

There is a scarcity of all large fruits though in some sections apples and plums are abundant.

More favorable weather could not be desired for the work in which the farmers are engaged.

Brigham City—Very warm weather continues. Potatoes, onions and cabbage are below the average in condition. All the hay crops have been secured in good condition. The hay crop is a full average.

Deweyville—Growing crops are suffering from drought. Farmers are busy threshing; the yield is from 25 to 35 per cent better than any previous year.

Wellington—The weather is dry and water is low. The second crop of lucern is being cut. Harvesting has commenced.

Lewiston—The past week was one of the hottest weeks within my experience. Fall wheat has been harvested, second crop of lucern is in and threshing has commenced. There will be about half of a crop of potatoes.

Smithfield—Grain is mostly stacked and threshing has commenced. Apples are wormy and are dropping from the trees.

Cache Junction—The past week has been the warmest of the year. Most of the grain has been cut. Threshing will commence next week.

Hyde Park—Small grain has been harvested, but very little is in the stacks. Sugar beets are very superior for a first attempt; corn is ready for the table.

Ferron—Owing to a scarcity of water all crops are ripening too rapidly. There will not likely be a third crop of lucern. Grain shows considerable shrinkage and there is a spirit of unrest due to it.

Parowan—Apples are falling off on account of codlin moth defects. Wheat is heavier than usual but is badly laid down and may rust in places.

Levan—Farmers are busy hauling and stacking grain, the weather being favorable for the work. Wheat raised on dry land will yield the same as that on irrigated land. Second crop of lucern is ready to cut.

Fillmore—Field crops are suffering for want of water.

Scipio—Corn and potatoes are doing well, though the weather is very dry.

Holden—A shower on the 7th was considerable help to the crops.

Mt. Carmel—Some local showers occurred last week, but no general rains. Hay harvest is well advanced.

Woodruff—A rain on the 6th helped gardens but was of little consequence otherwise. Haying is still in progress with the weather very warm and dry.

Chester—Harvesting of grain is being vigorously forced. The grain crops are excellent.

Manti—The past week was too warm for comfort. Wheat and oats are ready for the binder. Grain is very heavy.

Peoa—The first crop of lucern is gathered; second crop will be light, owing to the scarcity of water. Wild hay and timothy is heavy. Potatoes will be light; the worms are cutting the vines in places.

Coalville—Haying and harvest are progressing.

Mill Creek—Harvesting is nearly over and threshing has commenced. It is very difficult to get water for potatoes and orchards. Lucern and corn have to go without water.

Miller—Nearly all grain has been cut and threshing is going on.

Lake Shore—Most of the grain has been cut and general threshing will soon commence.

Mapleton—Beets are looking fine. Threshing is nearly done. The second crop of hay has been cut.

Payson—Green corn, peaches, apricots and honey comb are on the market. Sugar beets and potatoes will be

heavy crops. Threshing and baling machines are busy.

Salem—The past week was favorable to the growth of crops, though the weather was dry. Farmers are through with stacking the second crop of lucern. Threshing is going on vigorously.

American Fork—Corn is a good crop. All crops are maturing rapidly.

Santaquin—Peaches are scarce, but apples and plums are plentiful.

Collinston—Threshing is in progress with the grain turning out as well as expected. Fruit is looking fine. Peaches are scarce, but the other fruits will yield fairly well. The second crop of alfalfa is secure. Grain is being shipped.

White Rocks—There is still a plenty of water. Harvest of grain and hay is still going on with the weather very pleasant.

Heber—Water is getting low. Some lucern is burning. Late grain is also suffering from the heat, and will not fill well.

Harrisville—The weather has been warmer than usual. Irrigated wheat is turning out better yields than dry land wheat.

Plain City—The third crop of lucern is in blossom.

Utah—Another week of extreme heat. Many fruit trees are dying for want of water. There are good returns from the threshers.

Lyman—Weather during the past week was excellent for the crops, having an excellent rain which added materially to the maturing of grain.

St. George—Threshing of small grain is nearly complete.

J. H. SMITH.

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"SOLDIER'S LETTERS."

On board the Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, July 26, 1898.—The other evening I started to tell you something of the departure of a part of the Fourth Philippine expedition from San Francisco. Taps called us to quarters before I had said much, and the extremely uncomfortable condition of affairs on board, kept me from resuming my work until yesterday when as I was about to begin, the S. S. Mariposa hove in sight, on her way to San Francisco from Honolulu. We were told told she would stop and take mail from us, and knowing how anxious the wide awake readers of the "Deseret News" are for early and reliable tidings from Uncle's boys in blue, I mailed that which I had. There was a great rush for paper and pencils when it was learned we would have a chance of sending letters home, and to see our hundreds of boys scratch and scribble and erase and write over, in all kinds of uncomfortable attitudes, to see them run here and there borrowing paper, envelopes and pencils, while the two ships came nearer and nearer together, and the impatient officers called for them to hurry up if they wanted their letters to go, was worth fully as much as a good dinner where one can eat all he wants to. Did they want their letters to go, did they? Well—

Many of the boys were never from home before, few of them had seen the ocean, had crossed over from Europe in fact, but the great majority had never seen an ocean steamer, had never been out of sight of land, and way back in Utah and South Dakota were wives, mothers and sweethearts watching and praying for the first line from their darlings. Yes, they wanted their letters to go. In a few moments they began to pour into the officers' quarters by the hundreds. But there were no stamps on board, and oh! what was to

be done. "Who's got a stamp?" Say, Pat, can't you spare a stamp, just one?" And one fellow with a square chin and black eyes and hair offered me twenty-five cents for a postage stamp. The officers soon made hearts glad by saying it would not be necessary to stamp the letters if the boys would just write in one corner "Soldier's letter," and state their company. In a short time several hundred letters with the addresses mostly prefixed with the word "Miss," were lowered down in the boat with the second mate, and we all settled back to breathe and watch the little boat go out to meet the Mariposa. It was a beautiful sight to see the two steamers meet in mid-ocean, and, contrary to expectation, the Mariposa came over and crossed our stern with her flags flying and her decks crowded with cheering passengers. They had not heard of the fall of Santiago and the destruction of Cervera's fleet, and when they were told, cheer after cheer rent the ocean air. Our masts were soon crowded with hundreds of troopers, who climbed as high as they could get, and the South Dakota brass band got together on the after deck and played the Star Spangled Banner. In a few minutes it was all over. The Mariposa again turned her nose to the east, while we steamed on to the west, happy for having got off a word to the loved ones at home, and glad again in the thought that Uncle Sam and the greatest nation on earth stood at our backs.

Last night, or evening rather, just as the sun, a great ball of fire, was sinking in its ocean bed, the band came on deck and played some popular airs, to which the boys, no longer sea-sick, danced, frolicked and cheered like so many children. After playing "A Hot Time," "After the Ball" and others of like character, it struck up Columbia, and like a flash the scene changed. Heads were bared and one and all became reverently quiet throughout the piece. And as the last notes faded away the sun dropped beneath the horizon. It was an impressive sight. We remained silent for a few moments and then some of the Utah boys, Bywater, Klinke, Wannacott and others, got together and sang the twilight away.

Wednesday, July 27.—The Rio de Janeiro has one passenger less than she had when she steamed out of the Golden Gate this last time. Some mother way back in South Dakota has prayed in vain for her son's safe return; and one son, a man of twenty short summers, who saw honor in listening to and obeying his country's call to arms, has waved his last farewell to the loved land of his youth, has given his life for the cause of freedom and now lies sleeping till the seas shall give up their dead.

Newell Jinks of Spear Fish, South Dakota, marched from his home a few weeks ago, to the sounds of music and the cheers of friends, a private and volunteer, proud to be named among the defenders of his country. His mother clasped him to her heart and blessed him; his sisters wrung his hands and cried with pride, joy and sorrow at once; his father said, "Go, and God's will be done." At 7 o'clock this morning Newell Jinks of Spear Fish, South Dakota, wrapped in a banner of stars and sewed in a canvas sack, was consigned to the blue Pacific, while his comrades, bare headed and bowed, sang, and fired volleys over his head. Poor Jinks. He was sick during his stay in San Francisco, with measles, but when the orders came to embark it was thought he had recovered sufficiently to take the voyage. He suffered a relapse, though, and succumbed last night about 9 o'clock.

A quartet composed of Sergt. A. M. Maxelmer of company B of Volunteer Signal Corps; C. Bywater, Chris Wagener and J. E. Wannacott of the Utah