

roamed over these extensive prairies. But on the advent of the white men they were hunted and killed for their hides until they have become absolutely extinct. The last of its kind seen was a bull killed in 1885, two years before the Saints settled in Alberta. All that is left of these noble animals of the plains now is their bones, which are left to bleach on the prairies. They are seen on almost every hillside throughout the entire land, though car loads have been gathered up and shipped East for fertilizing purposes.

Feather game is still plentiful in Alberta, principally ducks and prairie chickens. In the numerous lakes which abound in the land are also plenty of swans, which are killed for their feathers. Wolves and coyotes are very plentiful—so much so that there is a standing bounty of \$5 per sample of their hides. They kill lots of calves, colts and lambs every year, and are a terror to the settlers on this account.

Alberta contains perhaps the greatest coal fields in the world. The Rocky Mountains and their foot hills contain a world of minerals yet to be explored, comprising iron, gold, silver, galena and copper. Large petroleum deposits are known to exist, and immense supplies of timber abound in the mountains along the headwaters of the numerous streams flowing into the great Saskatchewan.

Calgary, with about 5,000 inhabitants, is the chief town of Alberta. It is situated on the Canadian Pacific railroad and commands a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains. Other towns are Lethbridge (mentioned in a former communication), forty-eight and a half miles from Cardston, Fort Macleod, a ranching center, Banff, in the recently formed National Park, near which anthracite coal is being mined and where the famous springs are found, and Edmonton, which is the center of the oldest settlement in the district. Fort Macleod is the place from which the founders of Cardston in 1887 set out on their exploring trips through southern Alberta. It is an incorporated town situated on Old Man's river, 102 miles south of Calgary on the Canadian Pacific railway. Macleod is the present terminus of the Calgary and Macleod railway, which was commenced in the summer of 1890 and completed in 1891. This place is about thirty-five miles north of Cardston.

In line of history I will simply state this: Beyond a narrow strip of land along Red river, in the vicinity of where the city of Winnipeg now stands, the great prairie region, stretching for nearly one thousand miles from east to west—from the border of the Red River valley on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west—was practically a *terra incognita* up to 1870, when Manitoba and the Northwest became a portion of the Dominion of Canada, and when it still remained to open this great country to settlement. In 1879 the first railway tapped its fertile plains, and from that time until the present immigration has come in slowly. But not until 1887, when a little "handful" of exiles from Utah settled within its borders, were its farming facilities acknowledged or advertised. There would be ample room in southern Alberta for a larger

population than that which now inhabits the Territory of Utah.

From this place I return to the south to visit the Bannock Stake of Zion.

ANDREW JENSON.

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

The NEWS has been kindly permitted to make use of the following interesting communication:

LAIE, OAHU, H. I.,

September 29, 1894.

To the officers, members and attendants of the Oxford Sabbath school, Oxford, Idaho, U. S. A.

Beloved Friends and Companions:—Like unto the old adage, "better late than never," I take great pleasure in communicating a few words to you all through the medium of my pen, which I sincerely hope will find you one and all enjoying the great boon of good health, and also the benign influence of God's holy Spirit which brings true happiness to the soul of man.

Ten long months have come and numbered themselves with the past since I grasped the parting hand with you all, prior to my leaving friends, relatives and the dear old mountain home, to go abroad in the world, to a strange land and people as an ambassador of truth and salvation, to banish darkness with Christ's Gospel, and declare a message of glad tidings of good things to mankind. And though three thousand miles are stretched between us, I have not forgotten you, no, far from it, and how frequently and vividly do cherished memories of our past associations present themselves to my mind, giving me joy, not sorrow, for on my part those times are reflected on with satisfactory feelings of friendship and brotherly love. In spirit and thought I am often with you; but of course in reality I am separated far from you, which separation was caused by a divine call from Almighty God and accepted with those feelings which all true servants have who wish to do their duty and serve Him, the giver of all good. I regret not that I was chosen in this capacity, but rejoice exceedingly, for there is honor in helping a cause that is just. Certainly God's work is mighty and we could be engaged in no better.

I am truly thankful to be able to say that while I have thus labored, I have been and now am the happy recipient of many rich blessings; I never in my life felt better physically or spiritually, am much interested in my missionary labors amongst this branch of the house of Israel, have received kind treatment at their generous hands, and my desires are to be a useful instrument in the Almighty's hands in elevating them to a higher standard of purity and righteousness. But I realize that to do so will require strong faith, earnest prayer and diligent work on my part; for in this part of the vineyard we have to become acquainted with a different mode of living than that to which we are accustomed to in Zion, and also have quite a difficult language to learn. However, where there is a will there is a way, and I feel to trust in Him who doeth all things well, and be patient; for patience is the rope of

advancement along all the lines of life.

It may perhaps be well for me to give a little space to a few points of a descriptive nature and I trust that they may prove interesting to you. After leaving the city of San Francisco and sailing in a steamer in a southwesterly direction over the placid waters of the great Pacific ocean for about seven days, covering a distance of about 2,100 miles, one comes to a group of islands known as the Sandwich or Hawaiian islands, stretching from latitude 19 deg. to 23 deg. and from west longitude 155 deg. to 161 deg.—twelve in number. Eight of them are inhabited and the area of the whole is 6,000 square miles. Their names are Hawaii, Maui, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau; and Molukini, Lehua, Kaula and Bird islands are barren rocks. The population of the islands as per the report of Captain Cook in 1779 was 400,000. In the year 1840 a census was taken and 132,000 was found. The last census, this year, showed 34,000—a decrease of 1,800 per year. The entire population today, foreigners included, is about 90,000, of which Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese form the principal part.

During the few months of my stay in this country my labors have been confined to the islands of Kauai, Hawaii and Oahu, the one I am now on; but speaking from a general standpoint it is indeed a lovely country, the climate is without a rival on earth. It is never hot and never cold. There is no summer and no winter, but perpetual spring. It is in the trade wind belt, insuring coolness and perfect ventilation. The country is mountainous and the soil volcanic, insuring perfect drainage. Cool breezes ever come from the sea, with just enough rainfall to keep the foliage always a beautiful green. Long, hot, dry weather with intolerable dust is unknown. The grass is always green and there is a refreshing sweetness in the air that is like our beautiful June mornings at home. This kind of weather, with flowers, fruits, birds and sunshine throughout the entire year, is what contributes largely to make Hawaii the paradise of the Pacific.

Among the numerous varieties of beautiful flowers which spread over the islands, are the lovely oleanders which grow to be large trees and fill the air with a delightful fragrance; the pretty red geranium which grows with but little cultivation and in some places I might say wild, similar to sagebrush in our country; the water-lily is also found in many places. The different species of roses bloom the year round giving the appearance of a pretty garden. The fruits grown here are bananas, pine-apples, coconuts, oranges, limes, lemons, the native mango and ohia, a sort of apple; the bread fruit is also found in abundance. The vegetation is prolific—the hill sides covered with a heavy growth of tropical woods, the bright and varied colors of whose foliage produce brilliant effects when seen against the dark and bold outline of the mountain ranges. The varieties of ferns are numerous, numbering about 125 or more, some growing very large. One beautiful feature of the country is, there are no ferocious beasts or wild