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THE JUAB STAKE.

Since the 18th of July I have employed my time in visiting the different settlements in the Juab Stake of Zion in the interest of Church history. I attended the quarterly conference in Nephi on the 18th and 17th inst., and subsequently, in connection with President Wm. Paxman, held special meetings in Levan, Mona and Eureka.

The Juab Stake of Zion embraces all of Juab county, Utah, and consists of five organized wards and two branches. The wards are: Nephi First or South ward, presided over by Bishop Wm. H. Warner; Nephi Second or North ward, with Thomas H. G. Parkes as Bishop; Levan ward, with Bishop N. P. Rasmussen at the head of affairs; Mona ward, presided over by Bishop James H. Newton; and Juab ward over which Elmer Taylor presides as Bishop. The branches are at Eureka and Wellington, John Beck presiding over the first and Thomas Orzell over the last named place. The whole Stake consists of 3073 members, or 625 families, and Elder Wm. Paxman, favorably and extensively known from his successful missionary labors in Great Britain and New Zealand, is the president of the Stake; Charles Sperry, one of the first settlers of Nephi, acts as his first and James W. Paxman as his second counselor. Jacob G. Bigler, the first ordained Bishop of Nephi, and David Udall, formerly Bishop of Nephi, Second Ward, are the Patriarchs of the Stake.

Nephi, the headquarters of the Stake and the county seat of Juab county, is beautifully situated on an elevated tract of land at the mouth of Salt Creek Canyon, and is one of the most enterprising and prosperous towns in Utah Territory south of Salt Lake City. Were it not for the limited water supply for irrigation purposes Nephi would have been a large city years ago, as there is any amount of land adjoining the settlement which could be brought under cultivation if there was only water for it. As it is, Nephi has gradually grown since its first location in 1851 until it now contains upwards of 2200 inhabitants, of whom 1977 are Latter-day Saints—nearly two-thirds of the "Mormon" population in Juab county. Of this last number the Nephi First ward contains 943 souls, or 203 members, and the Nephi Second ward 1034 souls, or 217 mem-

bers. Nephi has a fine tabernacle, large enough for all local and Stake purposes, two Relief Society Halls—one in each ward—where all ward meetings are held, two more district school houses, a Church academy, a beautiful court house, a number of respectable stores, a bank, lumber yards, shops, etc., and numerous comfortable dwellings, nestling mostly in the midst of thriving orchards and shady groves. Nephi is the only place I have visited, so far, where the sisters of the Relief Society furnish houses for all the members of the respective wards to hold meetings in; and be it said to the praise of the sisters of the place that they are workers, and have been eminently successful in their labors. Sister Mary Pitchforth is the Stake President of the Relief Societies.

Levan, situated eleven miles south of Nephi, contains ninety families or 501 members of the Church, including children. Also here the sisters of the Relief Society, backed by the brethren as a matter of course, have erected a fine and commodious hall, in which the ward meetings are being held. Levan, first settled in 1868, is an outgrowth of old Chicken Creek, which dates back to 1860, but is now defunct, while Levan is growing, its water increasing and its resources being developed. Could dry farming be made a success throughout Levan and Juab valley, like it is in Malad valley (described in a former communication), hundreds of thousands of acres would be added to the limited area of country now under cultivation in this neighborhood.

Juab ward consists of sixteen families or one hundred souls, who are mostly employes on the U. P. railway at and around Juab station, which is fourteen miles southwest of Nephi and five miles of Levan. There is scarcely element enough to keep up a ward organization.

Wellington branch consists of 11 families, or 49 souls, belonging to the Church, who live in a scattered condition on or near the Sevier river above Mills Station, nine miles southwest of Juab. The place formerly belonged to Millard county and was known as Sucker Town.

Mona ward consists of the village of Mona, pleasantly situated on sloping ground at the base of Mount Nebo, which points its three snow-capped peaks heavenward immediately east of the settlement; the altitude of the north peak is about 12,000 feet above

the level of the sea, and is considered the highest point in the whole Wasatch range. The people of Mona, owing to their close proximity to the grand old mountain, have more than one our less sunshine every day the year around than most of the settlements in Utah; in the middle of winter it is 9 o'clock in the forenoon before "King Sol" peeps over the lofty summit. Mona ward contains 60 families, or 309 souls, including a few scattered families living north of the town. The place is eight miles north of Nephi.

Eureka branch numbers 28 families, or 137 souls; the grown up male portion of these are mostly employed at the Bullion-Beck and Champion mine, at Eureka, a mining camp situated near the summit of that range of mountains which separates Utah from Tintic valley, or in a canyon which about a mile below the town opens out into the last named valley. The Saints in Eureka have recently built a neat and commodious meeting house, which is perched on the side hill immediately north of the Bullion-Beck and Champion hoisting works; meetings and Sunday schools are held regularly, the latter under the superintendency of Elder John O. Freckleton. Robert Gillespie and Lorenzo Fuellenbach act as counselors to President Beck, who only spends a small portion of his time at the mines. At present there are over 200 men employed at the Bullion-Beck and Champion mine, from which the output is about 3000 tons of ore per month. Dennis Sullivan, one of the ablest and most successful miners in the West, is foreman of the underground works, and Frank Y. Taylor is the general superintendent of the mine, having recently been appointed to that position. The main shaft of this renowned mine is now 900 feet deep, and for each one hundred feet there are tunnels or drifts running in all directions, some of them over two miles in length. It is estimated that there are nearly twenty miles of drifts in the mine, and about fifty shafts, or winzes, each one hundred feet deep, which connect the drifts on different levels with each other. These mines serve a double purpose, as they not only give ventilation throughout the mine, but are also a means of communication between the nine different levels. The ore is found in large bodies on all the levels, and to all appearances there are mountains of