

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

SNOWFLAKE STAKES.

SNOWFLAKE, Apache Co.,

Arizona, Feb. 27, 1894.

The Snowflake Stake of Zion embraces the Saints residing in the western half of Apache county, Arizona, and also one ward now called Tuba City, but formerly known as Moan Coppy, situated in Coconino county. There are also a few Saints on Pine creek, in the so-called Tonto Basin, about 150 miles west of Snowflake. But the bulk of the Saints comprising the Stake reside in settlements situated on the Little Colorado river, and its tributaries. The Stake consists of seven wards, namely, Snowflake, Taylor, Pinedale, Showlow, Woodruff, St. Joseph and Tuba City. The total membership of the Stake in December last was as follows: two Patriarchs, fifty-four Seventies, fifty-seven High Priests, eighty-six Elders, fifteen Priests, twelve Teachers, eighty-four Deacons, 656 lay members and 516 children under 8 years of age, making a total of 1,482 souls, which represents 243 families. Jesse N. Smith, a cousin of the Prophet Joseph Smith and a man widely and favorably known from his labors in the interest of God's cause, both at home and abroad, presides over the Stake; he resides at Snowflake. Lorenzo H. Hatch, formerly Bishop of Franklin, Idaho, is first counselor in the Stake presidency; he also officiates as the senior Patriarch in the Stake and resides in Woodruff. Elder Joseph H. Richards, whose place of residence is St. Joseph and who has recently returned from a mission to Scotland, is second counselor in the Stake presidency.

The town of Snowflake, thus named in honor of the late Apostle Erastus Snow and the founder of the town, Elder Wm. J. Flake (who still resides here) is pleasantly situated in a beautiful little valley about two miles long from north to south and something over a mile wide at its widest place. Silver Creek, a tributary of the Little Colorado river, cuts through the valley from south to north and puts into the river named at a point about twenty miles north of Snowflake. This stream supplies the town with water for culinary and irrigating purposes and the settlement is on the west side of the stream. Snowflake is 45 miles west of St. Johns, the county seat of Apache county, 65 miles north of Fort Apache, 28 miles by nearest wagon road southwest of Holbrook, the nearest railway station, and 18 miles north of the main body of timber which covers the more elevated heights of the Mogollon mountains.

In conceiving of this little oasis in the desert as a valley, the Utah readers of the News must not imagine that it is surrounded by mountains; there are no mountains—such as we would call mountains in Utah—in sight from Snowflake, but that which surrounds the place and suggests the idea of a valley are cedar-covered bluffs or rolling hills which perhaps nowhere in the immediate vicinity of the settle-

ment exceeds one hundred feet in actual height. As the traveler approaches Snowflake on the Woodruff road from the north he is apt to be favorably impressed with the appearance of the settlement. Clustered around the Stake house (the spire of which, though not very lofty, points gracefully toward heaven), the stranger at once notices a number of fine brick dwellings and business houses standing in the midst of young, thrifty orchards, while the town itself is surrounded by well cultivated fields, properly fenced and systematically laid out by the respective owners for irrigation purposes. The town also is accurately laid out in blocks 24 rods square and with streets six rods wide. The dimensions of the Stake house, which is not yet completed inside, are 65x85 feet in length and breadth and 21 feet high from floor to ceiling. There is also a gallery; the stand is in the west end.

Thrift and industry is seen on every hand, and the good Saints of Snowflake are hopeful for the future, though the building up of their settlement has been fraught with many difficulties and hardships. But the worst seems now to be over; the prospect of making large reservoirs in the immediate vicinity of the town will undoubtedly greatly increase the population in the near future. John Hunt, a son of the late Captain Jefferson Hunt, of Mormon battalion fame, is the Bishop of the place; Wm. J. Flake, the founder of the settlement, and John Ratchnor are his counselors; 81 families and 446 souls constitute the membership of the ward.

Woodruff, thus named in honor of President Woodruff, is desirably located in a little valley about a mile square on the right bank of the Little Colorado river, at an altitude of 5,300 feet. Twenty-six Mormon families, numbering 133 souls, and a small sprinkling of non-members constitute the population. The settlement is 2½ miles north of Snowflake, and 12 miles southeast of Holbrook. There is about 1,000 acres of good land in the vicinity of Woodruff, of which about 600 acres are carefully cultivated and irrigated by ditches which head a dam constructed across the river, at an enormous expense, just above the town. Dam after dam has been built by the settlers, all of which, save the present one, have been washed away in regular succession. The present dam, which bids fair to remain, as it is built in a very substantial manner, thirty-five feet high and about 250 feet long; it throws the river entirely out of its natural channel onto a ledge of solid rock on the east side, thus forming a beautiful cataract, and a grand one in times of high water. The chief products of Woodruff are similar to Snowflake, wheat, oats and corn are raised in small quantities, while vegetables sufficient for home consumption and considerable for exportation is raised. Eleven squashes raised in Woodruff in 1892 yielded a gross weight of 339½ pounds, while water-melons weighing fifty pounds are frequently raised. Fruits, such as cur-

rants, raspberries, gooseberries, grapes, peaches, apples and plums would do remarkably well, if water for irrigation purposes could be permanently secured. Levi H. Savage, a son of Levi Savage, of Toquerville, Utah, is the Bishop of Woodruff.

Holbrook, situated on the Atlantic and Pacific railroad and on the Little Colorado river, at an altitude of 5,072 feet, is the shipping point for most of the Mormon settlements in the Snowflake Stake. The place, which consists of a few business houses, and a limited number of private dwellings, mainly situated on one street running parallel with the railway track is 253 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The most important mercantile establishment of Holbrook is the Arizona Co-operative Mercantile Institution, owned principally by our brethren and superintended by Elder John R. Hulet, of Snowflake. This business house is and has been ever since it commenced business, a great help to our people, and on more than one occasion, when disaster has overtaken one or more of our settlements, principally through the washing away of the dams, this institution has come to the rescue of the suffering community, and has advanced food and means to the people, who perhaps otherwise would have been obliged to abandon their location and seek relief elsewhere. Holbrook being the center of a district of country largely devoted to grazing, the stock men get their supplies there, and mainly from the business house mentioned; this brings in ready means which through the many shareholders is distributed in through the several settlements. Supplies for Fort Apache, ninety-three miles distant, are freighted by teams from the railway at Holbrook to the amount of about 3,000,000 pounds annually. There are no Saints at Holbrook, except Brother Hulet, and the brethren who assist him in the store.

St. Joseph, the only one of the four original Arizona settlements planted by the Saints in 1876 on the Little Colorado river now in existence, is situated on the right or north bank of said river, twelve miles west of Holbrook. The 15 families, or 107 souls, of Latter-day Saints who constitute the population of this place sustain among their neighbors the well deserved distinction of being the leading community in point of determination and unflinching courage in battling with the elements around them. While Obed, Brigham City and Sunset succumbed successively to what seemed to be unavoidably, the people of St. Joseph have held the fort in the midst of all "odds," losses and disappointments. The losses in dams alone would perhaps foot up to nearly \$50,000, but the prospects are now quite favorable. Like the people of Woodruff, the Saints of St. Joseph have succeeded in damming up the natural channel of the treacherous Colorado, and forcing the water out upon the solid rock on that side of the river where the settlement stands six miles below. But before this victory was achieved scores of former settlers got discouraged and left for other parts of the country leaving only a few of the hardier and most determined pioneers to cope with the still existing difficulties. Elder John