

number of inhabitants, that have been visited with so great a death rate in so short a time as this place. The little village known as Hatchtown, situated on the headwaters of the Sevier river, was taken up by Brother Melville Hatch for a stock ranch some twenty-five years ago. It was thus used till his children began to marry as they came to maturity, and some of them began to settle around him. Turning their attention to agricultural pursuits, they soon found farming a profitable addition to the former occupation, and slowly but steadily the number of inhabitants was increased to nearly one hundred souls. Brother Melville Hatch, the founder of Hatchtown, left the cares of this life, and the good work which he ever tried to perform, and passed to his labors beyond this life on the 8th of July, 1895. An account of his death appeared in the NEWS soon after. Since then the death rate has been unprecedented in this section of country.

Following the death of Brother Hatch, on Nov. 17th Mrs. C. E. Campbell died. The next month recorded one for Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Riggs—a little girl of one year lacking twelve days. January, 1896, recorded much sickness with measles, etc., but no deaths. February, however, brought its shares of sorrow with some of the other months. On the 17th Mrs. Burrow, a young lady of 21, passed away leaving her husband with three small children. On April 5th Cornelius Workman and wife lost a little girl of four years. April also recorded the babe of Mrs. Campbell—mentioned above—among its deaths. Time soon brought August, which called the babe of Mrs. Burrow, mentioned of Feb. 17. The same month took one from Mr. and Mrs. Asay, parents of Mrs. Campbell. Mrs. Elizabeth E. Asay, wife of Isaac Asay, and mother of Mrs. Campbell and last infant mentioned, died Oct. 24, leaving husband and five children. December 16 called from Mr. C. Workman and wife the last child at that time. March 5th took one from Mr. A. S. Workman—brother to Mr. C. Workman and father of Mrs. Burrow—whose wife was at that time very low, but is now improving. On March 5th, Mr. and Mrs. C. Workman had born to them a fine healthy looking girl, which to some extent supplied the place of those called away, but on the 7th they were bereft of this one, which was suddenly called to follow those who had preceded it. The strain on the weakened, bereaved woman seemed to be more than she could bear, for in less than thirty-six hours the mother followed her three children, who, within twelve months, had been called from this life. Alas! for the present sad condition of the husband and father! His whole family was buried within a year, and for the second time he has been thus bereft.

Mr. Cornelius Workman married first one of Brother Hatch's daughter, whose death occurred about four years, before that of her father. Such misfortunes as Mr. Workman's require our deepest sympathy. And the writer, having had part of the experience, joins with the many warm friends with which he is surrounded

in extending his most profound sympathy to Mr. Workman.]

J. B. B.

E. Lee, County Attorney of Woodruff, Utah in a letter to Attorney General Bishop asks the following questions:

"Is the county liable to the State and school fund for their share of the funds which are tied up in tax sales while the county holds the property for redemption?"

Mr. Bishop replying says:

I beg to call your attention to section 149 of the Revenue Act which provides in substance, that whenever property sold for taxes to the county is redeemed, the money received on such redemption must be distributed as follows: The original tax and twenty per cent must be apportioned between the State and county in the same proportion that the State tax bears to the county tax and the balance paid to the county.

Under this section it clearly appears to have been the intention that the county should hold such property in trust for the State's portion of the tax incident thereto. This view is strengthened by other provisions of said section further on in which the county treasurer is required to keep an accurate account of such money, paid in redemption of property sold to the county, and must on the first Monday in June of each year make a detailed report, verified by his affidavit of each account year for year to the State auditor, etc., and under such sections of the revenue act would be required to cover the same into the State treasury.

I am therefore of opinion that your first interrogatory should be answered in the negative.]

Mr. Lee further asks, "How far can the county go in debt. What is the extreme limit, and shall outstanding warrants of last year be classed as indebtedness of this year?"

"This question," the attorney general says "is fully covered by the recent decision of the Supreme court in the case of Fritch vs the county commissioners of Salt Lake county," (reported in the NEWS of March 6th).

The question of should the county repudiate all warrants over the county revenue is also covered by the same decision of the Supreme court.

The question is again asked "How far can the county clerk act in relation to making out papers in land cases or legal papers like a notary public, or must all fees for work in that line be paid into the county treasury? The attorney general says:

"Under the provisions of the constitution and the salary bill, county officers are to be paid fixed and definite salaries which were to include all services of an official character. Any services performed by an officer which are not required to be performed by him under the law would not be official services, and if done at such times as would not conflict with his duties as a public officer, he would be entitled to charge and collect such compensation therefor as might be agreed upon between himself and the parties for whom such services were performed, and any compensation derived from such source would belong to him individually and no account need be rendered therefor."

The mean temperature for the State was 27 degrees, which is about 6 degrees above the February nominal.

The highest monthly mean was 37 degrees at St. George, Washington county, and the lowest, 16 degrees at Fort Duchesne, Uintah county. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 63 degrees at Fillmore, Millard county, on the 28th, and the lowest 21 degrees below zero at Loa, Piute county, on the 22nd. Range of temperature for the State, 84 degrees; greatest local monthly range of temperature, 70 degrees at Loa; least monthly range of temperature, 29 degrees at Promontory.

The average amount of precipitation for the month was 2.35 inches, which is a little over an inch above the normal for February computed for 22 years. The greatest monthly amount recorded was 5.50 inches at Mammoth, Juab county, and the least amount, .30 of an inch at Frisco, Beaver county. The average depth of the snowfall was 19 inches, being generally heaviest in the southern part of the State and lightest in the extreme northern sections. In many localities the fall of snow was the heaviest in many years, breaking all previous records for the month of February.

During the month there was an average of 8 clear days, 9 partly cloudy days and 11 cloudy days. There was an average of 9 days on which measurable amounts of precipitation occurred. The weather was generally stormy with almost daily precipitation from the 1st to the 22nd, when clearing conditions prevailed continuing until the close of the month. The prevailing direction of the wind was from the southwest. The total movement of the wind at Salt Lake City was 3,742 miles, and the maximum velocity 32 miles per hour from the south on the 12th. High southerly winds prevailed throughout the State on the 18th and 19th, doing little or no damage.

Corinne—Earthquake shocks on 8th, 12th, 14th, 20th and 21st, severe enough to crack the walls of brick buildings, move stores an inch or two, rattle dishes, etc. An escape of gas reported out a mile or so in Salt Lake from the mouth of Bear river which threw up mud and water; first reported on 21st; no earthquakes since then—A. V. Hill.

Provo—The heaviest snow storm commenced at 4 p. m. on the 17th and ceased at 3 p. m. on the 18th—Prof. E. S. Hinckley.

Parowan—The heaviest snowfall here that has fallen in a number of years. The farmers feel encouraged as it insures plenty of water for irrigation this year—James Connell.

Frisco—Fog on 2nd; snow at intervals on 5th and 6th; snow and high wind all day on 19th; snow drifted badly.—Edith Slaughter.

Minersville—On the 18th a strong southwest wind accompanied with rain.—George Roberts Sr.

Heber—Blizzard from the south on 18th and 19th; bright sunsets on 22nd and 23rd; snow fell on fourteen days of the month. Temperature below zero on ten days. Snow reported to be from six to eight feet deep at the saw mill up the Provo river. Grangers are nappy knowing much snow means plenty of water for irrigation purposes.—Jub' Crook. J. H. SMITH,

Observer and Section Director.