

when they put on their brightest green hue. These with the palm and the giant cactus which is always green and stately, although they are a wild growing tree, are frequently grown in parks, and lawns, because of their symmetrical and stately appearance.

A person being transferred from a snowy clime in January, so quickly into Mesa city, could be but surprised to find himself comparatively in a paradise. While taking a ramble, to see orange groves, laden with their burdens of ripe oranges, mingling in their green leaves, was a lovely sight in the winter; but to eat them fresh from the trees was almost too good to talk about. Then in season there is the luscious fig, growing along the water ditches, and over-hanging the side-walks from within the lot fences. The stranger, and the sojourner may pick and eat without hindrance while under the shade of their branches; showing the generosity of the good people of this sunny clime. I felt almost lost in my ramble under the shade of pepper trees over-reaching the side-walks. Then the spreading palms, often just inside the side-walk fences with their leaves fanning the breeze, really seemed more like a vision than a reality; in the transformation from sage brush and snow clad plains into a seemingly Eden in less than twenty-four hours travel.

Only a few short years ago this vast Salt River valley was the ruins of a once prosperous people, of probably 1,000 years or more in the past. The ruins and old water canals, which are very numerous, all show how dense was the population, reaching back doubtless into the Nepite and Jaredite times. The soil is very productive, and the water facilities from the great Salt river seem almost inexhaustible. The last race who builded the old canals and water sects, were doubtless the Aztec race of long centuries; since which time it has rested in its ruined condition until a few hardy Mormon pioneers, in 1878, planted their camp where Mesa city has since loomed up into a garden of Eden. The names of those pioneers are worthy of historical record: Charles I. Robson, John Henry Smith, William Chrisman, J. H. Blair, Charles Chrisman, Frank M. Pomeroy, John H. Pomeroy, George W. Sirrine, Warren L. Sirrine, Theodore C. Sirrine, Charles Mallory, Elijah Pomeroy, Parley P. Sirrine, W. M. Newell and William Swartz. These are the great reclaimers and reformers of a long forgotten and a long abandoned land.

Soon a city one mile square was laid out, in blocks of ten acres each. The first mayor was A. H. McDonald. E. Pomeroy, George W. Sirrine, William Passey and Alvin F. Stewart, were the first councilmen. I. Robson, recorder, J. H. Carter, treasurer, H. C. Longmore, assessor, W. Richins, marshal and H. S. Phelps, pound keeper. In 1878, there were seventy-nine souls. In 1894, the population had increased to 648. The tax valuation was \$106,400, real valuation \$425,600, showing a per capital distribution of wealth of \$608. When it is considered that seventeen years ago the resources of the town were practically nil, it certainly seems demonstrated to the satisfaction of any one that the intrinsic worth of the undeveloped properties which were then owned by the citizens of Mesa city must have been far beyond the common to have produced such good results.

One of the present evidences of the thrift of the place is, the Kimball hotel, of thirty-two rooms, elegantly furnished; and its parlors would do credit to any metropolitan hotel in the land. It is customary in this hot climate for people to have verandas surrounding their habitations. This is the case of the Kimball house. The edifice cost \$11,000. Mesa also has another hotel, The Albambra, at a cost of \$4,000.

The growth of the Zenos Co-operative Mercantile and Manufacturing Institution was wonderful. Ten years ago operations began with a cash capital of only \$45, and an assigned and depreciated stock valued at \$4,500. In 1886 a dividend of 33 1/2 per cent was declared; the year following, a dividend of 30 per cent; in 1889 a dividend of 20 per cent was paid, and a two-story brick building erected 34x56 feet at a cost of \$5,403. In 1892 another large building was put up adjoining the other, costing \$8,000, capital stock paid up \$25,740, with a stock of merchandise valued at \$15,000. The institution has paid out dividends since its erection nearly \$20,000. This shows the growth of Mesa city. The Golden Rule store, conducted by George Passey, is also an emolument to the city. There are many other institutions and enterprises to show thrift to a growing country. B. F. Johnson and Sons also figure in the mercantile business.

Near the city is forty acres planted in peaches, apricots and almonds. Land sells from \$10, to \$75 per acre; city property from \$12 to \$20 a front foot. There are three wineries and one distillery engaged in manufacturing wines and brandy. The Mesa Free press tells the general news of the week.

In 1878 Elder Erastus Snow and party appointed Jesse N. Perkins presiding Elder. In 1880 President John Taylor called A. H. McDonald as president of the settlement, with H. C. Rogers and Charles I. Robson as his counselors. Soon after, Charles I. Robson became president, with H. C. Rogers and Collins R. Hakes, as his counselors. On the 24th of February, 1894 President Robson died. On May 10th 1894, Elders John Henry Smith and Brigham Young called C. R. Hakes to the presidency of the Stake, with H. C. Rogers and James F. Johnson as his counselors. At the same time James Malen Horn was appointed to succeed Bishop Passey, with David T. Lebaron and Warner H. Allen as counselors, in the Maricopa stake of Zion. The present membership in Mesa 648; Lehi 200; Alma 282; Nephi 104; Papago White 27; Papago Indian 596; Papago Southern 629; total membership 2,496.

The irrigation system is one of great importance, and one which I will explain briefly. It is with great regret I have to say that I think our people have made a grave mistake in yielding their water system to a corporation, when they already possess a system with canals already made. Furthermore, this deprived them of two large tracts of land, while there was plenty to be taken up, so that now they have small farms, and a rental on their water, much as it is in Idaho. In 1878, the Mormon colony tapped the Salt River, used an old Aztec aqueduct, and constructed nine and a half miles of canal in the first year, doing their own work. In 1891 the consolidated canal company was organized, which now waters 110,000 acres. The

capital stock is \$1,000,000 owned by a Detroit, Michigan, company: D. M. Ferry, C. C. Bowen, Dr. A. J. Chandler and A. W. Inbrie. The system is a model, scarcely surpassed. The vast water sheds of the mighty rockies are relieved of their superabundant supplies through numerous channels to the plains. These rivers are valuable as immediate sources for irrigation accordingly as they are fed by their tributaries in the mountains.

The Salt River, in this respect, is peerless. From an area of 15,000 square miles wherein melted snow in nameless torrents flows from lofty peaks along their rocky ways through canyons and precipitous defiles down to their sister streams, by them in turn to be conducted to the river bed. The human mind stands appalled before the vastness of this almost illimitable supply. Many minor streams may be mentioned, the San Frisco river and the following creeks: Stone, Back, Mipa, Bonita, White Mountain, Cedar, Turkey, Coriso, Cibicu, Canon, Locust, Box, Cherry, Raccoon, Sally May, Greenback, Tonto, Sycamore, Peck, Pinto and Pinal. These waters flow, dashing along with wondrous force, forming the great and valuable Salt River, of more value to the agriculturist than mountains of gold.

While visiting the headgates of the Consolidated Canal company, where once the ancient Aztecs drew their water from the great flow of the Salt River which in location could not be surpassed by either Mormon Pioneers, or by this great and new company with all their modern art and science, proving the ancient Aztecs were among the greatest irrigators of ages past. The place, it would appear, is peculiarly adapted for the purpose, before the Consolidated Canal company was organized with its \$1,000,000, to water 110,000 acres of absolutely level land, not merely susceptible of irrigation, but, in the natural topography, so irrigable as to render these canals phenomenally valuable and effective. The original Mormon canals were located upon the old Aztec site, and used the original aqueduct. By availing themselves of these advantages the few Mormons were enabled to construct, in the space of one year, nine and one half miles of operative waterway at a cost of \$43,000. For thirteen years this ditch and its laterals supplied the 2,500 acres of land which, during that time, had been gradually brought into its province. But in 1891 came in this deep laid million dollar scheme, and instead of the 2,500 acres, 110,000 acres of land. It appears as though the people should have owned the land and water too, instead of capitalists taking the water to be eternally rented as a tax on the land.

As it is, however, we will examine the stupendous amount of labor and capital expended. Leading from the headgate, which has to be seen to comprehend its magnitude, the great canal for 1,500 feet has its foundation laid on solid rock.

Two enormous dredges, one of which cost \$10,000 and the other \$25,000, are in use by the company at this point on the ditch. The costlier of the two is the largest of its kind in America. It has a two yard dredge with a reach of eighty feet on either side. Its work is uninterrupted, as it is fitted with an electric plant and every appliance known to facilitate its perfect operation. For a distance of one mile the main canal is