

All we want is the offices." As regards the Mormon settlements in Mexico, they are simply and solely the result of the overflow of an industrious and energetic population. Instead of flocking into the cities of Utah and filling them with idlers, paupers and criminals, the surplus Mormon population, under the direction of enterprising leaders, moves on into new agricultural territory and repeats the wise and commendable system they have for so many years followed in Utah, and of which I spoke in my letter to the *Times* a few weeks ago. They dig irrigating ditches, cultivate the fields, plant fruits and crops, change the barren and waste places into gardens of unsurpassed fertility, and become the pioneers of civilization.

MORMON THRIFT AND ENERGY.

Five years ago the Mexican government granted a valuable concession to parties who purposed settling the fertile valleys in the States of Sonora and Chihuahua and building a railroad. Until this concession fell into the hands of the Mormons it was void of result. About a year ago this occurred. Mark the change. A dispatch noting the result says:

"Here the Mormons have already accomplished much by their thrift and energy. They have neat and comfortable adobe houses, windmills for raising water, both for consumption and irrigation, well-filled barns and corn cribs, and thriving vineyards and orchards. In the background well-cultivated fields stretch far out over the landscape, in most graceful contrast to the tiresome mesquite and chaparral which but a short time since covered the mesa. In place of the barren, treeless plains, are now seen thousands of acres under cultivation, hundreds of comfortable homes and a few school-houses. The Mormons are doing at Diaz, what they accomplished at Salt Lake, transferring the wilderness into a garden.

"They have graded seventy miles of railroad, which is now ready for ties, and on the first day of July were to begin a fifty-mile section of the road from Deming, New Mexico, which will pass through a country of rich and varied resources. From Deming this road will run south to the Casas Grandes river, crossing the Mexican line, thirty-five miles from Deming. The road will then follow the Casas Grandes valley west through the Boca Grand track of forty miles of fertile soil."

TO PLANT FOUR COLONIES.

Here John W. Young, a son of the Mormon leader who founded Utah, will plant four colonies. The most important of these will be at Diaz, situated in a vast plain of rich, deep soil, watered by the Casas Grandes river and several large springs rising in the hills to the west. This plain is especially adapted to growing grain and fruit and raising cattle. Water rights bring \$75 to water twenty acres of land, and real estate now ranges from fifty cents to \$5 per acre. South of Diaz the road will pass through a country of deep alluvial soil, which cannot be surpassed even by the famous valley of the Nile. The concession covered 2,500,000 acres of land, all of which has passed under Mormon control. To encourage settlements along its frontier Mexico has set off a strip of country called the

"free zone." Anything manufactured therein may be imported into Mexico free, and anything bonded through the United States for three per cent. of the regular Mexican duty. The mercantile and manufacturing value of these privileges are abundantly appreciated and will be made the most of by the colonists.

MINERAL RICHES.

Just south of Diaz are many old abandoned Mexican mines, all of which are included in the concession. Low grade ores in great quantity are piled up on the dumps of these deserted mines, and there is abundance of high-grade ore in the old workings. It is said that "an exact calculation has demonstrated that one of the old Corralitos mines [in this district] holds on its dumps over 1,000,000 tons of low-grade ore, running in silver from fifteen to fifty-eight and some of it as high as eighty-six ounces per ton, besides lead in varying proportions." This can all be utilized now under new milling processes, and the ground all through the mining district is honeycombed with old abandoned mines holding dumps full of this class of ores.

AN OLD CIVILIZATION.

Corralitos is twenty-seven miles south of Diaz. Dunham, another of the Mormon settlements, is twenty-two miles farther south, in the midst of the former farms of the ancient inhabitants, and five miles north of the old Mexican city of Casas Grandes. The Casas Grandes valley is replete with relics of a prehistoric civilization which dwelt along the streams of Mexico, Arizona and New Mexico, and of which the first modern records date from the journeys of Cabeza de Vaca in 1540. Even at that date the Indians then peopling the valleys had no knowledge of the history or origin of the people who had built the huge Casas Grandes, the exterior walls of some of which then extended north and south 420 feet, and from east to west 260. About these ruins are found to this day stone hammers and axes, bone awls and other implements, traces of irrigating canals, broken pottery and earthen jars. Vain to question "Who were the people who built the imposing structures, dug the immense canals, and redeemed from the desert such vast stretches of land? Did war, pestilence, famine or some mighty convulsion of nature destroy them? Nothing is left to tell the story of their existence, their customs or their beliefs." But the Mormons, in industry and in the science of agriculture through means of artificial irrigation, are their worthy successors.

PRE-HISTORIC PEOPLE.

And the Book of Mormon, which they devoutly believe to be inspired truth, is the only work which pretends to give any authentic information of the prehistoric people of this continent. Whether it be true or false matters not, as long as it is believed by the Mormons, for it gives them a mass of information which they consider reliable, and which the ruins of the valleys they settle serve but to the more firmly establish, in that there is no other known record of them. A correspondent of the Salt Lake *Herald*, speaking of the Casas Grandes Valley of Mexico, says:

"Traces are yet to be seen thereabouts

of the old reservoirs and canals, probably of the old Toltec civilization. Over against these worthies the present generation have there set themselves down to try the modern with the ancient agriculture. It has been demonstrated that cotton will do well here, and two crops a year of farm products are common. Corn grows here to an extraordinary height, a man on horseback being unable to reach to the top of a stalk of corn as it stands in the field."

THE NEW RAILROAD.

The railroad now being graded will run 300 miles almost directly south of Deming, New Mexico, to Guerrero, whence it will turn westward through the mountains. Juarez and Pacheco, the extreme settlements, are thirty-five to forty miles in the mountains of Chihuahua. At El Valle the low-grade silver ores of Corralitos are duplicated in quantity and quality. Over 100 miles of the distance is covered with dense forests of pine, oak, sycamore, ash and walnut, through which the railroad will pass. At Guerrero, the extreme southern point, the road is to cross the Sierra Madre mountains into the coal fields of the State of Sinaloa, down to the port of Topolobampo on the Gulf of California, where a party of Kansas colonists is located, and thence along the gulf coast northward to Guaymas, where it will connect with the Ferrocarril de Sonora, which is part of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe system, reaching the Southern Pacific road at Benson, 567 miles north of Guaymas. From Guerrero a branch line will be built to Chihuahua, capital of the state of the same name, where the Mexican Central road passes from El Paso to the City of Mexico. In all there will be built by the Mormons 1,500 miles of railroad.

UNLIMITED RESOURCES.

J. Fawson Smith, civil engineer of this road, says: "I tell you in all my labors as civil engineer, I can make no other return on Mexico, so far as I have seen it, than that its resources are unlimited." During a wagon-drive through the valley of Casas Grandes he says he rode through seemingly limitless fields of wild clover and native grasses, so high as to brush the bottom of the wagon-box as he passed. Antelopes around everywhere, wild turkeys seem to fill the bushes, and ducks along the course of the Casas Grandes river number thousands. In the mountains game is abundant; white and black-tailed deer and black, brown and cinnamon bears are numerous. The climate is delightful, and when the settlements number 100,000 thrifty, industrious inhabitants, such as are the Mormons, these peculiar people will again receive the credit they can now claim in Utah, of subduing the wild wastes and changing the desert into a garden.

POLYGAMY IS DEAD.

It may be entirely natural to abuse a people who have been taught to believe if one wife was a good thing to possess, that three wives were three times as good. But the Mormons of today and the future will be permitted no more legal wives than any other class of citizens. Polygamy is dead. Practically it never attained the proportions in Utah that have made it so great a nightmare to eastern people. As Judge