

amusement hall where dancing and theatricals hold occasional sway during the long winter nights; and on more than one occasion of late, as I can personally testify, it has been the forum from which have emanated modern "phillippics" of the western variety on the question of party politics. The building is of wooden logs and is not very capacious or elegant, but it has been found equal to the demands upon it up to date; next year the town, if all goes right, will have a more portentious structure of brick, the stone foundation for which is already laid fronting the building spoken of. Bishop John E. Pincock lives more than a mile from this central point, but is always on hand when wanted, and looks after the people's welfare as a practical business man of correct principles and upright habits only can. He is the Democratic candidate for probate judge, and it is only fair to say that his popularity does not begin nor end with his own party.

Several miles east of here are the Teton peaks, the most needle-like and towering eminences in this part of the world. The height of the principal one, which looks down upon its lofty associates, themselves in bold relief against the eastern sky, on either side from a sharp-pointed summit a thousand feet or more nearer the cerulean dome than theirs are, has never been scaled and never will be until mother earth has another general convulsion and the physical aspects of her countenance hereabout undergo a marked and wonderful change. They are the objects first noted on entering this great valley and are really the most unique and majestic amid all the attractive developments wrought by the hap-hazard hand of nature. They seem at a great distance somewhat like the fingers of a Titanic hand with the index pointing to immortality. By a mental process known chiefly to poets and politicians one might fancy that upon them was inscribed in bold characters the classic legend, *sic itur ad astra*—it would be so fitting, you know, in a place where misfits and general irregularity prevail. These "fingers" look (if fingers can be said to look) down upon the Yellowstone National Park on the northeast and if they could only be swung off their base and placed horizontally might constitute a guide board to the great reservation whose fitness and appropriateness to surroundings would be recognized by those who have only common everyday vitality in their systems as well as those whose immortal part is tinged with the golden hues of poetry.

Several miles westward from Teton peaks and the mountain range of which they form a part is an independent spur of pigmy mountains running nearly parallel with the others for a considerable distance, and between the ranges is what is called Teton basin, a tolerably populous and agriculturally productive strip of the public domain. It snows there earlier than elsewhere in Snake river valley and the snow falls deeper and stays longer. The mountains to the east abound with elk and these rapidly diminishing creatures late in the fall are driven out of their fastnesses by the great depths of snow which cut off their food supply altogether. They

are thus forced into the haunts of civilization and all winter long, like the poor politician who hangs on to his party in spite of ill usage and continued disappointment, live on such stray morsels as drift outside the corrals where the more favored are feeding. They are too poor to kill and the laws of the state do not permit any one to place them in durance vile for fattening or any other purpose; so the people have a perpetual zoological exhibit free of charge, albeit a most pathetic one. The elk, like the buffalo, will soon exist only as a memory of the frontier except in very rare cases and unusual places; and yet the former when driven by necessity will seek the haunts of his hereditary enemy—his destroyer—for the surcease of sorrow which that destroyer alone can give, and gives it only with the hope that later on he may have an opportunity to take the life he saves, but in another way. This again reminds one of Burns's lines on seeing a wounded hare limping away to hoped-for security from the hunter who had maimed it—but let that pass.

The majority of tourists to the national park pass through this country; and this gives rise to the suggestion that a railway connecting with the Union Pacific at Market Lake would be a fine thing for its proprietors and the traveling public also. It would be amply supported by the people of a steadily growing, agricultural and stock raising district second in productiveness to none, and during the summer season would be thronged with passenger traffic. It is only about 80 miles between the points named, and the country is measurably level and easy to work through. A great deal of the stock in such an enterprise would be taken by the people of the county and everything made as easy as possible. Herein is a suggestion worthy the attention of capitalists and men of enterprise generally; perhaps the U. P. itself might be induced to give the subject consideration. It is welcome to the idea and all the results that may flow from action thereon, which would surely be considerable, and the company need not pay me a cent for having "put them on." I am too busy otherwise to take hold of the scheme myself, and cheerfully leave the field open to others.

They are still taking gold from the sands and trout from the waters of Snake river hereabout. One pound of that which has been spoken of as being more powerful than the sun and more creative than genius was recently secured as the result of a brief run by one primitive machine two miles from where I shook up the sheep men for their (alleged) selfishness and grasping disposition last night—Lyman. This reminds me that those who are unloading so severely on the Populists because of the latter's weakness for fiat money, ought to have been in Rexburg a short time ago and seen the wife of a man who is engaged in gold mining trying in vain to exchange nuggets for goods. She had that which with the government stamp—or fiat—on it is pronounced good money by all and the only money by not a few; it has been the cause of more crime, misery, corruption, war, oppression, villainy and trickery than all the other agencies of Satan

combined—and yet was not in this instance powerful enough to obtain for its owner a few articles of ordinary merchandise, because the fiat was wanting! Having done something by way of suggestion for the railroads, the foregoing is respectfully tendered the financiers for their thoughtful consideration. As for the trout—well, I have caught quite a number and only paid ten cents a pound for them. Earlier in the season a man at Lewisville (twenty miles west of here) caught one that weighed twenty-seven pounds avertedopis, and at another time one that scaled ten pounds less. As several of his neighbors bear witness to this, perhaps it will have to be recorded; but it is an awful strain on one who alloys his greenness with a certain quantity of incredulity. K.

SOUTHERN ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

WESTVILLE, Florida, Oct. 15, 1894. —This is one of the most prosperous conferences in the mission, and at present embraces the southern half of Alabama and the whole state of tropical Florida.

At 10:30 a. m., Saturday, Oct. 13th, conference convened, with Elder Elias S. Kimball presiding, and the following Elders present: W. O. Ridges, presiding Elder; Geo. W. Rodgers, Geo. Irvine, Jr., David Farr, Chariton Seegmiller, G. V. Nelson, O. A. Williams, R. F. Allen, Ephraim Yates, Edward Newton, and A. T. Allen. Prior to this time, however, a beautiful spot carpeted with grass and shaded with high towering pines had been designated as the place where the servants of God would preach the truth, as did Paul and Peter of old. Here amid the glowing beauties of nature, where flowers bloom in rich profusion from spring to spring, was erected a commodious arbor fully capacitated to seat 200 people or more. The people came from far and near to hear the inspiring truths of the Bible expounded in plain and simple language; (it is not an unusual thing to see these people yoke up the oxen, put the whole family upon a queer looking wagon with a low bed, and go from 1 to 12 miles to preaching).

Conference consisted of four meetings held at the arbor, at which fairly good audiences were present and were addressed by the above named speakers, upon whom the spirit and power of the Gospel seemed to rest in great abundance. The singing, accompanied by an organ which was furnished for the occasion by Mr. N. B. O. Donoho, a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was enjoyed equally as much as the preaching. The editor of the county paper, Mr. W. D. William, proposed to publish free an account of the time and place at which conference would be held.

On the first day of meeting the speakers and those in attendance were sumptuously dined by those living in the immediate vicinity. The program for Sunday noon, the last day of conference, however, was materially changed and at the close of the forenoon services could be seen the hospitable and generous friends and visitors spreading tables with luxuriant bounties which only lands of flowers can afford. Do not suppose that we subsisted only upon