

Correspondence.

Pondtown—Payson—Educational—Nameless—Mount Nebo—Mining—Nephi—Improvements—Gypsum—Salty—Marble.

NEPHI, Juab Co., Jan. 10, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

Between Spanish Fork and Payson, hugging the grim looking mountains to the eastward, is Pondtown, sometimes known as Salem. It derives its name from a pond, three quarters of a mile in length and of varying width, which is fed by a splendid spring. In this pond is an abundance of fish of several kinds. Trout, however, is not indigenous to the little lake, but quantities of that species have been placed in it of late years and they are prospering and increasing. Pondtown is not a very ponderous town, but has excellent facilities for becoming so, the farming land being quite extensive and the soil is probably as rich as any in Utah, which is saying considerable. It is of the black alluvial kind.

In passing through Payson yesterday we learned that a high school or seminary was about to be inaugurated in the large upper room of the City Hall building of that place. The principal of this proposed advanced educational institution is a Mr. Townsend late resident of Lehi City.

On the road between Payson and Nephi we came to a small place which we thought might be Mona, and took occasion to call at a house to enquire if the conjecture were correct. We learned that it was not, but a debate arose between two parties whom we interrogated upon the matter as to the real name of the place. This was rather a novel incident, to meet with parties who did not know the name of the place in which they lived.

As Nephi or Salt Creek is approached the renowned Mount Nebo, the mountain having the greatest altitude of any other in Utah, is passed. Into its mammoth sides the "honest miner" has been burrowing, bringing to light the fact that the interior of this huge earthy carbuncle contains rich argentiferous deposits that will some day be developed and utilized. It is asserted that the mines there would pay very well providing sufficient capital were used in their working, and smelters were erected in the vicinity. There is some talk now of an intention to put up smelting works there. Those and railroad communication would make this a valuable mining place. At present it would not pay to get the ore out and ship it, as it is of low grade. Mr. John Hague, of Nephi, has run a tunnel into the "Olive Branch" ledge, and will recommence the work of excavation on the same spot next week, and carry it along further. There is a large amount of ore on the dump now that cannot, however, be utilized for the present.

Nephi has been built up and improved surprisingly within the last seven years, a large number of public and private buildings having been erected in that time. They are, however, too numerous for special mention in detail. A new County Court House building has been commenced. The walls are four to five feet above the basement. It will be about forty feet square and two stories above the basement, which latter portion it is intended to use for prison purposes.

Probably one of the most interesting, not to say valuable, deposits in the west is close to Nephi, in the face of the mountain to the right of the traveler as he enters Salt Creek canyon. That mountain is almost entirely composed of plaster of Paris. This deposit is so vast as to be considered next to being inexhaustible. It has been proved to be of the finest quality, and needs but little preparation to render it in fit condition for use. Millstones and the like, that has been mended with this substance, have never been known to break again at the cemented parts. The land upon which it exists belongs, we understand, to Messrs. William Jennings, John Hague and Capt. W. Hooper. Up in the mountains on the other side a coal ledge has been discovered, which, however, has not been developed, the altitude of its location being considered too great to render it easy of access.

This is a kind of salty locality. Rock salt exists in immense deposits in the surrounding mountains. Not only is it wonderful in point of quantity, but in quality it is also

scarcely surpassable. Large quantities of this saline rock are shipped to Tintic mining district, where it is used in the smelters of that locality. The principal rock salt deposit is situated in one of the forks of Salt Creek Canyon, about eight miles from here.

As a natural consequence of underground currents of water running over those ledges of salt, there are several salt springs around. Into one of these if a twig or almost any other substance is put, it is, in a short time, encased in a thick, sparkling, crystallized coating of salt, which is very clear and beautiful.

We forgot to mention that a ledge of a substance resembling marble has been struck in Mount Nebo, but no one has thought it worth while as yet to work it. It is beautifully transparent, is mostly pure white, but in places has colored streaks or veins running through it. Should it turn out to be marble, it is doubtless of the most excellent quality, being of the jaspery kind.

J. N.

SALT LAKE CITY,
January 10th, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

Noticing a query in a late issue of the News, asking the reason why the codling moth had made such havoc amongst the fruit in the city while the orchards in the country had, to a great extent, escaped injury, I would like to say a few words on the subject in defense of a most useful insect.

The introduction of the codling moth has been attributed to the honey bee. There is not a single insect in creation of half its usefulness to man, yet it is often accused, by those ignorant of its nature, of doing a great deal of mischief.

To any one acquainted with the bee the idea of its harboring an insect of any kind, especially the codling moth, appears most preposterous, as the one is a deadly enemy to the other. It is barely possible, but far from probable, that the germ of the moth might have found shelter in the cracks and crevices of the hives before they were imported here.

It is well known that the moth delights in such shelters as are afforded by the fences around the orchard, and in old lumber and trees, partially decayed, and to the mind of your correspondent it seems much more probable that the moth has been imported in large quantities of lumber brought here in the early part of Summer.

Again, considerable fruit has been imported to this place from the West, and it is highly probable that some of it was infected.

This fruit has been consumed in the city, by hotels, restaurants, etc., and the refuse portions, containing the moth eggs, have been thrown out in the yard, instead of being completely destroyed, and, in a few days, the eggs are hatched, and in turn attack the nearest fruit. Most of the lumber, too, has been used in buildings in the central part of town. Hence the moths hatched from germs contained in it have not reached the outskirts in great numbers.

This would seem a plausible theory for their appearance here, at least much more so than accusing the bee of harboring them.

B. F. C., Jr.

A Prolific Potato.

PINE CANYON,
Tooele County,
January 7th, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

The New York Weekly Tribune published the following premiums to the successful competitors in cultivating the wonderful potato called "Compton's Surprise," concerning which there was a short article published in the News recently. The premiums were as follows: "First premium, \$100, to Abdenego Robinson, Newmarket, Rockingham county, N.H., 51½ pounds; second premium, \$75, to H. C. Pearson, Pitaurn, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., 450 pounds; third premium, \$50, to J. S. Salter, St. Cloud, Stearns county, Minn., 394 pounds; fourth premium, \$25, to Franklin A. Smith, Stone Church, Northumberland county, Penn., 386 pounds." Each of the above quantities were raised from one pound of potatoes; 350 pounds were raised by the writer of this article from one pound of potatoes. The extraordinary productiveness of this prolific potato justly entitles it to be in the possession of every agriculturist in the

Territory. It is true that we have in the Territory some very excellent potatoes—the Neshannoc, Early Rose, Early Goodrich, Late Rose, and other kinds of excellent tubers; but the "Compton's Surprise" promises to be the most prolific of all that I have named. There is little doubt but it is the finest potato that this continent can boast of, both for flavor and productiveness.

In describing the "Compton's Surprise," B. K. Bliss & Sons say: "Its shape is oval oblong, eyes sunken, brow prominent, skin smooth, color reddish purple, flesh white, grows to a large size, and is invariably sound to the centre, a hollow one having never yet been found. It retains its quality perfectly through the year, appearing on the table like a ball of flour. The high quality of this potato late in Spring may, perhaps, be owing to its tardiness in sprouting, remaining plump and free from sprouts when kept until June, and never having that wilted appearance common to early sorts; it is believed to be much the most abundant in starch of any variety extant. It is as early as the Early Rose, that is, potatoes of a good size and quality may be dug as early as the Rose, although the vines continue to grow much longer. Its habit of growth is very peculiar, and peculiar culture is required, or much loss will ensue. In favorable weather the tops grow rampantly, and when they are eight or ten inches high the plant sends out runners or shoots, which protrude through the hills on all sides, and soon cover the entire surface with a rank growth of vines over three feet in length, leaving weeds and grass no chance whatever to grow. Under the mass of foliage is found the surface crop, which finds no room elsewhere."

From the knowledge I possess of this potato, I may say it cannot be too highly recommended. From this fine and wonderful potato, wonderful for its large yield and also for its excellent quality and fine flavor, has been and can be raised at the rate of 3,500 bushels to ten bushels of seed at the rate of one eye to a hill. There is one fact very plain to all thinking farmers, that as this potato comes into general use, those who have it in their possession can raise potatoes to better advantage than those without it.

Progressive agriculturists will be wise enough to secure a start of this potato at their earliest convenience, or be left in the rear in potato raising; therefore no farmer can afford to be without this excellent tuber.

This "Compton's Surprise" has already found its way into twenty-eight States of the Union, and in a few years will become almost in general use, its excellent quality and productiveness will attract the interest of all progressive agriculturists.

If 400 bushels of Neshannocs can be raised to the acre from twenty bushels of seed by first class cultivation, and 800 bushels can be raised from ten bushels of seed of the "Compton's Surprise," the production will be double, and at the rate the "Compton's Surprise" yields there is no fiction about the subject.

This potato will supersede the raising of carrots and turnips for stock, as much labor is required for the successful raising of either.

JAMES S. STEEL,
Pine Canyon,
Tooele County.

The Lawrence Extradition. — Capt. Joab Lawrence objects to emigrating from New York City to Michigan on compulsion. One E. B. Ward, of Detroit, has charged Capt. Lawrence with the offense of conspiring with one Whitney and others to swindle Ward in the sale of the Eureka mine in Utah. Ward claims that he and his friends were defrauded out of \$260,000 in the transaction, and on his application a writ of extradition has been granted by Gov. Dix in answer to a request from the Governor of Michigan. Lawrence has appealed to the New York courts, and sued out a habeas corpus before the Court of Oyer and Terminer, which, upon hearing, was dismissed. He has obtained another writ from Judge Blatchford, of the United States Court, which has not yet been disposed of. Lawrence alleges, in his petition, that he is innocent of the charge, and that the efforts to remove him to Detroit on a criminal charge is part of a blackmailing scheme of Ward's to collect money. He de-

clares his willingness to meet his accusers in New York city, but objects to going to Michigan. Gov. Dix, having granted the warrant of extradition, says the parties concerned must fight out the case in the courts. The indications at present are that Capt. Lawrence will have to go to Detroit. Meanwhile, it is whispered that Ward is a man full of romance, and that he consults fortune-tellers and clairvoyants concerning his mining ventures, and some of his friends say that he went into the Eureka mining enterprise on the faith of a prophecy giving him by a wonder-working gypsy, who saw big Eureka dividends in the bottom of a teacup. — *Missouri Democrat*, Jan. 9th.

The Indians. — WASHINGTON, January 7.—Major Powells, the well-known explorer of the Colorado River, has been utilized by the Indian Bureau during the past summer. In company with Mr. G. W. Ingalls, the Major has visited the Indians in Utah, Nevada, Southern and Western Arizona, and Southeastern California. The object of their journey was to ascertain from observation and intercourse the actual number of Indians, and the best means of bringing them on to reservations and accept civilized habits. The region visited has heretofore been largely a terra incognita. It has been generally supposed that there were about 35,000 Indians living there. The Commissioners set the total at 8,000, divided into sixty-six tribes. Messrs. Powells and Ingalls recommended—

1. The formation of three reservations, one each in Southern Nevada and Idaho, and one in Eastern Utah. The Indians have agreed to go on to these reservations.
2. That farming implements, seeds, and instructors be furnished in sufficiency for the different bodies.
3. That no money shall be paid except for work actually performed by the Indians.
4. That food and clothing be furnished on the same basis, not as a gratuity.
5. That the land be held in common until it is practicable by the growth of industry, &c., to arrange for its separate ownership.
6. That good medical attendance be provided to break the power of the medicine men.
7. That houses be built, and Indians not allowed to live in tents.
8. School-houses and teachers to be furnished on some settled plan. Indians to be taught weaving, and to that end, garments not to be furnished, but the materials to be spun, wove, and worn by themselves.

The reservations selected will contain about 110,000 acres in all, those in Utah and Nevada being about 50,000 each. The report is long and full of interest. — *N. Y. Graphic*. XAVIER.

Woman Suffrage.—Senator Sargent has presented a petition in the Senate from the Women's Suffrage Association of California, asking for the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, declaring that the right to hold office shall not be denied on account of sex, and that the laws of the District of Columbia and the Territories be so amended that women shall have the right to vote and hold office, and exercise all rights under the laws as are now exercised by men.

Of course the petition will be denied, wholly through an obstinate and unreasoning prejudice, like that which kept the colored people so long in bondage. But the man does not live in the Senate, or elsewhere, who can make a rational and conclusive argument showing that a female citizen may be rightfully deprived of her voice in the Government of the Republic. If anybody in this quarter thinks he can prove that proposition, we shall be glad to print his argument, and analyze it, as well as we can. — *Oakland Transcript*.

GOOD MEN FOR OFFICE.—A meeting was lately held in Philadelphia for the purpose of forming a new political organization, "to act together under the new constitution for the election of good men for councils and other ward offices," and to be called the "constitutional citizens' party."

"Good" includes the two prime qualities of capability and faithfulness. Such are the only fit men for responsible office in any community. Candidates possessing such

qualifications should be diligently sought, and only such should be chosen or encouraged to hope to be chosen.

PETROLEUM GAS.—According to the Titusville (Pa.) *Herald* of Dec. 30, the town of Tidioute, in that State is successfully lighted with petroleum gas. Parties capable of judging, and who had previously been prejudiced against petroleum gas as less economical than coal gas, state that all difficulties in using the former have at last been overcome and that the quality as well as the economy of the petroleum gas must at once bring it into direct competition with that derived from coal.

Will burning the petroleum gas be more economical than burning the rectified petroleum, that is, the ordinary coal oil? That's one of the questions.

NOW IT'S TEXAS.—Louisiana had two governments and great trouble therefore, and has scarcely got rid of it yet. Now a similar hydra condition is said to be looming up in Texas. A Washington dispatch in the New York *Tribune* says that there is imminent danger of another internecine contest in Texas—two State governments being likely to claim legal existence. One set of officers claim under an old law, and another under a later law. Gov. Davis and his associates in office, it is claimed by one party, should continue in office until April, 1874. By another party it is held that their term of office has already expired. Under the present order of things this question is not to be decided by the local courts. Sooner or later it will come to the President, as in the Louisiana case.

IN ACCORD WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.—It is frequently stated here, by certain parties, that certain U. S. officials, whose official record in the Territory we consider, and we think justly, to have been anything but commendable, "are in full accord with the administration." Were those officials "in full accord with the administration" while they were pursuing an utterly illegal official course for a year or two, largely out of bitter prejudice against the religion of the majority of the citizens and inhabitants of the Territory, a course which we plainly and repeatedly told them, from the first, was illegal? That is a point it would be interesting to see fully and fairly elucidated. As it is, we are loath to believe in the asserted fact of this "accord," either then or now, and so we leave the subject for the present.

WESTERN NOTES.

A Stockton druggist advertises "pure liquors for egg nog purposes."

A Scandinavian Society, six months old, is flourishing in Portland, Oregon.

There are 322 saw-mills in California—202 run by steam and 120 by water-power.

Dance-houses in Marysville, Yuba county, Cal., will hereafter have to pay a license of \$100 per month.

Burglars are active in Oakland, Cal. They go through houses either by daylight or by gaslight.

A common item in the California papers—"But one car-load of immigrants arrived from the East yesterday."

The amount of gold dug in California since 1843 is \$1,380,700,000, of which \$93,000,000 was mined in 1853.

The San Francisco poundkeeper remorselessly slaughtered one hundred and seventy-eight unfortunate canines last month.

There are in California 780 mining ditches, having an aggregate length of 4,888 miles, and supplying 220,187 inches of water per day.

All of the men in the employ of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad Company received a handsome gift on New Year's Day.

A rich mine of cinnabar has been discovered about three miles northeast of Pine Flat, or Pine Mountain, Lake county, Cal.

H. H. Luse, merchant at Empire City, Oregon, keeps a steamboat in which he forwards free to his customers on the bay and tributaries all goods purchased at his store.