

would give an actual and fair valuation of \$425,600, showing a per capita distribution of wealth of \$608.00. It is this general custom of low assessed valuations all over Arizona that makes the rate of taxation to appear so high, when in reality it is no higher than in any other territory.

A fact worthy of note is that the assessment rolls of Mesa City show that, notwithstanding the low valuation, at no time during the seventeen years of its existence has there been the least evidence of retrogression, but every year has been marked by increase and an appreciable advancement of values. This statement comprehends public estimate of visible properties alone, and it may be conceived that accumulation of individual wealth, stocks, bonds, cash deposits, etc., the county and other investments elsewhere of city denizens, must necessarily have increased, to some extent, the per capita of wealth, and cannot, therefore, be absolutely stated, for obvious reasons.

ITS RELIGIOUS LIFE.

There are three church organizations in Mesa City. They are the Baptist, the Methodist and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In point of membership the latter denomination is largely in the majority. This Stake of Zion was first temporarily organized in October, 1878, by Apostle Erastus Snow and party from Salt Lake City, who appointed Jesse N. Perkins presiding Elder, with H. C. Rogers and G. W. Sirrine as counselors. In 1880, President John Taylor called A. F. MacDonald to the presidency of the Stake, and he arrived from Utah in February 1880, retaining H. C. Rogers and G. W. Sirrine as his counselors, J. N. Perkins having left the country. In December, 1882, Apostles Moses Thatcher and Erastus Snow visited the settlement and effected a permanent organization. On December 10th, 1882, a conference was held and a change made. President MacDonald was sustained, as was also H. C. Rogers; but Charles I. Robson was appointed in place of G. W. Sirrine, who was honorably released. On the same date, Elijah Pomeroy was ordained Bishop of Mesa ward, with W. Passey as first counselor and W. Richins as second. On December 4th, 1887, President MacDonald was honorably released, and Charles I. Robson chosen in his stead. H. C. Rogers and Collins R. Hakes were appointed his first and second counselors respectively.

Bishop Pomeroy held office until September 27, 1891, when William Passey succeeded him. His first and second counselors were W. J. Le Baron and Henry J. Horn. On May 10, 1894, James Malen Horn was appointed to succeed Bishop Passey, and David T. Le Baron and Warner H. Allen were chosen as his counselors.

The Maricopa Stake of Zion, as this is called, is in a prosperous condition; the people cultivate a pure religious spirit, associating their worldly welfare with their spiritual aspirations, so that their religion, being practical, develops the best virtues of good citizenship. The present membership of the various wards embraced in this Stake is as follows: Mesa, 648 (including members residing outside the city limits); Lehi, 200; Alma, 282; Nephi, 104; Papago, white, 27; Papago, Indian, 596; Papago, southern, 629. Total membership, 2,496.

The people of Mesa City are a cul-

tured, refined, church going class, Mormon or Gentile—and there is a good population of the latter—so that the outlook for spiritual growth may be said to indicate an increased demand for larger church accommodations imperative in the near future. The city is well equipped with educational facilities and the several costly edifices already erected are a source of particular pride and satisfaction to the people.

IRRIGATING FACILITIES.

Centuries ago a transcendently wonderful people inhabited the territory now known as Arizona. That they were such is evidenced by the proof more conclusive than could be supplied by any of the vague and undetermined hieroglyphic problems that are open always to more or less of doubt. Defying the mutability of time, these evidences have descended through the ages, reserved, as it would almost seem, by Deity, as the key with which again to open the great coffers of wealth so long hidden from man.

Irrigation is that key.

Aqueducts and viaducts have been discovered during the progress of recent years, the presence of which can point to but one conclusion, namely, that this region was wonderfully prolific in agriculture, and that irrigation was the leading factor in achieving that result. So indisputable are these physical links between the present day and the prehistoric time, that those masterful tillers of the soil, and skillful, ingenious engineers, speak to us today through them in a voice which defies the urns and sepulchres of mortality, not only telling us to advance, but pointing us the way. Time has rolled its billows o'er the mouldering ashes of both the Toltec and the Aztec race, but their great accomplishments are found not as suggestions for reproduction, but ready for utility with simple renovation. It is a fact that all modern engineering science is humbled and abashed when confronted with these living testimonies, which show that this prehistoric people were centuries in anticipation of the higher modern achievements.

In the establishment of many of the irrigating enterprises now perfected and in operation in Arizona, frequently the ancient aqueducts referred to have been adopted by locating engineers, and incorporated in their general plans without, in many instances, the least material change of grade. This was what considerably assisted the Mormon colony in 1878, in the building of the Mesa canal. They tapped the Salt river at a point four miles below its confluence with the Verde river, and with their imperfect implements and circumscribed facilities it was a herculean task, but by availing themselves of an old Aztec ditch known as the Montezuma canal, they were enabled to construct in the space of nearly a year, nine and a half miles of operative waterway at the comparatively small cost of \$43,000. This system has been greatly enlarged and the entire district enjoys the benefits of a most comprehensive network of majestic canals and capacious laterals. The lands all around are absolutely level and are not merely susceptible of irrigation, but in their natural topography, so irrigable as to render these canals phenomenally valuable and effective.

In estimating the ultimate practical and palpable benefit derivable from an irrigation system, the first consideration

should be the original source from which it gets its water. The vast water sheds of the mighty Rockies are relieved of their superabundant supplies through numerous channels to the plains. These rivers are valuable as immediate sources for irrigation, accordingly as they are adequately fed by their tributaries in the mountains. The Salt river, in this respect, is peerless. From an area of 15,000 square miles, wherein melted snow in nameless torrents flow from lofty peaks along their rocky ways, through canyons and precipitous defiles, down to their larger sister streams, by them to be conducted to the river bed, the entire drainage is finally brought. The human mind stands appalled before the vastness of this almost illimitable supply. The many natural reservoirs in their mountain fastnesses gather enormous volumes of water, and when surcharged by heavy rainfalls, or by melting snows, they send their surplus to swell the river's flow. Many streams which bear the dignity of names are tributaries to the Salt river, far above the level of the plains, all the year round. Among these important adjuncts may be mentioned the following creeks: Stone, Black, Milpa, Bonita Fork, White Mountain, Cedar, Turkey, Carriso, Cibicu, Canon, Locust, Box, Cherry, Raccoon, Sally May, Greenback, Tonto, Sycamore, Peck, Pinto and Pinal. Thus it will be seen that, considering the enormous extent of the watershed under discussion, the capacity of the Salt river is sufficient to operate an irrigating system far more comprehensive in its scope than any which can possibly be required of it.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

The climate of the Salt River valley is uniformly mild, health-giving and delightful. In fact it is a perfect sanitarium for all diseases of the throat and lungs. In this valley a laborer may work every day in the year, and every hour of the day; and this under a cloudless sky, in a pure dry atmosphere, and amid the delicious fragrance of a semi-tropical vegetation. Here there is very little frost, no snow, and even in the winter time, but light rains. It is rare indeed to see the thermometer go below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The summer temperature fluctuates between 75 and 102 degrees, and occasionally reaches 110. The nights, however, are almost invariably pleasant on account of there being no humidity in the atmosphere, and 110 degrees would not be felt as much as 90 degrees in any city of the eastern states. The average rainfall is almost six and thirty-seven one-hundredth inches.

HORTI-AGRICULTURE.

The fabric upon which the lasting prosperity of any community is woven is of course its agriculture. Without that as a fundamental basis the first element of stability is absent. It may conscientiously be said, however, that agriculturally, the Mesa lands of the Salt River valley stand peerless. Broad fields of waving grain and of alfalfa and other grasses stretch away from the non-immediate environments of Mesa city to the horizon on every side. Much of this grain was headed out in the beginning of January, and promises a bountiful yield, perhaps the greatest the country has yet seen. And to be more specific, it would be well to say that of the cereals, wheat, barley, oats, etc., the ensuing year will pour into the lap of