

choir, the visitors from Logan, the Paris brass band and many others went to the Lake at Fish Haven and had an enjoyable time boat-riding, swimming, swinging, etc., with picnic and music.

Altogether the Stake conference and festivities made the occasion one of the most enjoyable in our history.

J. U. STUCKI.

PARIS, Bear Lake county, August 8, 1894.

DR. BENEDICT IN JAPAN.

From an interesting letter from Dr. J. M. Benedict, now on a tour around the World, the NEWS is permitted to make the following extracts. The communication is dated from Yokohama, Japan, July 8th, and is written upon peculiar Japanese or Chinese paper—thin, almost transparent, but tough, and with ragged edges:

Today is Sunday morning and we leave at 12:15 for Neonosta for a few days, and as the mail leaves on the 12th we must do our writing now. We arrived in Yokohama after an uneventful trip of seventeen days with headwinds and fog until the last two days, when we had fair weather. Got here in the morning in time for breakfast, looked around for a time and rested. June 29th we took train for Tokyo, cruised around there for a day and then by train to Nikko, where we stayed until the morning of July 3rd, when we returned by another route to Yokohama.

The country through which we passed was beautiful beyond description—level plains and green valleys, studded with trees and covered with paddy fields (rice fields) and all kinds of vegetables. They are regularly planted in rows and scrupulously clean from weeds. The rice fields are covered with about two inches of water and present a unique appearance. Everywhere you see men and women at work in the field with the primitive hoes and ploughs. The season has been very dry and one frequently sees men on a sort of treadmill hoisting water from a ditch upon the paddy field, for rice can grow only in water. The fields are very prettily laid out in irregular patches, as they can control the water. A fence here and there is occasionally seen, but not a cow or a horse, save exceptionally on a road. This is so narrow that two can just pass and that is all.

Speaking of roads, their most common country roads should and would, if it were possible, make Salt Lake City blush. They are smooth, neat and clean, and are kept so. It is amusing to see the men at work or carrying their loads. The majority have on only a scanty breech clout, some a loose shirt in addition, and some with short trunks. Everything almost is packed on their backs, either with or without the pole and two baskets which you are familiar with.

The cultivation of this land is of the highest and most perfect order and shows care and labor. Eight hours labor is not known here any more than it is in New England, but they are in the field at daylight and work continuously as long as they can see. I cannot attempt to describe the whole,

but give a faint outline and will tell the rest when I return.

Yokohama is situated on a large bay crossed by a mole or breakwater inside of which ships anchor. There is but one dock which is neither used nor completed. In the early morning it (the bay) is covered with hundreds of lampas or Jap boats going out fishing or carrying freight from one ship to another on shore.

The grand hotel is built directly on the water-front with but a narrow street in front of it. It is about 250 feet long, two stories high, and has a piazza of 150 feet. It is considerably cracked from the recent earthquake and one-half of its chimney has fallen down. We have felt no shaking as yet. The front and courtyard in the rear are lined with rickshaws (pronounced rickshaw) with the men in large broad-loaf hats, short trunks away above the knees, and a loose shirt. Thirty-seven and one-half cents per diem is all they charge, and they will keep up a rapid trot for the whole day and equal any horse in the world. Their endurance is wonderful.

So much for this topic; and we will now go to Tokio, the second largest city in Japan. It covers about twenty-five square miles and is densely populated. It got a good shaking up and at the Imperial hotel, where we stopped, the large chimney had crashed through the roof of the piazza, making a hole large enough to drive a horse and buggy through. Everywhere in the city cracked buildings and fallen walls and chimneys are to be seen on every side. Tokio has no characteristics different from the other cities and needs no further description. The population is said to be 1,500,000. In neither of the cities is any of the black plague, although one case is said to have occurred in Tokio. It is a very old place and a wealthy one.

IN PIONEER DAYS.

The minutes of the meetings of the D. A. & M. Society, held thirty-eight years ago, when the members of the organization were mostly pioneers, show a spirit of enthusiasm which is contagious when one reads from the musty pages of the old records. The society was established by the advice of President Young, who was then governor of Utah, and Bishop Hunter was its first president. President Woodruff was at its head for a number of years and did a great work towards encouraging home industries.

MINUTES OF AN OLD MEETING.

June 25, 1856, the directors of the D. A. & M. Society met in the Bowery, Great Salt Lake City. On that occasion Bishop Edward Hunter, the president of the society, said that he was an agriculturist by profession and had always been a devoted advocate of home manufactures. I remember that in the state of Pennsylvania, where I was raised, when she owed Great Britain millions of dollars, by the advice of Mr. Buchanan, our senator, and a few other honorable men of our state, we turned our attention to home manufactures, and soon became one of the most flourishing states of the Union. We ought to manufacture all we wear, and appear in our homespun; the very nature of our location requires

this. It is necessary that we be all active co-workers in so important a movement, that every useful department may receive its proper stimulus.

President Hunter exhibited a hat which he bought of Mr. Heywood four years before, saying that it "has not come to its best yet."

President Woodruff was also present at that meeting and said he would like to see every post in the bowery, during the next October Conference, draped with specimens of home manufactured goods. He said the ladies' committee was the most prompt in attendance and he was glad they were so spirited on the subject.

At a meeting of August 25, 1856, President Woodruff said: I realize that the society is but in its infancy; here is a specimen of home made soap, superior to the common imported article, manufactured by Dr. Wm. France from materials obtained in these valleys. This is a step in the right direction, and when an article is superior, and can be afforded cheaper, the community will no doubt patronize it. Mr. Winder sells ladies' shoes at \$2.75, gents at \$3.00 and warrants a good article. His calfskins are sold at from \$3 to \$5 and have generally given good satisfaction; sole leather at 45 cents a pound admitted to be superior to the imported leather for which they charge 62½ cents. We must sustain the manufacturers in our own midst when they take the right course. The ladies can use a tremendous influence in our favor, and we wish them to do so. The minutes of this meeting say that Mrs. Delight Decker exhibited a beautiful Jerusalem apple which she had raised that season, said to be excellent for burns and scalds. There was also exhibited samples of soap, nails and cotton seed. Seth M. Blair reported that he would soon raise all the cotton his family could use.

Had the interest and efforts of that day been continued up to the present time there would be no need of agitating the home industry movement. The first annual State Fair, as it was then called, was held in the Deseret Store, where the NEWS office now is, in October, 1856, and a creditable display was made. Twenty fairs have since been held and this year makes it twenty-one. It is the day of manhood, and the Fair to be held October 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 this year, is expected to be suitable to the occasion. The hopes and promises of 1856 will in a large measure be realized.

DR. TALMAGE RETURNS.

Dr. Jas. E. Talmage has returned from Europe and was about among his friends Saturday, in excellent health and spirits. During his absence he has traveled extensively in England, Scotland and Ireland, and went over to Germany, going direct to Berlin.

The doctor attended the meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society in London, and the meeting of the Museums' association at Dublin. The Deseret Museum is a member of the association, whose representatives are highly elated over the showing made by Utah. The large quantity of specimens taken from here by Dr. Talmage was a topic of great interest. These