

corner of Utah, we have ample room for 500 families—a great variety of climate and soil.

Let us commence at Monticello, San Juan County, Utah, situated near the eastern base of the Blue Mountains; altitude about 6,500 feet above sea level; climate lovely during summer, and winters not very severe; season short in which animals have to be fed, as compared with northern Utah; timber plenty and easy of access; fuel and fencing in abundance all over the country; coal in abundance near at hand; all kinds of cereals and vegetables grow well here, hardy kinds of fruit will no doubt do well; a few peaches have been ripened here; thousands of acres of good land lying to east, south and north, unsurveyed government land. The Carlisle Brothers hold a claim on several sections under desert entry. They have been largely engaged in the stock business but are now driving off their cattle and selling out. They have been writing frequently during the past year for us (Mormons) to buy them out, but on account of the unsettled state of the Ute Indian removal bill we have not done much about it. So far as I am acquainted with the matter, I believe the moving of the Indians into this country is a dead issue; they will not come now. These claims are the best there are in this country, in fact I consider these claims the key to the prosperity of the settlers in this vicinity. With proper utilizing of the water for irrigation fifty families could fine homes or a good place to make them, and by proper storage of the water one hundred families could be supplied with small farms. It is also a well established fact that dry culture for wheat can be made a success for a large belt around these mountains. Thousands of acres of good land can be found all round the region without any claim upon it. One watering for wheat or oats, spring sowed, brings a good crop. Monticello has a large amount of land fenced and under irrigation, owned by very few people who would gladly divide with good Latter-day Saints who would come and help to build up and strengthen the ward. Besides, there is the same opportunity for dry farming here as mentioned above. Monticello, in my judgment, could take twenty-five families. It is a good, a prosperous ward with a real live bishop, (F. T. Jones,) looking jealously after the interest of his flock. The above mentioned places are situated in the midst of a first-class summer range for cows, where several dairy ranches could be successfully located, near the mountain where good water and most excellent grass abounds. This country is situated on the San Juan county road leading from Bluff on the San Juan river to Moab, Grand county, where we have some thirty families forming the Moab ward. From Monticello to Moab 60 miles; from Moab to Thomson Spring station on the D. & R. G. W. Ry. 35 miles; from said station to Salt Lake City 213 miles or thereabouts.

From Monticello we will go east on good road over a fine high rolling country, covered with abundance of cedar and piñon pine with very little water except a few springs for some sixty miles, and we come to Cortez, a small town located in the fine agricultural valley of Montezuma, Colorado. Here we have some 400,000 acres of good farm land situated under

two canals called the Ditch and Tunnel Co. There are comparatively but few farms located and being worked on this great body of land. There are large tracts of it yet unoccupied—title in the general government and Colorado state government. State lands, some 80,000 acres, can be purchased cheap and on very easy terms to good, substantial settlers. I am pleased and proud to say that Mormons as settlers have much the preference. The northwestern lateral to the Ditch canal is not yet worked. It is thirteen miles long, tail of ditch discharging the water into Utah. This company is anxious to have Mormon people come and settle under this part of their canal and work the lateral and have permanent water rights. I do not remember exactly the amount of land that this is supposed to carry water for, but I think I am abundantly safe in setting it at 50,000 acres, a great percentage of most excellent soil for fruit as well as general culture. The altitude is much lower than Monticello, for it is down grade from there all the way; good saw timber about ten to twelve miles east towards Mancos, and about same distance to Dolores on the river of that name, and to a station of the D. & G. Southern railway, running from Durango, Colo., on its way to Rico, Ridgway and other places to connect with the main line of the R. G. Western railway at Montrose, I believe. There, in my judgment, 200 families can find one of the best countries unoccupied that I know of for a thousand miles round this region of the Rocky Mountains—government lands free to appropriate and cheap water for working of it.

Twenty miles farther east, on a good road—much of the way through nice parks of beautiful saw timber with no under brush, some scattering ranches now and then appear wrestling with the problem of dry farming, and some are succeeding well, owing to location—we come to a nice little valley some 20 by 4 miles wide with the Rio Mancos rambling down it. This is also a railroad station on the D. & R. G. Southern. A smart little town of enterprising citizens is found here; one large, well stocked store, carrying general merchandise, owned and run by a Mr. George Bauer, a good, honest Dutchman or German; one or two other small stores, doing very little business; two blacksmith shops, one hotel and several restaurants; one barber shop, one fine central school building, where a high school is taught; one small Methodist chapel. These improvements are all found on the west side of the river. On the east, about one mile from the center of the village, we come to the Mormon meeting and school house, a good, commodious building built of logs and lumber. From here south we have a regular Mormon string-town for a distance of some ten or twelve miles down the celebrated Weber canyon till it breaks into the Rio Mancos canyon so celebrated for Aztec mummies, ruins, cave and cliff dwellers. The land on either side of this canyon is located and owned or claimed, with much of it deeded from the government, by a few Mormon families, who are dead land poor and waiting for people wanting homes to come and help them redeem the country. Land with water right can be had here from \$10 to \$20 per acre; good, rich land as can be found this side of the Missouri river. Besides these Mormon

claims there are quite a number of ranches of 160 acres each situated on the main road leading from Durango thirteen miles east, also adjacent to the railroad, which have been recently sold under mortgage foreclosure, and are for sale dirt cheap with first-class water rights. The altitude is something over 6,000 feet; winter is mild for high altitude; fruit is being raised here in considerable quantities; market for butter and eggs good the year round; many rich mines near by this vicinity; goods, such as farmers usually buy, are about as sold in Salt Lake City; fencing and wood for fuel in abundance and coal is cropping out all over the country; saw timber in easy distance, nine to ten miles away. This, in my opinion, is one of the finest places for young men to come and be satisfied with small farms and stay at home and leave the mines and all other side labor alone and stick to the farm, where, with industry, temperance, frugality and a firm trust in God and His providence they can become very comfortable in a few years; for the country has many natural advantages. Mancos and close vicinity can furnish homes for 250 families.

We will now take a spin down into New Mexico; travel east about twelve miles over a high divide or summit into a beautiful park, dotted here and there with nice ranches carried on by the dry culture process largely; thence some eight miles down a deep canyon with a small stream flowing down it called Cherry creek. Some nice rich farms are found on either side of this little stream; saw timber nearly all along this canyon or narrow deep valley for its entire length. We leave Cherry creek by ascending quite a high mountain on a long, deep, good grade; we now come into the reservation where the Southern Ute Indians are in possession, travel some eight or ten miles down grade, good road, and we come to the Rio La Plata, thence across by ford, up quite a hill on to a beautiful mesa, still on the reservation; travel on several miles and down a steep hill onto the La Plata river; down this we travel some 25 or 30 miles. All the way there are nice ranches; the reservation is 15 miles wide, and as soon as we cross it into New Mexico, the land is taken up and fine farms and orchards line the bottoms on either side of the stream till we reach Jackson ward or La Plata, as formerly called. Here Elder A. F. Young is presiding, with some sixteen families under his watch care. The people here—all Mormons—have under claim the entire land from this point to where the La Plata empties in the San Juan, about nine miles. Here is found some of the richest and most fertile lands I have ever seen in these Rocky Mountain valleys. Many of these brethren would be glad to part with some of their land claims to good Saints who are in want of homes. Elder A. F. Young gave 40 acres of his claim to a brother to have him come and be a neighbor to him, and a good rich claim it was, too; others I believe would be glad to have good neighbors on very similar terms. This is a good fruit country, very healthy climate; winters mild, can work out all during the winter months; very little stormy weather; wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes and all kinds of vegetables grow well here; it is one of the best all round farming districts I know of; but a drawback