

of the farming community and of residents of this city, is of such a character as to render it not only "astounding" and "disastrous," but to cause hosts of people to question the causes that led to it and to express opinions which it would not be wise, perhaps, to repeat in print. But the end is not yet. Justice may wait, but in time it is bound to come uppermost.

In behalf of the people,

ONE OF THEM.

THE UTAH COUNTRY.

Vernal, Feb. 17, 1898.—Last Sunday and Monday witnessed a spiritual feast for the inhabitants of this valley. Our conference convened in the Vernal meeting house, which, by the way, is 30x60, and it could not furnish even standing room for the vast multitude. So each afternoon overflow meetings were held in the academy and it was also filled to overflowing. The reports given in were of the most flattering nature, the Stake being in the most prosperous condition it has ever known, both financially and spiritually, especially the latter. Every ward reports meeting houses as being too small to hold the people who assemble therein. The Sunday schools are doing a fine work, some having every Latter-day Saint child in the ward as members of the school. The M. I. associations are doing an energetic work, especially since the missionaries have been visiting the young people.

Elder Woodruff of the Apostles was with us and gave much good counsel and advice and exhorted all to work incessantly for the Gospel of Christ. He laid the Gospel out in its simplicity and many were pricked in their hearts and were heard to remark that they would give all they possessed to be able to bear a testimony as he bore it. He made the prediction that, "As the Lord liveth, Uintah county would increase in population in the next ten years ten fold;" and following his admonition, the High Council assembled and decided to build a Stake house this coming summer, at least four times as large as the present one. They chose a block in the heart of Vernal large enough for it and the new academy, which the board of education decided to erect this summer as the school is crowded out of its present quarters and must have room. They decided to build a brick structure to cost \$10,000, and be heated by steam from the same machinery which heats up the Stake house, and to have it ready for use next Xmas holidays.

An educational meeting was held in Vernal some time ago at which important topics were discussed; first among them being the grading of the public school, which was held to be the paramount question of the hour; following this the trustees of several of the districts are contemplating building large houses. Vernal is going to build an addition on their present central house and have a thoroughly graded central school, with small ones for primary on the outskirts. Mill ward has called a meeting for the purpose of voting a tax for erecting an addition to their house and making thoroughly graded schools there. Merrills ward has in contemplation a large school building of seven rooms. Union and Ashley districts are talking of uniting and building a central house for grading.

Besides this, several of the wards have in contemplation the building of fine meeting houses. Merrills ward and Mill ward have foundations laid for nice brick structures; the former at least is to be built next summer.

The mines of this country are destined to occupy a position of rank in the near future. The Victoria, or Dyer mine, over which there are great lawsuits

which are not yet settled, is a copper proposition and there are thousands of dollars of ore in sight rich enough to haul 150 miles by wagon and then ship to Chicago and pay a handsome dividend. The Silver King, controlled by Mr. Jesse Knight, and on which two shifts of men are working now, is in 150 feet on a tunnel and expects to work on until spring. The mines of Jesse Ewing Canyon, in which Mr. Knight is also interested, have made some developments recently and several nice veins are encountered, but, being near the surface, are not rich enough to pay to ship as yet. We expect as development work is pushed in the spring to hear of some rich strikes there. The Bromide mine, controlled by S. D. Colton & Co. of Vernal, is expecting to put in a smelter in the spring. They have plenty of ore in sight and on the dump to run them for some time.

Cattle and sheep on the range are getting very poor and unless the snow goes off rapidly many will die. Hay is \$5 a ton here now and is getting scarce. Stock men say that if stock cannot get grass within four weeks their loss will be great.

Last evening as our prosecuting attorney, Mr. F. S. Luethe, was going along the street in Vernal an unknown person attacked him with a pistol and struck him twice over the head, but he succeeded in running him off. He immediately swore out a complaint against Jim McKee, one of the trio of brothers who were convicted of sheep killing last fall, and are out on bonds waiting an appeal of the case. The sheriff followed him up and arrested him at the masquerade and compelled him to unmask and strip his costume and this morning he was arraigned and plead "not guilty."

R. L. W.

GOOD CHANCE FOR YOUNG MEN.

Rexburg, Ida., Feb. 26, 1898.

Fourteen years ago next August President John Taylor, George Q. Cannon, F. M. Lyman and other authorities visited the upper Snake River Valley and organized the Bannock Stake of Zion with Thos. E. Ricks as president. Only a little over a year elapsed since the first settlers had arrived, but at the time of their visit the country was fast filling up and opportunities to obtain land where it was most convenient to bring out canals for irrigation purposes was taken up and settled upon principally by good people from Utah. Our brethren saw and predicted a great future for this part of the country and the encouragement they gave us then, gave us courage, and increased our faith, and made us more energetic in our efforts to colonize, subdue and bring in to cultivation a new and untried locality.

President Taylor told us then that this locality was capable of sustaining 500,000 people. From small beginnings the Lord has wrought out for His people marvelous results. Our growth in population and what we have been able to accomplish with very limited means, has to us been very wonderful. Fifteen years ago there was not a single irrigation canal within what is now the boundaries of Fremont county. At present we have over 500 miles of canals some of which will almost "swim a horse." Our soil and substrata are of such a nature that much of our country is sub-irrigating and filling up so that all we need to do to give our crops all the water they need is to turn the water into the ditches. This however, is only in localities.

The majority of our people own more land than they can cultivate, and are willing to divide up at a very reasonable figure. Those who want as good

farms as there are to be found anywhere can get them with plenty of water right, fenced and otherwise improved, at from \$7 to \$15 per acre. Our climate, altitude, etc., are very much the same as that of the far famed Cache valley, Utah, and all our land is as productive as any in the world. We have saw mills and flouring mills at convenient distances up and down our valley. Lumber can be had at from \$10 to \$12 per thousand. We have the finest kind of soft, gray sand building stone on all our hillsides, and quite convenient to most of our towns. We have good district schools in all our communities. Wood convenient and never costs more than \$2.50 per cord. We have unbounded range for sheep and cattle, which is fast being recognized by rangers from all directions. Our hay has ready sale at a good price. We have a great deal of government land yet to be taken and we hope the young men of Utah who are waiting for something to turn up, will come up here where there is a tip top chance to turn something up, and to grow up in a young and growing community. And to those who are able to buy, I will gladly furnish all the information about our country that I can. Respectfully,

HYRUM RICKS.

THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

3966 Reno St., Philadelphia.

February 10, 1898.

It may interest your readers to know that since April, 1897, Latter-day Saint Elders have been laboring in this historic city striving to spread the knowledge of the Gospel. Outwardly but little success has attended our efforts, though some have accepted the teachings of the Gospel and some others are investigating.

In Philadelphia, as in all of the large eastern cities, misrepresentation has built up a wall that is well nigh insurmountable; yet we are making many kind friends and allaying much prejudice. We have had very fair treatment from some of the larger dailies also.

We had the pleasure of having Elders Francis M. Lyman and Mathias F. Cowley of the Council of Apostles hold meeting here on the evening of Tuesday, February 8th. The hall was filled with a good class of people, and all seemed to enjoy the services, some of our friends saying they could sit all night and listen to such instruction. They were pleased to meet and shake hands with Apostles of the Lord. At the close of the meeting a stranger asked the privilege of bearing his testimony to the good qualities of the Latter-day Saints. To again listen to the inspired words of the servants of the Lord, was indeed a treat to us Elders.

The Elders laboring here now are William V. Haight, William Cameron, Lewis D. King, Frank Lewis, George Froerer, Norman N. Hayes and Samuel Linton who is a former resident of Philadelphia, who is visiting relatives and friends and laboring with all his power to teach them the truth.

Anyone having relatives or friends in Philadelphia or vicinity whom they wish visited are kindly invited to send letters of introduction and addresses.

Your brother,

J. H. WILCOX,

Conference President.

The New Nation Publishing company has filed articles of incorporation at Denver with a capital stock of \$50,000. The directors are: Rev. Myron W. Reed, Edward Bellamy, W. J. Neal, Eugene Debs, Edward Boyce, Paul Tyner, James Hogan and H. C. Childs. It is understood that Mr. Bellamy, the well known author, will edit the new paper, which will appear weekly.