

with the northern Militia, the value of which amounted to about \$12,000. This was done to keep them from possible capture by hostiles.

Expresses constantly arrived from the north with news of murders by the Indians, and with orders not to relax in the least a readiness to meet the enemy at any moment. Consequently every settlement resembled a military camp: all men capable of bearing arms met for roll call morning and evening, and every man kept on hand a supply of crackers or biscuits in readiness for any sudden expedition or scout. I will here remark that for many years, during which time many reconnoissances were made, or trips for exploration of the country—lasting often one or two weeks, the only provision carried consisted of crackers or dry bread. No one had any groceries, and no one could afford to butcher a cow or a work ox; so unless a jack rabbit could be killed we had no meat.

I will here refer to a remarkable fact that occurred several times when our people were murdered by Indians—that, although slain and their bodies horribly mutilated, their clothing was left untouched, the significance of which will be readily understood by Latter-day Saints. On October 9th, 1853, five men were killed in Sanpete canyon and shockingly butchered up after death; also, on October 26th, 1853, Lt. Gunnison and most of his party were ambushed and killed by Indians on the lower Sevier river. Among the killed of Gunnison's party was a Mormon—William Potter. Although upon this occasion, as in San Pete Canyon they horribly mutilated the dead, neither knife, arrow nor bullet cut or perforated or marred the under clothing of our brethren. And this was so on many similar tragic occasions.

The Indians killed Lt. Gunnison and his men in revenge for the death of several of their warriors, killed by Colonel Hildreth's party of emigrants from Missouri, bound for California. This occurred at Pine Creek, Indians being killed by them there on two occasions; so the Indians, being too weak to fight them successfully, took this revenge upon Lieut. Gunnison's party as above stated.

On Saturday, September 10th, 1853, the first Stake Conference ever held in Iron County convened in Parowan. A report showed 11 High Priests, 38 Seventies, 28 Elders, 2 Priests, 1 Teacher and 122 members, a total of 201, besides children under 8 years of age. The conference adjourned to Cedar City next day.

At a conference held in Cedar City on Monday November 21st, 1853, at which Elders Erastus Snow and F. D. Richards presided, it was decided to found a new settlement at Summit Creek, seven miles west of Parowan, for better protection against Indians. Also, Elder Joel H. Johnson was appointed to teach the Indians farming and other work, and to teach the Gospel to them; all his children to do the same forever after him. And about this time a hundred young Elders were sent into southern Utah for the same purpose, most of whom located south of Parowan.

The first city election in Cedar City was held December 6th, 1853, at which Isaac C. Haight was elected mayor, with Aldermen, John D. Lee, William

Miller, George S. Clark and Philip K. Smith, and James Lewis, Recorder.

In the year 1854 the Deseret Alphabet was perfected and school books published in the new style. In this, each letter had but one invariable sound, thus differing greatly from the present alphabet, and in spelling no silent letters were used. These two reforms, if commonly used, would greatly abridge the labor of learning a language, as well as greatly economizing space in writing, as one page written in the new characters was equal to two or more of the usual alphabet and style of spelling. President Brigham Young was anxious to have it brought into common use, but it never became popular. The writer kept the stake record of Parowan in the new alphabet for several years, and was able to take copious notes of sermons, &c, and did so for considerable time.

In the latter part of April, 1854, Elder T. D. Brown came from Salt Lake City to teach the principle of conservation, preaching in Parowan on April 30th. The principle was received almost without exception, the writer being appointed to make out the deeds of conservation from the people.

President Young and company, with the Ute chiefs, Walker, Grosefeen and Squashhead, arrived in Parowan on Wednesday, May 24th, 1854. Elder P. P. Pratt and a company of Missionaries to the Pacific accompanied them, and were joined at Parowan by Elders Silas S. Smith, John A. West and Sixtus E. Johnson. President Young said the war was over: said he, pointing to Walker, "I have the war with me." But he directed that Parowan be surrounded by a wall, twelve feet high and six feet thick, composed of dampened earth and straw well compacted. He inculcated honesty and kindness with firmness in all dealings with Indians; and said it was wrong to kill the game upon which they depended for a living. The Indians were to be made to understand that while we were their friends we were also their masters.

But this was hard for them to comprehend. Walker used to hold up his forefinger and say "Brigham! Great chief." Then placing his other forefinger beside the first would say, "Me, Walker! Me big chief all same as Brigham!" And he really considered himself President Young's equal. He was war chief of the Utahs, who dominated all the smaller tribes, even south to the Colorado river. In person he was about six feet high, well built but not fleshy, dignified and fearless in bearing, with an eye cruel and piercing as that of an eagle, which seemed to look through one. When much enraged, as I saw him several times, he seemed a very devil. He died in January, 1855. The Indians told us that when he died they killed one of his wives, also two Indian prisoners, and fifty of their finest horses, and buried with him all his arms and insignia of rank; this was in order that he might enter the next world as a great chief should, with wife, servants, horses and arms. They buried one of the prisoners alive and unharmed, only his head projecting above ground; left thus to die a terrible death of thirst, hunger and pain, his eyes pecked out by the crows and the flesh of his head gnawed at night by Indians' dogs or coyotes. He lived several days. Not to make this letter

too long, I will at another time give several incidents with which Walker was connected, which will, I believe, be of interest to the reader.

In accordance with President Young's instructions, Parowan was surrounded by a wall of earth twelve feet high, built at a cost of many thousand dollars.

J. H. MARTINEAU.

CONDITIONS IN WAYNE.

J. H. Smith, Esq., of the weather bureau in this city, kindly furnishes the News with this very interesting letter:

GROVER, Wayne Co., Utah, October 22, 1896.—The weather conditions prevailing for October are thus far phenomenal. This has been the mildest and most genial fall ever known. What little frost has reached us has been light. The deciduous leaves have simply ripened and fallen off of their own accord. Up to date there has been no frost that would have frozen grain. Lucern is still green and growing, and a third crop, hitherto unknown in this section, would have been possible this year. There have been no wind storms this fall, and we have very little smut and no insect pests; some little damage by blue birds and black birds.

Potatoes, generally, are a failure, small in size and few in number, supposed to be due to the late spring and a flush of summer heat combined. In cool localities they have done moderately well. But Wayne has not raised enough for her own use.

Some little sickness has occurred, principally typhoid; a few cases fatal.

Reports from Colorado river state that the recent floods have greatly interfered with the placer mining in that region; the water rising abnormally for this time of year, but being foul, i.e., loaded with quicksand and the usual debris of floods, not only stopped operations, but covered up some of the low lying bars. One especially, estimated to be a profitable one, has eight feet of sand, mud and rubbish deposited on it. All reports concur in describing the floods of last month as being terrific.

Mining interests seem to be gathering new energy in all sections.

HENRY CULLUM,
Voluntary Observer.

PLACER CLAIMS IN DANGER.

A. H. Ricketts, the mining attorney of this city, says the San Francisco Chronicle, calls attention to the recent ruling of the commissioner of the land office in the case of Aldritt vs the Northern Pacific Railway company. In which it was held that the term "mineral land" in the land laws of the United States refers only to those lands containing metalliferous ores and does not refer to deposits of such substances as rock, chalk, kaolin, gypsum, petroleum, fire clay and other similar minerals.

This decision is very far reaching in effect and it affirmed by the secretary of the interior will prove a fruitful source of litigation to all placer claim-owners of land containing the minerals named, as well as those containing borax, carbonates or nitrates, lime-