

who were then seeking homes in the Far West. I did not occupy so prominent a position in the community as has been represented, because I was but a youth 20 years old, but I was then, as I am now, deeply interested in the future of this western country. I felt that there was a great future for it, and then to me, as with all those who traveled at that time, it was so different to know the old conditions under which we lived that it seemed like a new world. We entered Salt Lake valley, that is, the party that I accompanied, about eight weeks after the Pioneers, headed by Brigham Young, entered the valley. That band consisted of 147 men and three women. We came forward and traveled with women and children in large numbers, there being some 2,000 all told in the different companies.

The Pioneers had already planted a few seeds and made some attempts at irrigation, but as they landed the latter part of July (the 24th it was) it was very difficult to do anything except preserve the seed. That seed was carefully cared for and husbanded, and from that seed the seed potatoes (that was the first vegetable introduced into Utah) sprung. But it was not until 1849 that any of us, unless it was through curiosity, tasted potatoes. We preserved the seed so carefully that we did not dare to taste potatoes. In 1848, after planting our crops, we found that we were in such a situation that food must be raised, and as we did not have the scientific friends we have with us now to do it in a scientific manner we went at it as best we could, and took out water by the simplest means in our reach, and we were successful in raising at least a part of a crop. After our grain had been sown and our fields looked promising, black crickets came down by the millions and devoured our crops. I have seen fields of wheat look as promising as they could in the morning and in the evening they would be bare as a man's hand—devoured by these crickets.

For a time it seemed that everything planted would be torn up, and we were in such a position as you can well imagine. California was on our west 800 miles distant; to the east was no settlement nearer than Des Moines, Iowa, and a few settlements perhaps in upper Missouri, so that we were entirely dependent upon all we brought in our wagons, and we had to deal it with the utmost care. Food was weighed out by the ounce and limited to every individual that no one should eat more than their share of the pieces that were divided for the week's supply.

I was a young man then growing, and I never worked so hard as we had to do then, and I was continually hungry during that winter; it seemed to me that I was hungry to the end of toes and fingers. I was an orphan, but I had an aunt, and she said on my birthday: "George, we will have all we can eat today, as it is your birthday. You invite your young friends to come in and partake with us." I looked forward to the anticipation of having a good square meal on that morning. I mention this because it is an interesting point to know that I did eat all I could, but I was hungry ten minutes afterwards. The stomach having become con-

tracted by having so small an amount of food, the system was starved and it required more than one meal to satisfy nature.

When spring came the thistles began to grow up. Our fields produced a great many thistles. I have gone out with the boys in midday when the horses had come in and pulled the thistle tops for greens. It is a fact that the distention of the stomach caused by eating these thistles allayed the hunger we felt, and with the milk from the cows we soon grew fat.

These crickets devoured most of our crops. I had no responsibility upon me, but I have often thought of the feelings of the men that had families under these circumstances; but there was unbounded courage. Every man felt he would stay there, no matter what the consequences might be. To us who lived in Utah about that time it seemed there was a visitation of Providence to save us. Sea gulls came by hundreds and by thousands and before the crops were entirely destroyed these gulls devoured the insects, so that our fields were entirely freed from them. Whenever I see a boy pointing a gun at a gull I feel that I ought to knock his gun up. The bird has become sacred to me. I have gone along ditches in the morning and have seen lumps of these crickets vomited up by these gulls, so that they could begin again killing them.

The drying of this country at that time was something dreadful. It seemed as though the land was dead. I remember seeing it illustrated in the case of a grave that was dug. I was there at the time. It is now in a part of the town covered by inhabitants, and it seems the ground had not been disturbed for ages. We dug a ditch and so dry was it that when we turned the water in (some of you gentlemen have perhaps visited Salt Lake City and seen where the great co-operative store stands) and there a ditch was dug to convey the water to the fort, which was about half a mile, and it took two days for it to run that distance, the ground was so thirsty.

Now great results have followed, and I can say today that Utah is proud to have the opportunity of participating in a congress of this character. We feel the questions to be brought before this congress are of the greatest importance, not only to this portion of America, but to the entire Union. Every man in this entire Republic ought to be interested in this question which will be discussed, I hope so freely and profitably in our congress. It is a matter which affects not only the West alone, but the East, and in fact it may be said to affect humanity, and everything should be done in our deliberation to reach the united action so that whatever we resolve upon will be acceptable to the whole people and members of Congress.

I am glad that these deliberations take this wide course. I would like to see every person who takes an interest in irrigation, whether they live in the arid regions or the heaven-watered regions, and I hope every man will express himself with the utmost freedom, that there may be a unity of sentiment and a unity of action.

We in Utah have proved that the small holdings are the best for the people. Our pioneers, when they went

into that country, arranged in the first place that men at the head of a household should receive a city lot. The city was divided into blocks of ten acres, containing eight lots of one and a quarter acres each. I remember applying for a lot and was told that I was not a married man and could not have the land. Outside the city the first lots were five-acre lots, later ten-acre lots, and later twenty-acre lots. Mechanics were expected to have ten acres. Those who were engaged in business drew ten acres if their families were large enough. It was not a law, but was suggested. Laws were then made that no man should manipulate land, so that every man in the community should have a sufficient quantity to supply his wants and to enable him to raise what he wanted, but could have nothing for manipulation. We had to set our faces against the manipulation of land and the manipulation of water. We dread above everything large companies coming in and making canals and taxing our people for the water. We do not think that is necessary. We have proved that water can be taken out and that it can be used by the poor man by a proper combination of efforts by being united. We have proved this and also that large tracts of land are not necessary for the public good. Therefore, I think I express the feeling of our people and the satisfaction of our people in Utah. But I make this statement in proof: Our conditions are different than those surrounding California, Colorado, Arizona, Montana, etc. I do not wish in making this remark, to be understood that we oppose other measures. I only wish to say that it has been proven to us to be attended with the best results.

Ladies and gentlemen of this Irrigation Congress, I thank you for the honor you have done Utah in selecting me as the temporary chairman of this congress.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Bulletin No. 22 of the Utah weather and crop service for the week ending Tuesday morning, Sept. 4, 1894.

The weather was warm during the early part of the week past, but after heavy showers on Friday and Saturday it turned much cooler. Harvesting in the late valleys was much hindered, and considerable uncut grain was laid down by wind and rain. Threshing was generally delayed, and considerable hay, both wild and lucern, was spoiled or damaged. The drying of fruit was also interfered with. In the south the rains were quite heavy.

Corn and potatoes have been much benefited by the rains. Corn is generally ready to cut in the warmer sections; some cutting has been done. In the higher valleys it needs two weeks more of good weather to mature corn. Large quantities of potatoes are being shipped east. The sugar beets in Utah county are now ready for digging. On the stock ranges the feed has become excellent.

Box Elder county—Rather cool; smoky; rain on the 2nd. Cutting the third crop of lucern. Corn and potatoes doing well. Threshing continues. Grapes in market.

Cache—Threshing has commenced. Crops average on dry farms. Heavy