

form to the counsels of the authorities in these things.

The Sunday services are held in a large room at the head of Alder street, which the Saints rent. School at 10 a. m.; Sacrament meetings at 2 p. m., and regular preaching service at 7:30 p. m. The evening meetings are being attended more largely by non-believers than formerly and some are inquiring after the Gospel.

Previous to the recent very cold weather we have had Elders visit Deer Lodge valley, holding public meetings and visiting from house to house with good prospects. In fact there are several places of worship and school houses opened to the Elders, which will be accepted as soon as the weather gets settled, so it is safe to travel.

Sunday, January 24, President T. E. Ricks paid us a visit, arriving here in the midst of a Montana blizzard. He stayed with us two days, giving the Saints and Elders encouragement and counsel in their labors, leaving a supply of tracts and other Church works to assist in spreading the Gospel. He spoke very forcibly of the conduct of members of the Church coming here from Utah and elsewhere and moving away again, leaving their debts unpaid, as some had done heretofore. The speaker said such acts of dishonesty could not and would not be tolerated by the Church. He left here for Lima, this State, where there is another healthy branch of the Church.

Jan. 25th, Elders Johnson and Tempest accompanied Elders Thornley and Mason to Meaderville, holding service the same evening in the M. E. church. The following evening we had the pleasure of speaking in the M. E. church, south (colored) in Butte, to an audience of about fifteen, all colored. At both places we were received kindly, Rev. G. H. Byas, colored, pastor of the Butte church, inviting us to come again. This gentleman took notes of our quotations, assisted in the singing, etc. We attributed the scant turnout to the very cold weather and insufficient advertising of the notice.

Last Sunday Elder Leonard Jones, an exemplary young man, was set apart as counselor to Brother A. Short, who is presiding Elder of the branch here and to whom much credit is due for the integrity and interest he takes in all that pertains to the upbuilding of the work. Four young men and boys were ordained to the office of Deacon, thus adding more material to the working forces of the branch.

Too much cannot be said in praise of almost every member of the branch who work at all, for the great interest they take in all of their duties. Of course we have the usual allotment of that class who are "pleased that the branch is prospering," but who are content to let the willing ones do all the labor. We suppose this is the case everywhere. "Grand occasion Salts" seem to be abundant.

Last week a party of Saints to the number of forty-three, all told, gathered at the home of Brother and Sister M. McCune at Mill Creek, and enjoyed to their hearts' content the pleasures of song, dance, cake, pie, fruits and sociability known only to the Latter-day Saints.

I omitted saying that the Saints in

Anasconda have indulged in a nice chapel organ to assist in their services. This is of much benefit in the singing exercises. P. TEMPEST.

EASTERN ARIZONA TOWNS.

ST. JOHNS, Arizona, Feb. 3rd, 1897.

In almost every town of Eastern Arizona there is a large number of people who are from Utah. Many of the settlers have returned to Utah discouraged and ready to give Arizona a bad name so that "Arizona" is a name which strikes terror in the breasts of many Utonians. Eastern Arizona in connection with all the southwest has suffered from drought of late years, and the colonists have had a hard time. The cause of the discouragement lay, originally, in the settlers not adapting themselves to the country. In Arizona the highest mountains are not very precipitous, so the snow melts quickly in the spring, and leaves the streams dry or nearly so, in June and July. The people of Utah have "living" streams, and the settlers of Arizona failed to grasp the changed conditions there. Crop after crop was lost and the dull thud of experience has driven them to see their needs. Consequently reservoirs have been and are being built to hold the big streams of spring time and the floods of the rainy season for the summer use. When the rains begin early these reservoirs will not be needed, but no permanent prosperity will come until the water supply is sure.

NAVAJO SPRINGS.

This is a desolate little wayside station of the Atlantic and Pacific railroad noted as being the first seat of territorial government in Arizona.

HOLBROOK OF NAVAJO.

This is another railroad station being more important than Navajo Springs because it is the shipping point for Fort Apache. It is also the county seat of the new county of Navajo. Twenty-eight miles away and we are

AT SNOWFLAKE.

Snowflake is a town of five hundred people. It will never be much larger unless other than agricultural interests make it so. Snowflake looks more like a Utah town because it has many orchards, and a great number of brick residences. If you want to desolate any town or city the quickest way is to kill its orchards and shade trees, for they add more to the beauty of a town than good houses. At present Snowflake is the most prosperous town in this part of Arizona.

CONCHO OR ERASTUS.

A town with two names, looks like rather a tendency to overdo the thing. The Mormon settlers have usually renamed the towns where the Mexicans were the original settlers, and where Mexican names would have given a pleasing variety. So the ecclesiastical ward here is named Erastus. The post office precinct and usual name is Concho. To the acquainted the very name signifies "sticky day." But, Concho has suffered less from the recent drought and crop-failures than many neighboring towns. On the road from Concho to Springerville a deserted cattle ranch is passed. The ranch was once the "home ranch" of fifteen thousand cattle and could not have been bought for \$10,000

but the country is now left to the owners of sheep and the once valuable ranches are for sale at a very low price.

SPRINGERVILLE

has suffered materially from the drought of past years, and many people are to be met in all parts of Utah who have been residents of the place. It is naturally the best place for farming, or raising sheep and cattle in the whole of Arizona. But the original settlers were slow to develop the country. Reservoirs were not thought of by those who first came; the people lived on what they had. The money from the sheep and cattle did not reach the hands of the real settlers but was owned by big holders whose homes were in the east or other places. They invested no money in developing the country because it best subserved their interests to not have it developed. But the cattle owners have suffered most from the drought and farmer settlers are now re-stocking the range with the few cattle they have. Despite the poverty of the people they have built a 475-acre reservoir on one of the branches of Salt river, ditching it over the divide into the Little Colorado river. They have just purchased the land in the lower end of Lee valley, a mountain valley eighteen miles above, and will soon build a still larger reservoir there. The upper canal which has been an expense for years was this year used to raise several thousand bushels of grain. Springerville is located at the foot of the White mountains, and the abundance of feed on these mountains is phenomenal. Of late the people have been gathering milk stock around them and dairying is to be carried on quite extensively during the coming summer. An absence of four years from Springerville shows that despite the drought the place has grown considerably, while the people were never more encouraged than now.

NUTRIOSO AND ALPINE

are mountain towns of Apache County. At one time they were inhabited by quite well-to-do people and were really in a thrifty condition. Eight years ago Alpine was devastated by grasshoppers and has never recovered. Nutrioso was by far the best built up settlement of Eastern Arizona and its farming land is fully as productive as any around. The town is surrounded by timber and rain was for many years plentiful. Of late it has not been so. As feed grew less plentiful on the grazing land, the prairie dogs were driven near the farms for food. Thus the crops were eaten down and the town suffered greatly.

THE PRAIRIE DOG

is a troublesome animal and the question of its extinction is one of great importance to the people of the territories of Arizona and New Mexico. The prairie dog is not in reality a dog and eats no flesh at all, while his meat is as wholesome as a rabbit. The animals usually live close together forming prairie dog "towns." Smoking them to death with sulphur has been quite successfully tried in many places, but not so in holes which have two openings. The young dogs are usually born in the summer time when the grass is green. If the rains are heavy enough to flood the country to any great extent it will run over the mounds and into the holes. The older dogs often escape the flood, but the younger ones are drowned, so during the drought they have increased