

## DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - OCT. 10, 1877.

## THE INDIAN FARMERS.

The report of the Grand Jury in relation to the Indians who are farming in the Malad Valley meets with general disapproval. A great many people know that it is a tissue of untruths. Those who are not acquainted with the facts consider that, supposing its statements are correct, the document is an exhibition of folly and spleen. The attack on the "Mormon" Church is altogether foreign to the functions of a Grand Jury, and it is not the province of any such body to concoct newspaper articles containing mere denunciations and insinuations.

If Indians have been enticed from their reservations, or anything contrary to law has been done in relation to them, it would have been proper for the Grand Jury to indict the guilty parties; but it is a violation of their duty to publish a libel, and their report is nothing else, against individuals and an ecclesiastical organization for whom or which they entertain a bigoted antipathy.

There has been some discussion in regard to the Indians, who are supporting themselves by honest labor which seems to arouse the anger of certain members of the late Grand Jury. It is claimed that those Indians belong to Fort Hall reservation; that they have not severed their tribal relations; that they have built no houses; that they do no work; that they are strung along from the Malad to Fort Hall; that they draw their supplies, blankets, etc., from that Agency; that they annoy the freighters; and that "Mormon" missionaries are doing manual labor on the land claimed as belonging to the Indians.

We have taken the pains to inquire into these matters so as to "make assurance doubly sure," and we are able to state without the shadow of a doubt, and to back up our assertion with abundant proofs if necessary, that the whole of the above allegations are set forth by the Grand Jury, are entirely false and without any shadow of excuse. The Indians at Malad are not and never were Fort Hall Indians; they do not and never did belong to that nor any other reservation; they have entered the land which they till, having observed all the requirements of the law in relation to it and them; they have severed their tribal relations and the record of it, as provided by law, is to be seen at the Land Office in this city, where it stands as an enduring proof of the unreliability and unqualified falsehood of the Grand Jury; they have built nine substantial houses on their land, which contain stoves for cooking and other appliances of civilized life; they are, some of them, engaged at the present time in the adobe yard, preparing material for building purposes, while others are driving teams and hauling lumber from the mountains for the same object; they do not draw their supplies from Fort Hall, and if they did and are attached to that agency, as falsely claimed, have the right to do so under the law just as much as if they were not engaged in civilized pursuits. If there are any Indians on the road to Fort Hall, they do not belong to the company in question, and the blame, if any, of their wandering from their reservation certainly cannot be attached either to the Malad Indians, or to those whites who are teaching them how to work for a living instead of begging and loafing like the Fort Hall redskins. Many of the Malad Indians have become very good farmers; they plow with oxen and horse teams, plant their own corn and cultivate it, raise potatoes, sugar cane, squash, melons, peas, beans and a variety of vegetables; some of them have not been away from their farms one day during the past season, while those that have been absent were not continuously at work for the lack of tools and teams. Several of them wear clothing similar to white men, and the others

would if they could get it to wear. Instead of doing any harm to freighters, the latter have damaged their crops materially by turning their stock into the growing grain, and last year destroyed forty acres of wheat, while this year they spoiled a great deal of corn for them. It cannot be proven that those Indians have committed any depredation of any kind whatever upon the white settlers.

The "Mormon" missionaries have shown these poor people how to work, which we think is very much to their credit, and if they had not done so, those who are now taking care of the crops raised under missionary direction would be prowling around the settlements in Northern Utah, as they previously did for many years, lazy, loathsome, thieving and terrifying to weak women and little children.

It is the policy of the Government to civilize the Indians, and to induce them to take the very course successfully pursued in Malad Valley. But it appears as though officials whose business it is to represent the Government are determined, if possible, to fight this policy, simply because "Mormon" missionaries succeed where sectarian hirelings fail.

But there is a Higher Power than any human influence or authority moving among these remnants of a race cursed ages ago for their iniquities, and when God works who can hinder? The spirit which actuates these poor, degraded red men under the teachings of the "Mormon" philanthropists who are turning them from their savage pursuits, leads them to abhor bloodshed, avoid strife, forsake stealing, turn from drunkenness, become industrious, worship the Almighty, and settle down upon the soil as honest laborers for self-support. Any persons or body of persons who undertake to vilify the "Mormon" missionaries engaged in this praiseworthy cause, to drive the Indians from their lawful possessions or to hinder the work now progressing among the Lamamites of these regions, not only oppose the policy of the Government of the United States, and set themselves against the principles of humanity and good common sense, but will be found fighting against God and will have their portion with "them that love and make a lie," in the day in which all shall receive their just and proper recompense.

## A NEW RAILROAD COMPANY.

A TRIP TO FRANKLIN.

The Utah Northern Railroad is one of the many material evidences of the industry, perseverance and determination of the people of Utah. In this instance the credit principally belongs to the people in the northern portion of the Territory. They did the grading, got out the ties and constructed the road, while eastern capital, chiefly, furnished the iron and rolling stock. The laborers on this road received the bulk of their pay in vouchers calling for stock in the road. The Cache Valley workmen were suffering from the effects of a seven years war—the grasshoppers had been victorious for seven years in succession—but they felt the need of the road, saw its value to their lovely valley, and stuck to the work under able direction, and assisted by the people of Box Elder and Weber Counties, until it was finished from Ogden to Franklin, a distance of eighty miles.

It was not expected that the local traffic would be sufficient, at first, to sustain the road and make it a paying institution. But it was anticipated that the Montana trade would be turned in that direction, and make the road a financial success. Experience showed that this could only be commanded with certainty by an extension of the road further north, because freighters did not consider it worth their while to turn out of their old route, unless a longer distance was saved than the Utah Northern afforded.

We are happy to say that arrangements have now been made to push the line onto Snake River, a distance of about eighty-five miles. This will assure the success of the road, bring much business into Cache Valley, and very materially assist Ogden, which will be the point of transfer from the broad gauge of the Union and Central

Pacific Railroads to the narrow gauge of the Utah and Northern Railroad.

This is the new name of the road, and the title of a new company which has been formed by a coalition between the stockholders of the old company and some of the leading stockholders and Directors of the Union Pacific. The old stock will be called in and new certificates issued as paid up shares. U. N. Vouchers will be settled for in stock certificates at the face figures of the vouchers instead of double the amount. The stock, by this arrangement will be unassessable, and will have a substantial value in the market.

The Directors of the Utah and Northern Railroad are: Royal M. Bassett, Sidney Dillon, Jay Gould, Joseph Richardson, John Sharp, Monroe Salisbury, Benjamin Richardson, Moses Thatcher, W. B. Preston, George W. Thatcher, M. W. Merrill, Lorin Farr, Samuel Smith and Milton D. Hammond. A Director's meeting will be held this evening at Ogden when the officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

On Thursday evening last a special train, consisting of a U. C. engine and the elegant car of the U. P. Directors, left this city at 6.30 for Ogden, conveying a number of gentlemen on a tour of inspection of the Utah and Northern. There were on board: Sidney Dillon, Jay Gould, S. H. H. Clark, Royal M. Bassett, John Sharp, Washington Dunn, Monroe Salisbury, A. A. Egbert, T. E. Trotter, T. H. Stanton, Moses Thatcher, W. B. Preston, Lorin Farr, Aaron F. Farr, John Kerr, L. E. Holden and C. W. Penrose. The train made Kaysville in forty-three minutes and the distance from that point to Ogden in eighteen minutes. The party staid at Ogden over night and started on the narrow gauge at 7.30 a. m. Friday morning. The party was joined at Brigham City by Judge Samuel Smith and at Logan by Supt. Geo. W. Thatcher. The trip was a pleasant one. The morning was bright, the country, dotted with thrifty farms and comfortable cottages, formed a picture suggestive of industry and contentment, the lake glistened brilliantly in the sunshine and the mountain sides in their autumn robes of gorgeous tints reared their great heads proudly and grandly towards the slightly clouded skies, as the vigorous little engine, like a bantam rooster crowed merrily to the morn, and ran along the three-foot track, as much of a master on its own particular line as the monsters of the great highway on theirs.

The road was pronounced in excellent trim, and many encomiums were uttered on "Mormon" industry, displayed on either hand as the train traveled northward towards "the divide." Here were heard the only expressions of disapprobation on the trip. It was considered that the line should have been continued around the base of the hills and on through Bear River Cañon, instead of climbing the mountain where snow has to be battled with in winter.

It is hard to dispute with capital when all you have to offer in argument is "public convenience." The present route takes in Logan, the largest city in the fruitful valley of Cache, approaches the settlements in the south and touches those on the east of the valley, thus offering much more accommodation to the people than any other route. If this had not been done it is probable that much difficulty would have been experienced in obtaining the necessary labor to build the road, on the only terms the company were then able to offer.

The beauties of Cache Valley, its capabilities and resources for sustaining many thousands of people, who will yet flock within its environs and settle upon its fertile soil, formed a fruitful subject for conversation, as the train swept around past Mendon to Logan, and pursued its lively travel northward to Franklin. The journey was made in four hours, stoppages included, or, in about thirty miles an hour, traveling time. Here the bridge over Cub River was inspected and pronounced suitable after a little bracing and strengthening, and a quantity of ties and rails ready for the extension were interviewed. Mr. W. C. Lewis, of the Lewis House, had a most excellent repast ready for the travellers at noon, which all seemed to enjoy fully as much as the trip and the scenery. Mr. Lewis intends to move with the

road. His well appointed hotel is built in sections, and he can take up the line of march when necessary. His reputation as a landlord is established on the northern route, and he will be as ready to care for the public when the terminus moves as at any time in the past.

The party returned at 1 p. m., stopping at Logan on the way, half an hour, to take a flying view of the town, carriages being ready on their arrival. They went up on the bench, saw the Temple foundation rapidly rising above the surface of the ground, seven feet of it being nearly finished; and looked down on a magnificent landscape, comprising the principal part of one of the finest valleys in the Rocky Mountains—the new Tabernacle, now being painted and finished on the outside, the big stone store of the Z. C. M. I., the Ward schoolhouses, fine residences, mills, workshops and pretty cottages catching the eye most prominently, and forming a lovely contrast with the foliage and fruit of the splendid orchards, watered by the limpid Logan, home of the finest speckled trout that ever tickled the palate of an epicure.

Ogden was reached at 5.30 p. m., where most of the company took leave of the railroad magnates, Messrs. Gould, Dillon, Bassett, Clark and Egbert staying over to proceed eastward this morning.

The trip gave great satisfaction to all. The extension of the narrow gauge to Snake River is a fixed fact, so far as written agreements can make it so. Eighteen months is given as the time in which it is to be finished, but there is little doubt that it will be done in a much shorter period. Contracts will be let at once, and payments be made for the work in cash.

Now let Montana reach out and shake hands with the people of the South. This road offers to that Territory the quickest and cheapest outlet for its minerals, and the easiest means of communication with the great world. Either let Montana build down to Snake River or—which will be much more economical for them in the long run—make arrangements with the Utah and Northern to push their road on to Helena. Thus will be open to them the way to wealth and prosperity, and Utah will share in the benefits of the movement. Anyhow, the success of the narrow gauge road is assured. The Montana freight will run by this route, and while Ogden, Logan and all northern Utah are enriched by the road's extension, the Union Pacific will secure the traffic which formerly went by the way of Fort Benton. Should we all not feel pretty well satisfied with the prospects?

## GENERAL MEETINGS.

The first of a series of General Meetings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, preliminary to the opening of the General Semi-annual Conference, opened on Thursday, October 4th, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The congregation was called to order by President John Taylor.

The choir sang—

All hail the glorious day.

Prayer by Elder W. Woodruff.

Singing by the choir—

My God, the spring of all my joys.

COUNSELOR D. H. WELLS

Was the first speaker. We were approaching another Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These meetings were calculated to bring us into a closer communion with each other. The kingdom of God was based upon truth, and was destined never to be again thrown down, and trampled under foot. The speaker related some incidents of his early acquaintance with "Mormonism." The religious world were publishing all manner of ridiculous stories regarding Joseph Smith and the work he was instrumental in establishing. When he united himself with this people, the times were indeed perilous, for the hand of persecution was heavy upon the Saints; yet the people had not experienced so much persecution during the time of his connection with the Church as he had expected and looked forward to.

We had for years past been engaged in forming settlements and cities, building and beautifying and adorning the same, all of which was clearly defined by the predictions of the ancient prophets.

The class of persons who had mostly been brought here by the instrumentality of the preaching of the gospel, was the poor, this also was in exact fulfillment of the prophecies.

It was the intention of the Almighty to break up the thralldom of sin, and establish a reign of peace upon the earth. It was worthy of every effort and labor that we could put forth. We were a peculiar people, and there was no reason why we should not be, for the work we were called upon to perform was a peculiar one.

There was a union in the church and kingdom of God, in seeking to benefit and bless each other, and the establishment of many institutions, all of which had a tendency to build up and make us a self-sustaining community.

He then spoke of the necessity for the building of Temples, that we might all have an opportunity of attending to those ordinances that pertained to our own salvation, and that of our dead. It was true we had one Temple finished in St. George, but the distance was so great and the cost to go there and return so large as should stimulate us to increase our efforts toward the completion of the one in this city.

We should seek to adorn our minds with every accomplishment that we may acquit ourselves as children of God, and fulfill his designs and purposes in bringing us upon this stage of existence.

ELDER C. C. RICH

Expressed himself as feeling much blessed in being able to meet with the Saints to listen to the instructions of the servants of the Most High God. No people had such cause for thankfulness and gratitude to God, as the Latter-day Saints. We should seek to understand our duties. Ever since the introduction of the Gospel in this latter dispensation the wicked had sought to destroy not only the servants of God but to check the dissemination of those principles of life and salvation which the Elders had been engaged in promulgating.

The speaker dwelt upon the inestimable blessings that the Gospel provided for the faithful, and showed that in order to secure those blessings, all must first learn on what conditions they could be obtained, observe those conditions, and God would most assuredly fulfill his promises to us.

He prayed that God would pour out his Spirit upon the Saints, and unite them together in good works.

The choir sang the anthem—

O praise the Lord!

Benediction by Elder Orson Pratt.

## SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, Oct. 5th, 10 a. m.

Meeting was called to order by President John Taylor.

The choir sang:

We're not ashamed to own our Lord.

Prayer by Elder Erastus Snow.

The choir sang:

See how the morning sun.

ELDER ORSON HYDE

Addressed the assemblage. He trusted his remarks might be profitable, and he prayed that the good spirit of the Lord might be present to inspire every word spoken. We had with us to-day, President John Taylor, whose body, many years ago, was marred and shattered, at the time of the massacre of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, but he felt truly thankful to see him in the position he now occupied, in the absence of our late beloved President so recently taken away from us. He then addressed himself to the Bishops and urged upon them the utmost frugality and watchcare over the tithes of the people of God. Nothing should be wasted that was committed to their trust. He felt thankful for the bountiful harvest that God had given us, and exhorted all present to take care of and husband their breadstuffs. No one needed fear that by had a good supply of grain on hand it would not be wanted, for the time was near by when thousands upon thousands would flock to our Territory, forced here by hunger and destitution, and if our bins were empty, we should be but poorly situated to receive them; "therefore neither waste your grain nor sell it for a mere trifle, but act as wise stewards in all our temporal affairs." Every quorum of the holy priesthood