

Sanpete county, Utah, has been appointed to labor with Elder Croft. Elder Hansen left his home Feb. 6th, 1898, and arrived in Chicago Feb. 12th, where he was appointed to the Wisconsin conference; is a single man twenty-three years of age.

The "News" comes to hand regularly and its contents are interesting and instructive to us.

HYRUM CHRISTENSEN,
E. W. CROFT.

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE.

Batepiti, Bavispi River, Sonora, Mex.,
Jan. 28, 1898.

In my letter from Oaxaca I promised to give your readers some information about this place. When the river (Bavispi) leaves Oaxaca it runs north by west some fifteen miles; then turns west through a box canyon five miles; then cuts into the end of a long valley, some four or five miles wide; then enters another canyon south by west, making a large bend, and in this bend from the north down the valley comes the Batepiti river, from which this place takes its name. From here down the two rivers make the Yaqui river. This grant contains about 10,000 acres of land. Most of it is grazing land, but there is some good farm land upon it, but not so much as was said to be by some that have visited it. Our party looked over the ground and leveled the canals here again. We found that it would cost more than at first estimated to get the water on the land. It is also said that the Batepiti goes dry every year for about six weeks and that the Bavispi has been known to go dry once or twice. The land near the small hills and the higher flats on which towns could be made are covered with dense growth of timber, good only for firewood. It is a kind of a bastard locust, very hard and brash, but makes very good fuel. The climate is a little warmer than Oaxaca. We were there in January. The days were warm and delightful with a very little frost at night, but this is said to be the coldest winter for years. Most kinds of fruit would do well here and possibly the orange, but that is not certain.

This place is in a direct line forty miles from the United States line; seventy-five miles from Bisbee in Arizona; thirty-five miles from Frontiras in Sonora, and fifty miles from the town of Bavispi, up the river. This valley was visited by an earthquake in 1887, which made the valley sink and has left a mark all round the east and south of it for miles. In some places the gap is eight feet wide and the upper side from six to fifteen feet higher, having a perpendicular wall. The same shake threw down the church at Bavispi, fifty miles south, up the river, and killed some sixty persons. The road from Batepiti north into the United States is very good. We came up the river and through the San Bernardino ranch and over to Bisbee, then down the San Pedro river to St. David, a settlement of Latter-day Saints. St. David is situated on the San Pedro river, 20 miles north of Tombstone and seven miles southeast of Benson on the line of the Bisbee and Nogales railroads, two lines running parallel from Fairbanks to Benson down the San Pedro river. There are now about thirty families in the place. They are scattered about eight miles on the river. At the bottom end of the valley is a fine flat of about 1,700 acres, which is to be the town-site. The land is all filed on and some have their patents and are willing to sell to those of a like faith. The town is watered partly by canal and partly by flowing wells, which are very easy to make, as the formation is such that in a well of 150 feet only about 30 or 40 feet of pipe is used. The wells are made by the washing process and

are made in from 5 to 12 days. The people here want about 30 or 40 more families, and they invite inspection of this place. Merchandise is very reasonable here, while farm products of all kinds bring a good price. Baled hay, when hauled twenty miles fetches \$10 to \$12 per ton; eggs 30 cents per dozen, etc.

Any further information wanted about the Batepiti country can be had by writing to A. W. Ivins, Juarez, or to Elder L. S. Huish, Payson, all under the direction of A. W. Ivins.

The subjoined paragraph is from the Arizona Star:

The matter of artesian water has been settled in the San Pedro Valley between Benson and Fairbanks. There are twenty-six artesian wells now in successful use, supplying as many farmers, which have been developed by the St. David's Mormon colony. The Latter-day Saints are wonderfully good people for a new country. They are industrious, frugal, honest and courageous. They were the first to introduce irrigation in the United States; that was in Utah. They were the first to introduce irrigation in Arizona—that was in Apache, Maricopa and Graham counties. Now they are the first to develop artesian wells, and thus become the pioneers of this important factor for reclaiming the rich soils of Arizona. What these interesting members of the Church of the Latter-day Saints have done at St. David's, in San Pedro Valley, ought to be accomplished in many other valleys of Arizona. If it cannot be accomplished in any other way the territory ought to pay a royalty to the Mormon people for each and every swarm or colony they plant in the unreclaimed valleys of Arizona, where they develop artesian water. They are a people worthy of appreciation, for the work they have done, and they should be cultivated for the good they are doing now, and will accomplish in the future.

MORGAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Morgan Stake of Zion convened at the Stake meeting house at Morgan, on Sunday and Monday, February 13th and 14th.

Seated on the stand were: Elder R. Fry with his counselors, Samuel Francis and William H. Rich, together with the Bishops of the various wards and members of the High Council.

Conference opened at 10 a. m. Sunday morning, there being a good congregation present. After receiving reports from some of the Bishops and superintendent of Sunday schools, Patriarch Alma Porter addressed the congregation. He spoke forcibly on the mercy of God to this people and how we should live to merit His blessings.

Elders Charles Giles, L. H. Durrant and William Coolbear, returned missionaries, addressed the meeting; gave exhortations to the people.

Elder Samuel Francis called the afternoon meeting to order.

Sacrament was administered and the remainder of the Bishops' reports given in.

Elder Fry was the first speaker. He commenced by reading the first section of Doctrine and Covenants, and then spoke of the missionary work and of the dealings of God with this people.

Elder Alonzo Francis was the next speaker. He dwelt upon the evidence of Joseph Smith's divine authority, and spoke of the assertion Latter-day Saints make to the world, that "this is the only true Church of God."

Monday, February 14th, 10 a. m.—Elder William H. Rich called the meeting to order.

After the opening exercises Elder Thomas Spackman addressed the congregation. He spoke of how God had gathered the Saints from many lands and of the love that should be manifested among us.

Elder Samuel Carter followed, and referred to the past history of this people and of how he had watched the progress of the young men from childhood.

Elder L. W. Porter spoke of the early history of this Church.

After the reading of the statistical report of the Stake, Elder Samuel Francis addressed the meeting. He said God had abundantly blessed us; we knew in whom we had put our trust; spoke of the vice to be found in our midst and what a real Latter-day Saint should appear before the world.

Elder William H. Rich spoke of the magnitude of the work and of how some of us lose our first love and become lukewarm.

Elder Fry made a few closing remarks.

Conference adjourned for three months.

O. F. URSENBACH, Clerk.

NARROW ESCAPES

Men-of-war's men become callous to danger and just now in any room of the navy department you can hear stories of accidents and carelessness and narrow escapes from death and destruction that chill the blood of a layman who is not in the habit of fooling with torpedoes, gun-cotton and that kind of toys. Judging the Maine by what has happened on other ships, you can see a thousand ways in which an explosion might have occurred. A veteran officer relates what he calls "a little incident" to show the nerve of an apprentice boy. A division of the crew of one of the battleships was overhauling the after magazine one day, breaking out fixed ammunition, cans of powder and gun-cotton, and cleaning house, as it were, under the direction of a lieutenant and a gunner's mate. The latter stood leaning over the hatch, singing out orders to the men in the magazine, when he accidentally knocked his lantern against the steel side of the hatchway. The spring that held the lamp gave way and it fell into the pit, bottom-side up, and still burning, upon the top of a large tin can of powder. The men in the pit were busy stowing, with their backs turned, and did not see the accident. The lieutenant, the gunner's mate and others who were looking over the hatch were stupefied with horror, but, fortunately for that ship and its crew of 500 men, an apprentice boy had his wits with him and quicker than you can tell it "shinned" down the tackle, seized the lamp, extinguished the flame with his fingers, grabbed the heated can of powder in his arms and sang out: "You lubbers, haul me and this here can to the deck, d— quick." Two jerks upon a rope lifted the boy and his dangerous burden to the deck and in an instant he had cast it over the side into the sea.

The commanding officer did not complain of the loss of that powder and the boy now wears the sword of a gunner's mate.

"It was only the other day," said an officer yesterday, "that another gunner's mate by a bit of swift head and hand work saved one of the battleships of the north Atlantic squadron, which is now cruising around Key West, from an awful peril in which it was placed by sheer carelessness. The ship was engaged in big-gun practice at sea, and solid shot were being fired from the main battery. The gunner's mate referred to was stationed in the conning tower with the skipper. One of the big guns was loaded with a solid shot and the skipper was about