

constructed 40 feet in width on the bottom, is 22 feet deep and carries a volume of 50,000 miner's inches of water. It gradually decreases in depth until it reaches the old Montezuma canal, two miles from the head. From this point the canal extends five and one half miles at the end of which the division gates are situated. Here the water is turned into three other channels or ditches. The eastern branch passes through the magnificent mesa lands a distance of twenty miles, and carries a volume of 15,000 miner's inches. The western branch connects with the Tempe and Utah canals, which it supplies with water. Its capacity is 20,000 miner's inches.

The land slopes just enough to get a good flow. While riding over the country I have seen the ditches on one side running east and on the opposite side of the road I have seen the water run west and still the third ditch run south. To see the water pass on in different courses was rather novel. A miner's inch of water, that is a continual flow of one inch through an inch orifice under a four inch pressure for twenty-four hours, will give about 13,500 gallons. A continual flow of one inch of water in Arizona, irrigates from three to four acres of alfalfa and from five to ten acres in fruits and vines.

There are, in addition to these canals or distributing ditches, fully 100 miles of main laterals, and 150 miles of dependent laterals, that is to say, sub-canals, running upon section or quarter section lines. The fall of the stream is about four feet to the mile; affording a perfect system of distribution. The water passes through some of the very best fruit growing soil, and when the railroad opens up to Utah the oranges, lemons, pomegranates, prunes, figs, grapes, almonds, peaches etc, can be put into the Utah market three weeks earlier than from California.

The beauty of this water system, is worthy of a day's ride. Viewing field on field with evergreens, and the 1,200 Mormon Indians sowing their wheat in January, some of which is already up several inches high, was quite an experience to me. I held meeting with the Indians, through an Indian interpreter, and viewed their fields well cultivated. These Indians work together in gangs, putting in their neighbor's wheat, and have a feast; and so continue their work until every neighbor has his grain in, without reference to large or small fields—widows as well. They have a jolly time of sowing and feasting. I am told they do their harvesting the same. The Indians are very peaceful and industrious.

A few words more about the dam and gates of this great scheme. The river at this point is 1,385 feet from bank to bank. It is held within an unchangeable bed of solid rock, and its fall is from six to eight feet to the mile. The pressure which the masonry and gates have to withstand is at least 6,000,000 pounds.

Mesa City is 1,300 feet above sea level. Its mean temperature is about sixty degrees, and its humidity just sufficient to counteract the sense of oppression to respiration. Its proximity to the great mountains of the western ranges is an assurance of the wholesomeness of the air, and its balmy semi-tropical sunshine is inimical to the sudden chills and heavy frosts. I hear of some complaints of summer heat, and I must confess, that

I should feel greatly blessed to winter here, and summer in the more northern climes. But hear what those of experience say about it: "The climate of the Salt River valley is uniformly mild, health-giving and delightful. In fact, it is a perfect sanitarium for all diseases of the throat and lungs. In the valley of Salt River a laborer may work every day in the year, and every hour of the day; and this, under a cloudless sky, in a pure and dry atmosphere, and amid the delicious fragrance of a semi-tropical vegetation. Here there is very little frost, no snow, and even in the winter time, but light rains. It is rare indeed to see the thermometer go below thirty-two degrees fahrenheit. The summer temperature fluctuates between 75 and 102 degrees, and occasionally reaches 110 degrees. The nights, however, are almost invariably pleasant on account of there being no humidity in the atmosphere; 110 degrees would not be felt as much as 90 degrees in any of the Eastern states. The average rainfall is almost six and thirty-seven one hundredth inches."

It will be seen that the average winter temperature of Mesa City or surroundings is almost the same as that of Florida, three degrees higher than that of Los Angeles, two degrees higher than that of San Diego, and four degrees higher than that of Riverside, California. The average annual temperature is seven degrees higher than the famous orange district of Riverside. This is sufficient to explain the fact that the citrus and other fruits of the Salt River valley ripen from three to six weeks earlier than at Riverside, or any other point in Southern California.

Does not this statement suggest to the mind of the reader a magnificent opportunity for successful agricultural and horticultural enterprise, considered from the standpoint of its monetary results? The utter absence of the necessity for huge barns for the housing of stock. Booths for shade are easily grown; stick a cottonwood sprout in the ground and in a very short time you have a tree. With the contemplated railway to Salt Lake City, a small plot of ground in choice fruits, would secure a living for a family, as fruit could be sent so early into market.

"It is a goodly sight, to see what heaven hath done for this delightful land." I would advise the boys who might chauce to wish to go to Salt River to sell their hand sleds.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

SANPETE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Sanpete Stake convened in the Ephraim meeting house on the 15th day of February 1896 at 10 a.m., Elder Canute Peterson presiding. There were present of the Apostles, F. M. Lyman and John W. Taylor; of the Council of the Seventies, Edward Stevenson and J. G. Kimball; the stake presidency, members of the High Council, Bishops of the wards, and a house full to overflowing of Saints.

President Peterson in his report of the stake, said there are no serious difficulties among the Saints, but so far as has come to his knowledge a good degree of peace prevails; the past year had been a prosperous one, the people of Ephraim having raised 116,000 bushels of grain; was well satisfied with his counselors, the High Council and Bishops of wards,

but thought the Teachers could improve and perform more effective labor among the Saints. Elder Edward Stevenson, George H. Brimhall and J. G. Kimball spoke on the duties of the Saints, warning against misrepresenting the authorities of the Church, and of attributing to them acts they had not done.

2 p. m. Elder John B. Maiben presented the general and stake authorities of the Church, all of whom were sustained unanimously. Elder Lyman spoke on the necessity of quiet being maintained by a worshipping assembly, and the necessity of humility; said the Church had passed many vicissitudes and so have many of its individual members, and once in about twenty years or thereabouts some circumstance will arise that shakes us up severely; it seems almost impossible that anything could arise to turn the Saints against the First Presidency and the Apostles; yet men holding the Holy Priesthood have been shaken to the center; if the people of this Stake have none to offer as a sacrifice they are a blest people; spoke of the peril of those who have spoken disrespectfully of the Presidency or the Apostles and tried to bring to open shame the Lord's anointed; politics is of two transient a nature to barter eternal life for; the time is very opportune to sound the warning for the Saints never to allow themselves to speak disrespectfully of God's anointed; this is God's work and He will sustain it; men have predicted the overthrow of the Church, and all manner of direful results; but God has had greater struggles than the present one, for at one time that brilliant light, the Son of the Morning led off one third of the hosts of heaven, through the plausibility of his plan for man's redemption, the speaker advised against building a stake house, as that would locate the conferences in one place; we want the conferences to go round to the people. Elder John W. Taylor bore testimony to what had been said; claimed to know nothing of politics, but saw some men who claimed to have discovered something superior to the Gospel of Christ; look over the list of those who have raised their heel against the Lord's anointed, and witness their fate; the Saints have spent a great amount of means to build a Temple, and many have gone therein and made the most sacred covenants, should they break those covenants it would be better for them that the Temple should have been swept from yonder hill.

At 4 p. m., a special Priesthood meeting was held, Elder Lyman gave instructions in relation to the selecting of missionaries; said that hereafter the calls would be made through the Presidency of the Stake, and they would call on the Bishops of wards, and presidents of quorums; also inquired into the standing of the High Council, Bishops and counselors, presidents of Seventies, presidents of Elders quorums, in relation to their keeping the word of wisdom, which was found to be, with very few exceptions, quite satisfactory.

At 7 p. m., a general Priesthood meeting convened, when a like enquiry was made by Elder Taylor; those who were found delinquent on being admonished, promised to do better, much instruction was given on the duty of sustaining the Priesthood, and the conduct of men was criticized who, holding the Holy Priesthood, were influenced by those who have no interest in common with us.