

east of Portage, and ten miles north-east of Collinston. The North Plymouth ward numbers sixteen families or eighty-four souls, most of whom live in a scattered condition.

South of North Plymouth, embracing a large portion of the scattered settlers residing on that extensive tract of country known as Bear River Flats, is the South Plymouth ward, presided over by Myron J. Richards, a son of Apostle Franklin D. Richards. This ward, which until June 15, 1891, contained all the Saints in the original Plymouth ward, consists now of twenty-one families, or 102 souls; but besides these, there are a great many members of the Church who have a standing in other wards. Nearly all the farming done in this neighborhood is carried on without irrigation. In fact, dry farming has proven so successful during the last few years that even those who own land below the Bothwell canal recently constructed, claim that it don't pay for them to buy water from the company, as they can mature nearly as good a crop without irrigation as with it, and sometimes even better.

Steps are being taken to locate a town-site as a centre for the ward, but at present the meetings are held in a schoolhouse, located about two and a half miles northwest of Hempton's bridge, or four miles from Collinston station.

North of Portage, in Idaho, is the Woodruff ward, recently organized, the centre of which is a little hamlet, situated on Muddy creek on the east side of the Malad river, five miles northeast of West Portage. This ward has twenty-one families or one hundred and thirty-four souls, presided over by Bishop Joseph R. Harris. In this place, and in fact throughout the Malad Valley, dry farming is the rule, and it only requires the foresight of an ordinary mortal to predict that in a few years every foot of land in this beautiful valley, clear up to the base of the steeper mountains will be reclaimed.

Two miles north of Muddy Creek is Glenderson creek and two miles still further Cheery creek. The settlers residing in a scattered condition on these two small streams, together with a few others residing opposite, on the west side of the Malad river, compose the Cheery Creek branch, of which John D. Jones has charge as presiding Elder. Ten families, or sixty-one souls constitute the "Mormon" population.

Malad ward embraces Malad City, and the Saints living of Two Mile creek and Four Mile creek, south, and up Deep creek, northeast, etc. Malad city, the county seat of Oneida county, Idaho, is pleasantly situated on Deep creek in the east side of Malad valley, on high rolling ground, overlooking the valley south and west. It is thirty-two miles northwest of Collinston, Utah, and twenty-seven miles southwest of Oneida, in Marsh valley, the two nearest railway stations. The population of Malad is about evenly balanced between "Mormons" and Gentiles, but peace and a withal good understanding prevails among them, the former spirit of hatred and bitterness having gradually died away. The Saints here

are building a fine and commodious meeting house in the west part of town, away from the business part of the place. They have already expended about \$8000 in its erection but it will require about \$8000 more to finish it; it is, however, so far completed now that meetings are being held in it. The building is a lumber one, eighty feet long from north to south, and forty-five feet wide. The centre tower is eighty-five feet high, besides which there are six other smaller ornamental towers. When finished in its details, it will be one of the finest meeting houses in our northern settlements. Jenkin Jones is the Bishop of the Malad ward, which has a total membership of 396, divided into 76 families; it is the largest ward in the Malad Stake.

Northeast of Malad City, along the main or longest branch of the Malad river, lies an extensive farming district, inhabited by upwards of one hundred families, but most of these are not members of the Church. What few Saints there are, have been organized into a ward under the name of St. John, over which James P. Harrison presides as Bishop; the membership is 170, or 23 families. The school house in which the Saints hold their meetings is situated on Devil creek, about two and half miles northeast of Malad City.

Samarita, the second largest ward in the Stake, is situated on the west side of the Malad Valley, seven and a half miles southwest of Malad City, and twelve miles northwest of Portage. Unlike Scriptural Samarita, which stood on a hill, this modern Samarita lies on a level tract of country, surrounded by good farming land. The majority of the Saints here as well as at Malad City are Welsh or of Welsh descent, and are as a rule very punctual in attending to their duties as Saints and citizens. Forty-six families, or 329 souls, constitute the population of Samarita, and Jonah Evans, presides over them.

The Rockland ward embraces the Saints residing on Rock creek, a tributary of the Snake river. To reach this place from Samarita, a distance of nearly fifty-five miles has to be traveled over mountain and dale in a northwesterly direction, and finally, after crossing the rim of the basin at the extreme upper end of Curlew valley, the head of Rock creek is reached. On this stream, in a scattered condition, live about thirty families of Saints, numbering 223 souls, together with quite a number who are not members of the Church. The low lands along the main stream measure only about half a mile in width on the average, but back of this, on either side of the creek, there is an undulating upland reaching for miles toward the mountains, where dry farming is carried on very successfully, and good grain is raised. Isaac Thorn is Bishop of the Rockland ward. The first settlement of the place dates back to 1878.

A journey of twelve miles in a northerly direction brings the traveler to a little settlement on Warm creek, near the banks of Snake river, called Neeleyville. It consists of 10 families or seventy-six souls, presided over by Bishop Wm. Neeley, who was the first settler here in 1881, and after whom the village has been named. The country around this place is somewhat

broken and rolling, but there is room for quite a number of more settlers. Neeleyville is four miles southwest of the American Falls on Snake river, and on the Oregon Short Line, where, as well as in Pocatello, thirty miles distant, the people can readily dispose of their grain and vegetables. Neeleyville is the most distant settlement from the Stake headquarters, being about eighty miles northwest of West Portage.

After completing my labors in the Malad Stake, I returned to this city on the 24th ult.

ANDREW JENSON.

July 6, 1892.

### TOOELE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Tooele Stake of Zion convened at Grantsville July 23rd and 24th. Present on the stand: Apostles Lyman and Lund, Elder Karl G. Maeser, Presidency of the Stake and some of the Bishops.

Conference was called to order by President H. S. Gowans.

Bishops J. L. Wrathall, Thomas Atkin, and F. D. St. Geor reported the ward over which they preside to be in good condition.

President Gowans reported the condition of the Stake. He had visited each ward since last conference and found that the faith of the Saints was increasing.

Apostle Lyman occupied the remainder of the morning giving good instruction.

In the afternoon Apostle Lund spoke in regard to the settling of these valleys forty-five years ago, and said that this was the place where God meant to establish His Zion in the last days. He referred to the persecutions that the Saints had endured and the blessings in store for those who were faithful.

Brother K. G. Maeser occupied the remainder of the time, speaking upon Church schools and the proper education of the children of the Latter-day Saints.

On Sunday morning President G. Q. Cannon and J. F. Smith were present. President Smith occupied the whole of the time. He spoke upon the trials through which the Saints had passed during the last seven or eight years. The Lord was continuing His work and would do so until the final consummation of all things. He spoke upon the subject of education and said one of the most important duties devolving upon the Latter-day Saints was the proper education of their children.

At 1 p. m., after singing and prayer, the Sacrament was administered.

President Gowans presented the general authorities of the Church and Stake, and they were sustained unanimously.

President George Q. Cannon referred to the remarks made by President Joseph F. Smith. He hoped the Saints would carry out in their lives the instructions given, and those who did so would obtain their reward.

Conference adjourned for three months.

THOMAS WILLIAMS,

Assistant Clerk.

GRANTSVILLE, Tooele County, U. T., July 27th.