

SUBJUGATION OF THE DESERTS.

Address of Hon. John Henry Smith of Utah, Delivered Before the National Irrigation Congress at Chicago.

of all kinds, can be grown anywhere in that section of the world, and its people are among the most homogeneous and earnest and devoted laborers that can be found upon the earth—men of all classes, from every nation, and whose hearts are devoted to a happy life and to bettering the conditions of mankind, themselves with the balance.

THE PIONEERS IN UTAH. The early efforts were indeed trying, remember my own experience in connection with this matter. For six mortal years I sought the subjugation of a couple of acres of land. The first year I plowed it and planted it to wheat and it was a complete failure. The second year I plowed it again and put it into oats. It was again a failure. The third year I made an effort to raise Indian corn upon the same two acres; it was again a failure. And thus I continued, alternating in crops, seeking to overcome this piece of soil and make it a part and parcel of the small farm that I was cultivating, until finally the results of effort, the subjugation of the alkali, presented to me one of the most fruitful pieces of ground that can be found in the country, the conditions of the borders of what is known as the Utah lake. Such were the conditions of the struggle in many sections of this land by men who laid the foundation of that system of irrigation, which is so regarded in all parts of the world today.

RAISING FRUIT TREES. Our first efforts in regard to fruit were another evidence of struggle to overcome the conditions, climate conditions and otherwise. I remember as a child, standing by the side of my father, and helping him in the planting of peach trees, having a friend come to him and remark, "Mr. Smith, this is madness upon your part. You will never live to see a peach tree in these parts. The frost are too great, and will destroy them. Your efforts will be fruitless." I remember upon that occasion hearing my father say to me, "I expect to see you eat fruit from these trees, but if I fail myself, my children shall have the opportunity to say that I planned them to secure for them the blessings that they so much need in the line of fruit within these valleys. These trees were frozen down year after year, but finally they acclimated. The results were that from those trees we received a liberal supply of fruit.

NOW A LOVELY HOME. There was a like condition with nearly everything planted upon that soil at that time. It had to be acclimated. Conditions were different or diverse from those where they had been formerly raised, but by continued efforts and struggle the results were that the fruits were raised, as the boy wanders away from his mountain home and travels over the earth visiting other lands and other climes. It turns his face to his mountain home and looks forward with joyous anticipation to a return to its healthful climate, and its grand old mountains, to its peaceful valleys, fruitful in every sense of the word.

AS IT WAS, AND AS IT IS. I remember distinctly Salt Lake valley as it appeared to me in my childhood, as it is now, and it is recognized as Ensign Peak, and looking southward for some twenty-five miles, not a single tree was in sight, either upon the mountain sides or in the valley below, except a few straggling willows along the banks of the Jordan river, along the Cottonwood and other small streams put forth from the mountain side. They had wandered their way to the arid plains. They had their tents within the valley of the Great Salt Lake. They went to and planted the potato. They tried to bring by irrigation to the soil upon which they found themselves, and the results of their efforts were not very successful. The soil was about the size of halibut, that was first planted and irrigated, and it was only about six inches deep. The soil, when the water was turned over it formed in the shape of a brick, and broke in pieces. The struggle commenced from the very first when they reached the valley.

THESE WERE SALT LAKERS. Fellow citizens, there are some strange conditions attendant upon the development of a land such as ours. I remember in my youth, standing by a little rivulet, and watching a contest between two men for the use of the water. One of them was a giant in strength, the other was a man deformed in person. In their contest they were making an effort to secure the water requisite to preserve their little garden crop, and their struggle was somewhat intense, as, if you failed for a day or two to irrigate, the crop withered in the heat of the sun. The larger man was a little inclined to disregard the rights of the weaker man in connection with this matter, and take from the ditch his dam that he had placed there. After a few words of contention and strife in regard to the matter, and being unable to convince the larger man that the right was his, the weaker man said to him, placing himself in the ditch, "You touch my dam if you dare." He sat down in the water and shut it off and turned it into his ditch, while the larger man was compelled to leave him in possession of the ground.

SOME ARID LAND YET. There are many conditions upon which I might speak as bearing upon this question of the subjugation of the desert. Salt Lake today, while possessed of in the neighborhood of 60,000 people, has within its corporate limits pieces of ground wholly arid as yet, of no practical use whatever, except to hold the world together—and it bears witness to the sterility and conditions that existed when these people planted themselves upon that soil. Usually, in the contest between themselves a dozen or fifteen or twenty or thirty men, with their families, entered upon a little stream. They placed a dam in the stream, plowed their little canals and commenced their work of irrigation. Gradually, step by step, they widened their borders until they were enabled to overcome the section lying between their villages and the water in these various counties. As the result of this extension, in a little season they overcame the entire sterile part of the section of the country in which they had located, and today, as you pass across the line from Idaho into Utah, and enter what is known as Cache valley, you find a section of country in a state of complete and perfect cultivation. Passing through the county of Boxelder you find like conditions; further, into Weber county, and the conditions continue the same. Thus through Davis county and Salt Lake county, and Utah county, and then on into what is known as Sanpete county.

THESE WERE SALT LAKERS. Fellow citizens, gentlemen and ladies, the arid region in the desert is being reclaimed, and the waters are reappared, and the climate unimpaired. It has yielded to the blessing of Divine life. The blessing of health has shown upon the faces of the people, and the result of the irrigation, they must acknowledge the blessing of Divine life upon their efforts made to open up the future of that section of the world that were pronounced by great statesmen, without a shadow of a doubt, to be a desirable region.

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ELDER FRANCIS A. HAMMOND, President of San Juan Stake of Zion, who was accidentally killed on November 27, at Bloomfield, New Mexico, in a runaway, while he was engaged in visiting that part of the Stake over which he presided.

place Nov. 21 and the town had surrendered Nov. 24. Gen. Knox at last accounts was pursuing the federal command.

Seventeenth Infantry for Manila. Tien Tsin, Nov. 25.—The Seventeenth Infantry has departed for Tong Ku where it will be embarked for Manila.

To Organize Miners. Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 25.—A movement has been started by the officers of the Pittsburgh district to organize all the miners of the five district organizations of the bituminous fields of Pennsylvania into a single body similar to the state organization in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and other States.

Takes Oath of Office. Opelika, Ala., Nov. 25.—The oath of office as governor of Alabama, was administered to Colonel W. F. Sanford in his study today by his son, who is a notary public. Colonel Sanford was able to sit up this morning and, surrounded only by the members of his family and physicians, he took the oath.

Canadian Troops in London. London, Nov. 25.—A detachment of 200 men belonging to the Royal Canadian regiment, Col. Otter commanding, which has just reached England from South Africa by the Havard Castle arrived in London today and proceeded to Kensington barracks. Since their arrival at Southampton, where they were welcomed by Major General Robert Macgregor Stewart, the Canadians have everywhere been greeted with unanimous applause.

Berryville, W. Va. Mine Disaster. Pittsburg, Nov. 25.—A Morgantown, W. Va. special says: State Mine Inspector James W. Paul of West Virginia says the recent mine disaster at Berryville, in which fourteen lives were lost, was the result of a conspiracy to kill the foreman of the mine. The conspirators, after the lighting of the fuse, stood at the entrance of the mine but the force of the explosion was greater than they expected and they were all killed.

Gen. Knox's Movements. London, Nov. 25.—In connection with the movements of Gen. Knox reported in the dispatch from Capetown, Lord Roberts in a message from Johannesburg dated Wednesday, Nov. 23, says Gen. Knox recaptured Dewetdorp Nov. 25. The Boers, he added, had attacked

the place Nov. 21 and the town had surrendered Nov. 24. Gen. Knox at last accounts was pursuing the federal command.

Lord Roberts also reports that various columns found the Boers holding strong positions in the vicinity of Harrismith, Philippolis (both in the Orange river country) and other widely separated points. The fighting, however, was of little importance.

Scouting parties constantly report sniping along the Pekin road and on remote trails but severe reprisals are lessening it.

Navigation up the river practically has been closed and the remaining supplies are going in wagons to Pekin.

The disaster at Dewetdorp has sent a thrill of alarm through Great Britain. The censorship continues so strict that there is no hope of arriving at a clear conception of the actual position of affairs in South Africa. For instance, independent accounts of the subsequent proceedings and the capture of Dewetdorp give ample details, not omitting to mention the capture of two Boer waggons and a quantity of loot, but there is not the slightest mention of the surrender of 400 British troops and two guns, which were not even disabled, inasmuch as the Boers were able to use them against the British relief forces.

Both makers and circulators of counterfeits commit fraud. Honest men will not deceive you into buying worthless counterfeits of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. The original is infallible for curing piles, sores, eczema and all skin diseases. F. C. Schramm.

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BIG DISASTER AT DEWETSDORP

Four Hundred English Soldiers Surrender.

FIELD GUNSGO WITH THEM.

Lord Roberts' Cablegram Sends a Thrill of Alarm Through England—Censorship Continues Strict.

London, Nov. 25.—Lord Roberts' cablegram from Johannesburg under date of Wednesday, November, 23th:

"The Dewetdorp garrison of two guns of the 85th field battery, with detachments of the Gloucestershire regiment, the Highland light infantry and Irish rifles, 400 in all, surrendered at 5.45 p. m., November 23th.

"Our losses were fifteen men killed and forty-two wounded, including Maj. Hansen and Capt. Digby. The Boers were able to capture 2100 strong. Four hundred were dispatched from Edinburg to relieve Dewetdorp, but they did not succeed in reaching there in time. Knox joined this force, and found Dewetdorp evacuated. Seventy-five sick and wounded had been left there.

"Knox pursued and is reported to have successfully engaged Steyn and Dewet near Vathank. They retired west and southward. Knox's messenger failed to get through, so I have no details."

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"Taking into consideration the enigmatical military situation north of the Orange river, the smouldering rebellion in Cape Colony, the rumors that France has promised Mr. Kruger to press arbitration in England, if he is able to obtain the support of Germany, and that Lord Kitchener, after all, is not to be given the chief command in South Africa, the British government will meet the new parliament next week at an exceedingly inopportune moment."

No attempt is made to conceal the extreme irritation felt at the adoption of a vote of sympathy with Mr. Kruger by the French chamber of deputies. The morning papers are unanimous in declaring that no intervention of any kind will be allowed to change British policy.

The Daily Mail publishes an interview with Mr. Zedtsman, a loyalist member of the Cape assembly, who is now in England, as a delegate of the vigilance committee. Mr. Zedtsman admits the gravity of the situation, but says he fears no general rising, although he thinks it may be necessary to send troops into the most disaffected districts, Graef Reinet, Stokenbosch, Worcester and Parri, where mob

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After five hours' fighting. He advocates the proclamation of martial law and expresses the opinion that "the only thing that prevents a rising is the lack of arms and ammunition."

The Morning Post, reviewing the situation says: "The surrender at Dewetdorp looks still worse, in view of the suggestion that probably half the towns we have captured in the territory of the republic are in no better situation to resist attack."

The Standard describes the disaster as "deplorable, unaccountable, and at the present juncture, doubly unfortunate."

FIVE HOURS' FIGHTING. Orange River, Nov. 25.—The Boer commando, 500 strong, holding a splendid position on a range of precipitous kopjes near the village of Lurhoff, completely barring the British advance, attacked Col. Henry Hamilton Settle's column Tuesday morning.

The Boers were expelled from the position, losing heavily. The British losses were small, owing to the fact that the British adopted Boer methods of taking cover.

Col. Settle occupied Lurhoff yesterday (Wednesday), and learned that 800 horses had passed through Tuesday for Salva, who is reported to be in the neighborhood. The Boer commando openly boasted in the village of having shot 200 natives for sympathizing with the British.

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