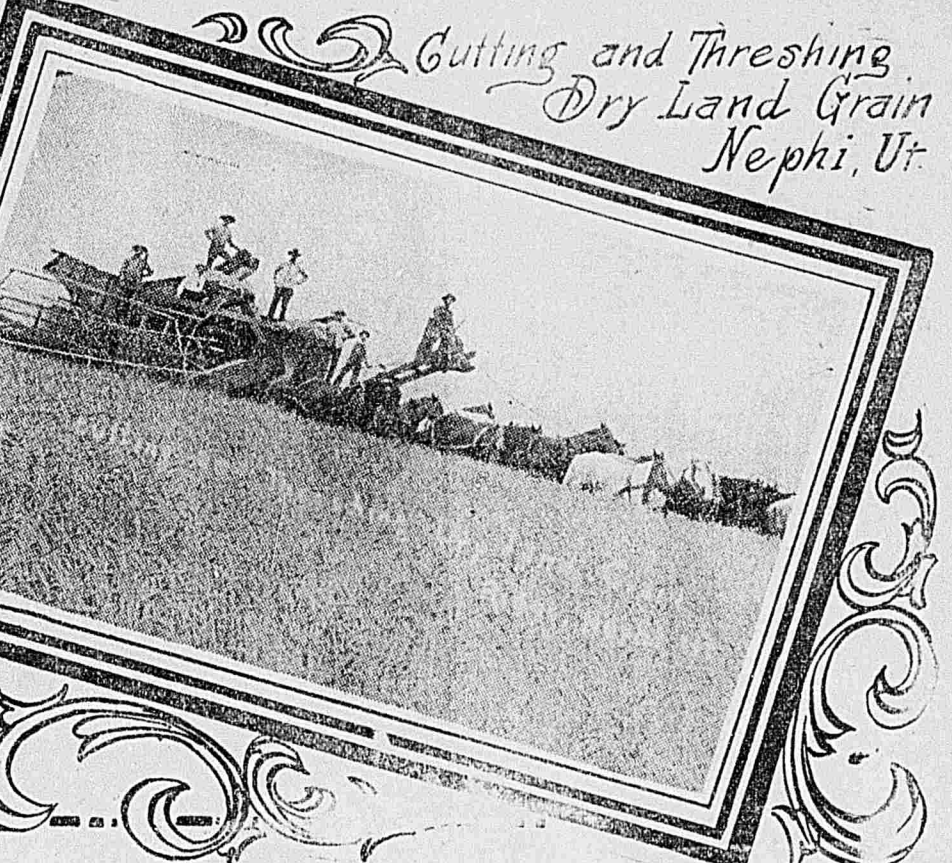


Nephi, Center of Huge Arid Farming and Mineral Districts

Tabernacle & Toggery
Nephi, Ut.



IN visiting Nephi, one cannot but feel that it is an Arcadia for the homeseeker, a land of infinite opportunity. It is a city of about 3,000 population, situated in the southern end of Juab valley, at a point about 22 miles south of Salt Lake City, and at the eastern side of Juab county of which it is the county seat. It lies at the foot of Mt. Nebo, a towering snow-covered peak of 12,000 feet height, which forms the south end of the great Wasatch range.

It was in September, 1851—three years after the first settlement of the Salt Lake valley—that Timothy B. Foote entered the Juab valley, to make his home. Indians prowled about; the coyote and the jack rabbit darted from the trail, and greasewood, shad scale, rabbit brush, salt grass, fox tail and a few other salt-loving species of annual plants, grew in wild profusion over the forbidding lowland. Soon other white men came, among them being Charles Sperry, Miles Miller, Zihri H. Baxter, John, William, David and Charles Cazier, Timothy Hoyt and Israel Hoyt. The first male white child born in the valley was Neely Haywood, and the first female, Mrs. Etta Grace Pyper.

Homes were made; protective measures were provided against the Indians whose antagonism gradually subsided, and finally a thriving village was assured. Today, Nephi, from a standpoint of municipal progress, educational advancement and thrifty husbandry, vies with any city of similar size in the whole inter-mountain region. Its resources are as varied as those of any city in America, as they include not only farming and manufacturing, but also stock raising, mining, gypsum, stone quarries, and the raising of sheep and cattle on an extensive scale.

FRUIT INDUSTRY.

Among the many industries that are attracting attention in Nephi probably the newest is the cultivation of large fruit orchards. Nephi itself lies on the edge of the high plateau of the Wasatch range, and at the mouth of Salt Creek canyon. The region along the base of the mountains is of that fine gravelly and sandy loam texture which is well adapted to the raising of fruit. Berries, conifers have declared that the peaches grown along the northern part of Nephi have the finest flavor of any produced in the state. Elbertas and Early Californas are the varieties usually planted. David Broadbent has one of the finest peach orchards in the west; in fact with one exception—that of Dr. Sommer, Gleason, at Kayville—it is unique. It consists of eight acres of Elberta peaches grown absolutely without irrigation. The secret lies in the persistent cultivation and disturbing of the soil.

Other men who are going into the fruit business on an extensive scale are Robert Beagley, Orson Cazier, L. A. Bailey and H. B. Howell. There is a great inclination among the farmers who own land close about Nephi, to set out orchards on account of the fact that the large dry farms nearby enter too keenly into competition in the raising of wheat, to make that industry very profitable for the owners of the more valuable land.

It may be of interest to many, to know that the large fruit raisers of Colorado are turning their eyes westward, where they declare they find better lands at a much cheaper price. Already some two dozen families have settled at Springville near Provo and more are thinking of purchasing property near Nephi and Spanish Fork. Fruit lands in Colorado are selling for the extremely high figure of \$1,000 per acre, where ground for superior can be purchased at present—at present—mind you—for \$150 per acre. The first comers will reap the benefits of a growing industry.

DRY FARMING.

Nephi is now attracting the attention of the world to its extensive operations in dry farming. There is an incident connected with the development of the region in this respect that has never yet been recorded, for like all other

prophesies, the import of it was not appreciated until the fulfillment. In the year 1859, Brigham Young was just returning from a trip into southern Utah. He stopped at Nephi, and though his face was much swollen from a run kick which had resulted from his shooting at a jack rabbit on the ridge south of the city, he nevertheless appeared before the congregation of people who had eagerly gathered to hear words of counsel from the lips of their leader. He expatiated on the wonderful natural resources with which Nephi was blessed and finally in speaking of the country which lies between Nephi and Levan, the end of the valley, 11 miles south, which at that time was covered with blue grass a yard high, said:

"Some of you will live to see the day when the land between Nephi and Levan will be one continuous wheat field. Some of you may be concerned about the lack of water. Never mind the water; go ahead and cultivate it. Today the prophecy is fulfilled; and where once was grass and greasewood, all now is thriving wheat fields."

Dry farming in Nephi has reached its present stage through an extensive series of experimentation carried on by experts and government officials. It is considered without doubt the greatest dry farming district in the state and consequently the world. This year, 175,000 bushels of wheat were raised on the Levan ridge, south of the city. It sold for \$140,000, all of which went into the pockets of the prosperous citizens of Nephi. The average production is 20 bushels to the acre though some have produced as high as 43, all of course without irrigation.

Only about half of the available land is under cultivation as yet; and this is why Nephi is the realization of the homeseeker's dream, his Arcadia! In the western part of the country there are about 300,000 acres some of it mountainous some semi-arid, but all usable under the scientific methods now employed. This land can be purchased from the state at \$2.50 per acre; while dry farming land near Nephi sells at from \$10 to \$25 according to location and the texture of the soil.

A state experiment farm of 40 acres has been established for some time on the Levan ridge, south of the city; and recently, when the government desired to put in an experiment station and it was found that there was not enough land on the state farm for both purposes, Juab county bought 55 acres more and presented its use to the government for experiment purposes. The two together constitute the finest and best conducted experiment station in the west.

Of course, on the Levan ridge, the wheat crop is varied with such products as squash, pumpkins, beans and potatoes, which grow, as the wheat, without water and yet seem to rest the land in preparation for fall wheat sowing.

HUGE DRY FARMS.

The Grace Brothers, who own about 900 acres in the vicinity, are getting wealthy from their dry farms. They are able, thirty men, who are alert enough to take advantage of the latest successful experiments. J. W. Paxman, also a prosperous farmer, has about a thousand acres; Edward Ingram, Joseph E. Irons, Alfred Lunt, Shad Lunt, Heber B. Ockey, Wm. C. Ockey, George H. Pierce, Robert C. Stephenson, Charles Wilson, Samuel R. Winn and Jos. F. Wright, each of whom own land in amounts varying from 200 acres to 1,000.

The great amount of wheat produced from these farms is more than the two local flour mills can handle by running both night and day; so any one desiring a good investment would do well to buy another flour mill at Nephi.

In Dog Valley, 10 miles west of Nephi, is one of the largest private farms in the country. It is known as the Utah Arid Farm company and controls about 6,000 acres. Dr. Widson, L. F. Merrill, B. P. Grant and other Utah men have control of the enterprise. This company is probably the only one in the state that does its ploughing with a steam engine, and its threshing with an engine and combination har-

vester. Grace Brothers at Nephi have a similar plow and harvester which they run with 12 or more span of horses. There is certainly a fine sight to see a harvester cutting the grain and threshing it at the same time as it goes along. Fifty acres can be cut and threshed in this manner, in one day. J. W. Paxman raised at its plow. These mammoth machines are so much better for poor, overworked men, that there is little doubt that soon most of the large farms in the state will begin to use steam engines.

ARTESIAN WELLS.

The state has recently contracted for the sinking of two artesian wells—one in Dog Valley, 10 miles west of Nephi, the other on the Levan ridge, the object being to demonstrate the practicability of getting water on the dry farming districts in this manner, in sufficient quantity for home and garden use. It is expected that it will not be necessary to drill lower than 600 feet—a hope which, if realized, will immediately cause the farmers in the district to follow suit. The experiment has never yet been tried.

THE NEW OIL FIELDS.

One of the most promising industries which have recently sprung up in Nephi, is the new oil project. 16 miles south of the city. Shale containing 31 per cent of paraffin base oil has long been known to exist in the vicinity. It having been within the notice of many of the local farmers that the rock near Juab station would burn for half a minute when touched with a match. The district has been explored by a party of men who report every indication of a high grade of oil. Of course shale containing only seven per cent paraffin base oil has been reported with great profit, in Scotland and other places in Europe; but here in the West where railroad facilities are not the best and the population is scattered, the refining process cannot successfully enter into competition with the great oil wells of fourteen different states.

A shale was discovered in the vicinity of 16 miles south of Nephi by Stephen Moss and George B. Hobbles. A company was organized known as The Juab Oil company, owned largely by J. H. Burton and H. H. O'Fallon. A drilling apparatus was installed and a well sunk to a depth of 250 feet, a mile and a half southwest of Juab station. Unfortunately the well was not drilled into the lowlands and a large flow of water was encountered, which so encumbered the flow of oil that the well has been abandoned.

James P. Hurley, a versatile expert representing California capital is now in the field making an extensive prospect of the district on the west side of the valley. The company he represents is known as the Juab Oil and Natural Gas Co., and among its board of directors are J. W. Vaughn, treasurer of the Accidental Life Insurance Co., of Los Angeles; L. G. Brown, a San Francisco attorney; Harry C. Bowers, a Los Angeles wholesale paint manufacturer and A. L. Sawyer.

This company was in the field last year but was delayed by the financial stringency. The latest development work is going on at the west side of the valley on the hillside, instead of in the lowland. This will do away with any trouble with water, which caused the abandonment of the first well.

The Juab oil field has been pronounced as large and as good as any oil field in America was prior to drilling. All the experts in the world cannot determine the extent of any oil deposit hundreds of feet in the ground.

In the Juab fields there are also indications of natural gas in the soil, though if discovered it would very likely be of no account. It is expected to the rapidly with which it would percolate through the soft sands to the surface.

The fields near Nephi are not yet in the producing stage but there is every thing in their favor. There is oil all about Utah; why not in Utah?

Last year there was about 150,000,000 gallons of petroleum produced in the United States, the rank of the 14 producing states being as follows: California, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma, West Virginia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Louisville, Kentucky, Tennessee, Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Wyoming, Michigan, and Missouri. California, the first on the list, produced about 25 per cent of the total production, or about 37,500,000 gallons. It seems therefore reasonable to suppose that a belt starting in Wyoming and Colorado extends across Utah and Arizona, and that the oil is as thick as honey, or again as thin as water; but the hundred foot fall is sufficient for all purposes.

Another thing in favor of the Juab fields is the fact that the vicinity is one hundred feet higher than Salt Lake City and oil would with little pumping, run directly to the city. The oil, of course varies, being at times as thick as honey, or again as thin as water; but the hundred foot fall is sufficient for all purposes. The advantages in the use of oil as fuel are many and its acceptance as such is sure to grow until the price arrives at a figure that will bring it into competition with other fuels. It is well established that a barrel of pe-

troleum is equivalent in heat-producing effect to between one-fourth and one-third of a ton of coal. Hence the value of fuel petroleum must finally adjust itself to the cost of one-fourth to one-third of a ton of coal at the point of consumption. With great coal mines in Utah, the competition would be keen. If the Juab oil fields prove to be a success, Nephi, the land of infinite opportunity, will be one of the most flourishing cities on the globe.

STONE QUARRIES.

Among the many resources of Nephi, none are capable of greater development than the stone quarries—one a red sandstone taken from Dog Valley, 10 miles west, the other a reddish brown stone taken from the vicinity of Mt. Nebo, the latter being the quarry that furnished the stone of which the Deseret News building of Salt Lake is constructed. Both of these quarries are at present being utilized for local consumption, and though for some years there was a railway to the Mt. Nebo quarry, it has for some unaccountable reason been torn up. There is, therefore, great room for judicious investment in this respect for the Mt. Nebo rock is very hard and excellent; in fact it is considered the best building stone in the state where cost is not the first consideration.

SALT SPRINGS.

Salt Springs containing pure salt in solution are situated in Salt Creek canyon 12 miles northeast of Nephi. At one time a \$20,000 company was organized to promote the industry and build a refining plant and erect a road to the springs. The company has an excellent quality of salt produced, the salt syndicate bought the property and tore the building down. This was on account of no merit in the spring, but on the basis of the fact that the salt was not pure. The salt impregnated water still issues in profusion from the spring awaiting only the hand of willing capital.

Samuel Cookson in the same neighborhood owns a salt spring, though it is so small that the total product is only two or three tons a day. This spring, however, is being utilized. There are large deposits of rock salt six miles east of the city. It is very fine for cattle and about 5,000 tons of it are taken out every year.

GYPSUM.

Probably the largest natural resource in the vicinity of Nephi is the large deposits of gypsum in the mountains just east of the city. Gypsum is a hydrous sulphate of lime, made up of one molecule of sulphuric acid combined with two molecules of water. Commercial gypsum is not usually so pure as this, often carrying high percentages of clay, limestone, magnesium limestone, iron oxide, iron sulphate, iron silicate, and even in the crystalline form, translucent. The impurities which it commonly contains usually destroy its translucency and affect its color, so that the mineral as mined is an opaque, fine-grained mass, varying from white to reddish, gray, or brown in color. That near Nephi is gray. Gypsum can readily be distinguished from other minerals by its extreme softness, for even when in the crystalline form it can be scratched by the finger nail.

The gypsum found at Nephi is of massive rock variety. Alabaster, itself, is merely pure gypsum, finely grained, and as it is used extensively in stucco the commercial importance of the Nephi deposit can well be estimated.

The rock gypsum at Nephi, occurs in the form of beds, associated with beds of rock salt and interstratified with thin beds of limestone and thicker beds of red shale. The gypsum beds vary in thickness from 10 to 60 feet. The beds at Nephi were caused by the gradual evaporation of Lake Bonneville, which carried much lime sulphate in solution. In fact, any water carried as its three common constituents, lime carbonate, lime sulphate, and sodium chloride; and when evaporated deposits of limestone, gypsum, and common salt, in the results, set of From gypsum, several varieties of plaster are produced. The calcinating of pure gypsum, no foreign materials being added either during or after calcinating, produces plaster of Paris. The calcinating of pure gypsum at a temperature exceeding 400 degrees F. produces flooring plaster and the calcinating at red hot or over, of gypsum to which certain salts (usually alum or borax) have been added, produces hard-finish plaster. These are all plasters of great commercial value.

In Utah last year gypsum was shipped out to the value of about \$50,000. There is an unlimited quantity of the crude rock near Nephi, and though the plant is at present working there is ample room for capital and new works.

MINES OF MT. NEBO.

Still another thing is attracting capital to Nephi—the mines. A great mineral belt is being opened up in the Nebo range, which is so rich that many declare that Nephi will be a second Leadville. In fact the ore zone has been traced from Park City to Mt. Nebo, and has most favorable characteristics. Here the veins are found between the walls of granite and porphyry, 12 feet in width to begin with, the disposition changing to sandstone, and the veins are penetrated. The veins dip into the mountain at an angle of 32 degrees. Herefore the veins have been worked to a limited extent by farmers who knew little of methodical mining but now experts are investigating the district. The mineral carries gold, silver, lead and iron. There is abundant water, timber, and coal within a short distance

and plenty of limestone. Smelters can be established within easy distance of the mines as the San Pedro railroad is only about three miles away.

There are five distinct veins in Nebo mountain, all of them contact fissures instead of the blanket form. The ore and contents are identical, and the veins very large. There are already producers in the district.

The Nebo Star has tunneled into a fissure that is 12 feet in thickness already without ending. The ore assays 14.6 ounces of silver; 33.4 per cent lead with some gold. There are six men are constantly employed and work is progressing satisfactorily. In fact a car of ore has been shipped. The prospect has been known for years though actual operations were begun only two months ago. Much of the ore has been taken from the surface. The mine is already a paying investment and no stock is for sale. P. P. Christensen is manager.

The Eva mine recently shipped a car of ore that gives satisfactory returns in silver and lead. Some declare it to be one of the finest producing mines in the country. The assays go high in silver and low in lead. Shipments have been made for some time.

The Spider mine is in paying ore, and is getting ready to ship. The assays run from 60 ounces silver and 20 per cent lead to 30 ounces silver and 80 per cent lead. Mr. Mellon is manager, and the mine is owned by Salt Lake interests.

The Nephi Mining company has made several shipments, the returns from all being highly gratifying. The assay shows silver, lead, gold, and some copper. Mr. Whitney of the Utah Implement Co., is general manager.

The mining district is eight miles north of Nephi and three miles from Salt Lake City. The district contains three out of the five mines, thus making shipment easy. Many Nephi people are interested in the district and already a mass number of claims have been filed. Great possibilities are ahead of the camp, for a strip of mineral about 300 feet wide can be followed definitely across the country. A pick anywhere along it will bring up a rich ore. The main thing that has retarded development heretofore is the lack of competent mining experience on the part of the owners of the claims and also a long search for the porphyry, which has at last been discovered. Many think this is the finest appearing camp in the country and are putting their time and money into the proving of their faith.

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Many praises can be sung of Nephi. The city has already a fine block of pavements, though the population is only 3,000. In 1903 an electric lighting plant was installed at a cost of \$40,000 in Salt Creek canyon, three and a half miles east of the city. The city has owned it from the beginning. Lights have been costing the citizens at a rate of three 16-candle power for a dollar a month, but now the meter system is being used.

The streets of the city are exceptionally well lighted there being over 150 high power incandescent lights at crossing and along the main thoroughfares. The lighting system is now on a paying basis; and additional water rights have been secured which will increase the power of the system. Already there is a service to meet the demand for power.

OWNS THE WATER SYSTEM.

Nephi owns its own water system the work having been completed in 1930 at a total cost of \$50,000. The water comes from Marsh springs four and one-half miles east of the city. It is Mt. Nebo water. The streets are sprinkled in the summer and nearly every home has water in the house.

Last year the city secured title to the "Rowley" springs two and one-half miles northeast, and piped the water a distance of two miles to the "Vine Bluff" cemetery, one of the two city graveyards. The system was completed in August and will be ready in the spring for service in the homes of Nephi's deceased. The barren, forbidding appearance of the place now will be changed to that of a flower garden in every sense a credit to the city.

There are real live men in Nephi. The present city officials are: Mayor, Isaac Grace, who was recently appointed to succeed J. A. Hyde who resigned to go to the state senate; council, Alma Hague, James Garrett, Jr., A. R. Paxman, William G. Orme, and G. W. Lunt; recorder, T. C. Wynn; treasurer, R. M. Cooper; judge, J. S. Cooper, and marshal, W. A. Wright.

COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Nephi Commercial club is one of the best in the state. It was organized in 1905. Recently it furnished elegant new club rooms in the Lunt building. There is a large reception room with piano, reading table with magazines, tables containing pictures of local industries and improvements, ladies and gents' parlors, a card room, a smoking room and kitchen, all well furnished, heated with steam and lighted with electricity. The office rooms of the city officials are on the same floor, each room being fitted out in the mission style. In all it is a thriving club and a great credit to the city. The officers are: G. M. Whitmore, president; W. G. Orme, vice president; T. L. Foote, secretary; G. W. Lunt, treasurer, and T. H. Burton, librarian.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Many new fine buildings have sprung up in Nephi the last year. An addition to the L. D. S. tabernacle cost \$3,000. The Lunt building, which contains the Commercial club rooms, two stores—a two-story brick—cost \$5,000. The Pay building—a two-story brick—in which is a new furniture store, was erected at a cost of \$4,200. The H. D.

Goldsbrough building, adjacent to the Nephi National bank, a two-story brick to be used by a drug store and for offices, cost \$3,000. The George McCune building, next to Sells' Furniture store, a two-story brick, to be used as a millinery store, cost \$3,000. George C. Whitmore is about to build a large stone house which will be occupied by the Studebaker company. The Opera House is now complete the total cost having been \$10,000. The plays that appear at the Grand in Salt Lake are given here. Lunt & Sons contemplate erecting a cold storage plant in the old Lunt building and putting in a new meat market. New homes have been built by Alexander Wilson, Geo. Parkins, R. H. Evans, and others are soon to be started. A new building to be used as a bakery is being constructed just north of Sells' Furniture store by Mr. Whitmore.

EDUCATION.

Nephi ranks high in a educational way. There are three large school buildings and a school population of 625. There are 19 teachers with salaries ranging from \$50 to \$100. The trustees are Albert Hague, T. L. Foote and John S. Cowan.

The Nephi high school—now in its eleventh year—is considered by many the best in the state. Roy F. Homer is principal, and a four-year course is given with studies in English, algebra, physiology, agriculture, domestic science, music, drawing, cooking, sewing, carpentry, physiology, geometry, history, zoology, botany, rhetoric, chemistry, civics, political economy and others.

CHURCHES.

Nephi has two churches, Latter-day Saint and Presbyterian; and of the secret orders there are two, the I. O. O. F., and Woodmen.

There is ample diversion about the city. Ducks are plentiful west of the city; rabbits are abundant; chickens and sage hens are in the mountains; there are trout in Salt creek; and black bass at Monticello Springs, north of the city, and at Mt. Nebo reservoir. There are also some deer in the mountains.

Nephi has two railroads—two passenger trains each way a day on the Salt Lake and Provo, and one train a day to Mant. There is a fine armory and one of the oldest national guard companies in the state.

There is opportunity for a laundry; a printing plant; a cereal food plant; another flour mill; a knitting factory; a good hotel; another plaster plant and a mining stock branch, besides a coal company.

EXCELSIOR MERCANTILE CO.

Probably the largest general mercantile store in Nephi is the Excelsior Mercantile company, which was organized Aug. 6, 1891. Its place of business, a fine two-story brick, is the largest in the valley. The capital stock of the company is \$50,000. It is in every sense

a department store with a cash carrier and all the modern improvements. The people are employed constantly and the store is the busiest place in the city. It is known among its customers as "the quality store," and its trade extends throughout the whole country. The business is wholesale as well as retail and includes dry goods, groceries, hardware, clothing, boots, shoes, furnishings, notions, etc.

This is the age of brilliant young men. G. W. Sudbury, the president and general manager of the company, is only a young man, but a very bright, efficient merchant. James Garrett, Jr., the vice president, and A. R. Paxman, the secretary and treasurer, are both young men and members of the city council. All in all the Excelsior Mercantile is considered the most popular store in the city.

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