

I am pleased to hear of so many young men from West Bountiful going on missions. It will be a great help to the ward when they return, as well as an everlasting benefit to themselves. I would be pleased to hear of others being called.

The mail is soon to go out, and not having any more time I will draw to a close.
DUNCAN KIPPEN.

FOREST ASSOCIATIONS.

It is fortunate that the work of the special committee of the Forestry association has been completed and the withdrawal of government land in the three districts requested just now, while the public and State land questions are being considered by the Legislature.

The importance of the land grants to the State are not appreciated by the heavy taxpayers of Utah and the great advantages to be derived from the extensive forest reservations proposed are ignored or will be violently opposed by the very people who will be most benefited.

It must be admitted that the areas which the committee proposes to include are greater than most people would expect, and the theory upon which the proposed reservations are based is a radical one. If even a great portion of the land proposed to be reserved is withdrawn from settlement and placed under intelligent control in the future, the benefits will be generally acknowledged within a few years.

The districts proposed take in all lands above certain elevations shown on the maps, and extend from Ogden to Spanish Fork and to Ashley. The reservations include the railroad districts on the mountains east of the settlements between Salt Lake and Ogden; the ranges back of Morgan, Hennefer, Echo and Coalville between East Canyon and Weber; the ranges in Summit county between Chalk Creek and Echo canyon, between Chalk Creek and Weber river, and the lands at head of Bear river, Smith's Fork and Henry's Fork, lying between the southern line of Wyoming and the divide between Bear river and Henry's Fork streams running northward and the Duchesne, Strawberry, Ashley, and other rivers and creeks draining southeasterly into the Green river basin.

The interests affected by the proposed reservations of these vast tracts are: The settlers who have used the ranges or who have patents for or contracts or filings on government or railroad lands now; the sheep men who have used the country for summer ranges; the miners who have now mines or prospects in the mountains, the State owning four sections of school land in each township and with the right to select special grants amounting to over a million acres, which will be made available by water storage in the mountains, and the Union Pacific railroad company, which still owns about 150,000 acres, being the alternate sections within twenty miles of the main line of the road from Ogden east. Settlers of Davis, Morgan and Summit counties have bought some railroad sections in the proposed limits to be reserved and the 20,000 acre water-

shed lands bought by Salt Lake City from the railroad company will partially fall inside the proposed reservations.

The railroad company has always appreciated the importance of protecting the watersheds and the mountain lands have been sold either to cities or settlers whose interests are permanent.

The State can easily arrange to secure the railroad lands in these forest districts. Railroad lands of the Union Pacific have not in the past, and will not in the future, be handed in a way to interfere with the best use of the ranges or the intelligent and reasonable protection of forest districts. There ought to be some general provisions adopted when the general land department approves the withdrawal of the lands in question, which will enable the State land board to adjust and utilize the State lands in these reservations to advantage. And the right to prospect for minerals and to operate mines must be preserved. The rights of settlers who have acquired mountain lands in these districts must be protected. The selection by the State of valuable lands either for reservoir sites or other purposes must be provided for.

If the sheep men of Utah get together and fight this plan they will probably defeat the whole business but it is to be hoped that they will be satisfied with some reasonable regulations which can surely be established to enable them to make use of the high lands under some method of control to prevent over crowding and consequent destruction such as has too often been the case in the past. Settlers will be unreasonable if they refuse to join in the effort to have this movement succeed after being protected, of course, in the rights which they have heretofore acquired and the reasonable use hereafter of the ranges they have had the unrestricted use of in common with sheepmen heretofore.

Utah people who have been using public lands must wake up now and begin to realize that the State is now the one big land owner, and that hereafter the stupidity of Uncle Sam will not be the only factor to take into consideration when they attempt to use or abuse the range lands of the State.

C. E. W.

A VOICE FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS

PORIRUA, Wellington, New Zealand,
December, 12, 1895.

Though separated by thousands of miles of surging seas from the spot which the Almighty has chosen for His people, we are not by any means so far but we are the recipients of your valuable paper, which, at the arrival of mail, finds its way into the several districts reviving the spirits of those who are separated from their loved ones at home. The voice of counsel as it falls from the lips of our beloved brethren which sounds familiar to every true Latter-day Saint, and retains every whit of its wisdom and power though it be tossed upon the billows of time and tide. The wisdom seekers from the ends of the earth turn their faces Zionward and those who have accepted of the revealed doctrine are now basking in the light of revelation as it reflects

upon them. The world, reluctant at the present time, yet will confess that God is with His people and that it is through Him that they are established in the tops of the mountains. Then will they look upon the youthful sons of Zion and say, "Blessed art thou for thou hast brought good tidings of great joy from the Lord."

We have long heard the sound of the approaching foot-steps of Elder Jensen which reminds me of the successive rolling of distant though approaching thunder, whose reverberations resounded from the extremities of the South sea islet; but not until recently have we realized his presence.

It seems that God in His goodness has seen fit to open up the windows of heaven and allow the bright rays of His celestial light to beam down upon His children here, lighting the paths of duty and opening up the eyes of their understanding so that they can now comprehend to a fair degree the importance of living God's lives. Knowing as they do that their names are to be entered in the archives of Church history, it is their desire to have as good a reputation attached to their names as possible.

President Wm. Gardner, Elders Andrew Jensen, F. H. Ellis, H. C. Jax, Wm. Diamond, H. C. Barton and James S. Abbott having arrived at this place, our conference convened at 2:30 p.m., Nov. 30, and continued until the eve of Dec. 1st. Six meetings were held, two of which were Europeans.

It seemed that the Spirit of God had gone before us to prepare the way. Some of the neighboring Europeans were present among whom was Mr. Gear of this place. The speaking was inspiring and life giving; in fact it was just what the Saints wanted, and upon listening to Elder Jensen describe his labors among the Saints of the Sandwich Islands they grew very enthusiastic. It created an interest in them to learn more concerning their brethren who are dwelling upon those islands. Elder Jensen finished his work here and he, in company with Elder Gardner, left for the South Island, where they will visit for a few days.

Our last mail arrived recently and the Maori Saints of this branch were the happy recipients of some very encouraging letters from some of the Elders in Zion. Of these letters some were written in Maori, and after we had translated, those in English to the native tongue we had them read to the Saints, which had the desired effect.

The health of the Elders is good. In a few days the Elders and Saints will gather at Papawai, Wairarapa, where we will attend a conference and spend Christmas.
JAS. S. ABBOTT.

The discovery was made at Portland, Oregon, Saturday morning that two prisoners had escaped from the county jail in the night. Their names are Con Kelliher and Edward O'Brien. By some means they had unlocked the cell doors opening into the corridor. They then walked out the main door before it had been locked for the night. O'Brien was serving a sentence of one year for a petty offense. Kelliher had just been sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary for burglary. He was to have been taken to the penitentiary at Salem Saturday night.