

EXTRACTS

Of a Letter written to Prest. B. Young, August 6th, 1873.

Prest. Brigham Young.

Dear Brother—I deem it a duty as well as a pleasure to present you with a statement of my stewardship and general management of affairs in this Stake of Zion. I will first confine my explanations more particularly to our Co-operative Institution, and give you some details respecting its organization, progress, present condition and magnitude.

Some ten years ago and upwards, a number of small mercantile establishments were located in our city, owned principally by speculators, who possessed no interests in common with the people. I proposed to such as were inclined to do so, to unite on some co-operative system for the general welfare and interests of the community. Some consented, whereupon we organized Brigham City Co-operative Association, giving all an opportunity of taking stock and enjoying equal rights and privileges. At first we limited our operations to mercantile business, and as it progressed it gained the confidence of the people, and gradually increased in number of stockholders, till about the fifth year from its commencement it consisted of some two hundred shareholders, with a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars. Our dividends were paid in merchandise at the selling rates, and averaged about twenty-five per cent. per annum.

At this stage of progress we concluded to commence some manufactures. We erected a large and extensive tannery with various conveniences and modern improvements, at a cost of ten thousand dollars. All were proffered an opportunity of putting in labor as capital stock; and the merchandise department assisted in carrying on the work and completing the establishment. Bro. A. Hillam, a first class tanner, superintended the erection of this building, and has since had charge of the tanning business, and has given general satisfaction. We soon after connected a butcher shop and boot and shoe shop with this department, and have kept nearly a dozen shoemakers constantly employed.

Last year, and year before, we disposed of considerable leather to Zion's Co-operative at Salt Lake City; this year we manufacture but little more than we require for our own consumption, owing in part to the extravagant prices paid for hides by exporters, and in part to the difficulties we experience in commanding sufficient cash to carry on our different branches of home manufactures, several of them now in their infancy, and not fully developed. For the reason as above stated, our tannery at present is working scarcely half its capacity, hence our profits in this department are small, and we continue it for the accommodation of the people rather than for its profits, limiting its operations till times and circumstances become more favorable. We produce annually over eight thousand dollars' worth of boots and shoes, which are used by the people of this city and vicinity.

After these departments were in working order, we established our woollen factory, the building and machinery costing a trifle less than forty thousand dollars. The people again had the privilege of putting in labor as capital stock, and those departments already in working order aided in carrying on and completing this establishment, and putting it in operation. Owing in part, perhaps, to a lack of knowledge and experience, the first year we made but small profits in the woollen factory; the second year we made better progress, and this last year the factory has been in constant operation, and done an excellent and profitable business, and given general satisfaction. At present we have but two hundred spindles, four broad and three narrow looms; the building and water-power, however, admit of double this amount of machinery. This past year our average value of cloth manufactured per week has been seven hundred dollars. Our prices are the same, I believe, as those in other factories. We purchase our wool by exchanging cloth, and have no difficulty this season in obtaining an abundant supply. Brother James Pett has charge of this department.

Our next move was the establishing of a sheep-herd, which consists

at present of two thousand five hundred sheep, which were put in on capital stock, or rather, the original flock. We have a farm on Bear River, and one in the Little Valley, the products of which are designed to sustain our sheep in the winter season, when required. We are endeavoring to improve our wool, and retain the increase of our sheep till we have sufficient to supply our factory.

This branch, consisting of the farm and sheep-herd, is under the direction of Brother Neils H. Neilson, a thorough business man.

Some two years ago we established a dairy on an excellent and extensive range, near Bear River, about three miles south-east of Ben Hampton's Ferry. We imported the necessary machinery and fixtures for manufacturing cheese, on the best improved plan, but for lack of preparation in time, the first season, though we made an excellent article of cheese, we realized but little profit. This year we have two hundred and sixty cows, and are doing a fine and profitable business, making eight cheeses per day, of forty-five pounds each. We keep a fine lot of hogs, which, together with the mutton from our sheep-herd in the summer season, supply our butcher shop in the fall and winter. The dairy buildings, fixtures, corrals, pig-pens, stack-yards, etc., cost about four thousand dollars. We intend adding some small improvements and next year increase our dairy to four hundred cows. The co-operative take these cows on shares through the dairying season. This department is under the immediate charge of Bro. Christian Hansen, who remains on the premises throughout the year.

Our mercantile department is under the supervision of Bro. Wm. L. Watkins, the secretary of our institution, and at present is the only store in the city. Several parties have set up stores at various times since the organization of our Co-operative, and entered into competition, but could not obtain sufficient patronage to make it a success, and while they received the sad experience of disappointment the city treasury received the benefit of their licenses. All the business men and the majority of the people have more or less interest in this co-operative association, and the profit arising from their patronage, in room of going to individual hands, to be applied for private aggrandizement, or perhaps spent outside of the interests of the community, goes to support home institutions, therefore, the people generally feel to sustain their own mercantile establishment.

The store, tannery, butcher shop, boot and shoe shop, woollen factory, sheep-herd, farm and dairy, constitute the "Brigham City Mercantile and Manufacturing Association," and is organized under the laws of the Territory. The capital stock consists of shares of five dollars each, amounting in the aggregate to eighty thousand dollars. It is managed by a board of seven directors, president, secretary and superintendent, elected annually by vote of the stockholders. Since we commenced to enlarge into home manufacture we have made annual dividends, each shareholder drawing his profits in those articles produced by these departments, at regular fixed prices, but no cash or merchandise. We have but one price for our products, excepting in wholesaling for cash. We aim to make good, substantial articles that will prove satisfactory to the consumer, as well as a credit to the producer.

The object of this co-operation is not so much for the purpose of creating large dividends, as it is that the people may obtain easily what their necessities demand, and in this respect become self-sustaining, and rendered independent of foreign importations, according to your earnest teachings.

I will relate a circumstance or two in illustration of the peculiar advantage to the people here of this system of co-operation. We produce annually from our boot and shoe shop over eight thousand dollars in boots and shoes, which are nearly a cash article, at least no individual or company could supply this demand without requiring a large portion of it in cash payments, but as the case now stands, the people do not pay in cash, nor exchange cash articles, to the amount of four hundred dollars for this eight thousand dollars' supply. Again, we manufacture annually some thirty thousand dollars' worth of cloth; from ten to fifteen thou-

sand dollars of this goes into the hands of the people here, who do not pay in cash five hundred dollars nor one pound of wool. Our books show these statements to be facts. We sell many of our manufactured goods at wholesale prices to Zion's Co-operative in Salt Lake City. We also sell at other places, but no cash sales can be made here, there being so many other easier ways of procuring these articles, therefore the cash is reserved for other purposes. These advantages arise from the natural working of our co-operative arrangements. We employ about sixty hands in these departments, who are generally satisfied in receiving one-fourth of their wages in merchandise, the remainder in home products. Our entire productions from these departments average per year about sixty thousand dollars. It requires some ten or twelve thousand dollars in cash annually to keep them in operation, which is supplied in part by the profits of the store, the balance by sale of products. It is only to make up this balance that we are required to seek a market for our manufactured products, all the remainder is provided for, it goes to the workmen, to pay dividends, and various expenses.

It might be of some interest to know the wages we pay our employees. Our secretary and book-keeper, Wm. L. Watkins, twelve hundred dollars per annum; our chief clerk, Bro. R. L. Fishburn, seventy-five dollars per month; the overseer of sheep-herd and farm, twelve hundred dollars per annum; the overseer of the dairy one thousand dollars per annum; superintendent of woollen factory, three and a half dollars per day; the carder, spinner and weavers the same as are paid in other factories. The overseer of the tannery is paid three dollars per day, and three dollars per day is paid to the overseer of the boot and shoe shop. The superintendent of all these departments works for nothing and finds himself.

Since we commenced manufactures our dividends averaged about seventeen per cent., till last year, when they were only nine per cent., owing, as has been explained, to the many expenses and difficulties attendant upon placing some of these departments in working order, and doing but little the first season of their operation.

Although this institution is yet in its infancy, and will require two or three years to properly develop its various departments, so that the whole may yield its legitimate advantages, yet it has required much patience, labor, and perseverance and close financiering to advance it to its present condition, and we feel that it has been through the blessing of the Lord that so much of this work has been accomplished.

We have been able to meet promptly our engagements and to inspire confidence in the people, and preserve peace and harmony in our community. I have labored to inspire the overseers of the various departments with a proper sense of their obligations to the people, to be satisfied with reasonable wages, and be willing that their abilities should be employed, to a certain extent, for the building up of Zion. I endeavor to influence all our laboring hands not to be greedy for high wages, and also those who furnish the capital, to be satisfied with reasonable dividends, and thus work together in harmony on principles of equal justice, that the Lord may take cognizance of our works, and bestow blessings of prosperity and salvation in the hour of necessity.

I feel under the most sacred obligations to you for your counsel and advice which I have received during my presidency in this Stake of Zion, and as I have now given you a general synopsis of our policy and proceedings, I hope this will meet your approval.

Respectfully, your brother in the gospel,

LORENZO SNOW.

Michigan University has matriculated eighty-eight girls for the next college year. Forty-two have entered the academic department, thirty-seven the medical, and the rest will take Blackstone.

The ten hour associations of Lawrence and Andover, Mass., have resolved that Gen. Butler's public acts during the last ten years have destroyed every vestige of the confidence that the working classes had in him, and that they deem him untrustworthy.

Correspondence.

LEHI CITY, Aug. 16, 1873.

Deseret News:

DEAR SIR—Will you allow a short space in your columns, for a few thoughts inspired in the mind of one whose time for the last four years has been chiefly occupied in trying to teach school?

My experience in that very enviable (?) pursuit of life has been such as to convince me that its success as an enterprise depends upon three parties, to wit—first, the teacher; second, the school committee; third, the people who patronize the school. Most of the difficulties to contend with in that important business of life can be traced to a fault in one or all of these parties. There are some people in the world who unjustly hold the teacher responsible for every evil result attending his profession. If he is not provided with suitable rooms, if he is not furnished with such apparatus as is absolutely essential, they expect as grand achievements and as brilliant success as though he had all the requisite appurtenances. These people, I am glad to say, are very few, constituting the exception and not the rule. They are narrow-minded upon the one point.

But it is an old saying, and a true one, that every flock of sheep has its black one. It is too often the case in school teaching that individuals who are not qualified to even assist in teaching a primary school engage in the business and impose upon the credulity of the people for months without being detected as impostors, which they really are. Such cases have occurred to my knowledge in this Territory. I know of one instance which is worthy of notice in this connection—a gentleman was engaged four months in one of our liveliest settlements, at the expiration of which time he applied for a school in another settlement, supplied with certificates from his former patrons. The superintendent, being alive to his duty, deemed it expedient to test his ability by a thorough examination; thirty-one simple questions were propounded to this pedagogue—questions which almost any school-boy could answer, but they distracted the mental faculties of our applicant to that degree that he threw down his arms in despair and quit the field. He failed to distinguish the difference between biography and geography, and openly asserted that grammar was a humbug and wholly unessential to an education. Such individuals as this have done more injury to common school teaching, brought more disgrace upon the profession than all other agencies combined, and yet cases like the above do not reflect more discredit upon the teachers than upon the committee that employs them. School committees should be active, energetic, and alive to their duties; they should be public-spirited upon matters of education, striving at all times to magnify its results and give impetus to its cause. In order to do this, the first step necessary is to prepare convenient houses, good furniture, suitable apparatus, &c., the next is to secure the best talent within their means and ability; and the last but not the least of all is to encourage that talent by giving proper attention to the progress of the school and the manner in which it is conducted. I have the testimony of several teachers who have taught school as long as six months in succession without being honored with one visit from the board of trustees. This may be allowable in certain cases, but it can hardly be called justice to the teacher as a general way of doing business. It is true, they may understand the condition of their schools by flying report, but rumor is not always reliable authority, as every teacher who has had any experience can testify. It would probably be just to say that committees sometimes labor under serious disadvantages—they need encouragement as well as the teachers; they need the means wherewith to work, without which their hands (speaking figuratively) are tied. So that after all, the success of this scheme, like every other public enterprise, depends in a great measure upon the whole people. If they are alive to the importance of education its wheels will roll and its success will be insured. There is now a disposition being manifested upon the part of the citizens of Utah, to roll forth the cause and make it one of

our chief considerations. The normal school recently established in Salt Lake City will go far towards elevating the present standard of our common schools; by means of that institution we expect eventually to see every settlement provided with teachers not only qualified in the abstruse sciences but in the most important method of imparting that knowledge to others.

Yours respectfully,
SAMUEL THURMAN.

Nilsson's Misunderstanding with the Queen.

At Drury Lane Balfe's opera of the "Talisman," Italianized into "Il Talismano," has been advertised and has even been rehearsed, but now, at the last moment, is withdrawn. Some disagreement with Mme. Nilsson is said to be the cause of the withdrawal, which Mr. Mapleson, by a somewhat circuitous process of reasoning, attributes, in his advertisement, to the visit of the Shah. It is true that the departure of his majesty has been followed by a sort of collapse; but one can scarcely admit that because things are getting dull a professed entertainer of the public should render them duller by omitting to fulfil a formal promise on which his own subscribers had certainly counted. The fact is Mme. Nilsson has had a misunderstanding with the Queen, which has reacted upon the prima donna's temper, rendering her generally dissatisfied with her season in London and anxious to get away at the earliest possible date. Here again the inevitable Shah makes his appearance, for when Mme. Nilsson was requested, or in official language "commanded," to sing at the first of her majesty's private concerts, she declined, and a rumor which unfortunately reached the Queen attributed her declination to annoyance at not being retained for the second of the court concerts at which, and which only, the Shah was to be present. Mme. Nilsson really excused herself on the plea of a previous engagement—an excuse not admitted at the palace; and though she is said to have explained and apologized to her majesty, both through the Prince of Wales and through the Duke of Edinburgh, her breach of etiquette had not been overlooked, and no further "command" has been addressed to her. To make matters worse the court party, at the state performance last week, after hearing Mme. Nilsson in the first act of "Mignon," did not stay to hear her in the second. This was more than the already irritated prima donna could bear. England, the English court, the English public, were all to blame, and the notion of remaining longer in England than she was obliged to do by the terms of her agreement, in order to appear in an opera by an English composer, was no longer to be entertained for a moment. A first rate prima donna must possess as rare qualities and receive as thorough a training as a crack race horse; and when both have as nearly as possible attained perfection neither can be counted on from one day to another.—Ex.

That very ancient and conservative body, the Church of England, is in sore trouble. This time the difficulty is not with the free thinkers but with their antipodes, the extremely high churchmen. Quite recently 483 clergymen of the Established church, petitioned Parliament to allow measures to be taken for "the education, election, and licensing of duly qualified confessors." These rectors are the more advanced members of the High Church party who have gradually been introducing the forms and ceremonies of the Catholics into their services. In many cases their altars are lighted during the day; some cause incense to be burned; others practice genuflections whenever the name of Christ is spoken. The clerical petitioners represent that there is "a wide spread and increasing desire for the restoration of the confessional," and they intimate that other Papist observances would be gladly received. Lord Cranmore moved the appointment of a committee "to consider what legislation is necessary to check the evil." This motion was opposed by the Bishops present on the ground that the lords spiritual wished to take the matter in hand, the Archbishop of York declaring that he would do what he could to prevent the church from becoming Romanized.