

the Utah reservation the northeast portion thereof and reported it to the department as all of the reservation that could prudently be classed as non-agricultural.

"The House of Representatives, by resolution of January 16, 1896, asked information of the secretary of the interior as to what progress had been made by the commission and also 'the probable time when the provision of said sections can be executed which provides for a restoration to the public domain of certain lands within the Uncompahgre Indian reservation in the Territory of Utah.' The correspondence on that subject is presented herewith in the appendix.

"The last report of my predecessor, under the heading of 'The Geological Survey' (p. 37), states that an examination made by that bureau has established the fact that on this reservation are large deposits of 'gilsonite' or asphaltum, of great commercial value for paving and other purposes. It was thought for some time that these deposits were confined to that section of the reservation set aside by the commission as unfit for agriculture, but later it has developed that other, if not more valuable, deposits of 'gilsonite' are located on that portion of the reservation, not designated by the commission as subject to restoration to the public domain because not needed for allotments to the Uncompahgres.

"The commission, having reported that it could not procure an agreement from the Uncompahgres to pay \$1.25 per acre for the lands allotted them, and that nothing more could be accomplished by it, was, by order of my predecessor, relieved from further duty on February 4, 1896.

"It is my judgment some that legislation should be enacted whereby the people of the United States can at an early date have the benefit of these valuable and useful deposits. If the lands containing them were owned by an individual or a corporation instead of by the government, business methods would be pursued in disposing of them; they would be sold to the highest bidder at public auction, or by sealed bid, or would be leased, or the right to work the deposits would be granted for a consideration in the shape of a royalty or otherwise. Such lands are different from agricultural, timber or coal lands.

"It is claimed that a considerable portion of the Uncompahgre and Uintah reservations, known as the 'lava beds,' contain a substance called 'elaterite,' which, with a solution recently discovered, makes a valuable paint and an insulator of incomparable quality. Such deposits of gilsonite or elaterite are of rare occurrence; in fact, I know of no other within the limits of the public domain.

"As Congress took no further action on this subject after receiving the reply of my predecessor to its resolution of January 16, 1896, I have not felt justified in changing the situation as I found it.

"I recommend that Congress authorize the appointment of another commission to negotiate with the Uncompahgres, explain to them how the lands allotted can be paid for without depleting their trust land, and that authority be given such

commission to sell (subject to approval of the secretary of the interior) the remaining portion of the lands of the reservation to the highest bidder, to lease them, or to negotiate with responsible parties for the working of the deposits, in order that the government may be fairly compensated and to the end that the public may enjoy the benefit of a highly useful gift of nature.

"If these lands were the property of the Indians, there could be no question as to the above-described method being the proper one to adopt in the disposition thereof. In my opinion, however, the Indians have no interest in these Utah lands. If there is not sufficient agricultural land within the limits of the Utah Reservation to provide for their allotments under the agreement of 1880, the government would be under obligation to furnish agricultural lands elsewhere for allotment to the Uncompahgres."

A TRIP TO EASTERN UTAH:

CANON, CITY, Col.,
Nov. 30, 1896.

I crave a little space in your paper for an account of a trip by wagon road from Salt Lake City via the San Luis valley to this cozy little city in Colorado.

Our party consisted of four. We left Salt Lake on the 7th of July, but, before starting, two of our party were arraigned before Angus M. Cannon on a charge of larceny. It was a surprise to many that so grave a charge should be entered against these two young people, who had hitherto led exemplary lives. It happened in the manner following: They stole each other's hearts—clear case, each plead guilty and he sentenced them to conubial bliss for life. They were glad to escape the pitting looks of friends and being allowed their liberty on promise of refraining from such things in the future, took to the mountains. Passed through Parley's canyon, on up by the bustling mining camp, Park City, then on the east slope of the great Wasatch range, past the long drain tunnel into the Provo valley to Heber City, which has a population of about 2,500. Six miles west of Heber is the town of Midway where the famous hot pots are. All of this country is familiar to the Utahns, as is also the Strawberry valley, accounts of the latter, reeking with fish, being dished up annually. We could tell a fish story, too, but it is out of season.

We will pass over Fort Duchesne and drive into Vernal, the future metropolis of eastern Utah and western Colorado. The Ashley valley has a population of something over three thousand and increasing very fast. Vernal will be the outfitting and supply center for all that country known as the Indian reservation, which it is hoped will soon be opened for settlement. It is surrounded by a rich mining country, undeveloped. Its agricultural advantages are unsurpassed anywhere in the West. More could be said but "there are other" places, and space is limited.

We take the back track, pass the Fort and after 120 miles over a desolate, desert country arrive at Price, on

the Rio Grande Western R. R. Twenty miles in a southerly direction, from Price is located Huntington, the capital of Emery county, with something over a thousand inhabitants. This place is remarkable for its vocal talent, or rather its choir leader, a Mr. Hardy, who is a wonder—a sort of "Evan Stephens," who "hides his light under a bushel." We visited Castle Dale, Orangeville and Ferron, all thriving little farming towns in Emery county, and then traveled over the most desolate waste of country in Utah to Moab, crossing Green River on a ferry at Blake. Green River takes its name from the dense growth of cottonwood trees which fringe its banks. Nothing grows outside the river bottom for miles on either side.

Moab, a little town in a very small valley, is on the Grand River. We arrived in the peach season, and though it was not a very good year for fruit, we did very well—ate peaches which measured a foot in circumference, and heard of them 14 inches around; ate also 45-lb melons, and were told of 79-lb ones; apples weighing 22 ounces are common; heads of seven squash on a vine aggregating over 1,100 lbs.; visited some of the star orchards, notably Orlando Warner's, which will compare with the best anywhere. There are no pests to contend with in the Little "Grand Valley" as yet, such as codlin moth, caterpillar, etc., and the fruit is perfect and commands the highest prices in Colorado markets.

Sixty-five miles south of Moab is a town called "Monticello" in the foot hills of the Blue mountains. The road to this place from Moab is through a sea of sand. The home ranch of the Carlisle Cattle company lies five miles north of Monticello and at one time about 85 men (cowboys) in the employ of the company, created a reign of terror in this wild and desolate land. They defied the law, and kept it up for years; killings were common among themselves. We were entertained at the ranch by the young man who had charge while the present owner was away—gone to the railroad for liquors and fixtures with which to start a saloon to entertain those who were coming into the mining camp, which is springing up a few miles above, in the mountains. He told of shootings and cuttings which had taken place there and showed bullet holes and blood stains in evidence of the truth of what he said. Everything has changed materially since Carlisle took his cattle out. The range is dried up and the old hands are dispersed, most of them dead.

One little incident is worthy of record. A murder had been committed, and some one brought word that Joe Bush was coming after the perpetrators. They informed the messenger that if Joe invaded the preserves there would be a funeral. On hearing which, Joe wrote the principal that he would be at his place of abode at a certain hour on a certain day, that he wanted him, and that should he resist there would, in all probability, be a funeral. The day before that on word was brought to the ranch that he was sixty miles away, and that it