

and I heard a queer story of how the Russians got a big slice of Chinese territory a few years ago. There was a dispute about the boundary line, and the Russians had moved the line down so that it included a vast amount of good Chinese soil. A war was imminent, and the Chinese, as usual, wanted to settle matters by compromise. The Russians consented, and they drew a line on the map showing the territory they wanted. The Chinese threw up their hands in horror, and said they could not possibly allow them so much as that. "All right," said the Russians, "we will take less," and they then showed them another map, which was made on a smaller scale, but in which the amount of territory taken was the same. The Chinese looked at it and did not perceive the cheat. They made a treaty agreeing to this boundary, and that is the boundary between China and Siberia today. The way the Russians work is to colonize the country close to the line of China and gradually move southward. They undoubtedly have their eyes upon Corea, and while they will not probably take the country, they will exercise such an influence over it, that they will be able to get what they want.

WORKING WITH CONVICTS.

A great part of the work on this eastern section of Trans Siberian road has been done by means of convicts, but this has been changed within the past year. The convicts have been shipped off to Saghalin, and the men are now all paid workmen, including a large number of soldiers. I saw them at work, and it looked like a slice out of Russia and reminded me of the work I had seen on the Volga during the great Russian famine. On the way back to Vladivostok I had a much better chance to see something of the country and the railroad. The station at Nikolsk is a long, one-story building made of red brick faced with stone. The engine of our train burned wood, and about the stations there were great wood piles, while the wood was stacked in cords at the back of the engine. We had some fourth-class cars on the way going back. These were even more uncomfortable than the one I have described. There was no chance to lie down in them, and they were filled with peasants and soldiers. The baggage car was in the middle of the train, and I looked in vain for a postal car. Still there was a post office box at each station, and I am told that the postal service is fairly good. I noted some of the gravel cars. Their sides are made so that they can be let down. They are about fifteen feet long, and have four wheels to each car. The road is of the standard Russian gauge. The rails seem to be a little lighter than ours, and the ties are of pine. At every station I found policemen with revolvers on their hips and swords at their sides. Many of the stations are built of logs, and a crowd of Russians in caps, and of Chinese, with pigtailed, stood and gazed at the train as it went by. Just out of Vladivostok the road runs through low hills. It skirts the beautiful bay of Peter the Great, and as you ride along this going from one gulf to another, now rushing through forests and now sailing along the edge of the water, you are reminded of the picturesque lakes of northern Michigan. The road throughout its length will be one of the most picturesque in the world, and it will be a great scenic line. It has now been

built about fifty miles beyond the point where I stopped, and the other portions are going on rapidly. No one really knows just how soon it will be completed, but it will undoubtedly form one of the great elements which are now at work changing the face of Asia and making the celestial world over on the basis of our modern civilization. It is certainly an enterprise which will bear watching, and which is already full of mighty possibilities to not only Russia, but to every civilized nation, and I might say every Asiatic heathen nation on the face of the globe.

Frank G. Carpenter

UNION AT LYMAN WARD.

LOA, Wayne county, Feb. 22.—On Thursday afternoon, February 21st, 1895, a grand union of the Saints of Lyman ward took place at the Relief hall, Lyman, Wayne county, Utah, at 1 o'clock. The children of the ward assembled and enjoyed themselves in the dance until 4 p.m., when the hall was cleared and the tables richly spread with the good things of earth. Upwards of two hundred people, including children, sat down to do justice to the feast provided. After supper the children retired to their homes and the adults enjoyed themselves in the dance until a late hour. The dance was interspersed with speeches, songs and recitations. Among the visitors present were Elders Willie E. Robinson and Hans M. Hansen, of the Stake Presidency, Sister Jane S. Coleman, president of the Relief society, and Hannah Sorensen, instructor of the "women's hygiene physiological reform class," now in session at Loa. One very pleasing feature of the dance was that not a single round dance was indulged in during the night. The party was gotten up under the auspices of the Bishopric and Relief society and was a grand success.

The progress made by the people of this little ward is somewhat remarkable. At the Stake quarterly conference held November 25 and 26, 1893, Elder F. M. Lyman selected a beautiful location for a town and advised and counseled the Saints then living in a scattered condition to gather together and build a town on the spot selected and they should be greatly blessed. Although the people living in this section are very poor, owing to the failure of their crops year after year, yet, encouraged by their faithful and energetic leader, Bishop Peter J. Christensen, they went to work in real good earnest to obey the word of the Lord. The result was that before the close of the year 1894, seven families were comfortably located on the new townsite, in possession of better homes than the ones they left. On February 26, 1894, the foundation for a meeting house was laid; subsequently, June 15, 1894, the foundation of a Relief hall was laid, which has since been completed. The house is a credit to the Wayne Stake. At present ward meetings and all public gatherings convene in this building.

About three-quarters of a mile east of town there is a beautiful spring. Upwards of \$200 in work has

already been done, trying to tunnel the water, it being the aim of the people to pipe it into town. With the natural facilities surrounding the place and a people to utilize them like the ones already referred to, it will be but a few years before this little place will become one of the desirable spots of proud Utah.

J. C.

HEBER CITY ITEMS.

HEBER CITY, Feb. 25, 1895.

It is quite a while since I have seen anything in the News from our isolated region. Well, we have had the coldest month on record up to date; fifteen days out of the first twenty days of this month the mercury was hovering below zero, and two days registered 26 to 30 below, according to different locations in the valley. Snow at that time on a level was 2 feet 6 inches deep. Since the 20th quite a thaw set in, especially the last three days; old Sol and rain are diminishing the snow rapidly.

Theaters, surprise parties and missionary benefits have been all the go for the last two weeks. On the 23rd inst. four missionaries left Salt Lake City for the Southern States, from our county, all Johns by name, and we had three more Johns called to go this spring, making seven Johns all told. We are flush with Johns, you see.

On Washington's Birthday, according to previous appointment by a committee selected for the purpose, a picnic party for the old folks was gotten up in Turner's hall. All over sixty years of age were conveyed thither in sleighs and cutters to the number of 300. The assembly was called to order at 1 p. m. by E. D. Clyde, and Elder A. Hatch gave a welcoming speech to the old folks; songs, recitations, interspersed with music by the brass band, continued until 3 p. m., when all were invited to the supper room, and sat down to two long tables loaded with eatables too numerous to mention. After having filled up to the brim, the party retired to the lower room and went forth in the merry dance until about 6 p. m., when the sleighs were brought around again and took the old folks home. The committee gave a present of a nice rocking chair each to the oldest man and woman present, John Cummings, 92 years old, and Sister Anderson, 89 years old; Robert McNight was 92 last New Year's day and is only 28 days younger than Father Cummings; so the committee presented him with a rocker also. Next in order was a present of a comforter each to the oldest man and woman that arrived as settlers in the valley first; Henry Chatwin, James Carlisle and John Crook arrived in the valley on the 1st of May, 1859. So they cast lots and James Carlisle got the prize; Mrs. J. W. Wint was the lucky lady for the other comforter.

A meeting in the near future is to be called to get an expression of the people with regard to prohibition, whether or not a section shall be inserted in the proposed State Constitution.

I will have to close, or perhaps my letter may become a bore to the readers of the News.

I remain a constant subscriber,
JOHN CROOK.