

Orderville and Glendale. About nine miles below the townsite the valley closes in upon the Rio Virgen, which (as it receives several tributaries in its course down through the narrow valley) has now become quite a mountain stream. Through a box canyon, about twenty miles long, which has the reputation of never having been explored in its entire length, the Rio Virgen finds its way over a series of rocky ledges to the lower country, which we call "Our Dixie." From this place I go to Kanab to attend the quarterly conference.

I have now visited the different wards and branches of the Church in the Kanab Stake of Zion, attended the quarterly Stake conference held at Kanab on the 6th and 7th of March and held special meetings with the Saints in Glendale, Orderville, and Mount Carmel. I have had a good time with the people, been treated with the hospitality and kindness characteristic of the Saints of Southern Utah, and been successful in obtaining a great deal of valuable historical information.

The Kanab Stake of Zion embraces nearly all of Kane county, Utah, and a small portion of northern Arizona; it comprises only five organized wards including a number of small branches, and the total membership is 1475 souls, or 231 families, which is 187 souls and 39 families less than the Stake contained in 1877 when it was first organized. This decrease in population is due principally to the breaking up of the United Order at Orderville about seven years ago, which caused a number of families, who had settled in Long Valley for the sole purpose of identifying themselves with that institution, to move away again, as soon as the order was dissolved.

The present Stake presidency consists of Edwin I. Wooley, of Kanab, President; Thomas Chamberlain, of Orderville, First Counselor, and Daniel Seegmiller, of Upper Kanab, Second Counselor.

As most of the readers of the News perhaps already know, Kane county consists of a vast tract of desert country of that peculiar character which marks the land on either side of the Colorado river. The surface of the country is very broken and consists chiefly of sand hills, mountains and a variety of clay formations. There are also several notable mountain peaks on the northern part, and a number of elevated table lands or plateaus, all confirming the opinion expressed in the chapter of "Physical Utah" descriptive of the country lying below the rim of the basin. Kane county, however, has some excellent farming land, which by great labor and unyielding perseverance has been made very productive. Most of this lies in narrow strips along the headwaters of the Rio Virgen and Kanab creek, the two principal irrigation streams in the country. Long Valley contains upwards of half the population of Kane county, and when it is understood that this is a mere canyon, which in its widest points scarcely measures half a mile from bluff to bluff, it will readily be seen that only a very, very small portion of this whole southern country is fit for cultivation, the rest must forever re-

main, as it now is, a barren waste, at least until kind Providence by some extraordinary feat of the elements shall bring about a radical change in the physical features of the country. I feel certain that had it not been for the Latter-day Saints, who under the advice and counsel of the late President Brigham Young and Apostle Erastus Snow located settlements on the Rio Virgen, all of Southern Utah would be almost uninhabited today. There might, perhaps, have been a few ranches in some of these nooks and corners of the mountains where we now have flourishing towns of respectable size, but this surely would have been all. I must say, in this connection, that this is a pretty good stock country; horses, sheep and cattle do well by feeding on the nutritious grasses which abound on the extensive desert; and the sheep industry especially is very successfully carried on in nearly all the settlements of the Saints in this section of country.

Kanab ward, the largest in the Stake, comprises the town of Kanab, the villages of Fredoni, Johnson and Pahreah and one or two families at Lee's Ferry; it has a total membership of 622 souls or 95 families; the present Bishop is Joel H. Johnson.

The town of Kanab is pleasantly located on the east bank of Kanab creek immediately below the mouth of the canyon and on the edge of the desert, which extends as far to the south and southwest as the eye can reach, and is bounded on the southeast by the celebrated Buckskin Mountains, about twenty-five miles distant. Kanab is the county seat of Kane County, and contains a small court house, a district school house, four stores and a number of comfortable dwellings. Notwithstanding the fact that for several years past no crops have been raised and that there has not been even water enough brought into the townsite to keep the orchards and shade trees alive, the people are not poverty stricken, as their stock industry has proven quite remunerative, and they are now full of expectations and hope in regard to the future growth and prosperity of their town, which, by the way, is perhaps as healthy place as can be found in the mountains, the climate being very pleasant and delightful nearly all the year around. Kanab is not a part of our so-called "Dixie," as the elevation of the town is 4,909 feet above the level of the sea. The people here speak of going to Dixie, which means the country in the lower Rio Virgen, lying west of here, the same as we do in the northern settlements when we speak of going to St. George and adjacent settlements. Kanab is about 325 miles by nearest road, via Panguitch, southwest of Salt Lake City; 170 miles from Salina, the nearest railway station; eighty miles east of St. George, and four miles north of the boundary line between Utah and Arizona. The place was first settled in 1865, was broken up the following year because of Indian troubles and re-settled permanently in 1870.

When Kanab was first settled the bottom of the canyon, as well as a large tract of country lying below, consisted of fine grassy meadows, with patches of willows, and here and there

thrifty cottonwood trees; now there is an awful gorge, which was washed out in 1883 and following seasons by terrible floods, which came sweeping down the canyon, carrying everything away before it. Since that time the people of Kanab have spent about sixty thousand dollars in constructing dams and ditches, which have been swept away nearly as fast as they were built, causing a number of the inhabitants to become discouraged and turn their backs for ever upon the place that they otherwise would have made their permanent home. Now, however, there seems to be fair prospects ahead, and the general opinion among the people that the dam troubles are almost ended. After experimenting for many years and trying the solidity of a number of points for holding back the water, the enterprising people of Kanab have nearly completed a dam which they feel confident will stand the force of future floods, and be the means of securing to the town an ample supply of water for all purposes. This dam, which it would take a chapter to describe, should the details be given, consists of an immense quantity of sand and earth piled up in the creek bed to the height of about 40 feet, which corresponds with the depth of the immense gorge. This mass is protected and strengthened in front (the side that faces the water) by rocks, (called "rip rap,") which mostly have been blasted from the mountain side in constructing a new channel for the water of the creek through the solid cliff; the rear is protected by heavy timbers. The dam is nearly 200 feet wide at the bottom and tapers off to about 40 feet on top. Across the gorge it also measures about 200 feet, and the escape for the water of the creek is an artificial "canyon" blasted out of the solid rock at an enormous expense. It is made sufficiently large to carry off all the water that can reasonably be expected during future floods, and as the waste water will form a cataract down the face of the solid rocky mountain the dam which will be built "tight as a pot" will not be exposed to the least danger of being washed away through leakage. The dam together with its artificial rocky run and the waterditch connected with it will cost nearly twenty thousand dollars before it is completed. Besides strengthening the dam, there is considerable ditch work to be done and a flume must be constructed to convey the water that is to be utilized around a rocky point for a distance of about forty rods.

Johnson is a small settlement dating back to 1872, situated in a fine little valley thirteen miles northeast of Kanab. It is a very romantic little spot, the bluffs on either side of the narrow valley terminating in perpendicular ledges, which abound in grottoes, caves and a variety of very peculiar formations. At the base of the cliffs numerous springs of pure water gush forth. Here also may be seen the thrifty grapevine climbing the rocky hillsides and almost embrace the natural cedars growing on top of the cliffs on either side of the valley. When the place was first settled some of the early pioneers sought shelter in the adjoining caves, where they were well protected from the storms until they had time to