

by train amount to \$5,600. Counting what were eaten and shipped in other ways, Brigham's total strawberry yield this season will reach close to 200,000 quarts.

Salt Lake City, Utah, July 12, 1898.

By letter just received from L. D. Willes, of Lehi, Utah county, I learn that his mother, Melissa Lott Smith, residing at that place, was on yesterday, the 11th inst., supposed to be past all earthly hope, and her family and friends were expecting that almost any moment would be her last on earth. She is the daughter of Cornelius P. Lott, but I do not recall her mother's name, and in her own language, as stated to Joseph Smith, the president of the Re-organized church, "I was married to your father, the Prophet, on September 20th, 1843, by Hyrum Smith, at Nauvoo, Ill., in the presence of my parents. My age at that time was nineteen years and nine months, and I lived with him as his wife until his death."

Some six years after the Prophet's death, namely, May 13th, 1849, she married Ira J. Willes with the full understanding that it was for time only. She is and has ever been regarded by all her kindred and acquaintances as a true and devoted wife, a faithful Latter-day Saint, an excellent neighbor, exceptionally bright and intelligent, and of noble bearing, and in the days of her youth possessed of great personal beauty. She had only to be known to be loved, as one of the choicest among women. The object of this brief statement is to acquaint her numerous friends of her critical condition, and prepare them for what appears to be the inevitable.

With kindest regards,

JOS. F. SMITH.

It is the painful duty of the "News" to record the death, at Pleasant Green, Salt Lake county, at 3:30 o'clock this morning, July 12, of Miss Della Johnson, late of Illinois. The passing away of the young lady was under circumstances particularly distressing to her friends. A short time ago the deceased, who was suffering from consumption, came to Utah with her sister, hoping the change of climate might prove beneficial to Miss Della's health. The dreadful disease had taken such root, however, as to prove speedily fatal, and death relieved the sufferer, at the time stated, at the house of Mr. Daniel G. Spencer, where the young ladies were staying.

The irreproachably excellent and lady-like character of both the deceased and her surviving sister have made them a host of friends, who bow in grief in this hour of sorrow. Elders who have labored as missionaries in Illinois are profuse in their praise of the parents of the young ladies, who reside at Regent, Johnson county, Illinois, and of the family. Mr. Johnson and family did not belong to the Church, but the Elders always found welcome hospitality with them, and were treated with the utmost kindness. The father's name is Burt Johnson, and in his community he is held in very high esteem. Under the circumstances Miss Della's death is very painful to her sister, relatives and friends, and the "News" extends heartfelt sympathy to all of the bereaved, with faith that the separation is only a temporary one and that the reward of virtue and true womanliness awaits the soul gone hence.

In a private letter received from Lieut. Col. John Q. Cannon of the Torrey cavalry regiment now stationed at Jacksonville, Fla., the information is given that on the Fourth the cavalry regiment headed a big military procession at that place, in which 11,000 soldiers participated. The Torrey

rough riders constituted the only cavalry regiment at Jacksonville, and they are the constant recipients of much attention, the Utah troop, the members of which are all in splendid health, coming in for a goodly share of commendation for their fine appearance and soldierly bearing. Troop I, the Utah boys, have presented Lieut. Col. Cannon with a beautiful saber, and the present is highly esteemed by Mr. Cannon.

Col. Torrey's hurts, received in that disastrous railroad wreck, are proving very troublesome. The cords and ligaments in the colonel's feet and limbs are much injured, are very painful and consequently prevent him from attending to his duties. In the meantime Lieut. Col. Cannon is in active command of the regiment. Mr. Cannon has frequently met Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and the two have formed a very agreeable and lasting friendship.

Senator Frank J. Cannon has secured from Secretary Alger the pen with which the secretary of war made out the commission of Lieut. Col. Cannon, and the same has been forwarded to the colonel's wife here, as will be the commission itself when it shall have been finally signed by the President.

It is the rainy season in Florida, says the letter, and the fact is made very apparent by the torrents of rain which are almost continuously falling.

IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, N. M.

The subjoined letter from Mr. J. R. Young to Mr. P. H. Hansen, is published by request:

Fruitland, San Juan County, N. M.,
June 27, 1898.

Peter H. Hansen, Mayfield, Utah:

Yours of June 21st came by this mail, and I will try and give you some information, speaking of things as I see them—First I will give attention to the printed circular put forth by the "Animos River, Land and Irrigation company." This is the work of capitalists, the object is to make money and you do well to examine before you invest. The company affirms that it "is already at work constructing its ditches and canals, which will be completed intime for spring planting." The planting season has passed, and there is not a mile of ditch completed—and in my judgment several years will pass before homes can be made under that canal. All the land of the Animas valley that can be covered by easy made ditches is already taken up. There are still large stretches of government land, but the work of getting water onto these lands will be heavy. Parties coming here with cash, cattle or sheep can buy homes at reasonable figures. Deeded land with good water rights, and some improvements can be bought for \$25 per acre and often for less, but the printed circular you sent gives too bright a picture. I am acquainted with the western country from Salt Lake City to our colonies in Chihuahua, old Mexico. In my judgment the bulk of the land in the Animas valley is rather poor, at best of medium quality. Perhaps the richest spots are found on the La Plata, a few miles north of Farmington, but on the La Plata is a shortage of water, and reservoirs must be constructed, or else long and expensive ditches carried from the Animas.

Farmington, (50 miles from Durango, a railroad center.) is the chief town of the San Juan country and should be the county seat. Fruitland, twelve miles below Farmington, is mainly a Mormon settlement. The Burnham ward is organized here. It has a membership of 200 souls, has well attended meetings, Sunday schools, Mutuals, Primaries, etc., but the school laws of New Mex-

ico are inferior to those of Utah, and our day schools are not first class.

Our winters are mild. Seldom see any snow, but in the spring are visited with late frosts, and sometimes lose our fruit crops. This year and the past two years our fruit was not injured. I have grown apples that would weigh one pound to seven ounces each. Peaches, pears, plums and hardy varieties of grapes do well. We have vast coal mines within one and a half miles of our doors. There is always a market here at home for our produce. Today wheat is one and a half cents, corn one cent per pound, butter 25 cents, eggs 12 cents per dozen. There are no grist mills at Aztec or Farmington, but the Mormons own an old-fashioned burr mill at Fruitland. We have also commenced to build a new meeting house, 30x50 feet, of brick. It is only a question of a few years until a railroad will come from Albuquerque down the Animas valley. Alfalfa hay is so cheap (\$2.50 per ton) that considerable cattle can be kept on the farms, but 't is very risky to turn them on the range. I would encourage our people to bring herds of sheep. Winter and summer ranges are close together. In bringing sheep they should come by Blake on Green river and Moab on the Grand river, then keep inside the Utah line, until they reach New Mexico. By doing this you avoid trouble with Colorado. To close I would advise if Utah will not visit come seeking homes, to first visit Fruitland. Your Brother,
J. R. YOUNG.

RESULT OF COMPARISON.

Says the New York World: "The sinking of two Spanish warships, the Alfonso XII. and the Reina Mercedes, gets but a casual news-item report in papers these days. Newspaper readers may as well face the fact that Spain has not enough ships left on all the seven seas to warrant a column story for the sinking of the lot of them. It makes one almost long for the realization of those phantom fleets which kept the good people of the New England coast in such a state of mind for dreadful weeks."

Not only the sinking of those warships but many other events would have been paraded before the public in open-order matter with inch-deep headlines if the war had begun as wars usually do—small and, growing gradually. Everything since the Dewey exploit at Manila has been measured by it and consequently all things save the big fight at Santiago and the destruction of Cervera's fleet have received scanty treatment. The destruction of a \$2,000,000 ship belonging to the enemy amounts to nothing by itself, it takes the destruction of half a dozen worth on an average twice as much as that each, to make the papers exceedingly saffron-tinged and the people correspondingly enthusiastic. What cannot the human being become habituated to?

Col. J. H. Martin of the Arizona national guard has wired to Governor McCord as follows: "I understand that New Mexico is two companies short, under the second call for volunteers. I can furnish two more companies out of the Arizona national guard in 48 hours."

The Seventh California regiment will go to Manila if present plans are not altered. The 300 men of the Sixth artillery who will sail on the Peru with their guns have nearly all had long experience and many of them are expert marksmen. Ninety horses and 120 mules will be sent to Manila on the ship Tacoma. They will be cared for by Veterinary Surgeon Plummer of the Fourth cavalry and a detail of 30 men.