

Correspondence.

Smithfield Cattle Show—Prosperity
of the Work—Baptisms—Severe
Cold and Suffering.

LONDON, Jan. 11, 1875.

Prest. Wilford Woodruff:

Knowing the very great interest that you and the directors of the D. A. and M. Society have always taken in developing the agricultural and manufacturing interests of the country, also the commendable efforts that have been and are now being made by yourself and many other citizens to introduce into the territory the best breeds of cattle, sheep, etc., thereby adding largely to the material good of the community, I send you a catalogue of the 77th Annual Smithfield Show, held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, London. It is perhaps no exaggeration to state that the stock here exhibited is the finest in the world, as the competitors are from every part of Her Majesty's kingdom. The show this year was in every respect a success. This, however, could scarcely be said of last year, in consequence of the very dense fog which prevailed in London at that time, so thick and dark that the public conveyances, "buses, tramways, etc., were stopped running, thus preventing the people, or many of them, from getting to the exhibition, and quite a number of the most valuable animals were suffocated in spite of every effort that could be made. Doubtless this circumstance came to your notice at the time through the press.

As you will see, from the catalogue, some of the animals (Sussex steers) weighed as high as twenty-six hundred and fifty-four (2,654) lbs.

This great weight, as you are aware, could not be attained without care and good feeding also. In addition to wheat, barley, pea, bean and oatmeal, with plenty of mangold wurzel, the linseed cake is a very important article in stock feeding with whatever kind of food used.

Among all the different breeds of cattle exhibited (and there are very many), the shorthorned and Devon were the most attractive, and drew the largest prizes. In my humble judgment the last named variety should be sought for and raised more generally by the people of the territory, for, though inferior in size to the shorthorned, Hereford, Sussex and other varieties, they are better adapted to the condition of the country.

The show of sheep was in every respect equal to that of the cattle. For particulars of weight, etc., please see catalogue.

There was on exhibition a great variety of agricultural implements and machinery, mostly, however, of English manufacture. Among the most prominent of the American manufacture were the Wood's mower and reaper.

The display of vegetables was indeed very fine, some of the mangold wurzel on exhibition weighing fifty-four pounds each and producing eighty-four tons per acre. Other roots, Swedes, etc., were proportionately good, cabbage weighing fifty-five pounds per head.

There is one item, if you will not think it out of place, in connection with our material interests, which I desire to call special attention to, and that is, the importance of more general introduction and use, throughout the Territory, of machines for cutting feed, hay, straw, etc. I am perfectly satisfied, from observation, that nearly, if not quite, one-half is lost or wasted in feeding, that might be saved if our farmers would adopt the plan in universal use here, of cutting their hay, straw, etc., in stock-feeding. This, taking into consideration the high price of hay, and the amount used throughout the Territory, would be the means of saving to the people many thousands of dollars.

As regards our missionary labors, it will doubtless be interesting and pleasing to you to know that everything is prospering with us here. There are at the present time laboring with me in the London Conference three American Elders, besides Brother William L. Binder, just arrived from Zion, namely, M. H. Hardy, B. W. Carrington, and H. C. Fowler. The elders are well, and greatly enjoying their missionary labors, and we can safely say every day our prospects brighten. We are having some ex-

cellent meetings. The saints are full of joy and gladness, and the gifts and blessings follow the believer. Additions to our numbers by baptism are being gradually and steadily made.

In consequence of the severity of the weather, from the middle of December to the 1st and 2nd January, there was much suffering among the poor in this great city, many perishing for want of food and clothing. The weather is now quite mild, and thousands who were thrown out of work in consequence of this severe frost now again have employment.

R. T. BURTON.

The Life of a Miner.

TOOELE CITY, March 7th, 1875.

Editor Desert News:

The miners, taken as a class, so far as my experience extends, are a hardy, generous-hearted, spend-thrift set, of a restless, easily excited, never thoroughly satisfied, roving disposition, and the saying has become proverbial, "Once a miner and never fit for any settled mode of life."

The life of a miner (I speak of the men who work in the mines for wages) is a singular mixture of hard labor, want of forethought, danger, disease, dissipation and careless recklessness. The scene of his labors is generally underground, far away from God's blessed, health-giving sunlight. In the midst of palpable darkness, his work is carried on by the light of a candle, in a shaft, tunnel or cross drift, the atmosphere of which is so dense and warm that he is in many instances forced to work denuded of every stitch of clothing, with the exception of a pair of heavy boots or shoes, which he is obliged to wear to protect his feet from the sharp rocks—and even then the perspiration rolls from his body in a perfect stream.

The air which he breathes, on account of bad circulation, is laden with the noxious vapors which exhale from the ores in which he works and often poison his blood to such an extent that he is soon incapacitated for labor for the balance of his life, and death often ensues. This is particularly the case in the mines in this vicinity, owing to the ore containing lead, arsenic, antimony, and sulphur. It is a common occurrence in the great Cottonwood mines to hear of a miner who has got leaded and has gone to the city to get cured, but the cure is seldom permanent and soon the poison makes its appearance in the shape of paralysis, or chronic rheumatism in some one of its various forms. The majority of the miners laboring in the above mentioned mines, and those of Bingham Canon come from their work with a ghastly yellow look on their faces, the result of a few days' labor in the midst of the poisonous exhalations of the afore mentioned minerals, and from which there is no escape short of forsaking the business of a miner and taking up some more healthy but less remunerative occupation.

These are only a small portion of the dangers to which the miner is exposed. His life is constantly in danger from the premature explosion of blasts, and the chances for such accidents have very much increased within the last few years by the introduction and almost universal use of giant powder in the mines, of which an old miner once said to me, "It's very onartain stuff; it may explode while lying quietly in the box, or it may explode while you have it in your hand, without any apparent cause; and a man may use it for years till he thinks it as harmless as a new born babe, and then have it crawl up on him in the brush and bust him all to flinders."

Then there is constant and imminent danger to him from falling rocks, which have hung apparently solid and secure in the roof for months, until, by the constant jar of the blasting or by the action of water, they all at once become loosened, tremble and drop. If unfortunately some poor wretch of a miner is beneath, he is crushed into a shapeless mass, and the public unthinkingly reads in the daily journals that a sad accident occurred in the — mine yesterday, by which one or more miners lost their lives, and that is the end of the matter.

Another danger to which the miner is constantly exposed, is that the mountain, by long con-

tinued excavation, becomes honey-combed, and no amount of careful timbering can sustain the immense weight which is constantly pressing upon these timbers, which are, I am sorry to say, very often carelessly put up. The result is a cave in the mine, and hundreds of poor fellows may at any instant be shut out from the help of their fellow men and either be crushed to death in the twinkling of an eye, or, more horrible still, be shut up from the free air of heaven and doomed to die a fearful, lingering death from suffocation.

The generality of mining towns are pre-eminently hard places. Although there are many good and virtuous men and women in most mining localities, yet they keep themselves aloof, and the average inhabitant is of the very seum of society. Blasphemy of which a pirate would be ashamed, and Billingsgate which would make a denizen of the lowest slums of London blush, greet the ear on every side. Under these circumstances men with nothing to restrain them soon become as hardened as the hardest.

Miners, as a class, work faithfully and constantly till pay day comes around, usually every month, when they receive their wages and go to the town to make some simple purchase, or perchance to pay for goods which they purchased during the previous month. This done, their intentions are to return to their work. But the camp is filled with sharpers, both male and female. They know to a minute the time when their victim gets his money, and, spider-like, they have been weaving their webs for days. There is no place of rational amusement where he can go. The place is composed of stores, hotels, eating-houses, saloons, gambling houses, and more saloons. Dance-houses are there also, where the painted courtesan hangs around the door, watching for her victim as the saloon-keeper and gambler are watching. There are music and light and dancing within her den, and she knows he will surely come, and that he will leave the portion of his earnings which has escaped the clutches of the saloon-keeper and gambler. She is not disappointed.

He looked around for Jack, Bill or Dick, with whom to take a drink. He wanted a little fun and then to go back to work. The drink is taken, another must be taken with his comrades for the sake of good fellowship. His blood is heated, the gaming table attracts his attention, he will take one stroke at the tiger. Soon successive drinks and losses render him reckless, and as he rises from the faro table, cursing his bad luck, he says, "Well, I'll have one fling around the room with the hurdy gurdy. The drink has maddened him, he has no virtuous sister or mother near to check him, the memory of other days and better actions is sunk in oblivion, and once in the siren's den, he remains there until every farthing of his money is expended. Then the bravos who haunt the place kick him out and he returns to his work, if haply he has not forfeited his place in the mine, and repeats the experience next pay day.

Such is the life of too many miners. It is spent in fruitless toil. In the course of time the miner's constitution is broken, his health impaired by dissipation and the unavoidable unhealthiness of his occupation, and his ultimate end is a premature and impoverished old age, if he providentially escape the hospital and a lingering death therein.

RUDIO.

Appropriation For Surveys
in Utah.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 1, DURING A DEBATE ON THE SUNDAY CIVIL APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Clerk read as follows:

"For surveying the public lands in Utah Territory, at rates not exceeding fifteen dollars per linear mile for standard lines, twelve dollars for township, and ten dollars for section lines, \$20,000."

Mr. CANNON, of Utah. I move to strike out "twenty" and insert "thirty," so as to increase the appropriation from \$20,000 to \$30,000; and in order to give the reasons to the committee for making this amendment I send to the clerk a letter from General Nathan Kimball, appointed surveyor general of

Utah from the State of Indiana, and ask that the extract I have marked be read.

The Clerk read as follows:

"United States Surveyor-General's Office,
Utah Territory,

"Salt Lake City, Dec. 29, 1874.

"Dear Sir—I see that the Committee on Appropriations have subdivided the work and that the surveys in Territories are in the care of Mr. Starkweather. I hope that the appropriations will not be much less, if any, than I recommended in my report to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. Last year this Territory had only \$20,000, while Wyoming and Montana had over \$40,000. There are from five to eleven settlers in Utah seeking homes on public lands to one in either of the other Territories. Why we should be retarded by so small an amount is strange. Settlers are anxious to know where their lines are and how their lines may run, and with so small an appropriation it is impossible to accommodate the people asking for surveys, and they are not able to furnish money to do the work; while Congress appropriates thousands for the surveys of lands in other Territories that will not be settled for years to come, the people of our Territory are neglected. The government would get an almost immediate return for all expenditures for surveys in this Territory, as settlers are only waiting the survey that they may purchase the land. You know the constant and increasing immigration to our Territory, and the demand for homes upon public lands.

"Very truly, your friend and obedient servant,

"NATHAN KIMBALL,

"Surveyor-General Utah Territory.

"Hon. George Q. Cannon, M. C.,
Washington, D.C."

Mr. CANNON, of Utah. Since the establishment of the land office in Utah Territory, some six years ago, only \$151,000 have been appropriated for the survey of public lands in that Territory, while in some of the other Territories during the last two years \$130,000 have been appropriated for the same purpose. As will be seen from the letter of the surveyor-general, there is a demand for land in Utah, and there are a great many people who want their lines determined; and as a matter of economy it would be an advantage to increase this appropriation for surveying in that Territory. I do not wish to draw any contrast between Utah and the other Territories in this respect, but by an examination of the appropriations it will be found that Utah Territory has not had one-half as much appropriated for the survey of lands as some of the Territories. As the surveyor-general says, last year two Territories, into which there was comparatively little immigration, had doubled the amount appropriated. I knew railroad lands have to be surveyed in all the Territories, as much in Utah, though, as in the others. I submit it would be to the advantage of the Government to make a larger appropriation for this Territory. I scarcely think that the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Starkweather), who has had this matter in hand, or the Committee on Appropriations itself as a whole, can object to this amendment being made if the House is willing to accept it, for it is very clear that Utah has not had an equal proportion with the other Territories. I do not think any of them have had too much, and it is not with this view that I allude to the amounts they have received, but to show the discrimination there has been made against Utah.

Mr. STARKWEATHER. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, to which this part of the bill was specially referred, I have personally no objection to this amendment. The fact is the Delegates, who are clever gentlemen, came to the committee and each one wished an increase of the appropriation for his particular Territory. The committee felt bound, I must say, looking at the figures, that Utah has had as much appropriation in proportion to the amount of land surveyed as California, about which we have had a talk a while ago.

For instance, the whole amount surveyed in Utah, according to the figures I have before me from the General Land Office, is 545,593 acres. The amount settled as bound-

ty lands was 23,857 acres; and under the homestead law 38,970 acres.

These amounts are only about one-fifth of the number of acres in California that have been settled under the homestead and other acts, and we give in this case more than one-fifth of what we give to California.

It is true the amount is not large. I think the amount we have hitherto appropriated to Utah is smaller than to some of the other Territories. Still the committee felt bound after the bill was made up to authorize me to say that they thought substantial justice would be done by this without any amendment.

The amendment of Mr. Cannon, of Utah, was agreed to.—Congressional Record.

The Big Horn Country.

There has been for the past ten years a certain amount of mystery connected with the Big Horn country. Travelers through that country have reported the existence of gold and other metals, and from time to time have come rumors of the discovery of rich mines, but these rumors have been quickly dispelled. Notwithstanding this there has been a lingering, undefined belief in the minds of thousands that the region of the Black Hills and the Big Horn was one of the richest in minerals that could be found on this continent. Various expeditions have been fitted out for the purpose of proving the truth or falsity of this belief, but so far none have succeeded in settling the question satisfactorily. Whatever may be its mineral, there is no question as to its agricultural and pastoral advantages. All who have passed through it bear testimony to the existence of fine streams of water and splendid agricultural and meadow lands, which will some day support an immense population.

It is contemplated by the government to establish a military post on the Yellowstone, at the mouth of Powder river, the present season, which, if done, will greatly aid in settling up the country, which is not now practicable because of the incursions of the Sioux and other hostile tribes of Indians. As all Montanians are interested in knowing something of the eastern portion of their Territory, we give the following brief description, the truth of which is vouched for by a Fort Abraham Lincoln correspondent of the St. Paul Pioneer:

"The Big Horn valley alone is susceptible of supporting a population of ten thousand souls; the river, from the eastern base of the mountains to its mouth, being one hundred miles in length, the valley having an average width of eight miles, with a rich, black alluvial soil. Inexhaustible quantities of timber skirt the river, and an abundance of fine groves at the foot hills.

"The little Horn, for agricultural purposes, is not inferior to the Big Horn. It flows into the latter stream forty miles east of the base of the mountains, and the hills on either side have a dense growth of pine and hard wood.

"South of the Little Horn we encounter the three branches of the Tongue river, certainly one of the most desirable locations for farming purposes in Montana—a rich soil, great bodies of pine, immense bogies of good coal, hundreds of sparkling brooks, alive with speckled trout, and the prairie covered with myriads of buffalo and elk.

"North of the Big Horn, towards the Yellowstone, the country is rich beyond description. Pryor's Gap creek, Clark's fork, and many other tributaries of the Yellowstone, are capable of the finest cultivation.

"Here is the garden spot of all the Territories—two hundred and fifty miles in extent from south to north commencing at old Fort Phil. Kearney, and stretching north to the emigrant crossing of the Yellowstone, within thirty-five miles of Bozeman city. The country is neutral, no Indian reservations touching it.

"The Big Horn mountains, like the Black Hills, (before Custer's expedition) are a mystery, no white men having penetrated them beyond the foot hills. They are a distinct range in themselves, commencing near Platte bridge, one hundred and twenty-five miles west of Ft. Laramie, and running due north to the Yellowstone river, a distance of four hundred miles.