

advantages. I will add that the vein of ore in the main tunnel of the Branch, which is a true fissure, can be followed as easily as one of the streets of Salt Lake, and that I have known lots of properties not nearly as valuable as the Branch alone, sell for a million dollars. It is also my sanguine opinion that very soon after the erection of a suitable plant for reducing the ores these mines can be made to pay a handsome dividend on the capital invested. I would say, by all means put in a plant.

MARTIN K. HARKNESS.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
December 17, 1892.

The undersigned having visited Marysvale twice during the current year for the inspection of the workings and findings in the Branch mine, and otherwise in the interests of the Deseret G. & S. M. & M. Co., I can say without equivocation that Superintendent Tate has not in a single item overestimated the value of the Deseret company's properties as a whole, nor of the merits and status of the Branch mine in particular. Not only can the dividends, as stated by Mr. Tate, be paid if a suitable plant be put in, but it is also my sanguine opinion that the Branch property alone can be readily bonded or sold for ten or fifteen times the cost of all the properties put together.

Respectfully, etc.,
C. L. THOMPSON.

MAN'S NATURAL MEDICINE.

The following which was written for and published in the DESERET NEWS twenty-five years ago, has been clipped by an old subscriber, and handed in with the request for its re-publication. The request is cheerfully complied with:

HERBS THE NATURAL MEDICINE OF MAN.

Last Conference President B. Young urged the necessity of the study of various sciences, among which he mentioned botany.

The history of medical botany demonstrates that the natural medicine of man is to be found in herbs, and the Lord, in a revelation on this subject, to Joseph Smith says: All wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature and use of man, every herb in the season thereof to be used with prudence and thanksgiving. Another quotation says: Those that have not faith to be healed, but believe, shall be nourished with all tenderness, with herbs and mild food, and that not by the hand of an enemy. The following quotation from the Book of Mormon is scarcely less explicit: And there were some who died with fevers, which at some seasons of the year were very frequent in the land; but not so much so with fever, because of the excellent qualities of the many plants and roots which God had prepared to remove the cause of diseases to which men were subject by nature of the climate.

In the beginning man lived on vegetable diet, consisting of fruits and herbs, then the age of man was much greater than at present. The Psalmist David also remarks that herbs are for the service of man; and John the Revelator, in speaking of the future, remarks that the leaves of certain trees

will be for the healing of the nations. From these portions of revelation, given in different ages, it is plain that we ought to study the uses and properties of herbs, in order to be able to administer such of them as shall be adapted to the cure of those diseases to which our climate is incident. Herbert says: "Herbs gladly cure our flesh, because they find their acquaintance there."

In consequence of neglect in the study of this department of nature, some among us have suffered themselves to become the victims of medical nostrums, and have thereby found a premature grave. All botanists agree that God provides those herbs, roots and plants that are best suited to diseases in every country where those diseases exist. Having lived in Springville 11 years, and having been a close observer in these matters, I am prepared to say that there is a far greater variety of herbs growing here now than there was when I first came here.

The common wild sage is an excellent medicine for a variety of diseases, for pains in the head and bowels. Put the leaves in hot water, and apply them warm until a cure is effected. A strong decoction of it taken in the morning, is the best remedy for worms that I have yet discovered. It is excellent for canker, and is also good for sore lips, which are so common here; the leaves of it put on, are a certain cure. The yarrow growing here is an excellent cure for colds and fevers. Raspberry leaves are good for female complaints, also for diarrhoea. I might mention the useful properties of many other herbs, but merely allude to these to incite a desire for this kind of study. I have used no other medicine than herbs for thirty years.

Dr. Coffin says: All herbs should be gathered when in flower, leaves when full grown, barks in the spring when they will peel easily, and the root when the plants have done growing. They should be dried out of the sun, and not exposed to the night air; and, when dry, kept in a dry place, free from the air.

The system here laid down is cheap, it costs nothing but the time spent in gathering the herbs and taking care of them.

Yours, &c.,
THOS. CHILD.

COLUMBIAN STAMPS AND ENVELOPES

A first consignment of the Columbian series of postage stamps and envelopes have come into the hands of Postmaster Nash, of this city. They are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 15, 30 and 50 cents, and \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5. These stamps differ in size and form from those now in use, the engraved space being seven-eighths of an inch by one and eleven-thirty-seconds inches, each stamp bearing a design commemorative of the discovery of America by Columbus. Following are the representations:

One cent—"Columbus in sight of land," after a painting by William H. Powell, enclosed in a circle. On the left is an Indian woman with her child and on the right an Indian man with head dress of feathers, each in a sitting posture. The color of the one cent stamp is Antwerp blue.

Two-cent—"Landing of Columbus,"

after the painting of Vanderlyn. The color is purple maroon.

Three-cent—"Flagship of Columbus," the Santa Maria in mid-ocean, from a Spanish engraving. Color, medium shade of green.

Four-cent—"Fleet of Columbus," the "Santa Maria," "Nina" and "Pinta" in mid-ocean. Color, ultra-marine blue.

Five-cent—"Columbus soliciting aid of Isabella," from Brozek's painting. Color, chocolate brown.

Six-cent—"Columbus welcomed at Barcelona," by Randolph Rogers. On each side of the scene is a niche, in one of which is a statue of Ferdinand and in the other a statue of Bobadilla. Color, royal purple.

Ten-cent—"Columbus Presenting Natives," after Luigi Gregori's painting. Color, Vandyke brown.

Fifteen-cent—"Columbus A nouncing His Discovery," after R. Baloca's painting. Color, dark green.

Thirty-cent—"Columbus at Rabida," after Maso's painting. Color, sienna brown.

Fifty-cent—"Recall of Columbus," after the painting of A. G. Heaton. Color, carbon blue.

One dollar—"Isabella Pledging Her Jewels," after Degraun's painting. Color, rose salmon.

Two dollar—"Columbus in Chains," after Leutze's painting. Of toned mineral, red color.

Three dollar—"Columbus Describing Third Voyage," from Jover's painting. Of light yellow green color.

Four dollar—Portraits in circles of Isabella and Columbus. Color, carmine.

Five dollar—Profile of the head of Columbus, after a cast provided by the treasury department for the souvenir 50 cent silver piece authorized by Congress.

The denominations received by the postmaster only include the those from 1 to 50 cents. They will be on sale Monday, January 2, for the first time.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder Brigham Smoot of Provo called in today and gave an interesting account of his labors on some of the islands in the Pacific ocean. He left for this field of labor on May 21st, 1889, and was first called to Samoa, where he spent two years and one month, after which, in company with Elder Alva Butler of Butleville, he went to perform a mission to the Friendly Islands. The two Elders arrived in their new field at an opportune time, the parliament being in session. They took up their quarters in a small cottage near the house of parliament, and they were daily visited by chiefs from all over the country, who came to obtain information about the Gospel and to whom testimony was given. Elder Smoot says the hand of the Lord is acknowledged in the fact that He enabled His servants to intelligibly converse with the natives in their own language, after only one month's practice. He further reports that many friends have been made on the islands for the Gospel and that the future prospects are hopeful. The difficulty is that the common people are in everything dependent on their chiefs. Elder Smoot