

## SCHOOL LAND TITLE.

Inquiry at the office of the State board of land commissioners develops the fact that applications for school lands in this State, under what is termed the "preference right," are not being filed as rapidly as they should when the magnitude of the holdings is considered.

This is doubtless due to the lack of familiarity with the provisions of the law on the part of the persons who possess this valuable right. The Enabling act designated as school lands sections 2, 16, 32 and 36, in every township in the State, and the last Legislature, recognizing the injustice which would result in not protecting actual and bona fide settlers on these sections who had settled upon, occupied or cultivated small tracts, ignorant of the fact that they were school lands, and they could not obtain title thereto until they became the property of the State, passed a law which will be found in the laws of Utah, 1896, and designated as chapter 80. Section 19 of this act grants what has been termed a "preference right" to settlers or occupants, who have improved State lands and were on January 1, 1894, actual settlers or occupants thereon whereby these settlers could apply for their exact holdings and thus be enabled to purchase them from the State at the appraised price at private sale without being compelled to compete with any other persons who might desire to obtain these improve lands. The actual settler on school land, prior to January 1, 1894, has only to apply to the State board of land commissioners of this city for the particular tract, describing the same, and he will be granted the opportunity of purchasing it at the appraised price and on ten years time, with interest on deferred payments at 5 per cent per annum. This is a very simple matter, and especially so as every county treasurer throughout the State has on hand, ready for distribution, a large number of printed blanks designed for the sole use of these "preference right" applicants and which they can readily obtain by writing for or applying in person.

The provision of the law not generally understood is the limit of time fixed in the act for the filing of these applications. Six months time from the date of the filing of school land plats, with the various county treasurers was allowed wherein all "preference right" claimants were to file their applications and as these plats were filed with the county treasurers on or about June 25th of this year, the time in all the counties will expire about December 25, 1896. The serious part of the matter is that if an applicant does not apply for his land, with the state board of land commissioners, on or before Christmas day, he will lose his right to purchase his home at private sale and be compelled to enter the market at the public sale and bid on the same at public auction. This will prove a hardship, as the price of his land may be run up over the appraised price and in no event can lands be sold either at public or private sale for less than the appraised price per acre. So it will readily be seen that failure to file his application in time may cost

much more money to retain his home than if he used the right granted him by the Legislature and placed a written claim at the proper office inside the time limit.

This statement of facts is designed to warn the occupants of school land throughout the State of the great danger to them of delaying this matter and in the hope that it may result in the saving of money to those who possess this right but who are not cognizant of the restrictions and limits coupled with it.

## SNAKE VALLEY.

FILLMORE, Oct. 29, 1896.

I recently took a mission to the western portion of this State, namely to Snake valley, and spent one month in the labor. I am 74 years of age, and took for my companion in the work, Elder Allen Russell, aged 72 years. This is a very large county and the trip in a one-horse buggy required four days to reach the valley which is about sixty miles long. On the fourth day from home we had two high mountains to climb, up a narrow canyon road, and then a long desert to cross without water. At noon, it being very warm our horses would not eat, and it looked as though trouble would overtake us. But Providence smiled upon us, for within a short distance of where we camped we discovered a bucket filled with water. This was given to our animal and he then ate and was refreshed sufficient to enable us to journey on in safety. We afterwards learned that the water had been left by a mail driver, his horse refusing it, a thing that he had never done before. This simple incident doubtless saved us from being left on the desert without food or shelter, and we acknowledge the hand of the Lord in it.

We made our headquarters in Snake valley at Mr. James Robinson's, who is a son of "Uncle" Peter Robinson of Corn creek. There are but few members of the Church in that part of the county, and consequently we found no meeting house or Sunday school; the residences are mostly scattered ranches, many of which we visited and told the nature of our visit to that part of the county which was to do good in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We had many interesting talks at the homes of the people there, and were fed and given comfortable lodging as we moved from place to place. We also held a number of meetings by appointment and some of the people traveled miles to attend and hear us expound the Gospel. We also organized a Sunday school, which we think will do much good in laying the foundation of truth and a desire to learn it, in the minds of the young in that vicinity.

SNAKE valley is a very fertile part of this State. Crops are abundant, and the markets for everything are good. Where all the people treated us with uniform kindness it is not necessary to mention individual names. We left our blessings with them. One brother gave us twenty dollars for ward purposes, and promises of more in due time. Others gave us a dollar each, and with the little donations we received we paid for our accommodation where they charged for

it, on the way to and from Snake valley, and arrived home at Fillmore with a few cents in our pockets. Thus we were able to travel like those of old "without purse or scrip;" and if so directed we hope to make other visits to our good friends in that part of the country.

JOHN ASHMAN,  
ALLEN RUSSELL.

## IS A MYSTERY STILL.

For several days past the arrival in this city of a special messenger from the Johnny and Chispa mines has been anxiously awaited with the expectation that he would bring particulars concerning the mysterious killing of Thomas P. Gillespie in Nye county Nevada one week ago last Sunday. The messenger has arrived in the person of B. P. Wulffenstein. He arrived here Sunday and Monday morning had a consultation with Mr. Hugh J. Cannon, secretary and treasurer of the Sterling Mining and Milling company concerning the tragedy. He likewise visited the family of the dead man and related the story of the murder to them. For a News man Mr. Wulffenstein said:

"On the day of the killing, Sunday, October 25, Gillespie started in a buckboard drawn by two horses from the Johnny to the Chispa mine about five miles distant. This was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. He reached an abandoned mining camp known as the Deuces about three and a half miles from the Johnny mine about half or three-quarters of an hour afterward. E. La Count, a blacksmith in the employ of the company, lives there. He was called upon at his shop by Gillespie with whom he had a casual conversation regarding the affairs of the company. When this was over Gillespie started up his team in a southward direction toward the Chispa mine and La Count stepped into his shop again. He had, according to his story, scarcely crossed the threshold and Gillespie had not got more than 100 feet away when he heard the sharp report of a rifle.

"Rushing outside he saw Gillespie's team starting to run. Gillespie was still sitting upright in the seat with the reins in his hands. The horses made a sharp turn and one of them became unhitched causing the pole or tongue to drop to the ground. By this means the animals were brought to a standstill and tied up. Then La Count turned his attention to Gillespie, who by this time had fallen from his seat in such a manner that his head hung over the side of the bed with his shoulder resting on the axle of the left hind wheel.

Continuing, Mr. Wulffenstein said: "La Count declares that he looked about in all directions with the hope of getting sight of the assassin. But he looked in vain. No one was in sight nor had there been during the day. The shot he thinks was fired from one of the vacant buildings in the camp. The bullet entered the left ear and came out of the right eye ploughing a terrible furrow through the head and from which every drop of blood in the dead man's body was drained.

"La Count, without disturbing the body in the least—leaving it to hang head downward—just as it had fallen, walked back to the Johnny mine and