BEN HAGAR ON THE STAND

His Testimony Before the County Court in Regard to the State Bank.

His Services Were Paid for by the County and the Company Each Paying Half.

The State coal investigation was continued this morning, James Hansel and Ben Hagar were the witnesses examined.

It was felt when the court met again, James Hansel, of Bell Canyon, being first placed on the witness stand. He said he was the owner of the land on which the material was dug and I remember the date well. He was acting as Albert Clason's agent. He had sold out his interest to Mr. Clason. He had seen Ben Hagar, Albert Clason and others talking about the contract of the dirt weighing station. He said he was not sure about it. He was not present at most of the talks. Albert Clason told him he was interested in the contract of the work, was not there. He went to the mine with Ben Hagar and Albert Clason and showed Mr. Clason and others the dirt he was willing to sell for the station. This party of 10 did not be present. Where the conference Ben Hagar and Albert Clason gave him the idea that the contract was in his good condition. They stated a bond of $1,000 as a guarantee to the court, which was the reason he gave Albert Clason. He was not present at Judge C. Clason's. He was not left in a condition to sell him, and he said he would buy the dirt. Albert Clason told him the contract was in his name. It was later put on the account of Mr. Hagar.

In response to the usual questions on the Hide road, Hansel said that some work had been done on Wilson's road. Wilson had a lease leading the mineral. He had leased the road for one year and paid rents. Friends paid him. He had no receipts. Rent was $1.00.

Ben Hagar was then sworn. Judge Winder explained that he was not required to answer any questions that would lead to criminate himself, and asked if he was willing to testify, to which he answered that he was.

"Did you ever do any work on the State road?" was asked.

"Yes, sir."

He further stated that he was engaged as foreman and worked south in South South street.

"When you began did there have any work done?"

"One mile of grading had been done, but no measurements."

"What material was used?"

"Gravelly, crumbling or stratified rock."

He further said the first layer was composed of large rock substrata, about 8 to 10 inches deep. The second layer was about 12 inches thick and composed of small rock, two or three inches in size. He was employed to do this work by the county court and W. F. Noble. Mr. Noble first spoke to him two or three weeks before the work commenced. He then said the county court was going to fix the county road, and if this company got the contract he would like him to superviso the work.

He was afterwards engaged by the members of the county court, Mr. Bamberger telling him to go to work. He asked $3 a week for his services, and it was decided that the county should pay him half and the company the other half. He did not remember who informed him of this arrangement.

Witness was shown two payrolls, which he testified that he had signed, and also that they were correct to the best of his knowledge. He swore that any person had been credited with more days than he had worked or more than he had received pay for. Witness had received the warrants and paid the workmen their wages. He had not received any commissions or overcharges on the material, nor of the wages of the men.

Much time was spent in questioning the witness as to his circumstances when commencing work on the State road, and the money he had handled since, and it was shown that he had nothing when starting, but that he had loaned such amounts to a number of individuals, amounting in all to fully $700.

His attention was then called to the testimony given by certain men to the effect that they had not received pay on as many days as was shown by the payrolls, and he was asked if he could offer any explanation. He answered that if he was allowed time to look into the matter and examine the accounts he could.

A recess was then taken until 2:00.

My Trip to Kansas.

PARIS, March 15, 1895.

Editor Deseret News:

Brother W. G. Sears and myself left our mission home February 5th, and after a pleasant journey of two days we arrived at Smith, our field of labor, having been unexpectedly detained three weeks. The Saints were delighted to see us and anxious to know why we were away so long. They said, "What hath caused this Saint that we have the pleasure of your company?" It is almost like home to look with such kind friends who are ever ready to do all in their power to make us happy. We were soon provided with a team of fine warm horses and after admiring the prairies, we spent the remainder of the day and evening with the family. A number of cases have occurred in Nemaha and county seat of our district, due to the cutting and hot weather. We had made an appointment to meet a meeting at Sugar Creek, but found it had to be put off, as they were going to Sabbath, so we decided to go to Nemaha and hold meetings there and at Sugar Creek. We then went to Lincoln, the state capital, and found the Saints there well and in good spirits. We had meetings here and at Sugar Creek. Elders Sears and Hyde came to take me to a place called the Wind mill, to assist in holding a meeting, as the church in Nebraska is three years of age yet. We had meeting when we drove a mile or two before the house, and anything that was made, I proved to be Paul, who said the wind had been caused by the sun we came to be, but rather that as our Father, I know that my prayers had been heard and blessed, and after holding Sunday School, we had a good meeting in the afternoon. We then went to Sugar Creek, where we had a good meeting in the evening. We then went to Nemaha, where we had a good meeting in the evening. We then went to Lincoln, where we had a good meeting in the evening. We then went to Smith