

son of Spanish Fork in 1873, who now lives to mourn his departure. He leaves no children, but a father, mother, four brothers and two sisters survive him. One of these is Hon. S. W. Sears, now in St. Louis on business.

Mr. Sears was a man who made friends with all who knew him. He was possessed of many noble traits of character; was ever sympathetic, kind and helpful to those in need and trouble. He did much to help the poor and needy.

He has a large circle of acquaintances throughout the State and many friends who will deeply mourn his departure.

The funeral services of Nathan Sears, the well known business man, occurred Sunday. His mortal remains were laid away amid the demonstrations of sorrow and respect on the part of many relatives and friends.

Mr. A. L. Hale of Grantville, Teton county, called at the News today on his return trip from Star Valley, Wyoming, where he has been visiting relatives for some time past. He brings with him very satisfactory reports concerning the condition of the people of that section. They raised very good crops this year. The frost was lighter than usual and did no injury whatever.

At present Mr. Hale says the farmers are very busy hauling their grain to market—Montpelier—a distance of fifty miles. He says that while on the way home he met on an average of thirty teams going in and about the same number coming out of the valley every day. The outgoing wagons are loaded with the products of the farmers while those going to carry machinery for a woolen factory being erected at Alton.

The building is now receiving the roof and is ready for the installation of the machinery. The building of the factory came about in this way: The Messrs. Buckley, operating under the firm name of Buckley & Sons, made a proposition to the people of Montpelier, Idaho, says Mr. Hale, to buy the machinery and install and operate the same, providing the people would erect the building. For some reason the proposition was rejected. But over the line in Wyoming the offer was more favorably considered and finally the people of Star Valley got together and the Alton Woolen mill is the result of their united efforts. And all seem to be very proud of the accomplishment.

The mill is a modern one in all respects having been equipped with special having been equipped with carding, coloring and other necessary rooms. Star valley, says Mr. Hale further, is a good place for homesteaders. The best of land and water can be obtained there and heavy crops can be raised. Wheat, oats, potatoes and small fruits seem to do especially well. The health of the people is all that can be desired and their material condition is one of satisfactory prosperity. Sleighb is good in the valleys with about six inches of snow. In the mountains it is somewhat deeper of course but not so deep as to prevent travel or transportation.

Attorney General Bishop has transmitted an important opinion to State Treasurer Chipman on the payment of interest and State bonds. The question which called forth the opin-

ion and the gist of the opinion itself are herewith given. The question reads:

"Kindly give this office your opinion on the following subject: The law provides that the State treasurer shall pay the interest on the various issues of Territorial and State bonds on the first day of January and July in each year, and that the forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated and set aside annually from the general fund of the State from year to year to pay the interest on said bonds.

"We wish to be advised if this sum should be set aside in a separate fund at the first of each year out of any funds then in the general fund account of the State, or out of the first money received by the treasurer belonging to that fund.

"During the latter half of the year, the receipts on account of the general fund are ample to take care of that part of the interest which falls due on the last day of the year, but this office has no assurance of the receipt of any amount which will be paid into the treasury for the account of the general fund after the first day of January in each year, which may be applied to the payment of the half of the annual interest which falls due on July 1st, and should the treasurer depend on the receipt of a sufficient amount on account of a general fund to pay such amount of interest (\$21,500) on the first day of July, after the first day of January, February, March, April, May or June in any year, and the same not be received by him and there be no funds in the general fund account, or not a sufficient amount, then the interest on the bonds outstanding would default and doubtless criticism would fall upon this office.

"When, in your opinion, should the treasurer set the amount necessary to pay the interest on the bonds aside, and to what amount?

"The taxes assessed for the year 1896 would be received by this office between now and the 31st day of December, 1896, and we have no authority to presume that any will be unpaid; should this be the case, should not a sufficient amount be set aside to pay the interest on the various issues of bonds for which these warrants will be drawn by the State auditor on the first days of June and December, 1897?

"Should not a sufficient amount be set aside for the June, 1897, warrant of \$21,500 at all events?"

After discussing the law at some length the attorney general gives his conclusion as follows:

"You are therefore advised that under the express provisions of the laws of 1888, 1890, 1892 and 1896, under which the outstanding bonds of the Territory and State were issued, it is your duty as State treasurer to annually set aside, out of the general fund of the State a sufficient amount of money to pay the interest thereon, promptly at the time of its maturity.

"There is nothing in the law to indicate just when this amount of money should be set aside, inasmuch as the tax-

assessed for each year are received at your office by the 31st day of December, in all probability, there will always be sufficient money on hand January 1st of each year to pay the installment of interest falling due upon that date, and at this or such other time, as in your judgment should seem proper, when there are sufficient funds in your hands for that purpose, there should be set aside out of the general fund a sufficient amount to meet the interest installments which matures July 1st, thereafter. This is a question, however, largely in your discretion, but one which should be carefully guarded by you so that a contingency may never arise wherein the interest on outstanding obligations of the State shall mature without any funds in your hands with which to meet the same. Such a contingency, might, under the existing law involve a liability for failure to perform your official duty."

JUAREZ STAKE CONFERENCE.

COLONIA JUAREZ, Mexico, Dec. 10, 1896.—The quarterly conference of the Juarez Stake of Zion was held at Colonia Diaz, November 21st and 22nd, 1896, Elder Anthony W. Ivins presiding. There were also present representatives of the various wards throughout the Stake.

The reports of the Bishops of the different wards were to the effect that the people are gradually getting possession of more land and becoming more self-supporting, and general prosperity prevails throughout the Stake.

The conference was addressed by Stake President Ivins, Patriarchs Henry Lunt, Wm. R. R. Stowell and James A. Little and Bishop Wm. D. Johnson Jr.

The general and local authorities of the Church were presented and unanimously sustained.

Owing to so many of the brethren being at work-out on the new railroad, which connects our colonies with El Paso, Texas, the conference was not as well attended as it otherwise would have been. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon the people, and an excellent time was had.

JOSEPH C. BENTLEY,

Clerk of Stake.

A man named Anthony Barry, said to have been from Sacramento, was killed by a train at Yuma, Arizona, Sunday.

The sightless students of the California state institution for the deaf, dumb and blind gave their annual sacred concert Sunday afternoon in the assembly hall of the institute, at Berkeley, Cal. Not a seat was to be had in the concert room for some time before the opening chorus, and many were reluctantly compelled to turn away from the entrance, blocked by early comers. The program was of unusual excellence, rather more ambitious than those offered in previous years, showing that the students have progressed musically within the year. All of the forty and odd blind pupils of the institution took part in entertaining their visitors, and as a result the pleasant afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed.