

its appearance early in the spring remains nearly at a standstill, and if growing any is certainly very slow. Some expended all they had and others borrowed the money for the purchase of seed wheat, which was sowed last fall. Such are very unfortunate, for the land thus sown in nearly every instance is devoid of a spear of wheat. It sprouted and came up to due time, and for two or three weeks looked excellent; but the subsequent drought proved too much and it now lies withered and dead. From now until fall, be the season ever so favorable, the wheat crop will be almost a universal failure. There is time yet for the raising of vegetables, etc., but it is discouraging work to plant in such dry soil and prospects so poor for rain. Heretofore rain has usually fallen at the beginning of March. Some men refrain from doing any more with their farms until rain makes its appearance, their reasons being that it will be labor expended for nothing. The grass which as a general thing stands from two to three inches in length this season of the year, barely shows itself above the ground. This makes a telling effect on the stock as the man who was fortunate enough to have a supply of feed on hand during the winter for his animals has exhausted his stored feed and now is entirely dependent on the pasture for the support of them. The situation is quite a serious one, and is growing more so each day. The people are fearful lest this season be a repetition of last year. We know not what is ahead of us from one day to another, but if confusion, devastation, famine does overspread the land, it would only be in conformity to the word of God and the fulfillment of the predictions which have been made concerning what should befall the inhabitants of the earth in the last days. The condition of affairs as they exist here shows how quickly God could subdue the people and how utterly destitute of power they would be to change the conditions which the Almighty causes to exist. We have had the question put to us several times of late, Why it is that we don't produce rain if we are the servants of God? Our reply is that we are not able to change the decree of the Almighty even though we were disposed to attempt it, and that these things were prophesied of, and that every prediction will be fulfilled to the very letter, which has been made, pertaining to this dispensation and the destiny of the inhabitants thereof.

The Elders generally have received good treatment in the past, but the situation is becoming such that many who would like to entertain us are unable to do so. In consequence (though the people be charitably inclined) treatment in the future may not be what it has been, at any rate not until the arrival of better times.

We will give you a brief account of our last missionary tour, and while quite a successful one, it required considerable labor to perform it. Brother I. S. Jensen and I left headquarters Wednesday, March 27th. Our intention when leaving was to remain until conference, which was to convene at Seven C Flat, April 14th and 15th, but owing to a severe windstorm which arose on the night of the 5th, which continued

without signs of abatement, we concluded it the wisest plan to return to headquarters. We reached after walking thirty miles the latter place on the afternoon of the 7th, having been away about eleven days. During this trip eight meetings were held, 178 people were preached to, 37 fireside Gospel conversations were had, 18 of which were with ministers; we visited 66 families, notified 162 families of meeting, were refused entertainment nine times; distributed 38 tracts; walked 151 miles; remained in school houses four nights and gave away our book.

Our experience one night in staying in a school house was quite amusing. After meeting was dismissed quite a number remained in the building and three gentlemen came up to the stand to obtain tracts. We had told them in the course of our remarks if any present were interested in our doctrine they might at the close of meeting procure tracts for the asking, which would give them more information on the principles of the Gospel. When these men came up they were cheerfully supplied. The following day was Sunday and these three were very eager for us to remain over and preach in the afternoon. We were jubilant over the thought of the pleasure in order to do so, however, it would be necessary for us to get something to eat as we had eaten nothing since morning, and a place to stay at night. This fact was mentioned to them in tones loud enough for all that were in the house to hear. Imagine our surprise when the whole crowd, as if struck with magic, made rapid strides for the door. We listened after their departure to catch, if possible, some of the passing remarks, when they were heard making fun, and indulging in loud laughter over the very thoughts of entertaining Mormons. After all had disappeared in the darkness and the wind had silenced their voices, we commenced preparing for the night. Our beds were made by putting four benches seats forward together. The broken lights in the windows were fixed up as tight as possible. Just as we were about to retire a sack of corn was discovered in one corner of the house which the "school marm" had for the feeding of her horse during the hours of noon. This food was a rich one. It did not take long to shell the corn from the cob, and a moment later the kernels were on the stove over a roaring fire. We stood on the one side, and when it had become parched we gathered it in our hats and how sweet was the taste thereof. If we had partaken of a richly prepared supper the effect would not have been more satisfying to our appetites. After eating heartily, bed time had arrived and a few moments later we were on our knees, offering up the feelings of our hearts to Him who is always ready to hear a humble prayer. We slept as well as possible under such circumstances, and when the bright gleams of the morning light came streaming through the windows we aroused ourselves and again we knelt in reverence to Him who had spared us during the night. Not many words were uttered before there was a sudden interruption. The sound of a footstep was sufficient to bring us hurriedly to our feet. Immediately following there

was a slight knock on the door. It was quickly opened, and who should stand before us but a youngster of seven years. With an effort and quivering lips he muttered, "Papa wants you to come to breakfast." We thanked the little fellow, telling him to run on and we would follow him in a little while. He proceeded, and after finishing our supplication we caught up with and accompanied the child to his home. The father of the child, seeing from his house a table which we had put on the outside of the house over a broken window pane held in place by a stick of wood, came to the conclusion that we had passed the night inside, and had generously sent for us. We had notified him of the meeting, but being an infidel he did not care to hear anything regarding our religion. The gentleman, however, was the only one in a whole neighborhood of professed Christians who would entertain us. After eating we proceeded on our journey feeling none the worse for our experience.

The three other experiences of ours in school houses on this trip were almost repetitions of this one, and only once were we compelled to go far without obtaining something to eat, although it is a common thing to go on one meal a day. In all this, however, an Elder is buoyed up by the Spirit of God. Each obstacle overcome makes the next the easier to combat.

Next Sunday at 10 a. m. the Oklahoma conference commences. All Saints are confident of a good time and the Elders expect a season of refreshing, receiving renewed energy to press onward in the cause they represent. All are enjoying good health as far as known. Ever praying for the work of the Lord and all who are engaged in every department therein, I am, your humble brother,

W. E. NEWMAN.

SPRAYING TREES.

The following inquiry was received Monday, April 29th:

SALT LAKE CITY,
April 29, 1895.

If consistent, will you kindly publish in the News of the 27th the number of times fruit trees must be sprayed according to law? Also date, if given, obliging

Yours truly,
J. P. JAYNE.

By the probate judge's proclamation, issued February 28, the first spraying is to take place before the buds begin to swell; the second ten to fifteen days later; and the third ten to fifteen days later still; in the case of late apples and pears, the spraying is to continue at intervals of ten to fifteen days until September 1. This is twelve to eighteen sprayings for the entire season for late apples and pears, and three times for other fruits. This figuring will indicate the impracticability of the procedure until the officials get it down to more explicit and reasonable details.

William Hodson, eighteen years old, was caught in the machinery at the electric light plant at Los Angeles, Cal., on Saturday afternoon and literally torn to pieces.