

Precipitation.—The November precipitation in Utah is seldom great, but this year it was below the average. The mean of twenty stations gave 0.30 inches as the average for the Territory. It was derived principally from melted snow. The greatest amount, 0.72, occurred at Salt Lake City; the least amount, 0.00, at Green River and Losee.

The month was pleasant and devoid of storms for the most part until the 24th, when a snowstorm set in, which at some points was quite heavy. At Ogden 6 inches fell; at Provo 6 inches; at Salt Lake City nearly 10 inches. At the latter place was where the storm appeared heaviest. At 6:30 a. m. heavy snow began with a strong gale from the west, and continued without intermission until 4 p. m.; 9.7 inches fell on the level; it was moist, and packed down. Street railways were seriously interfered with, and only by the use of snow-plows and shovels were they able to run at all. During the storm the temperature fell 28 degrees in three hours. This storm was severe at various other points, as some of the notes will show.

GEORGE N. SALISBURY,
U. S. Weather Bureau, Director
Utah Weather Service.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
December 17, 1892.

Note.—Some observers who have not forwarded reports of late are earnestly requested to begin with January, 1892, and keep the record, and forward reports promptly. Their reports are of great value and interest and the summary is of value in proportion to the number of stations.

NOTES BY OBSERVERS.

Fort Du Chesne.—A violent wind-storm, which blew over the thermometer shelter, occurred on the 24th.

CAPT. SAMUEL S. ROBINSON,
U. S. A. Observer.

Deseret.—There was a heavy wind-storm from the southwest on the morning of the 24th, about 5 a. m. It blew E. Allen's house down, and took the roof off the house of Thomas Davis; nobody was killed; the damage was probably about \$300.

Grouse Creek.—The last five days of the month the wind has blown heavily from a point two degrees east of south.

Parowan.—Very high S. wind on 23rd; drifting snow; difficult to measure, but about two inches on the average.

Clisco.—Very high wind on the 24th, with a trace of rain and snow.

Levan.—Hail on the 16th and 24th. The month has been cold and blustery with but few warm days, and but little moisture. The snowstorm of the 24th was very welcome; more is needed.

Snowville.—Wind blew quite brisk on the night of the 30th.

Provo.—This year's crops all out of the ground. Fall grain is doing well.

ONE OF the questions voted upon in Massachusetts at the recent election, and adopted, was an amendment to the state constitution doing away with the requirement that a candidate for governor shall be seized with a freehold within the commonwealth to the value of \$5000. This requirement it is said came near barring Governor Russell himself—thrice elected to the office—from eligible candidacy.

MILLARD ITEMS.

OASIS, Millard Co., Dec. 20, 1892.

On the morning of December 17th two men left Swan Lake, 18 miles below here, for Salt Lake on foot. They passed through here about 5 p. m., following the railroad track, and reached Riverside, a small station further north, about 8 o'clock p. m. By this time both were badly frozen, and one of them, it is since learned, will be likely to lose both his feet. The section men at Riverside took them in, dressed their frosted members and kindly cared for them during the night. The conductor of the train having refused to carry them, a man on horseback was sent back to Oasis next morning with a letter to the constable, who immediately sent a wagon for them, brought them to this place and had them taken to a hotel. He then telegraphed, upon advice of the solicitor, to the county prosecuting attorney at Fillmore, stating that the poor fellows could not travel, and were in need of medical aid, and asking what should be done with them. The answer was to the effect that "we cannot do anything with such men, get rid of them the best way you can!"

Now, Mr. Editor, does the law compel the counties to take care of such unfortunates? If so, it ought to be enforced. If not, ought not such a law to be enacted at once in the interest of civilization and common humanity? As to the advice of "get rid of them the best way you can," we are in a quandary as to which of the two ways would be the better: to turn them out in the snow and let them die like dogs, or to cast them into a pit and secure their death and burial at once. The latter plan would certainly be most effective as a means of getting rid of them.

I need scarcely say the advice has not been acted upon. OASIS.

THE VAN COTT-MORRIS CASE.

The principal matter before Chief Justice Zane yesterday was the action brought by Waltemar Van Cott, administrator of the estate of Samuel Varney, deceased, against Elias Morris and the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints residing in the Fifteenth ecclesiastical ward of this city.

The facts, which were reported in Wednesday's NEWS, may be briefly recapitulated: Varney executed a deed in 1887 to a lot in the Fifteenth ward, to John Clark and Bishop Pollard, and the complaint alleges that Varney was of unsound mind at the time of the transfer; also that the defendants fraudulently conspired to cheat and defraud Varney, in influencing him by reason of his unsoundness of mind and feebleness of health to deed the property to them. It was further alleged that Clark and his wife deeded the lot in 1887 to the Church as represented by the members living in the ward in question, and that Elias Morris is now the bishop of the ward. Wherefore the plaintiff demanded his title as administrator to the property.

It was quite late in the afternoon when the case was submitted to the judge, who, in giving his decision,

said—In this case the evidence is somewhat conflicting as to the facts and the incidents testified to by the witnesses, and their opinions. But I am disposed to find that this man (Varney) had sufficient capacity to make a deed at the time he executed the one in question. His mind, unquestionably, was somewhat impaired by age, and his memory was no, as good as it had been, evidently. But I am inclined to think he had sufficient capacity to grasp the subject and understand what he was doing at the time the deed was made. The evidence as to undue influence I do not think sufficient to establish the allegation. Of course, an individual with a mind impaired by age and disease, as his was, might have been controlled by a man of will and intelligence; a man of this character might have substituted his will for the will of this old gentleman, and it might not have taken the showing of very much improper influence to void this deed; but I do not consider there is sufficient evidence on that point to authorize the court in saying that there was such undue influence used as would render the deed voidable. I find in this case, therefore, for the defendants. The amount involved is something like \$15,000, by which the poor of the Fifteenth ward will be now benefited.

THERE IS one important difference between the American and the French way of correcting what they consider mistakes of national policy. In this country we throw out the officials; in France they throw out the government.

DEATHS.

CRANE.—In the Tenth Ward, this city, at 6 o'clock this morning, December 24, John L. Crane, aged 66 years and 15 days.

PICKETT.—At St George, Utah, December 19, 1892, Harriet Josephine Pickett, wife of Horatio Pickett and daughter of the late Joseph E. Johnson, aged 42 years.

MEFFLIN.—At Cherry Creek, Oneida county, Idaho, Dec. 16, of teething and inflammation in the bowels, after forty-eight hours' illness, John Morgan, infant son of John M. and Rachel Jones Mefflin; born October 4, 1891, at Willow Springs.

LONG.—Betsy S. Long, aged 59 years, 2 months and 27 days, wife of the late J. V. Long, at the Deseret hospital, Thursday, December 22, at 3 p. m., of cancer of the breast.

Sister Long was born in Bishop's Stortford, Herts, England, and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints about 1852. She emigrated to Utah in 1861, crossing the plains in an ox team, and enduring many hardships. She was married in 1862 to John V. Long, and shortly after his death in 1869 opened a small millinery and art store in this city which she continued to hold until about two years ago. She was the first woman in Utah to engage in art work and to teach all lines of embroidery, etc.

PRESTWICH.—At Moroni, Sanpete County, Utah, Dec. 6, 1892, of general debility, William Prestwich, son of; born at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, England, May 3th 1816; baptized January 11, 1841. He presided over the Wyde branch in 1853-1860 and over the Ashton branch from 1860 to 1881, when he emigrated to Utah, aiding in the building of the telegraph line from Omaha to Salt Lake City. He moved to Moroni soon after reaching Utah, and shared in all the hardships incident to the building of country settlements in early days, passing through Indian wars and threatened famine. His hand was always open to help the needy, and to aid in building up the Kingdom of God, of which he at all times desired to be a faithful member. He endeared himself in the hearts of many of the Saints, and died in full faith of a resurrection of the just, bearing a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel.—Cox.