

tending. It looked as though we were in for it in great shape; but threshing not being all done. But the 16th brings a great change; a Chinook from the southwest, with rain, takes the beautiful all off, except a few small drifts.

A gentleman from Jackson's Valley says the snow is from three to five feet deep on the Glory Summit—an unusual fall for this season of the year.

Our grain crops are very good this season, but were much damaged by the early frosts of the 8th and 9th of September. The frost also did much damage in other parts of the country.

Wheat is in good demand at 90c. per hundredweight at Idaho falls and Market Lake. This cash demand is a great relief to the farmers. Ninety cents for a hundred pounds of wheat is a small price, but it beats forty cents a hundred, that being the price before the European demand came. Five years ago Europe called for our grain and we realized as high as sixty cents a bushel for wheat. But from that time until this fall wheat ranged from forty-five cents to sixty cents per one hundred pounds, and the result of these prices was many mortgaged homes. But still our great country is building up.

I call it great; it is a great country; where is there such another for great water supply? The irrigating canals taken from this grandest of all streams on the Pacific slope is something beyond my description; and her supply of water has only commenced to be used. Come capital, and see if there is not a place of investment; come home seekers, and see if you cannot find an abiding place in the valley of the Snake river; where all the elements for man to build with can be found.

Many have come in to Teton Basin Valley this season. There is room for many more. Come and see. We welcome all industrious home seekers.

We have now in this valley three saw mills, and are now ready for a grist mill, that can make good flour for both this and Jackson's valley.

Election being over, people begin to get down to real business once more. We did our best for Bryan, and so did our sister state, Utah. Our lady friends must not feel aggrieved because they did not get suffrage in Idaho. In 1900 we will give the silver bell another thump and it will be heard by all civilized nations.

Good health reigns in our valley and for this we are thankful.

NE PLUS ULTRA.

### THE LOWER GILA VALLEY.

MESA, Arizona, Nov. 17, 1896.

Extending westward from the juncture of the Gila, with the Salt and Agua Fria rivers, about twenty-two miles west of the city of Phoenix, and about forty miles from Mesa City, Maricopa county, Arizona—a large and prosperous colony of Latter-day Saints—for nearly two hundred miles is probably what will one day be the most productive agricultural area on the American continent. For hundreds of miles, broken here and there with a short isolated mountain range or an occasional peak of fantastic design, the valley stretches away with

the levelness of almost a tabletop. The soil, a light sandy loam, at first deceives one, as to its richness, but tough it with water and its fertility and productiveness cannot be surpassed. Here and there great groves of mesquite and ironwood bear witness to the richness of soil and mildness of climate that the initiated at once recognize.

Like many other portions of Arizona, the valley throughout its entire length bears evidence in the form of prehistoric ruins of a dense population that it once supported. Here the ruins of an old canal that can be traced for miles. There are the mounds of ruined pueblos, while the frequency of hieroglyphic-covered cliffs tell the bootless effort of the older race to leave behind them some record for future ages to decipher.

Through the length of the valley on the south of the Gila runs the Southern Pacific railroad, while north of that stream has been surveyed and located a line of railroad from Phoenix, the capital of Arizona, to San Diego. Of this road thirty miles were built when the panic of 1893 put a quietus on its further construction. And since that time, though the valley has steadily grown in development, and the advantage of such a line of communication has become more manifest, its early extension is looked forward to.

In variety of products the valley of the Lower Gila cannot be surpassed—wheat, barley, alfalfa and all the cereals and fruits of the temperate zone growing equally well with the lemon, orange, fig, grape and other fruits of the semi-tropical regions. The climate, while warm in summer, is almost perfection in winter, snow never being seen; while even excessive frosts are unknown. The rainfall throughout the year is light, and irrigation must be relied on by the farmer to insure crops.

Several canals already have been taken out along the valley and under each are to be found prosperous settlements in which the chief distinguishing feature are "land poor" proprietors, whose chief idea of farming is to grow rich waiting for a rise in values that will enable them to unload their hundreds of acres for fortunes. Many of this class, though, have felt the stress of the last few years of panic, and realize that it will be only by offering every inducement like low prices that they can induce immigrants to turn in their direction. Through this lands that were held at from \$30 to \$35 per acre five years ago can now be purchased at from \$12 to \$15 per acre, with perpetual water rights; while in many instances large land owners can be found who will give the use of their land, for years rent free, as well as a portion of it in consideration of having the whole cultivated. In addition, under some of the canals can be found large bodies of government land awaiting entry by the settler, although the same character of land in California, with water would readily sell at from \$75 to \$100 per acre unimproved.

Under the oldest and best of the canals in the valley—the Buckeye—the head of which is twenty-two miles due west of Phoenix, land is offered for five years with

an abundance of water, the cultivator to have all the product during that period and to receive one-fourth of whatever amount he cultivates during that time and plants in alfalfa; the land in question being patented and already cleared and ready for cultivation. The canal in question has always been noted for its water supply while the area covered by it is about twenty thousand acres. It has several thriving communities under it with good facilities. There are several thousand acres of unpatented land which can be had by entry if desired.

To possible settlers and home-seekers the opportunity offered in this instance is splendid and well worth investigation. The unparalleled advantages possessed by the entire valley for the cultivation of such fruits as the fig, orange, olive, etc., must naturally result in time in the creation of small holdings ranging from ten to twenty acres in size each, and subject to the same careful supervision now displayed around such places as Riverside, California. When this is done, no richer agricultural community will probably be found on earth than that along the Gila river from Phoenix westward to the Colorado.

I desire to locate with a small colony of Latter-day Saints on the above described lands and will cheerfully give any additional information desired if inquirers will address me at Mesa City, Arizona, inclosing stamp for postage.

J. W. CROSBY.

### SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder Charles W. Penrose of the Stake presidency presided over the services at the Tabernacle on Sunday, afternoon Nov. 22, 1896.

The choir sang the hymn:

See how the morning sun  
Pursues his shining way.

Prayer was offered by Elder Jones.

The choir further sang:

Glorious things are sung of Zion,  
Enoch's city seen of old.

Elder Heber J. Grant of the Council of the Apostles was the first speaker. His remarks were replete with good advice to the Saints, urging them to diligence, that in pursuing such a course they might see the wisdom of all things, especially those things which were directly connected with the priesthood of God. If the Saints kept the commandments of the Lord, and lived up to their duties in the Church, all would be well with them; but on the other hand if they did not do these things, they would be tried to the uttermost.

President George Q. Cannon followed, in a discourse in which he admonished the Saints to faithfulness, and cited the great good that had resulted from such a course in the past. The Saints had been blessed abundantly in former days, and the Lord would continue to bless them if they would retain His spirit and yield obedience to His dictates.

The choir sang the anthem:

O come and let us sing unto the Lord.

Benediction was pronounced by Bishop William B. Preston.