

NEWS FROM SAN JUAN.

BLUFF, San Juan County, Utah,
April 18, 1897.

We have had a very remarkable winter—more rain and snow than ever known during any previous winter since the settlement of this county in 1880. Last September we had a very severe flood, which did a great deal of damage here at Bluff. The water came rushing down the Cottonwood wash, just at the western edge of our town, in a seething, boiling mass, some twenty feet deep and one hundred feet wide. Just a few feet below my house, and near half a mile from where the wash empties into the San Juan, the passage was not wide enough for the flood to pass, so it was forced out and over the eastern bank, and for several hours a good sized river rushed over our orchards and fields which lie below the town. Green cottonwood logs sixty to eighty feet long and one to two feet in diameter were left in great piles upon our lands, besides vast amount of sand, mud and roots, leaving upon some of our gardens and orchards two and three feet of this debris.

Some few of our orchards seems to have been injured, as some of the peach trees have died—too much water, mud and sand has seemed to have smothered the trees. I have not heard of any apple trees being damaged.

There has been a small stream of good, clear, sweet water running down Cottonwood Wash ever since that great flood, and should it continue permanent it can be made a great blessing to Bluff, for it can be utilized for irrigation at much less cost than our present ditch, which depends on the river for water, and at an enormous expense every year. The September flood destroyed much of our ditch, filling it plum full of mud and breaking it in many places. But our good, old Bishop, Jens Nielson, who is full of faith in Bluff rallied the brethren and went to work about a month ago, and now has the ditch about ready for use; estimated cost about \$4,000.

We are somewhat in fear of high water as the weather gets warmer, for there was never known so much snow accumulated on the mountains, from which come the streams that feed the San Juan river.

Our cattle and sheep interest is looking up. Stock has wintered well. There is a good demand for cattle, and at fair prices; and since McKinley is elected, of course we expect sheep and wool to boom, boom.

Our mining prospects are considered good. Some quite heavy companies are operating in the placer, gold mines, located in a number of places all the way from a few miles below Bluff down to the junction of San Juan with the Colorado river. Some heavy machinery has been shipped down to mines located at Gable camp, and more is expected.

Quite a boom is expected when the snow recedes from the Blue mountains. Prospecting will be pushed in all that region as never before. Some very rich leads have been located there, and it is the opinion of some old expert miners that a second Colorado Creek, or Cripple Creek will be

developed and located in the Blue mountains.

Some of our people are talking of going into the dairy business and others are laying out big garden or truck patches, to be ready to supply the miner with good fresh butter and cheese and all the garden "essence" and vegetables he may want. I know of no country where finer cheese and sweeter butter can be produced than about those same Blue mountains. The same can be said in regard to vegetables—as good as can be raised in the temperate climate any where, can be raised in those rich little valleys found on all sides of those mountains.

Educational matters are improving. Our district schools has been ably and successfully taught the past winter. The eighth grade or grammar department by Miss W. Lea Wright, a charming young lady, polished in manners and education, who taught a government school in New Zealand six years, where she received the Gospel and with it the spirit of gathering to Zion, where she arrived a little over a year ago. Our primary grade also has been very successfully taught by Miss Lettie Stephens, a Bluff raised girl—home production, spent two or three terms at the Brigham Young academy, Provo, and seems to be blessed with a nappy tact or gift in teaching and engaging the attention and interest of the little ones. I should say that Miss Wright also attended the Brigham Young academy, and came to us well recommended by the very able teacher and professor George H. Brimhall. The Brigham Young academy is doing a great work in preparing our own boys and girls for teachers. There is no more honorable profession on earth. May it continue to prosper and fill its noble mission in teaching the sons and daughters of Zion, not only the knowledge and science of the world, but in addition to all that teach them and train them in the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a true knowledge of which is the foundation of all truth.

Our Sabbath schools, Primary associations, Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations, together with that old stand by, always to be depended upon, the Relief Society, are all in good health condition and marked improvement is being made. The young men have done better this winter than formerly; the girls have done well all the time. Our Sabbath school is most popular and is doing a vast amount of good among, not only the children, but its influence is felt throughout the Stake and wards. The Juvenile Instructor is always a potent factor for good, not only in its special field among the young, but also its power and influence is felt in every field and department wherever I travel and labor, no doctrine and principle. It is often quoted by the laboring Priesthood. I have had a saying for many years, that in my travels wherever I find the DESERET NEWS and the Juvenile Instructor in the family and subscription paid up and the papers well read, there we will almost inevitably find good, live, progressive Latter-day Saints, walking uprightly before the Lord, giving no trouble to Bishops, Teach-

ers, High Councils, keeping the "eleventh commandment" by minding their own business.

We have noticed a very great increase in interest and attendance at our Fast meetings since the day was changed for holding it from Thursday to Sunday. The meetings have seemed to me more like the testimony meetings I used to attend when we first settled in these mountains, fifty years ago, and so it has ever been; in all the changes, counsels or advice that God has given His people through His duly appointed Priesthood, it has always been for the good and prosperity of His Saints, as well in all temporal matters as in spiritual matters. This has been and is now my experience and testimony.

We had a glorious time in commemorating President Woodruff's birthday. He is beloved by all the Saints, both old and young; also by our Gentile brethren. I travel about a good deal and mix in the society of the world, but I never heard an unkind word come out of the mouth of any mortal towards President Woodruff. He is looked upon as a man without guile. May he live to see the Church that he loves so well and that he has labored so long and faithfully to establish, established in Zion and become the head thereof.

On account of the road between here and Moab being blockaded with snow we were not able to get up to attend our late annual conference. I have had the privilege of attending a great many conferences since the Church came into the mountains, and I feel when not able to attend that I am a loser. I am very much pleased in what has come to us of the reports made at the conference. The reports from all the missionary fields are most encouraging. The field has never been opened so widely for our Elders to obtain a hearing since I have known the Gospel. The Lord can work and none can hinder.

F. A. HAMMOND.

UP IN CASH VALLEY.

HYRUM, Cache County,

April 19th, 1897.

If a magician had waved his magic wand over beautiful Cache valley no greater change could have taken place than has done since the first week in April.

On the second of the month we left for conference. There was between a foot and eighteen inches of snow. On my lawn the beautiful held me up in walking over it at any time of the day. Only in the traveled roads was to be found bare ground, and that was mud, and Oh, so very deep and very soft, and it stormed for many days after. But on our return on the 15th we found the snow had gone, the roads were dry and dusty, and beautiful spring had suddenly sprung upon us. The change was very rapid but none the less welcome.

Our strangers were blue and downhearted at the length of winter, but now they are all smiles and are rolling up their sleeves and are going to put in grain by the thousands of acres. Although it is late, large crops will be raised, as the land was never in a better condition. The old settlers