

held meeting and were listened to attentively. In the returning company was Elder Chas. R. Thompson, of Logan, who continued on his journey to that city; also Sisters Maggie R. Durham and Luella R. Adams, of Parowan. These sisters have been on the Friendly Islands for two years on a mission there with their husbands, but the rigors of the climate so seriously affected their health that they were compelled to return, their husbands remaining. On the homeward trip the change from the climate and the unsuitable food of the islanders was beneficial to Sisters Durham and Adams, and their health has improved considerably. Sister Hilton's health also has improved during the past four or five months, during which time she has recovered much of her former healthful activity. All of the company were warmly welcomed home from their faithful service in the island missionary field.]

The Utah Forestry association held a session last night at the office of the county superintendent of schools, in the joint building.

A letter was read from the irrigation commission, offering to co-operate with the association in the work of preserving forests and promoting tree culture. The offer was accepted with thanks.

Dr. Park then called attention to the importance of taking immediate steps to define boundaries of all watersheds in Utah, and securing from the general government forest reservations for the protection of the watersheds; to the abuse by grantees of private timber grants, and for the importance of securing some means for the correction of abuses complained of, the wilful destruction of young growing trees and neglect of precaution against forest fires. After some discussion the president and secretary were instructed to communicate with the land office in Washington, for the purpose of securing the appointment of a special agent for Utah to look after the matter.

The committee to whom was referred the matter of securing a draft for a constitutional provision covering agricultural and kindred interests, reported having received a draft of an article from the secretary of the agricultural department as a composite of all of the best laws upon the subject. The article in question is as follows:

Section 1. There shall be established a Department of Agriculture, under the direction of an officer whose title, duties, salary, term of office and mode of appointment shall be prescribed by law.

The committee was instructed to take immediate steps to secure, if possible, the insertion of the article in the Constitution.

The committee on tree planting reported progress upon a plan of parking the lower end of City Creek canyon and the planting of trees throughout the canyon, and was instructed to continue its work until the plan was perfected.

An interesting paper on "Forest Cultivation in Europe" was read by Mr. August A. Nordwall.

Mr. W. G. Roylance read a paper upon "Forest Preservation in Utah."

Lander, Wyo., merchants have resolved to have the freight from the east come by way of Casper.

AN ATROCOUS CRIME.

The bodies of Andrew Johnson and Alfred Neilson, the two missing cousins of Albert Hansen, who was murdered at Pelican Point, were found Saturday evening, and the circumstances indicate that all three of the young men were murdered by the same party.

The official party who were in search of the bodies, did not find them; they were found by old man Hayes, stepfather of young Hansen. Andrew Johnson's body was found floating on the surface and Alfred Neilson's was imbedded in the mud at the shore. They were pulled to the shore and an examination showed that Neilson had been shot in the head with a rifle ball, but no wounds were visible in the exposed portions of Johnson's body. A stepson of Mr. Hayes named Terrill, was with the party when the bodies were found, and was sent to Lehi to notify the officers, while Hayes kept watch over the bodies Saturday night. Marshall Karten was notified and left for Provo. From there a party consisting of Coroner Berg, Jurors Geo. Hamer, Mike Ryan and James Brown, Drs. Seabright and Thorpe, and other officers were dispatched to the place of the find.

Arriving at the scene they proceeded at once to examine the corpses. The body of Andrew Johnson lay on the beach face downward, the greater part of his body being naked, and was greatly swollen from exposure to the sun. A bullet had entered the right side of his head, a little more than an inch above the right ear, and came out about two inches back of the left ear. The face presented a dreadful appearance and above the right eye was a contusion, probably caused by the face striking boulders in the lake.

The body of Alfred Neilson lay about thirty paces south, also face downward. A large bullet hole was found in his head also, and the bullet had lodged over the left eye. It was taken out by the doctor, and was found to be badly battered, but appeared to be a 44-caliber ball.

There is little doubt that the three boys were killed by the same person, but the object of the crime is a mystery. Albert Hansen, whose body was found some time previous to the others, was aged 22 years, Andrew Johnson 20, and Alfred Neilson 18. The boys were all of Scandinavian descent and are well spoken of by friends and acquaintances. At the time they were murdered they only had \$5.15 between them, so they could not have been killed for their money. They were interested in stock on a small ranch at Pelican Point, on the west shore of Utah lake, twelve miles southwest of Lehi. It is supposed that the victims were asleep in a little board cabin on the ranch some night in February after the 14th, when they were crept upon in the darkness by one or two men, who shot them dead, after which the bodies were carried out and thrown into Utah lake. The team and wagon which was kept by the boys on the ranch is missing, and there is some suspicion that it has been taken out of the country by the son of old man Hayes, who is stepfather to one of the murdered

boys. This son is said to have paid Hayes a visit last fall. The officers believe he was implicated with the father in the murder. Although Hayes is suspected of the crime he maintains that he is innocent and declares he will do his utmost to ferret out the mystery.

The people living at Pelican Point are mostly connected and the theory is advanced by some that the murder was the result of a family feud.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

TEAL, Coffee County, Tenn.,

April 15, 1895.

We have many warm-hearted friends as well as some shrewd investigators and members of the Church here and have good faith that some baptizing will be done during our revisiting them this summer. Many people say that we stick closer to the Bible than their own preachers, and that they always thought the Gospel should be preached without having to pay for it. Some of the honest-hearted and true investigators even shed tears when we leave them. Those who are sincerely investigating are kept supplied with reading matter enough to give them a thorough understanding of what we preach and practice. We have quite a number of Church works in constant circulation, and every DESERT NEWS after we read it, is sent to our friends, by which much good is done. The people of this county have treated us very kindly and hospitably. Myself and Elder Isaac W. West have with few exceptions enjoyed good health, have not been compelled to sleep out over night but "contrarywise," some of the best feather beds, with rooms to ourselves, having carpeted floors, have been furnished us. We all bid this County goodby on the 16th inst. and open up Marshall county with Lewisburgh as our P. O.

To give you some idea of what we have been doing this year, I send you a report from January 1st, 1895, to date: Miles walked, 679; meetings held, 18; families visited, 643; refused entertainment, 18; rejected testimony of Elders, 18; tracts distributed, 728; families re-visited, 211. Our headquarters or missionary home has been at Brother S. F. Woods and Mr. N. J. Cater; we have held meetings at both places, especially at the latter, they being the best prepared; many well-attended and interesting meetings have been held there from which good results or fruits are putting in their appearances. We pray that they will in no wise lose their reward, as it is not in our power to repay them for their acts of kindness towards the Elders. We have proven that as long as an Elder is humble and relies upon our heavenly Father the way will be opened up for him providing also he has faith and obeys instructions. We are laboring hard to get the Gospel before the people as it was preached 1,800 years ago, and get them to understand how they can make it the power of God unto salvation, by being doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving their own selves.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and all mankind,

We remain your brethren in the Gospel,
WM. T. OGDEN,
ISAAC W. WEST.