

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

FAIR AT COLONIA DIAZ.

COLONIA DIAZ, Mexico, September 28th, 1894.—I trust you will find the following of sufficient interest to give it place in the DESERET NEWS:

It is well known to those familiar with the history of Colonia Diaz that in the seven years since the colony was founded it has gone through a series of misfortunes. In the year 1891 the people spent much labor and means on the Mexican Northern Pacific railway without receiving the expected compensation. The end of the year found them very destitute of food and clothing, without immediate prospect of bettering their condition. As the usual summer rains had not fallen, the crops in Northern Mexico were very light, and food was expensive before the next season's harvest. Bread was difficult to obtain at famine prices. On account of drouth there was but little grass for animals. Cows gave but little milk, and that of such poor quality as to be unwholesome, doubtless often causing sickness among the children.

The year 1895 was also a dry one. The people were compelled to eat much beef that in better times would be considered unfit for food. Horses and mules were in too poor condition to perform much labor, which made the prospects for 1893 rather discouraging. During this time food continued high and good bread was not within the reach of many families.

General conditions did not improve much until the 15th of July, 1893, when heavy rains set in. The country was flooded. Only those who saw it can sense the wonderful change that took place. Had a person passed through the country the 1st of July and returned the middle of September, he would have seen the desert prairie a vast expanse of grass and flowers. The range was a paradise for animals. Milk, butter and good beef became abundant, and the rough hair of the jaded team animals became smooth and glossy. There was abundant hay for the gathering. Man and beast were better fitted for labor than they had been for two years previous.

These conditions were favorable for 1894. The rains had prepared the earth for a better harvest. There was better preparation for utilizing available water, and spring opened under conditions that promised good results. Much encouragement was given the people by their leaders. They were promised a bountiful season and a market for all they could raise to spare. A change for the better came over the people and the elements. Early in the season prophesied blessings began to be realized. The harvest was the best our people had gathered in this land. The orchards were burdened for the surplus. The hearts of the Saints were full of gratitude for the favors of a beneficent Providence.

For the first time the people felt they had something to show. A Fair was suggested. It seemed a spontaneous growth from the hearts of the people. The Bishop and his counselors led out with a will. The idea of an exhibition

suggested organization. With necessary preliminaries "The Agricultural and Manufacturing Association of Colonia Diaz" was perfected on the 21st of June, 1894, with Bishop Wm. D. Johnson, jr., president. The 13th and 14th of the following September were accepted by the people for holding a Fair under this organization. Soon after the committees were designated to superintend the various divisions of the exhibit, and an executive committee to conduct the general business.

The Diaz hall was ample for the indoor part of the exhibit; the grounds around the building would do for agricultural implements and other machinery, and adjacent corrals for the stock. The interior of the building was pleasantly fitted up. The Mexican flag was suspended in the middle of the main hall, and appropriate motioes in Spanish were arranged on the walls. Invitations were sent by the board of directors to the governor of the State of Chihuahua, to the municipal council and leading citizens of La Ascension, and to our Mexican neighbors generally; to President Teasdale, and to all our people in this land through the Bishops of the various wards.

The arrangement of the exhibition was quite complete on the evening of the 12th. At 9 o'clock a. m. of the 13th the doors were opened to the public, and 10 o'clock was appointed for the commencement of the opening exercises. There was some delay in waiting for invited friends from La Ascension. The president of the municipality could not attend, but sent an able representative in the person of Senor Carlos G. Gonzalez, a merchant of La Ascension. He was accompanied by Pedro Gonzalez Guterrez and other prominent citizens. The opening speech was made by the president of the association. Our Mexican friends seemed to enter at once into the spirit of the occasion. Senor Gonzalez made an eloquent and pleasing speech. He was followed by Pedro Gonzalez Guterrez. The following are some of the ideas embodied in an address peculiarly calculated to create harmony and good feeling.

"We acknowledge your superiority, and we appreciate the example of thrift, prosperity and progress you have set us, and we hope to improve by it. We open our arms to you and receive you as brothers. The motto I see at the head of the hall, 'Long live our adopted country,' gives me much pleasure, and I can say in behalf of my people assembled here, we gladly welcome you to our midst, and I hope we shall all grow together into one nation."

Vocal and instrumental music enlivened the occasion; and at the close of the services President Johnson read the program for the following day and declared the Fair open.

The forenoon of the 14th was mostly occupied with an exhibition of babies, the prettiest woman, the ugliest man and others of a somewhat humorous character. The show of babies was very encouraging for the future growth of Diaz. The hall was crowded with the citizens of the colony and their Mexican neighbors. There was a spirit of harmony which allowed quiet, unalloyed enjoyment. In the afternoon

there were competitions in penmanship, reading and recitations in English and Spanish. The Fair closed about five o'clock p. m.

The show inside the hall in every department was good. One of the small rooms was occupied with ladies' work, and we felt that the exhibit would be a credit to any town in Utah. The fine art department attracted considerable attention. Some kinds of fruit had gone out of season, but the show of peaches, pears and grapes was fine. Probably finer specimens of field and garden products cannot be produced anywhere. The exhibit of dairy products, of bottled, canned, dried and preserved fruits, of honey, and of the skill of the ladies in the kitchen, were all very satisfactory. In home manufactures there were good samples of furniture, brooms, copper ware, and machinery. For the size of the colony there was a good show of farming implements. By way of contrast a Mexican farmer was there with his rude cart drawn by oxen, attached to it with yoke strapped to them in front of the horns. In it was an old time Mexican plow. The outfit represented the present general condition of the farmer in this country. We are, however, hopeful for their future, for there is a growing spirit of improvement in those around us. Some good stock was on exhibition, but there was neither time to prepare nor convenience for such a showing as we are capable of making. As there was no money for premiums, certificates signed by the president and secretary of the association were given to those who exhibited superior articles.

As a people we are well satisfied with our effort. We did not expect to do nearly as well. It is designed to hold these Fairs annually in future, and we hope to show a marked advancement next season.

We are making much effort to increase our water supply, with very favorable indications of success. We feel more than ever before that we have planted our feet in this land to stay.

Respectfully Yours,

JAMES A. LITTLE.

THE THIEDE MNRDER CASE.

In last evening's issue of your paper appeared an ably written editorial on the conviction of Charles Thiede for the murder of his wife at Murray, some months ago. The general tenor of the article was such as to commend itself to the thought and intelligence of every lover of law and liberty. The taking of human life, as you say, is a very serious matter even when sanctioned by the civil power. But is it not far more serious to do so when no such authority exists? To such a question there can be but one answer. To murderers who systematically and premeditatedly plan to take the life of their victims there should, in my opinion, be but one penalty—death.

If that punishment is to be inflicted in the case in question then there should be no unnecessary or protracted delays. If there were mitigating circumstances fertile minded and able counsel failed to show them. After many days of the most careful examination and exhaustive research "twelve good men and true" found the defendant guilty as charged. A peaceful and life loving public will, I believe,