; "Edwin M. Stanton," by Edwards Pierpont; "George M. Pullman," by Gen. Horace Porter; and "George W. Smalley," by John Russell Young. Among the contributions to the new volume by the editors may be mentioned the articles on "Samuel Provost," "Winfield Scott,"

and "Alexander T. Stewart," by Gen. Jas. Grant Wilson, and "Israel Putnam" and "Thomas Sumter," by Prof. John Fluke. The sketch of President Polk has been revised by Hon. George Bancroft, the only member of his cabinet now living; while those of Generals Sherman and Sheridan were submitted for correction to those distinguished officers. General Sheridan revised what Prof. Coppee had written of him on July 26th, only ten days before his death. The forthcoming volume will rival its predecessors in its wealth of illustration. Besides ten full-page steel engravings of General Sherman, Scott and Sheridan, Presidents Polk and Pierce, Admiral Porter, William H. Seward, William Gilmore Simms, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Charles Sumner, it will contain about two hundred and fifty vignettes, including pictures of public buildings, birthplaces, monuments, etc. This novel national undertaking will be completed with the issue of volume six, which will contain, besides an analytical index, a supplement containing many additional names, such as the recently appointed Chief Justice of the United States.

AMONG THE MAORIES.

Conference in New Zealand—Laborers Among the Natives.

UAWA, Talago Bay, N. Z., Aug. 20, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

The semi-annual conference of this, the Waiapu district, has just concluded, and the Maori Saints are returning to their homes, rejoicing in the pleasant time they have had. President Paxman was with us, also Elders M. S. Marriott, of the Mahai, and A. T. Wright of the Poverty Bay districts. Our first day, Saturday, was taken up in hearing branch and statistical reports, which are extremely encouraging, showing an excellent spirit and an increase of good works among the Saints. Two Sabbath schools and one day school, the latter ably conducted by Elder J. S. Bingham, are in a flourishing condition.

As usual our meetings were held in a native *whare* (house). These houses are low and heavily thatched, have but one door and one window, both in the same end, and as a consequence are rather close when full of people. A Mr. McMillan having a hall near by, and thinking that perhaps some of our European friends might like to attend the meetings, kindly offered us the use of his hall for Sunday. This offer we accepted and on the Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock the room was

WELL FILLED WITH MAORIES

sitting on the floor and about twenty Europeans occupying the chairs reserved for them.

After the administration of the sacrament, President Paxman delivered an excellent discourse on the principles of the Gospel, and some other things, that we as a people believe in. Being given through an interpreter it was understood by both natives and whites and commanded the strictest attention. At the close, Major Porter of the volunteers, and a government employee, had the courage to express his views in favor of "Mormonism." Excusing himself for arising unrequested in the meeting, he in a few words complimented the earnestness with which the Elders teach, saying that a divine influence is evident in their willingness to sacrifice feelings and pleasures and live with the Maories to teach them the truth. He told the Saints that they are right in the course they are pursuing, and that through it they will never come to harm. Although not feeling himself to change views religiously, he could not but acknowledge the great change for the better when Maories join the Church, and the earnestness with which all things are conducted. He urged them to continue to listen to and obey the instructions of their ministers; and said that they will be supported in it and that they are right.

Being a Maori speaker, his remarks were made in that tongue, and he said that all had been correctly translated, the Maories hearing the same as the Europeans. This little speech seemed to please the Maories very much, coming as it did from an influential source. In the afternoon the local and general Church authorities were presented and voted upon, and J. E. Magleby released from the presidency of the district, being appointed to labor in the Bay of Islands where

A GRAND OPENING

is being made. Ezra T. Stevenson was appointed to reside, with John S. Bingham as teacher and Jos. J. Jackson traveling Elder. Remarks were made by Elder Marriott and others. The evening meeting was opened for testimonies, and thirty Maories took advantage of the opportunity offered. Good remarks were then made by Elder Magleby and President Paxman and conference adjourned.

On Sunday morning nine baptisms were performed, making a total of thirty-five in the district since April 30th. During the conference four branches were reorganized and several ordinations to the priesthood made. Of late there seems to be a strong spirit working among the Saints, with a desire to do right, and the prospect is good for new additions to the fold in its near future.