

whose privileges we could not have without a settlement of our people.

We have no saw timber in this valley; have plenty of good fire wood or fence posts on or near the land. The canal has been built and there is plenty of water in the driest season of the year, and the company will give us the use of water free for two years, to keep the assessments up on the water we use, and it may be bought right out cheap and on easy terms. Building lumber costs from \$25 to \$35 per thousand, good horses cost from \$50 to \$100 a head, common horses from \$10 to \$40 a head, cows about \$25 a head. Two crops, a crop of wheat or barley and a crop of corn, may be raised on the same land in one year, and as high as six crops of alfalfa. We have a fair market for all of our produce.

As to the climate, I do not believe that there is any other place in the United States that you can find as many delightful days in a year as we have here. It is true that we have three months of hot weather, but it is not so hot but what we work every day. Farmers do not think of stopping here on account of the hot weather. There is no better poor man's country to be found than we have, and it is very healthy. Hundreds of people come here every year for their health. The Buckeye is within one day's drive of Mesa City, of the Maricopa Stake, a large and prosperous settlement of our people. We have four schools running there. There is government land enough for one hundred families to have from thirty to forty acres each. We do not want any land-grabbers, but want all to have all the land they can use. We will give no assistance to land-grabbers.

Now let me say in conclusion if you have good homes and good health be satisfied to stay with them. But to those who are not so happily situated, here is a good place. We have people from all parts of Utah and Idaho, and they are all satisfied with their homes. Elder Elias S. Kimball of the Southern States mission was here on a visit a short time ago, and he said that this was the finest valley he ever saw in all of his travels.

We have just had a visit from Elders Smith and Grant of the Apostles; and such a spiritual feast it has not been my privilege to enjoy since I have been in the Church. Their words of counsel were timely and their testimonies were given with power. They preached one evening while here in the city of Phoenix, where they had a large congregation, and if their meeting could have been better advertised there would have been no house in Phoenix that would have held the congregation.

I spent all the next day in Phoenix and there was but two expressions, one of regret for not knowing of the meeting, and the other was of pleasure for having heard the Apostles. There seems to be a feeling of perfect peace and good will between us and our neighbors, and a more united people are not to be found than the people are here. We have no schisms to divide us.

Eight of our young men are leaving this week for the Southern States mission, and many others are ready to respond when the call is made.

J. M. COSBY.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder Daniel J. McRae of Granger, this county, called on the News last week and reported his return from the Northern States mission field. Elder McRae left home Aug. 1, 1893, and returned on the 9th of this month. While away he labored in Iowa, where he reports very little enthusiasm for the Gospel. The people, in the main are indifferent, but the Elders, ten in number, are laboring diligently to break down the existing prejudice. Elder McRae was released on account of sickness, but he is now convalescent.

The News received a call last week from Elder P. E. Anderson, of Fountain Green, Sanpete county. Elder Anderson and his wife returned on Tuesday from missionary labors in California. Sister Anderson has been in the Golden state for ten months past. Elder Anderson left on his mission April 13, 1895, and labored in Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, and in Fresno county. He reports that the people treated him with great kindness. There is a general indifference to religious matters, yet the Elders are making excellent progress, find very many friends, and meet with a considerable number of people who are willing to investigate the Gospel message. Generally speaking, the newspapers are unfavorable, but there are some notable instances of fairness and freedom from prejudice. Elder Anderson and wife enjoyed excellent health. They left for home today.

Elder Stephen G. Betsey, of Oldham, England, arrived in Salt Lake last week. He was met here by his wife and children who reached Utah a year ago. Brother Betsey was a local Elder in the Oldham branch of the Manchester conference and was an industrious and faithful worker in the cause of truth. Nine of the thirteen Elders in the Manchester conference are located in the Oldham branch and are meeting with gratifying results. Elder Betsey will remain in Salt Lake until after the April conference of the Church, after which he will go to Salina, accompanied by his wife, children and father, and make that his home.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

ATHENS, March 24.—A dispatch from Canea says the insurgent commander in chief at Akrotiri this morning referred the proposal of the powers to grant autonomy to Crete to the various leaders of the insurgent forces who had assembled. The Cretan leaders unanimously declared that only two issues are possible—the annexation of Crete to Greece or a war until death ends the struggle for union.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 24.—A special Irade was issued by the sultan this morning calling out for executive service forty-four battalions of the Fourth army corps and also summoning to the colors the whole contingent of 1897.

RUSHVILLE, Ind., March 24.—The village of Moscow is excited over a phenomenon in the shape of an underground stream of unknown size and depth. After the recent flood a pecu-

liar looking pool was discovered in the yard of William Barlow. Attention was attracted to the pool by its boiling motion and subdued sounds issuing from its depths. Barlow tested its depths with a heavy cord and found the hole but an opening to a subterranean river, fiercely dashing along in its course fifty feet underneath the surface of the earth.

Since the discovery the surface opening has gradually widened until now it threatens to engulf the Barlow premises. At first scarcely any audible noise was made by the subterranean stream, but it has now developed into a roar that can be heard in any part of the village.

The people of the village believe their homes are built upon the top of the "lost river," which has proven a mystery to the residents of Indiana since the settlement of the state.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—The Chronicle says:

A great railroad deal, the accomplishment of which is near at hand, implies a revolution in transcontinental relations and the operating of the west coast trade of Mexico to California in general and to San Francisco in particular.

The parties to the arrangement are the Southern Pacific company and the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe, and the deal contemplated is the exchange in ownership of two long and important stretches of road. By its consummation the Southern Pacific will enter into possession of a direct route to the City of Guaymas on the gulf of California, while the great eastern organization will be able to reach the Pacific seaboard over a line wholly independent of the Southern Pacific and owned wholly by itself.

The scheme includes the exchange, pure and simple, of the Mojave division of the Southern Pacific from Mojave to the Needles for the New Mexico and Arizona railroad and the Sonora railway, at present owned and operated by the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe. By this means the last named road will be able by its Atlantic and Pacific and Southern California to run its cars direct over its own tracks into San Diego and Los Angeles and will be in a position to make connections when the opportune moment arises, with the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley railroad, which is now rapidly building south from Fresno toward Bakersfield.

On the other hand, the Southern Pacific will make connections at Benson, Ariz., with the New Mexico and Arizona railroad to Nogales and from that point by the Sonora railway to the City of Guaymas.

ATHENS, March 23.—The ambassadors have formally notified the Greek government of the intention of the powers to land troops on the island of Crete to relieve the detachments of marines now on duty ashore. The Porte has raised no objections up to the present time, believing the next move of the foreign fleet will be to carry out the threat of the powers to blockade the principal ports and coast of Greece. On this question, however, there is no unanimity of opinion.

In the meanwhile the war preparations of Greece are continuing night and day, and there are no indications of a back-down in that quarter. Money