

all full of precious sea shells. Around the neck hang charms and coins, around the ankles are silver, bracelets adorned each with a dozen miniature sleigh-bells of silver which tinkle sweetly as they spring about.

The Arabians are fanatics above all Mahomedans; and why not? Mecca is the city of Rabbna (our Lord). Here at sunrise God descends and dwells until sunset, to return again on the morrow; and it is the city of the "best" prophet. At Medina Fatma is buried; at Jedda, Father Adam. Then it is the Hejaz—the pilgrim land. At times it would be more proper to call that hypocrisy which seems fanaticism. One day I gave a pilgrim food; we ate and drank together; an hour later, in my hearing, this same man fell upon a co-religionist who had just taken a drink of water and said: "Art thou of Islam and drinkest by daylight during Ramadan? (the month of fasting, when they eat by night only). I have several times been upbraided for eating. A gentleman said to me not later than yesterday: "Thou dog! Knowest not thou it is robbery not to "fast?" I answered him, and he retorted: "Never mind Turkey or Constantinople; they are in the hands of dogs—filthy Christians; but this is the Hejaz." And he threw to the ground what I had in my hands, telling me to go hence and eat. I said, "Where—in the sea?" "No; go into that den"—(the saloon). I asked, "Is it better for me to drink strong drink now than to eat?" He spat on the ground, stamped his foot and swore: "By the beard of our God these Christians are cunning! Never can we hinder their doings or catch them in their words. Wretched Dogs! Phew! But God helps, and what is *"written is written."*" said he. As to me, houseless, where could I go and eat but on the street? However, they are a good people in many respects.

C. U. L.

JEDDA, Arabia, May 15, 1890.

THE MEXICAN COLONIES.

Through the columns of the News I would like to explain the condition of things in our colonies here in Mexico. I receive so many letters of inquiry that it is an impossibility to answer them all.

People journeying to this country, whether by rail or wagon, should come to Deming, Grant County, New Mexico. From this place thirty miles south is the Mexican line, thence sixty miles farther south our first colony, called Diaz, in honor of President Diaz. It is situated near the Casas Grandes River (now dry), and four miles north of the Mexican town of La Ascension. The valley in which we are located is sixty miles long and twenty wide. The climate is very even and healthy. The altitude is about 5,000 feet above the sea. It is a splendid grazing country for stock and grass is abundant. Stock winter and do well the year round. Snow is rarely seen. The land on both

sides of the river is very fertile, and all kinds of grain can be raised in abundance. Wells can be had from eight to sixteen feet deep anywhere in the valley, and these furnish plenty of good water, found in white sand and gravel.

One drawback is the scarcity of timber, but our endeavors so far prove that this difficulty can be easily overcome, for wood will grow rapidly here, as the season for the growth of trees is ten months, instead of six with you in the north.

There are two sawmills in the country, one seventy the other 100 miles distant. Lumber can be bought delivered here for \$30 per thousand feet. We have to go thirty to forty miles for large timber and cedar posts. Cottonwood and willow can be obtained in the valley.

Land can be purchased from \$1 to \$5 per acre, in small or large lots, even to 100,000 acres. Water rights can be bought from the Mexicans for \$60 each which will irrigate fifteen acres of land.

Diaz Ward is nearly in the centre of this valley, and contains 500 inhabitants, fully organized as a Ward, W. Derly Johnson, Jr., is Bishop. The town is laid off with six rod streets. The blocks are twenty-seven rods square, divided into four lots each. We have a good school house 20x60 feet. With the exception of the short vacation we have a good school during the whole year; also a well-attended Sunday School.

There are likewise meetings of the Relief Society, Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. Associations and Primary. The last named gave a fair recently which showed much patience, ingenuity and ability among the little folks.

During the years we have been on the town plot we have planted out 2000 shade trees, 15,000 fruit trees, 5000 vines, and many ornamental shrubs and flowers, all of which are doing well.

This is an excellent fruit country. All kinds except tropical fruits do well. Vegetables can be easily raised, water melons being the finest we have ever seen. Among the natives the staple articles are maize, chile y frijoles (corn, red pepper and beans.) At or near harvest time corn can be bought for 3¢ per lb, wheat 3¢ and beans 1½¢.

Buildings here are entirely of adobe, although we have now a trial brick kiln under construction. Lime is worth 50¢ per bushel. Building material is easily obtained, as Mexican labor is cheap.

This being a good stock country, cattle are very cheap. Beef, choicest cuts, sells retail at 4 cents per pound.

Sixty-five miles farther south is our second colony, called Juarez, situated on a fork of the Casas Grande River, in a narrow valley three-fourths of a mile wide. This also is a fully organized and prosperous ward, with George W. Seevy as Bishop. It contains 300 inhabitants. The streets and blocks are laid out similar to Diaz. Here they have plenty of water, but not land sufficient. There are fine orchards and gar-

dens, and plenty of timber is located in the mountains. The grazing facilities are not so good as at Diaz. As branches of the ward, the small settlements of Pacheco and Corrales are about thirty miles farther in the mountains in a S. W. direction, where about one hundred of our people are located, and another small settlement near the Mexican town of Casas Grandes is called Francisco. This has seventy five inhabitants. The last three named places are organized with presiding Elder and Teachers. We own two grist mills—one at Juarez, the other at Casas Grandes, a steam saw mill twenty-five miles from Juarez, with shingle, lath, planing and moulding attachments.

The duty on all imported articles is generally very high, though for those who colonize under the Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company (of which Apostle Moses Thatcher is president and A. F. Macdonald manager) they are privileged to bring in many things free of duty. A list of these was published in the NEWS some time ago, and directions were given how to obtain these concessions.

All that is required to obtain land in the above named places is to procure a recommend of good standing as a faithful Latter-day Saint from the Bishop.

Persons wishing to purchase lands outside of colonies, either for individual farms or ranches, can do so by applying to the undersigned, as we have in charge several large tracts of good land, suitable for grazing and agriculture.

This, like all new countries, has many obstacles to overcome; but it is a good place for Latter-day Saints.

As far as the Mexicans are concerned we are entirely isolated and by ourselves, as we are not preaching to nor trying to convert them, but rather let our actions speak for us. The best of feeling exists between us and the Mexican officials and people.

Having no outside influence among us, there is in our settlements a unity of feeling and brotherly kindness not to be found in many places occupied by the Saints. The pleasant associations and peace we enjoy reminds one of Utah thirty years ago. Hence the people are happy and content.

Last year we had a taste of fruit of our own growing, and this year we will have some—such as grapes, peaches, apples and small fruits. The next year we will have plenty and to spare, and in two years time we shall be able to furnish to our neighbors. To do this we expect to start a fruit canning factory.

Although we have had two unusually dry seasons in succession, yet our crops and gardens look well.

To those desiring to locate in this country, I would suggest that they come and see before moving, journeying by rail to Deming. Some of our people are there most of the time, and chances can always be had of coming here. It can easily be ascertained whether any of our people are at Deming by enquiry at Cheney Bros.' feed and sale stable,