

Correspondence.

CEDAR CITY, IOWA, CO.,
March 24th, 1899.

Editor Deseret News:—Editors Joseph F. Smith, Thomas Taylor, Amos Neff and myself, held meetings yesterday in Pine Valley and Pinto. The change of climate in rising from St. George to Pine Valley on Monday is a remarkable feature in the country of Washington, the distance by the road being thirty-three miles but the actual distance in latitude is not more than twenty minutes. The route leads through the midst of the cones of several extinct volcanoes, some of which look as if they were but recently blown out. These cones render Diamond Valley an interesting locality for the study of geology and the wonderful power of subterranean fires, and give variety and additional interest to the journey. Pine Valley was covered with snow which had recently fallen. It is a romantic and fertile spot, surrounded on all sides with lofty mountains, beautifully ornamented with stately pines which form an agreeable contrast to the naked rocks intermingled.

This valley has one hundred school children, a considerable portion of whom also attend Sunday school. The soil is rich, producing wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and other vegetables in abundance. The inhabitants keep cows, but the feed is mostly consumed by the lumbering teams, as much of the lumber used in Kane, Washington and Rio Virgin counties is made here, though the labor of sliding the logs from the mountains is already considerable. The inhabitants live upon a city site, regularly surveyed, and many of the dwellings, mills, barns and out-houses are highly creditable to a new settlement and remind me of the villages of St. Lawrence county, New York, in my youth.

The water is very pure. Any time in the summer a day's ride will enable any person in the hottest regions of our Dixie to luxuriate upon the cool springs and cooling breezes in a climate much resembling that of Cache or Rich counties.

Our meeting was well attended. The roads have been much improved, although the recent storm made them muddy. We met the saints in the little village of Pinto, this side the rim, in a large stone school house, which, among other evidences of thrift, has been erected since my last visit. They have succeeded in raising fruit, the frost nipping down the apple trees, and even the potawatamie plum, currants and gooseberries seem to fail. There is but little land that can be irrigated, but this little produces good crops of wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. The settlement was located under the direction of Elder Parley P. Pratt as an Indian missionary station. I visited it in 1857 when it consisted of two dug-outs or cellars covered with earth. It now produces 10,000 lbs of excellent cheese for market. The people have recently constructed a reservoir to receive the waste waters of Pinto creek in the flood time, and in this way they expect to reclaim a few hundred acres of desert which is about eight miles below the village. They have enclosed a large field with a substantial fence for the purpose of testing this experiment, which, if successful, will add greatly to the agricultural resources of the inhabitants.

To-day we visited the iron works of Ebenezer Hanks & Co., on Little Pinto. Much labor and means have been expended by the company to prepare for the manufacture of iron, and after much trouble and expense they have produced a few briquets which are said to stand the heat as well as those submitted to the most rigid tests. They are constructing a turbine wheel for the purpose of propelling their machinery, with thirty feet head of water on the creek, which will be in operation in a few days. There is abundance of iron ores of different qualities to be obtained from numerous ledges in the vicinity. The country round is densely covered with scrub cedar and piñon pine which will be their resource for charcoal, no other coal having been discovered in the vicinity that will answer the purpose. The hearty commendation of these brethren who, with little means, are endeavoring themselves to the utmost to supply the much needed article of iron to the inhabitants of the Territory.

Yours,
GEO. A. SMITH.

St. Jo., on the Muddy,
March, 16, 1899.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear sir, Corresponding not being my forte I trust you will pardon all blunders, and if after having seen the example of the editorial staff of this remains, I hope you will insert it in your paper for the personal of your readers. I got home from the "metropolis of Dixie" a few days ago somewhat demoralized from the effects of fishing too long and often. All things are moving on so rapidly in that locality. The wheat is up perfectly (without irrigation). The brethren, having received reinforcements from Pine Valley and St. George, are busy putting up buildings; they have hoisted a liberty pole on the Public Square and the "stars and stripes" wave proudly in the breeze. The Saints on the Muddy are wide-awake and are progressing finely. The wheat looks extremely well; the trees are in full bloom. Potatoes, corn, peas, etc., are up and look well, though some fears are entertained of grasshoppers, as they are hatching out in vast numbers in places, though, as a general thing, nothing to compare with Salt Lake County last year. There are a few flying around of the regular "iron clad" species which have lived here all winter. The natives are very quiet and peaceable, and do a great deal of work for the Saints. The wheat is up perfectly, less and docile, their greatest vice being gambling for their clothing. One day you will see an Indian, dressed from top to toe, stepping around seeming to think himself the "height of fashion and the mold of form," the next day perhaps you will see him skulking in the brush, as innocent of clothing as was our first parents.

There have been reports current concerning the raids by Navajos in consequence of which the brethren have organized the military for mutual protection and drill the cavalry under Col. John Gillespie, the infantry under Major Z. C. Gillespie. I feel thankful that I have been privileged to assist in lengthening and strengthening the borders of Zion and for the privilege of rearing my children in a land free to a very great extent, from the influence of modern so-called civilization.

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