

ple, mostly peons exist in a state of squalor and hopeless contentment. Women and children squat at the doors and smoke their cigarettes with as much abandon and satisfaction as an Irishman would his pipe at a "peat reek" still. But, notwithstanding, the natives are reasonably industrious. The masculine portion, aided by their terracotta-hued senoras, till and cultivate the soil, and along the rich bottom lands of the Casas Grande river are many well-kept fields and productive ranchos. But the system of peonage existing in this country has the effect of keeping the poor poor, and inuring to the advantage of the rich; although the average Mexican, doubtless, has little, if any, reason to complain. In some respects, however, the system is meritorious, and is productive of honesty so far as the debtor is concerned, whether honesty be dead or dominant in him. If he can't pay a debt in currency or coin, he must work it out; and this may account, perhaps, in some measure for the condition of pleasant fields and fruitful harvests in many farmer at the end of the season has nothing to show for his work. But his conscience, if he has any, is clear, as well as his account, and he is ready to go into debt, or be pulled in for another year.

On the other hand, the town, or colony of Juarez is essentially American and characteristically Mormon. It is laid out as other towns in Utah are, with broad streets and abundant shade trees. The limitations of the hills, between whose sides it is situate, make it somewhat elongated in comparison with its breadth, but it is withal exceedingly picturesque, and especially during the rainy season of the year, its luxuriance of tree and vine, of fruit and flower, gives it an added charm. The people have prospered amazingly, considering the brief period of their habitation, and many of the residences are superior in size and appearance to those usually observed in Utah towns of similar population. There are not quite a thousand people here, but they have accomplished more in a decade than the inhabitants of Casas Grandes have in a century, and they number fully 3,000. Down through the town the Casas Grandes river flows, and trees border its banks along its entire course. Ditches convey water from the river some distance up the canyon, and it ripples and gurgles on every street, giving its fructifying influence to orchard and garden, and supplying abundance, clear and cool for culinary use. Wood is freighted from the mountains where it is in almost inexhaustible store, but with the encroachment of demand and the increasing distances it is brought, it is becoming more expensive for fuel every year. With the recent advent of the railroad, which is but two hours ride away, it is only a matter of time when coal will probably be chiefly used.

Progress and enterprise are in the air. The people are bestirring themselves in the line of home manufactures; and while the community now boasts of saw mills in the mountains, a tannery, a canning establishment, boot and shoe factories and flour mill in the town, there is a furniture factory in course of erection, a creamery is spoken of, a new stage and express business has been begun, an electric light plant is being considered, a newspaper is projected, a fruit cannery with increased capacity is assured, lime kilns are being built, and a new foot and wagon bridge, double-spanned and 150 feet long, has been contracted for. Next to the electric light project in importance, another is spoken of that will be of exceeding benefit. That is a telephone system to connect several of the colonies in this district and the

municipal of Casas Grandes. News of the various settlements will be received in exohange at command, instead of depending on unreliable and dilatory rumor, business will be facilitated, and it will serve as would a patrol system to aid in the capture of participators in crime.

The people here realize the growing need of being more self-supporting. The scarcity of good available farming lands, around Juarez precludes the raising of sufficient cereals to supply the local demand, and the product of other colonies is drawn upon. Necessity, therefore, urges increased activity in manufactures, so that the product may bring, in exchange, the product of the farm. The Mormon colonists of Dublan, about two or three miles beyond Casas Grandes station, are essentially an agricultural and a horticultural community, and several of Juarez's citizens cultivate farming lands there. It was the growing need that principally gave impetus to the search for and purchase of the projected colony sites at Galleana, on the Rio Santa Maria, forty miles distant, and at Chulchupa, in the mountains, eighty miles away. At both places there are thousands of acres of splendid land. The river at the former place supplies abundance of water for irrigation purposes, and at the latter no irrigation is necessary. Prodigious crops have been raised at Chulchupa without irrigation by the present settlers, and as land is being sold at from \$1 to \$2 an acre, and city lots at \$5, in gold, the settlement is growing apace, and will ere long be one of the richest agricultural and stock-raising regions in the state.

The fruit-growing industry at Juarez, however, is a most important one. Peaches are an uncertain product at times because of occasional late frosts, but all kinds of berries, currants, grapes, plums, apples, pears and the like, grow luxuriantly, and as an indication of the extensiveness of the industry it may be said that at the local cannery alone fully \$15,000 worth of fruit was purchased from the people last year. It is a great grape country. Large vineyards will yet cover the hill-sides around the town, and the manufacture of wine for export only will be a future industry. Tobacco, also, can be grown in prodigal profusion, but as no one uses tobacco, it is said, its cultivation is not attempted. The topographical features of Juarez, the climatic and other favorable conditions, make this place particularly valuable for horticultural pursuits. It is similar in many respects to the foot hill districts of southern California, where the Mission Fathers of the Roman church have demonstrated the superiority of the soil for the cultivation of fruit and vine; and as this locality is yet in its infancy, the future holds possibilities almost beyond computation in like results.

But the people are also largely engrossed in stock-raising. It is an important industry and a profitable one. Thousands of cattle browse on the hills and in the pastures around. At this time of the year, however, feed is somewhat scarce, and will continue until the rainy season begins. This is the only disadvantage the business has. Cattle command good prices, and thousands are shipped from this region to the states every season. Pork-raising is one of the neglected industries hereabout, and yet pork and lard are staple necessities throughout all the neighboring towns and mining camps, and they bring exorbitant figures. There are many similar opportunities for as profitable investments awaiting those who will take advantage of them.

Lumber hauling and ore freighting from the mountains and mining camps

to the railroad are other sources of revenue to the people, and at present all the to the people, and at present all the teams not thus engaged are employed in plowing and other farm work. There are no idle people in the colony. And while work is plentiful, it is difficult to find available laborers, and Mexicans have had to be employed quite frequently. It must be understood, however, that money does not grow on picket fences, and while it is by no means as scarce as in some parts of Utah, it is not as plentiful as in a mint. The people are thrifty and prosperous; they take care of the dimes and what dollars do not take care of themselves, obliging creditors look after. But those who are willing to work, and do so, will find Mexican currency as free, probably, as was once the old-time scrip. This is not the place, however, for the moneyless man. New colonists need teams and wagons and money with which to purchase lands and build homes. With these to begin upon, and provender to last a while, they will find more opportunities to gain a competency here in five years than would present themselves in the inter-mountain West in twenty.

But to the devoted Latter-day Saint, all these temporal advantages sink into insignificance compared with the spiritual blessings enjoyed. The pioneers sought "first the kingdom and its righteousness," and "all other things" are being added accordingly. And, hence, there is no community within the writer's knowledge which enjoys more perfect peace, or broader religious liberty than the Mormon colonists of Chihuahua. According to authentic reports they stand first in all the world in payment of tithes and offerings, in proportion to their population. They live their religion to the best of human ability, and yet some, in their zeal, have hedged themselves about with an ultra-puritanism that, while it savors of tyranny, inures to the community's advantage. Thus the people are engrossed in working out their own temporal and spiritual salvation among themselves. They are in the world, but not of it. "Come out of her my people," has been a command for them to obey gladly. They desire nothing better than to keep out of her, and to keep her out, too. This, therefore, to them is Zion. So far, it is an ideal one. It is a refuge for the honest in heart, and for those who desire to live in the full light of the Gospel's effulgence.

The sweet union in the Latter-day Saint household is dearer than life to those who know the agony and loss their denial has entailed. Still old conditions have left their sting. And while the wilderness has been passed and Canaan found, the experience suffered by some has been too hard to entirely efface, and may not be wiped out from the page of memory until the books are opened and accounts squared by the justice of Omnipotence. But the establishment of these colonies, with the degree of freedom and prosperity they enjoy, together with the destiny before them, is only the beginning of "a marvelous work and a wonder" to be accomplished in this sunny land, and is an earnest of the time soon coming when it is promised that the Kingdom and its righteousness shall cover the whole earth as the waters do the sea.

N. W. MACLEOD.

Governor Sadler, of Nevada, has received the following message from Secretary of War Alger: "The President has authorized the enlistment of 85 men in your state, good shots and good riders, to form a company in a mounted rifle regiment, the company's officers to be taken from your section