

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

MARICOPA STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Maricopa Stake conference was held March 22 and 23, 1896. There were present Elder Collins R. Hakes and Counsellors of the Stake presidency. After opening exercises, Elder Hakes made a few introductory remarks, encouraging all to be vigilant in helping to build up the Maricopa Stake, for doing this we advance the work of God in general. The assembly was then addressed by several Elders, who, in short speeches to the point, made the forenoon pass quickly.

At 2 p. m., after singing and prayer, Presl. Geo. Q. Cannon's address at the Morgan conference was read and commented on.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Bishops' reports were called for and all responded; the people were reported as enjoying health and a greater degree of the spirit of union and advancement and more of a desire to do good than ever before. Elder Henry C. Rogers, counsellor in the Stake presidency, in reporting the Stake, could also see great improvement, but thought we are far from perfect; so we must not grow weary, and we cannot but be blessed. The Stake tabernacle building committee reported brick laying work completed and that the frame work for the roof will be finished in a few days.

2 p. m.—The general authorities of the Church and Stake were presented and sustained; the statistical report for the year read; several testimonies were given, and to close, Elder Hawkes stated that in consequence of falling slight Brother George Pessey must necessarily be released as Stake clerk; the same was approved with a vote of thanks for services and Brother Ben F. Le Baron was appointed and sustained in his stead. Elder Hawkes closed with a warning to all in regard to secret orders or societies; we should not bend ourselves to anything outside the Church of God for, said he, we cannot be good members of both. He asked the blessings of God on the people and all they possessed. Conference adjourned for three months.

Per J. GEO. PESSEY, Clerk.

NOTES OF SOUTHERN UTAH.

En route to Salt Lake City from southern Utah, March 27, 1896.—While business at present is in a fairly prosperous condition in the south the prospects in agriculture and stock-raising are very unfavorable. Affairs generally are about as usual in the counties south until we reach the Sevier although almost universally there is a scarcity of snow in the mountains.

The R. G. W. R. R. is pushing the construction of its road south from Salina, naturally making it interesting for the people in that vicinity. Joel R. Calk, advance representative of the Rio Grande Co., is negotiating with the people for right of way and letting contracts for grading. It is commendable the fair manner in which this company is operating through its

agents. In almost every instance it has let the contract to people living in the immediate district through which the road is passing. The townsmen are called together and have an opportunity of expressing their wishes as to the location of the roadbed, depot, etc. As far as I could learn there is a general feeling of satisfaction.

While the prospects are favorable for the new road to push forward up the Sevier and eventually cross the mountains at a point about ten miles north of Panguitch, then go down through Parowan and Cedar City through southern Utah to California, it is more probable that it will make its terminus about Joseph City in southern Sevier county. In consideration of the slim prospects otherwise, conditions are very materially aided by the work the people have done on the railway. The Sevier river is lined with railroad timber from the head waters down to Salina.

The Sanpete Valley Railroad company which connects Nephi, Juab county, and the lovely Sanpete valley, is widening its road bed to standard gauge, and is also pushing southward. This also is of great benefit to the surrounding country.

A vision of the coming railroad was seen in the spring of 1871 by Mads Christianesen, then a young man. He was out looking for a lost cow about 10 o'clock in the morning, and was greatly astonished on seeing the smoke and steam of a coming train. As he looked south he saw approaching him a locomotive and three passenger cars. As the train got about opposite him it disappeared, the gentleman located the route as given in his dream or vision, and related the circumstance to many at the time, and now has the satisfaction of seeing the grade thrown up as nearly as may be in the locality he described.

The people at Panguitch feel a little gloomy at present prospects, of course they are too far south to realize any material immediate benefits from the coming railroad.

Crossing the mountains through Bear valley, and coming out at Paragonah, I found scarcely any snow in the mountains. The roads were almost dry—something entirely unusual this season of the year.

At Parowan I found the little tannery and shoe factory thriving. Wm. Pritchard, who operates the former, is making a success of the canaigre root in tanning. He has experimented on it and finds it will grow to advantage in the Parowan fields. The shoes made at the factory are all home made even the lining (cotton cloth) being made at the Washington mills and spun from home grown cotton.

Cedar City is another home manufacturing community, which also conducts a tannery, shoe and harness establishment, but almost everything is forgotten now in the anticipations the people are permitted to indulge in, over the prospects of a railroad.

Surveyors are at work and the prospects are favorable for the road being constructed by the Pacific Improvement company from Milford, the

southern terminus of the U. P. system, south through Cedar City and southern Utah into California.

One road is not enough to suit the people of that section. After these many years of living remote from railroad conveniences, they want the R. G. W. and Utah and California to meet at their place en route to the west.

The Cedar people are exhibiting their characteristic liberality and enterprise in being willing to assist either of these competing roads.

Pulling into Cedar City we were covered with dust, the country is so dry.

At Minersville we found the people extremely serious in consequence of the meager water supply; already they are drawing from their reservoir to moisten the land so they can plow, and it is a question of propriety whether or not to put in grain this year.

Of course the railroad is not bothering the good people of Beaver much. They seem to be quite jubilant. The woolen mills located here are doing well, and according to the statement of people in the surrounding country have been a great benefit during these times of scarcity of the circulating medium. They are very glad to make exchanges of the various products of the soil and range for that of the factory.

In Fillmore we found railroad and canal excitement up to boiling heat. Of course it was a very warm day, the thermometer reaching about 90. I don't know whether or not the railroad company is doing anything, but the people have almost got a road built in their mind's eye from Leamington on the U. P. to their beautiful city, the former capital of the State of Deseret.

While I was in Fillmore a large and enthusiastic meeting was being held, the proposition being to take out the water of the Sevier river near Leamington and cover that immense area of good farming land from the foot hills south of Seipio to the low hills south of Kanosh—thousands of acres of beautiful lands in an admirable climate. This vast valley has only about five thousand people, but will, in the future, if this project works, make homes for ten times that many.

It seems to me the subject of irrigation is one which our people will have to awaken to more than they appear to do at present. A few seasons like the prospective one will be a sad lesson to us—not a drop of the precious fluid should be permitted to run to waste. Reservoirs will have to become more common than they are at present. If our Utah people do not awaken to the situation, one of these days, after their Rip Van Winkle sleep, they will peep out and see all these valuable resources taken up and operated by outsiders. Eastern capitalists and foreign capital will do for us what we ought to unite and do for ourselves. We may be sure we will have to pay dearly for our privileges.

One of the greatest schemes of this character can be seen at the base of Mount Nebo. A valley in Juab county, about one and a half by seven miles has been purchased as a reservoir in which to store water, storing the surplus of a spring and stream which passes through a small canyon to the