

## Correspondence.

S. L. CITY, Jan 30, 1871.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Sir: Having seen some remarks in the News of the 23d inst., elicited by an article in the *Omaha Herald*, originating in a letter from Dr. Latham, I beg leave to present a few of my ideas on this subject, which with all deference to your stated opinion and a just appreciation of your views in relation to all matters wherein the interests of the Territory are concerned, I most respectfully beg to differ; my views being in accord with those, so far as expressed, of the *Omaha Herald*, and its correspondent.

That we have almost insuperable obstacles to contend with in the ruggedness of our cañons and mountains, and in the extreme altitude of our timber, is perfectly true; but with some slight exceptions, "that it is," as stated, "generally of a quality inferior to that manufactured at, and imported from the West," or, "that it is impossible to supply either the home or outside market with lumber at anything like the price for which it can be imported, from other places on the line of railroad," will admit of very serious doubt. That a very good quality of clear lumber is imported from the Truckee, is readily conceded; but that it is better than our clear white pine, would be strongly objected to by our carpenters and other mechanics who use it. In a late conversation with a gentleman from Ogden he informed me that the carpenters of that district preferred the white pine manufactured near there by our own people to the Truckee lumber, and that a great many thousand feet were purchased by the Co-operative of this city last Fall, for the manufacture of trunks, of as good a quality and cheaper than the same quality could have been obtained from the Truckee. One of our most respectable carpenters informs me for thirty per cent. less. There is a large amount of white pine in the Cottonwoods, also north-east of Ogden and in Provo valley and contiguous thereto, of as good a quality as can be obtained from Truckee or any other country. In the two latter places it is expensive hauling; but is nevertheless sold very much cheaper than the Truckee lumber of the same quality.

In regard to the common lumber of the Truckee it is altogether of a worse quality and inferior in every respect, to the common lumber of this country; our red pine and black balsam being a much stronger and better timber for fencing rails, scantling for buildings, joists, rafters, studding and all purposes where strength and capacity to hold nails is required, than any of the soft woods that come from Truckee, or than our own white pine, and so far as I am concerned I would rather pay a reasonable price for our hard wood, where it is required to hold nails, than have either our own white pine, or Truckee lumber for nothing.

The Truckee lumber is especially objectionable, for most of the above named purposes, on account of its extreme softness. It must be confessed that we are a little more slovenly in our lumbers, than those who make it a specialty. If our lumbermen would be a little more particular in squaring the ends of the logs, and in selecting the different kinds and qualities, and placing each kind by itself, their lumber would be much more sightly and marketable.

In regard to the quantity, we are told that "hundreds of thousands are being imported from Truckee." But what of our own? We have a large number of steam saw mills, north, south, east and west, besides a great number of water mills. Many of these mills make from half a million to a million feet in the year, and I presume there is in the hands of three or four parties in this city and vicinage, no less than three or four millions of feet of lumber for sale at the present time. The few thousands imported could hardly stand against this amount, and it hardly seems proper to complain of quantity when these large amounts are unsold.

In regard to price there is evidently a great mistake; if we are to judge by the prices that have been published, the Utah lumber is the cheapest. There is one thing that militates very much against our lumber trade here, which is our old foggy and pernicious system of having two prices for our lumber, a trade and a cash price, and it is time for this to be done away; for, the trade price is only a fiction, and while it answers the purposes of the shrewd, keen and calculating, it is proportionately injurious to the careless, unwary, thoughtless and confiding. If we must have trade, and perhaps we need more

or less of it, let us have it on a cash basis, and then business will be equal to all. Many of our lumbermen, loggers, sawers, &c., have in the past been accustomed to high prices for labor; but then, that was at a time when provisions and merchandise were at least double the price that they are now; and three dollars per hundred is just as much now, as six was eighteen months or two years ago, and will purchase as much. But we are told that some parties charge much more than the Truckee lumber can be bought for; this is a mistake, it is simply a trade price, and not cash; and while some parties may manufacture their lumber at trade or fictitious prices and sell it on the same terms, receiving chips and whetstones, corncocks and broomhandles for their pay, it would be scarcely fair to place them on the same footing, or, to expect them to sell at the same prices as those who sell for cash. The above remarks as to price are applicable to cash transactions alone, or trade on a cash basis.

In regard to the policy of importing lumber, or anything else that can be manufactured here as cheap as it can be imported, I am sure I need not argue with you the principle; among intelligent men it does not admit of any argument. Dr. Latham's remarks on this subject are very correct.

President Young has indeed "been far seeing" on this subject. He introduced the first woolen and cotton manufactories, and when we had no cotton, planted a colony to raise it; he introduced a pail factory, a button factory and started the culture and manufacture of silk. He imported a paper mill, and organized a co-operative wagon and carriage manufactory, and was the principal in making the first railroad and running the first trains in Utah, apart from the Pacific R. R. He also introduced the first steam saw mills into this Territory; and has himself manufactured millions of feet of lumber; and whilst he would cherish a liberal feeling to all, his motto and mine, and yours, is the protection of home industries, the encouragement of home manufactures, and as far as practicable, the doing of our own business. There is the California redwood, there is also oak, ash, hickory and other valuable woods, that might be required for use, or ornament, that ought to be imported; but no lover of Utah could, knowingly, foster the introduction or importation of any article when as good, or superior, could be manufactured here, at the same price, and for less money.

Respectfully, &c.,  
JOHN TAYLOR.

LEVAN, Jan. 31, 1871.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Brother:—Our meetings are well attended and the Saints of Levan are enjoying the spirit of the times. Last night we received some valuable instructions from Elders E. Stevenson and N. Porter, and your agent gave us a call, on his way south, addressing us, to our edification.

We have good day and evening schools, taught by Brother Robert H. Hill, a music class by Bro. John W. Shepherd, and a dancing school by Brother Isaac Pierce.

The Levan Farmers' and Gardeners' Club is alive and doing good, and our Dramatic Association has some pieces in preparation for early presentation.

Our co-operative store is progressing, and our President, Elder S. Pitchforth, is encouraging the organization of co-operative farming and stock raising companies.

Our Sunday school is a live institution, in charge of Elder E. Lambert; near a hundred smiling faces respond cheerfully every Sunday morning to the call of our bell. By the bye, Mr. Editor, who would be without a bell, when one weighing one hundred pounds can be delivered in Salt Lake City for the small sum of twenty dollars. We can hear ours all over the settlement.

Bro. E. Taylor has built a good brick house, and the settlement is fast building up.

Yours truly,  
A LEVANTET.

GRANTSVILLE, Jan. 30th, 1870.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Brother: It is something rather unusual for you to receive any communication from this place, therefore, thinking that a few lines would not be amiss, I venture!

The Saints in Grantsville, almost to a unit, are striving to live their religion, by carrying out the instructions they receive from those, whom God has appointed. Apostasy is not known in this place. A school of the prophets has been organized in our midst, much to the satisfaction of the brethren.

Grasshopper's eggs have not been deposited here; there is also a fine prospect for plenty of water, the coming season, the snow having fallen in abundance in the mountains. Your paper comes to hand regularly and is eagerly expected.

I must not omit to mention our theatre, it is finely conducted and some excellent performances are given in it. Last Saturday night, "Ingomar" was well rendered.

Your Brother in the Truth,

W. R. JUDD.

FRANKLIN, CACHE CO.,

Jan. 29, 1871.

*Editor Deseret News:*—From this cheerful little town I write to say I miss the EVENING NEWS. Salt Lake spoils us. We get so used to morning and evening papers that when we get away and only a semi weekly mail, why sir *annui*, the blues, etc., seize you, especially when you can almost hear the scream of the iron horse snorting regularly every day, and only a semi-weekly mail for this great county, it is dreadful!

I attended a most excellent meeting on Saturday, and regretted the absence of my old acquaintance President Maughan. The energy of this man is great for the people's good. The beautiful location of the park bespeaks this, and I thought where was ours in Salt Lake City. Something whispers now is the time to locate one on the other side of Jordan. Pres't. Maughan's new mansion bespeaks good taste.

This town of Franklin got its name I suppose from being near the North Pole when Sir John perished, else otherwise, from the presence of a large mound, isolated as it were, it might have appropriately been termed Mound City. Bro. Lorenzo Hatch presides here, conspicuous for the good of all in his pastoral; there is a very fatherly feeling here; good school houses and school teacher. There seems a tranquillity up here; the upheavings of men's spleen, rulings and decisions do not disturb the tenor of the people's ways; you would scarce think anything existed of a semi-sensational character. They seem to think and act as though they had a fixed purpose to accomplish, viz: the divinity of Joseph Smith's mission. There are perhaps six persons to be found in this valley, who doubt it; but what are their antecedents and all thrown in? A pebble thrown into Bear river will make a ripple, but the river flows on, the pebble sinks to the bottom. Alas! and what more?

Here in this high altitude you can get above the fogs and see that the sun shines. You can see the proud strides we are making to our great destiny. You can see the sublimity of our mountain fastnesses till you feel the inspiration of Mrs. Hemans: "for the strength of the hills we thank thee, our God, our country's God." You can see thousands of hardy sons and daughters growing up, not spoiled nor enervated by disease and warmer climates, but reared to toil and endurance, who shall achieve for America one of her chiefest glories—a strong, athletic State in Utah. These are the ones who shall solve the problem of the world,—the monogamic or the polygamic. R.R. and miners' refined civilization may perhaps flood for awhile, inflations, &c., but the sons of Utah will never wholly forget the dear boon of a free regenerative program for poor erring humanity. The mines have broken out here, and I say success attend the development, but in all your gettings, get wisdom. Seize the opportunities the moments bring but never release the greater one for which we were seized of God.

In a few days back again, then I must devour the horde of treasure in your sheet awaiting me in the city. You have my heartiest word and wish for the pioneer sheet.

ITEM.

## MEADOW IRRIGATION

Was known to be beneficial before the Christian era. In a dry, mountainous country like this, probably it is only a question of time, that our streams will be used from head to foot of our valleys to produce grass and grain.

It has been a constant object for our state economy, to concentrate our farming and resources for stock keeping, etc.; and for that purpose, it seems plausible that the streams should be used to make grass and hay fields, where now only brush and weeds grow; and instead of having cattle running at large, and suffering consequent losses, to keep them under our care, at the same time producing the animal manure needed for farm improvements. This great object

of concentrating farming interest is, as mentioned, likely, being only a course of rational development.

But meadow irrigation seems not to be much known, and a brief communication from one who has had twenty years experience might not be amiss.

## WATER AS A FERTILIZER.

Deposits its enriching properties, when, at intervals, it is made slowly and evenly to purr over the ground, in so small a quantity that it neither washes, nor excludes the effect of the air from the ground and grass. Under such treatment water will produce the best quality and the greatest quantity of grass.

## STAGNATION

Is produced, by water, constantly "hanging" in the ground, sometimes by springs, or what we call swamps. To make this kind of land productive, the fermentation must be stopped by drainage, to admit the influence of warmth and air. This is amply

## ILLUSTRATED

In our swampy pastures, which are always too wet, and cannot be dry, before drained; the ground is sour and cold, unable to make good range or produce good hay crops. Such land, by being drained and irrigated, in this climate could produce from 8 to 12 tons of good hay per acre, in three cuts, instead of now only 2 or 3 tons, in one cut, and a poor quality at that.

Some will say, "my meadow is wet enough, and does not need irrigation." This is often a grand mistake. In many instances it is just that kind of wetness that has to be drained out, and then washed out by irrigation, of fresh, gently running water; the cold, sour and swampy nature, opposed to the growth of good nourishing grasses, to be disposed of.

Stagnation of water produces flags, and other low kinds of vegetation. Too much at one part of the season, and too dry at another, produces very little of any kind of grass, as a natural consequence of inconsistency with the laws favorable to grass vegetation. Too much incessantly floating water, produces much, and poor kinds of grasses. Well-drained meadows, where saleratus, alkali, salt and other objectionable minerals are washed out and properly irrigated, produce much nourishing hay.

Dry bench, desert and sterile land is generally warm, and can soon be made productive in grass, by irrigation, (if too much washing can be avoided) by keeping the ground wet, until a sod is formed, and by sowing grass seeds.

It should be remembered, that when first the sod is formed, water is particularly needed only spring and fall; through the summer the meadow is only to be kept moist. On this account, there is a good opportunity for meadow irrigation, as in time of grain irrigation, a limited amount of water is required for the former.

## DITCHES.

In a country where grain-irrigation is common, little need be said, about how to construct and locate ditches, so as to bring the water on and off the meadow; it is sufficient to say that there should not be more than three rods between the immediate horizontal water rills, which should have free outflow, that the meadow may be laid dry when wanted. Ditches should be so constructed that the water will not overflow the meadow, or create stagnation.

## IRRIGATION.

Commence fertilizing irrigation as soon as the last crop of hay is harvested; continue, with intervals of two or four days, until winter gives signs of setting in, then lay the meadow dry.

Spring irrigation commences when it is to be expected that the water will be able to keep the frost off the ground, and start the grass growing. Warm spring days the water is taken off, and put on again at night, for protection against night frost. Continue irrigation in the spring until the grass covers the ground. After this time, water once or twice a week to keep the ground moist, more or less, according to the nature of the grass started.

Before harvesting first crop, lay the meadow dry enough.

After first crop is harvested, in the commencement or middle of June, water with weekly intervals or of two to three days, according to the nature of the meadow. Finish off second crop, as for the first.

For third crop, likewise.

## MANURING.

If the meadow is manured with animal manure, put it on the upper part of the same in the fore part of the winter; and spread it at the same time.

Experience, careful study and observation will, probably, add all further information needed on this subject.

C. A. MADSEN.