

degree of improvement has been perceptible.

Many valuable instructions were given, and all unite in declaring the conference a profitable one. Prof. Paul's lecture, "The Beautiful," was given for the benefit of the Cache Stake M. I. A. on Saturday evening. The subject was illustrated by fine stereopticon views. Music, both vocal and instrumental, and tableaux added to the interest.

L. G. Hardy, Esq., of this city, returned Friday evening from the south, where he has been for the past month. The report he brings of the condition of the stock interests south of the Rim of the Basin are no more encouraging than the accounts previously given. He says that at Kanab and all that region the drouth in this its third year is more severe than during the preceding two years, causing a failure of the grass on ranges and even in the hills. In looking through the country he saw not less than 5,000 head of cattle, and not a beef animal among them, they were so poor from lack of food. What little grass there is this year is so far back in the mountains from where the streams are that the cattle, which have to water at least every other day, cannot make the trip to and from. He says he has seen cows come down for water and they were so thirsty that they would fill themselves to an extent that they would fall and have to lay there for a day before they could get up.

The animals are feeding on sagebrush and greasewood. If there was plenty of browse for them the young animals would get along, but there is not. Mr. Hardy says that unless there are some good rains in June and July the animals that live through the summer will be in such poor condition that when winter comes there will be immense losses.

The crops are not suffering from the drouth, but only the range cattle. The streams from which irrigating water is taken have a fairly good supply. At Kanab, for instance, there is four times as much water as when the settlement was made first. The full effect of the drouth comes on the stock interests, which are in a deplorable condition.

The name of Dr. Smith, the commonwealth "army" general, was associated with a very ugly case Tuesday, and if the charges against him are established his followers will have to choose other "timber" to plot them on their eastward journey.

The complaining witness is Mabel Graham, a fourteen-year-old girl, who called or rather was sent to the police station that morning to tell the story of the wrong that she claims was done her. Her grievance was unpretentiously and plainly narrated before Chief Pratt, Captain Donovan and a News representative. Shorn of its most salacious and disgusting features it was in substance as follows:

"I have been living for some time with a Mrs. Metz, a lady whose husband works for Mr. Bamberger, on Second East street, between First and Second South streets. Next door is a family by the name of Eccles. The man of the house is an ex-soldier, I understand. When "General" Smith came to Salt Lake he joined the army and on Sunday night his wife came over to where I was stopping and

asked Mrs. Metz if I could stay with her for the night, as her husband was either going away or would be out late. Mrs. Metz consented and I went. Mr. Eccles, however, came home early and went to bed. I slept in the next room. About midnight or a little after a man who I since learned was "Dr." Smith came in, the door having been left unlocked, I suppose for that purpose. Mrs. Eccles got out of bed and came into my room with me and went to bed, while Smith went in to sleep with her husband.

"The next I saw of Smith was yesterday morning, when he was washing himself for breakfast, when he put out his hand and said, 'Good morning, Lizzie.' I replied: 'My name is not Lizzie, sir, and don't care to be addressed in that manner.' He then smiled and said he didn't mean anything by the remark.

"Last night at the request of Mrs. Eccles I went back to stay at her house. A bed was made for me on the floor at the foot of her own and her husband's bed, and a little before nine o'clock I dropped down on it without undressing and went to sleep. I did not awake until midnight, when I was aroused in a very rude manner by someone in my bed. I jumped up and ran towards the head of Mrs. Eccles's bed and told them. They replied that he did not mean to frighten me, but I was very much alarmed and ran across the room and turned up the lamp which was burning very low and saw Smith crawling into his own room with his clothes partly off. I then ran out of the house and went home and told Mr. and Mrs. Metz who warned me not to go back, something I wouldn't have done anyhow, and told me to have him arrested this morning. That is why I am here."

The matter was referred to County Attorney Murphy and his assistant, Mr. Eichnor, who are making a thorough investigation of the case, and if the story of the girl can be fully substantiated Smith will be arrested.

Smith called at the Metz residence Tuesday and explained his presence in the room where the young lady was sleeping by saying that as he came in he looked through the half-open door and saw that she was partially uncovered, and fearing she would take cold went in to replace the bed covering, when he unintentionally awoke her.

Although far removed from the great Columbia river floods, of which the telegraphic dispatches tell, there is grave concern among many Salt Lake residents as to the direful results in the inundated districts for hundreds of miles throughout the northwest.

Among the most anxious in this city, perhaps, are the Union Pacific officials. In conversation with Mr. Burley Tuesday a representative of the News was told by that gentleman that the damage to property was immense along the Columbia river, and when asked to mark on the map that section of country now under water he drew a pencil from his pocket and made a circle which embraced about one-third of the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Of course, he said with a faint smile that his statement was rather overdrawn, but the condition was appalling. The whole of the Union

Pacific track between Umatilla and Portland, a distance of 186 miles, all of which is above high water mark, is now inundated, and vast stretches of it torn out and washed away.

Superintendent Bancroft is now and has been as near the big floods as possible for the last week or ten days, and it is not known when he will return. Thirty or forty miles of Union Pacific track is also hidden from view in the flooded region between Nampa and Huntington northwest of Boise, Idaho. Many bridges have been carried away and traffic is entirely suspended. The high water in this section comes from the Snake river as it also does on the branch line running from Pocatello to Helena where there are numerous washouts from Market Lake to Idaho Falls.

The loss that will be sustained is enormous. The cost of building the 186 miles of road referred to and which parallels the Columbia river for the whole of that distance was \$25,000 per mile. In Mr. Burley's opinion, that added to what the inhabitants of Portland will lose, will aggregate millions. It is the worst calamity that has ever visited the northwest.

Later information, however, is to the effect that the damage is not so great as at first reported.

Captain Willard Young, now city engineer, who is better acquainted, perhaps, on the Columbia river, than another Usonian, was asked for his opinion as to whether the great Cascade Locks a goodly portion of which were constructed under his supervision would stand the terrible strain they were now put to. In connection therewith he told the story of their building. They are the largest in the world, but are not yet complete. The work of building was commenced in 1878 under Colonel Wilson, who now has charge of the government buildings at Washington. Progress, however, has been slow on account of Congress appropriating only about \$100,000 per year for the work. The original estimate of cost was \$2,000,000. Up to date about \$1,500,000 has been spent and a great deal remains yet to be done.

Mr. Young had charge of the work from 1883 to 1884 and says that it is simply stupendous and his description left no doubt as to that. It was as strong as man and money could make it and yet he fears that it may have been washed away during the present floods. The Columbia river runs very swift at that point. The fall is twenty-four feet to 3,000. The purpose was to make the stream navigable.

Said Mr. Young: "There is a very pretty legend among the Indians as to the formation of the Cascade. It is that at one time there was a great natural stone bridge spanning from the Washington to the Oregon side of the river at that point. The mountains there are high and precipitous and the gorge narrow where the river passes through. The story runs that Mt. St. Helens on one side and Mt. Hood on the other engaged in a quarrel and while great volcanic eruptions were going on, threw stones at each other in such volleys and with such force as to break down the bridge, cause it to tumble into the stream below and form a sort of waterfall, giving it the name of Cascade."