

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.
OLD FOLKS AT LEHI.

LEHI, Jan. 16, 1896.

For four years last past we have had in Lehi a standing committee, whose duty it is twice a year to bring together the old folks over sixty-five years of age, for the purpose of a social gathering, feast, etc. In pursuance of that duty the past two weeks has seen the committee busy receiving from the people of Lehi their contributions of chickens, meats, cakes, pies, meats, and others of the good things of life; and 12 o'clock noon today saw the results of their labors.

The Lehi opera house was kindly furnished free by the proprietor, Mr. Louis Garff. It was beautifully decorated for the occasion with the American flag, the new star of Utah, flowers, evergreens, etc. The past two hours has seen the public backs and private carriages, sleighs, etc., busy assembling the old folks. On the assemblage being completed, it was noticed that too at least of our oldest pioneer fathers and mothers were missing from their accustomed place.

Time being called, the band discoursed sweet music while the seatings of the old folks was completed. Then came the singing of Freedom's Banner by the old folks choir, led by Prof. John L. Gibb. Prayer by Chaplain A. R. Anderson. A short address of welcome by Bishop T. K. Cutler, then blessing on food by Brother William Yates.

After this the feast commenced. It consisted of home products; not forgetting the old dish of plum pudding, oranges and other fruit.

Dinner being over, the tables were all cleared out, when the program for the day led off by a piece from old folks choir, entitled Whip-poor-Will.

Geo. Goddard, of the Salt Lake City committee, gave a brief outline of the history of the old folks' parties. He stated that the idea originated with C. R. Savage, of Salt Lake, twenty-six years ago; and that for many years the central committee was Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter, George Goddard and C. R. Savage.

C. R. Savage being called upon, arose and gave a morsel full and complete history of the first efforts of the committee. The first year the Old Folks excursion had 150 people; last year the general company was 1017. In the whole twenty-five years there had been no accident, and scarcely ever any bad weather. He gave much good advice to the old people with reference to feeling young. Stated that the railroads had always given a free train and said that our excursions were the best and most orderly that ever run.

George Goddard again spoke briefly. He said he had lived with his wife fifty-six years. He showed a gold watch that had been presented to him by his children at a reunion after he and his wife had been married fifty years. He then sang "Hard Times Come Again No More."

Elder W. C. Dunbar, after a characteristic speech, introduced his Scotch pipes and played "All Are Talking of

Utah," much to the amusement of the company. This was followed by a comic song by Bro. James Kirkham, then a short speech from Israel Evans, the oldest settler in Lehi. He referred to early life in Utah and the long continued efforts obtain Statehood, now happily accomplished; also to the meeting in Nauvoo when a vote was taken that all present would not cease their efforts until all the poor were gathered to the great West; also to H. C. Kimball's prophecy that in five years the people would be better off in the West than they were in Nauvoo, and its exact fulfillment. Then came a song by Old Folks' choir, "Oh My Father."

Candles and nuts, etc., were then passed around, and after music from the band, Brother Thos. Barret, of the Old Folks' committee of American Folk, made some good remarks.

The song by Brother Dunbar, "My Dear Old Wife and I," caused much enthusiasm and an encore was demanded, when "If I was as young as I used to be" was rendered.

Hon. Mesiah Evans, mayor of Lehi, was called on, who made a few remarks and gave a recitation on Old Age; Sister Mary Wanless sang a song, Notes of silver and gold; recitation by a small boy, "A Shame;" short speech from Hon. A. J. Evans; recitations by small boy and girl, The Old Year and the New; closing remarks.

A vote of thanks to the committee and all concerned in getting up the entertainment.

Recess was taken until 8 p. m., when all who were able and desired had the opportunity of engaging in a dance.

Thus closed one of the pleasantest days ever known in Lehi. The general committee are Wm. Southwick, Joseph Broadbent, Alphonso Davis, George Glover, and Lois Russen.

ONE OF THE OLD FOLKS.

TETON BASIN.

TETON BASIN, Darby, Ida.

Having received of late a number of letters from different parties, friends and acquaintances from various parts of the world, making inquiries about this Teton country, I thought perhaps that as there are many who are seeking homes, a public answer would be permissible.

On arriving here June 29th, 1895, I met perchance with a man who was leaving the Basin. Asking him about the country, he replied, "There are nine months' winter and three months late in the fall." Of course I paid no more attention to him, but remained here and found it altogether different. We had a beautiful summer; winter commenced rather early, but we are having beautiful weather now. The snow on the level is but ten inches in depth. The range of mountains on the east side of the valley contains many canyons, and the north side of these canyons are free from snow to a great extent so that stock can range and so well there, the feed being heavy and up to their knees. As a rule we have good feed as soon as the snow goes in the spring. The

canyons are heavily clothed with timber. The valley is about thirty-five miles long and about twelve miles wide. In it there is a saw mill near the center, on the east side in the canyon that is called Teton; also a shingle mill two miles below. On the west side of the Basin can be found as good a coal mine as can be found in that range of mountains.

There are three schools running now and another will start soon; also two stores, and they are doing a good merchandise business. I think there is some land that has not yet been taken and plenty water and a sufficient supply of timber; if there are places here to be taken yet I am in hopes they will be discovered soon that they may be getting cultivated.

Of course there are disadvantages here as well as in other countries; but there are three post-offices in the Basin and we have the United States mail three times per week. The great number of people that have come in the Basin and the thousands of acres of land that have been taken during the past year cause me to think that at the end of 1896 there will not be a quarter section of land that is of much value to be taken. You home seekers, come in and see the beautiful valley that has been and is now considered a valuable country.

DAVID BAGLEY.

TRAVELING UNDER DIFFICULTY.

MANARD, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,
Jan. 1, 1896.

Having returned in peace and safety to our headquarters, the home of William H. Hendricks, from a four weeks' trip in the northern part of the Cherokee Nation, we feel to relate to the readers of the NEWS our experience while traveling over the true and cross covered hills of the district mentioned.

On November 28, 1895, we left Manard for the north, going by way of Tablequah, and having a cold north wind to face. In the outskirts of the city of Tablequah we were held up by a man who called us Mormons, and himself John Price. But instead of robbing us, or picking our pockets, he told us that he was a friend to the Mormons and wished us success.

A little farther on we traveled up Blackbird creek, got lost in the woods, and came to a house, which, upon inquiry, we found to belong to a Cherokee by the name of Redbird. As it was growing dark we asked for the privilege of remaining over night with him. After bearing us through he held a consultation with his wife in a tongue that we could not understand, and then motioned us to enter his house, which we were glad to do as it was the only one within several miles, and in a thickly wooded country. We were treated royally by this son of Laman, though we could not understand each other's language very well. A few nights afterwards we were again entertained by full-bloods who did not speak one word that we could understand. Such families as the last referred to are scarce, as there are several good schools in the nation at which the English language is taught free to the children of the Cherokees.

Still further on we passed the