

southwest part, is presided over by Bishop Casper Steiner, and the Third Ward, embracing the northwest part of the town, has Timothy J. Winter for Bishop. The town has a printing office, from which the *Rexburg Press*, edited by Elder Phineus Tempest, is issued weekly; four stores dealing in general merchandise, one music store, two blacksmith shops, one livery, feed and sale stable, one meat market, one hotel, and a number of shops of more or less importance. But the pride of the town is the Rexburg Mills, the largest, best and most perfect flouring mill in the upper Snake River Valley. It stands on an elevated piece of ground a short distance east of the townsite, and is owned by an incorporated company. It was erected in 1889 at a cost of \$19,000. The walls of the main building are of beautiful white sandstone—45 x 55 feet and four stories high. The mill can turn out 180 sacks of flour in a day, when worked to its full capacity. Besides the mill there are a few other substantial buildings in Rexburg, but most of the dwellings are as yet primitive in character, nearly all loghouses with dirt roofs. These, however are beginning to give way for more modern and comfortable structures.

Six miles east of Rexburg is Teton, one of the finest little towns in the forks of Snake River. Its location is beautiful and the immense tracts of rich farming lands surrounding the townsite are, level as a floor. John Donaldson, a man of considerable experience, is Bishop of this Ward, which consists of about fifty families.

On the opposite side of the Piton River lies Wilford, so named in honor of President Wilford Woodruff. This Ward, over which Bishop George Davis presides, embraces a fine tract of country lying between the Teton and Henry's Fork of Snake River. The Wilford townsite is two miles north of Teton, but there being no bridge over the Teton River, there is no direct communication between the two settlements in times of high water.

Parker (formerly Egin) named in honor of Bishop Wyman A. Parker, who presides over the ward, is situated on the north side of Henry's Fork. In a direct line this place is eight miles north of Rexburg, but the way the road runs, via the bridge at St. Anthony, the distance is about sixteen miles. Parker townsite vies with Teton in point of beautiful location, and the surrounding level country here, this time of the year, is literally covered with flowers of a yellowish hue, which is also the case in the Wilford and Teton wards. The hardy weed bearing these flowers is the natural growth in this part of the valley, while the country south of the main fork of Snake River is covered with a thrifty growth of sage brush. In the three settlements last mentioned there is room for thousands of Latter-day Saints, and the present settlers would gladly welcome such of their faith as would not be afraid

to face the difficulties and hardships connected with developing the resources of a country.

This much can be said of this entire country—that there is plenty of good land and an abundance of water wherewith to irrigate it, and it is only a matter of time when this entire region will teem with its tens of thousands of inhabitants.

Northwest of Parker, on the same side of Henry's Fork, is Brighton Ward, containing about thirty families presided over by Bishop Reuben Hart.

On the so-called Teton Island on a kind of delta formed by the forking of the Teton River, at a point about ten miles above its junction with Henry's Fork, the Salem Ward is situated. The townsite, named after the ancient Salem mentioned in the Bible, is three miles north of Rexburg. Also here more settlers would be welcome, and although nearly all the farming lands within the limits of this ward have been claimed and entered, the owners are willing to divide with new-comers. George H. B. Harris is the Bishop of this ward.

Southwest of Rexburg, between the Teton, Henry's Fork and the main Snake River is the Burton Ward, presided over by Bishop Geo. U. Smith; and seven miles south of Rexburg, on the north bank of the South Fork of Snake River, is Lyman, a growing and thrifty young settlement that can boast of the richest soil in the whole valley. I held a meeting with the interesting community at this place last night.

The settlements briefly described in the foregoing (Menan and Labelle not included) embrace all the Saints residing on the north side of the South Fork, and in compliance with the general counsel given by the presiding authorities of the Church all but two have located townsites, upon which many of the settlers are making permanent improvements and locating themselves as fast as they can secure titles to their lands.

Last Sunday Bishop Farrell and I addressed the Saints in Rexburg and had a good time. I am now on my way to visit the settlements on the south side of the river.

Bannock Stake of Zion embraces all the Saints living in Bingham County, Idaho, north of the forty-third parallel of north latitude, and also a few scattered families in Alturas County, which lies immediately west of Bingham County. East the Stake extends to the Wyoming and north to the Montana boundary line. With the exception of about sixty families who reside in the Teton Basin, the bulk of the Saints dwell in the great Snake River Valley, the settlements being scattered for a distance of about ninety miles up and down the main river and its several forks and tributaries. The south fork or main branch of Snake River which—near Market Lake suddenly changes its course from a northwesterly to a southwesterly direction—makes a natural division of the south and north settlements, and there is no doubt but that the Ban-

nock Stake at some future day, when the population increases more, will be divided into two or more Stakes. The country being open for hundreds of miles westward, heavy winds, which no doubt originate on the Pacific Coast, frequently sweep through the valley from southwest to northeast. Thus we find in the Taylor Ward, southeast of Eagle Rock, a long row of sandhills which are continually, traveling northward with the wind leaving small sand knolls in its wake. These finally become stationary through being overgrown by vegetation, while the great bulk of the sand masses is slowly working its way further and further north, and will perhaps eventually be arrested in its march by the river and carried by it in the opposite direction toward the Pacific.

On the south side of the South Fork and on the east side of the Snake River proper (i. e. the river below the forks) there are, within the limits of the Bannock Stake, nine organized wards of the Church, namely Menan and Labelle (on Poole's Island, already described), and Louisville, Rigby, Willow Creek, Iona, Eagle Rock, Taylor and Basalt.

Louisville Ward embraces a large scope of country lying south of the "Dry Bed" and east of the main channel of Snake River. The townsite, containing 320 acres, is situated in the center of a fine farming district, and bids fair to become an important town at some future day, when the country shall have been filled with inhabitants. Bishop Richard F. Jardine, one of the founders of the place, presides here. Louisville is fifteen miles north of Eagle Rock. Market Lake Station would be a much nearer railway point, but the river makes direct communication with that place impossible.

Southeast of Louisville lies the Rigby Ward, so named in honor of William F. Rigby, first counselor in the Stake Presidency. This ward contains only about thirty families, including the Cedars Branch, lying toward the mountains east, and near the mouth of the Lower Snake River Canyon. The townsite of Rigby, containing 160 acres, is so far nearly unoccupied, but the people intend to build on it as soon as they have proved up on their lands. Rigby is, as yet, a vast sagebrush plain, with here and there a few acres under cultivation. The green lucern patches and wheat fields present indeed a lovely contrast to the unbroken lands surrounding them. But in Louisville and Rigby there is room for thousands of settlers, and the lands are supposed to be as fertile as any in the great Snake River Valley, to which the very thrifty growth of sagebrush now covering it abundantly testifies. Bishop George A. Gordon, a young man, presides in this ward. The Rigby townsite is six miles southeast of Louisville centre.

South of Rigby lies the Willow Creek Ward, containing about twenty-five families, presided over by Bishop Alphonso B. Simmons.