

This ward derives its name from Willow Creek, quite an important stream which rises in the mountains on the east side of the valley, and falls into Snake River immediately above Eagle Rock. The distance from Rigby townsite to the centre of Willow Creek Ward, where the meeting-house stands, is a little over six miles. Here also new settlers can find good accommodation, but they must be prepared with fortitude and physical strength enough to wage an exterminating war with the sage brush.

Eight miles southwest of the Willow Creek centre and seven miles northeast of Eagle Rock we come to the beautiful townsite of Iona, named after an ancient town in the Jordan valley in Palestine. Iona Ward, including the South Iona branch, embraces some excellent farming land and promises to become one of the principal cities of this region of country in the near future. To secure water for irrigation purposes a canal seven miles long and thirty feet wide at the bottom had to be built, at a cost of \$27,500. This canal conveys the water from the south fork of Snake River into Willow Creek, and is thence conducted in the natural channel of said stream and Sand Creek to the upper end of Iona Ward, where it is taken out into smaller irrigation canals. James E. Steele, late of American Fork, Utah, is the Bishop of Iona Ward, but there will soon be a change in the Bishopric, as Brother Steele has been called to fill the position of second Counselor to President Thomas E. Ricks, in the Stake Presidency. I held a meeting with the Iona Saints on the evening of Thursday, 29th ult.

At Eagle Rock the ward organization is presided over by Bishop James Thomas. The Saints residing at this place are mostly business men and employes of large business establishments, of which the principal ones are the branch house of Z. C. M. I., a branch of the Consolidated Company, and the Co-operative Wagon and Machine Company, all largely representing "Mormon" capital. These houses, whose main places of business are in Salt Lake City, Utah, are all doing a lively business in their different lines, as Eagle Rock is the important market town of the surrounding country. The town is situated on the left or east bank of Snake River, on a sandy tract of land, and the streets, although tolerably straight, have been laid off like most other railway towns, with a view of conforming to the direction of the railway track, ignoring the cardinal points of the compass. The Utah & Northern Railway, at this point, crosses the Snake River on a substantial iron bridge, built immediately below the celebrated Taylor bridge. This bridge for many years was the all-important point for the Montana travel and yielded its owners a greater profit than perhaps any other toll bridge in the western country. At the point where these bridges span the Snake River, this immense stream is suddenly contracted from a width ranging all the

way from five hundred feet to half a mile to the space of about eighty feet in the main channel and about twenty-five in another. The water is forced between two perpendicular walls of solid rock, and is said to have a depth of 160 feet immediately below the bridges. It also has quite a fall for several hundred yards, which gives Eagle Rock most excellent facilities for water power. So far this has only been taken advantage of in the erection of a first-class flouring mill, which, in point of modern improvements and size, is second only to the Rexburg mills.

South of Eagle Rock and Iona Ward lies the Taylor Ward, embracing about fifteen families, under the presidency of Bishop William Priest. The people here have suffered much in past years for the lack of water, depending, as they have, upon Sand Creek, a small stream and side channel of Willow Creek, which goes dry in the latter part of the season; but arrangements have now been made to get water direct from Snake River, which will give them an abundant supply.

South of Taylor is the Basalt Ward, embracing a very extensive tract of country lying along the railway as far south as Ross Fork, including a few families at Blackfoot, the county seat of Bingham County, and a little branch organization called Riverdale, situated on the west side of the river opposite Blackfoot. Basalt Station, the ward center where Bishop Andrew O. Ingelstrom resides, is fourteen miles southwest of Eagle Rock and thirteen miles north of Blackfoot.

Yesterday (Sunday) I spent at this place and had a pleasant time with the Saints here, speaking at two meetings held in a hall hired for the purpose. The evening meeting was especially well attended and about half the congregation were strangers who listened attentively to a sermon on the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

In another week the enterprising little community at this place will have completed their fine and commodious meeting-house, mentioned in a former communication.

From this place I return home to Salt Lake City.

ANDREW JENSON.
POCATELLO, Bingham County,
Idaho, June 2, 1890.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural College of Utah is a new factor in the development of the educational system of this Territory. In response to a widely expressed and most gratifying interest in the purposes of the college, and to the kindly tender of your columns, I will, as briefly as compatible with the scope of the proposed work of the college, set forth plainly and directly the field of endeavor that this college proposes to enter upon.

The Congressional law passed in 1862, upon which the college was founded by an act of our Legislature of 1888, forms the basis upon

which the work of the Utah Agricultural College will be adjusted. The Congressional law says: "The leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, * * * in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life," the act of Utah establishing the agricultural college as in accordance with the spirit of the congressional enactment.

These colleges, now established in every state of the Union, are the direct outgrowth of modern developments in the field of science and of the relation of those sciences to industrial life.

Professional or industrial skill is now the measure of national wealth and power. This skill again is measured by technical knowledge, or, if not wholly, this measure is being more and more estimated by the knowledge of the laws involved in each sphere of industrial occupation pursued. The applied sciences are the corner-stone upon which the highest and most successful type of industrial growth is erected.

Congress had a broader purpose than the maintenance of the supremacy of the United States in the race of the nations for the preponderance of material wealth. In providing for the "liberal education of the industrial classes," the rock upon which our country stands, the intelligence of the so-called middle classes, was made more secure.

The great purpose of these colleges is to widen the mental vision and to increase the productive power of the industrial classes, not only as men and women but as industrialists. The central studies essential to the latter purpose are the applied sciences, which, happily, involve the greater part of the natural sciences, so important to every well educated man, and mathematics, political economy, and other branches of inquiry. The addition of a few general culture studies to the list—requisite for a successful industrialist—are adequate to secure the liberal education necessary for successful citizenship, and to greatly promote the general happiness of men as a factor of our social system.

The college in question differs from the old classical institutions in making central those studies that widen the powers of industrial man; these give, in popular language, a practical education. The classical colleges make the languages—dead languages, the central studies, culture being the aim. Each meets on common ground in teaching certain studies essential to culture but diverge from this point to the two extremes mentioned, namely, culture on the one hand and bread-winning on the other.

The college embraces four main courses and additional minor courses.

The course in agriculture extends over four years. Agriculture deals