

be materially lessened, if not done away with altogether. In this I include the cost of maintaining the penitentiary. By proper management this item of expense can be entirely gotten rid of, and, indeed, as before said, the institution cannot be made to turn a profit to the State.

The grand jury system at this day and time is largely and for ordinary purposes an anachronism. The cost of grand juries and witnesses to appear before them is, under ordinary circumstances, both a useless, expensive and cumbersome luxury, without a corresponding benefit. There may be emergencies where a grand jury is needed, and doubtless such will arise from time to time, but the judge holding the court should be charged with the responsibility of calling one when needed.

Another great saving of expense can be made, if the probate courts of the several counties are given jurisdiction concurrent with justices of the peace of all misdemeanors, with a right to a trial by jury of not exceeding six men. This jurisdiction should be taken entirely from the district courts, except upon appeal, which should be allowed upon questions of law only, which if done will so greatly lessen the work of those courts that I am satisfied, as I have before said, that six district judges can do the work of the State.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN W. JORD,
U. S. Attorney for Utah.

FESTIVITIES IN BEAR LAKE.

GARDEN CITY, Rich county, Utah. —The weather is again extremely cold for this season of the year. Indeed it is fully as cold as it has been any time this winter. At first we all supposed we would have an unusually early spring, as every indication pointed that way. The meadow lark and other birds, as indicators of the arrival of spring, are among us, enlivening us with sweet music, and about a week ago the weather was warm and beautiful; much snow disappeared, and we expected to be able to start plowing by the middle of April. I guess we shall get left on that score.

We have been reading much in the correspondences of various writers from all over the territory, in the columns of the NEWS, about surprise parties, reunions, etc., and I will just say that in the matter of surprise parties Garden City is by no means behind the times. About a week ago the officers and members of the Woman's Relief Society of our ward went and surprised some old people at their homes with victuals, songs, recitations, etc. The winding up scene of these surprises came on Thursday, March 14th, when a day or two before this the officers and members of the Y. L. M. I. A., assisted by the people of the ward as a whole, made up to spring a surprise upon our worthy and respected Bishop, Robert Calder. On Thursday the people in town, finding the Bishop securely taken care of for the day by a friend out of town, lost no time in repairing to the meeting house; they fixed up three long tables, which tables accommodated over 100 persons at one sitting; then the adults and plenty of little children soon arrived and by 4

p.m. the tables fairly groaned under the luxurious and rich eatables. The next was to get a pretext to get the Bishop to come back to town; but this was adroitly managed, and when he entered the meeting house what a sight met his eyes! Over 200 men, women and children awaited him, and as he entered Brother Emil Vaterlaus commenced singing, "Utah and the Mormons," assisted by the vast congregation in the chorus. He also read an address written by him for the occasion. The Bishop could stand it no longer and tears of joy coursed down his cheeks. It was indeed a genuine surprise. In the evening the people of the ward again assembled at the meeting house to participate in the dance, which was interspersed with songs and recitations and an enjoyable time was spent. A good spirit prevailed through the day and in the evening tea and coffee were not indulged in at the supper.

The health of the people is good at present, and if one is to judge of the times by the way the tables were loaded at the Bishop's surprise party, we would say that we have plenty of everything to cause us to enjoy life and rejoice that we are so abundantly blessed of the Lord. Yours truly,

EMIL VATERLAUS,
Ward Historian.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder Brigham M. Blackhurst returned a few days since from a mission to England. He left this city on April 9, 1892, and on his arrival in that land was assigned to labor in the Manchester conference, where he spent the principal part of his time. He reports having enjoyed his labors very much, but is pleased to be home again. The prejudice appears to be gradually disappearing from the minds of the people and a better feeling is being exhibited toward the Elders.

Elders George Irvine Jr. and Ernest A. Griffin returned on Thursday evening from a mission to the Southern States, where they have been for more than two years. Elder Irvine left his home in the Sixth ward of this city, December 10, 1892, and was assigned to perform missionary labor in the South Alabama conference. His travels were in Florida and southern Alabama, and he reports that he got along quite well. He met with kind treatment from the people, made many friends, and found considerable interest in the Gospel.

Elder Griffin departed on his mission October 10, 1892. His home is in Escalante, Garfield county. His field of labor for nearly two and a half years was in the North Carolina conference, where he found the people generally very hospitable. Notwithstanding the indifference to religious matters which is so frequent, he met with many interested investigators of the Gospel truths. His health was good throughout his entire mission, and both he and Elder Irvine return home feeling well in body and spirit.

Elder Arthur Riley, of East Bountiful, who returned home from a mission to Great Britain, called at the NEWS this afternoon. He left home June 14, 1893, going to Liverpool, where he was assigned to the Norwich conference, laboring there until October last, when his field

of labor was in the Nottingham conference. He got along quite well, finding many people interested in the Gospel.

B. H. Hollingworth, of Center ward, this city, returned home Saturday evening from a mission to Australasia. He left this city December 3, 1892, and was assigned to labor in New Zealand. From Auckland he went to the Whangari conference, in the North island, with Elder George Hayes. He labored chiefly among the Maories, though he also held many European meetings. Since July, 1893, he presided over the conference, until his release. During his mission he baptized forty-one natives. His health was good until the last few months. For the past twenty-one months his wife has been quite ill, and is now in a critical condition. This fact was the occasion of Elder Hollingworth's release a few months earlier than is usual for missionaries to Australasia.

Elder Hollingworth reports the mission in excellent condition, there being about sixty Elders in that field, doing effective work. The people generally treat them well. The natives are willing to listen to the preaching of the Gospel, and the Europeans also are manifesting an anxiety to hear it, so the prospects are very good. Elder Hollingworth enjoyed his missionary labors very much. Returning home, he made the voyage on the Arawa, arriving in San Francisco on Thursday. At Samoa there was a heavy wind, so that a very brief stay was made there, all the large vessels at Apia putting to sea to avoid disaster, as the water was very rough.

Elder Ezekiah E. Duffin, of Toquerville, Washington county, arrived in this city on last Saturday evening's train from the Sandwich Islands, where he has been laboring as a missionary for over three years, having left his home on Dec. 1st 1891. During the first year and a half he did not enjoy the best of health, though not being hindered from performing his labors, and since that time his health has been good. The health of the Elders and their families is good, and the work of the Lord there is in a satisfactory condition. Elder Duffin will leave for the south the last of the week.

PRISON CRUELITIES.

Not many months ago the NEWS presented an expose of some of the prison cruelties inflicted in the Salt Lake county jail. The case was investigated by the grand jury, and though the detail of the inquiry was not given to the public, the barbarous practices were put an end to. Recently the dispatches told of a rebellion in the Illinois home for female offenders, causing legislative inquiry into the procedure at the home. There it was developed on Friday last that the most horrible cruelties had been practiced by the officials in charge; atrocious punishments were inflicted, their application being a disgrace to the state of Illinois that such things could go on until the inmates of the home had to resort to a violent outbreak in order to draw public attention to their condition and secure immunity from such barbarism.

Another story of awful cruelty comes