CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

COLONIA PACHECO.

COLONIA PACHECO, Chihuahua Mexico, April 6, 1894.

Today, when thousands of Saints are celebrating the birthday of the Church in a general conference capacity in Salt Lake City, Utah, I am gathering historical data in the tops of the Sierra Madre Mountains in this far off land of Mexico. In company with Elder Joseph C. Bentley and wife, I left Colonia Juarez yesterday and traveled about thirty-five miles over a rough mountaineous road to Colonia Pacheco situated in the Corralis Basin, on the head waters of the Rio Peadres Verdes, which is one of the main tributaries of the Rio Casas Grandes. The Corrales Basin proper, in which Colonia Pacheco is situated consists of a country about five miles square interspersed with pine-covered ridges; the intervening flats are generally very fertile and productive, but only a small portion of the land is irrigated—that lying adjacent to the river. The townsite embraces a rocky flat which slopes gently to the south; it is covered in part with pine timber, and watered from several small springs situated from two to three miles west and southwest of the town survey; but the little stream thus brought in is only sufficient for culinary purposes, and thus only a little irrigation is done on the town lots. The farming land, which by the way is very limited, is found in strips along the river, and in smaller side valleys. The future growth of the place will largely depend upon the success the people may have in reservoiring the water. About one-half of the inhabitants constituting the Pacheco Ward live on the townsite; seven families reside at Corrales, about one and a half miles south of the townsite and up the river or creek, while ten families occupy a little neighborhood of their own in what is known as Cave Valley, seven miles north or down the river from the Pacheco townsite; in this latter place meetings and Sunday schools are held separately. The altitude of Pacheco is about 7000 feet above the level of the sea; the mountain slopes are covered with pine, oak, juniper, maple etc., and the settlement is only a few miles from the summit of the Sierra Madre Mountains, which forms the boundary line between the states of Chihuahua and Sonora. The Pacheco Ward has a population of thirty-three families or 201 souls. and is presided over by Bishop Jesse N. Smith, jun., a son of Jesse N. Smith, president of the Snowflake Stake of Zion. Christopher B. Heaton and Austin H. Farnsworth are counselors to Bishop Smith. This mountain settlement is also the home of Patriarch Henry Lunt, formerly Bishop of Cedar City, Iron Co., Utah.

The people as a rule are poor as regards this world's goods; but they enjoy the spirit of the Gospel and also rejoice in that liberty and state of freedom which this rugged mountain country affords. Though so isolated (having neither white nor Mexican near neighbors,) the spirit of sociability is kept up; the meetings and Sunday Schools are well attended, and social gatherings are often appointed, in order to keep life in the community, and preserve the cheerfulness and good feeling which are so essential for the success of remote settlements.

The Corrales Basin was one of the first places explored by our brethren early in 1885; it was done with a view to locating a colony of Saints in the heart of the Sierra Madres; but it was not till the spring of 1887 that the first Latter-day Saint settlers commenced to make homes here. Since that time the people have labored hard to establish themselves in this rather inhospitable region; and the success which has crowned their labors so far promises well for a permanent and prosperous settlement in the future.

Elder Sixtus C. Johnson and a company of settlers are here on their road to locate a new settlement in the Chiachupa (?) country, about fifty miles south of Panhico.

ANDREW JENSON.

FISH AND FORESTRY.

FARMINGTON, June 2.—As but little space in our public journals has been devoted to forestry and fish culture, may I be permitted to add my mite by way of again calling attention to those important industries? I have read an interesting article in a journal devoted to fish culture which stated that the writer made the following important discovery: Two fish were placed in one of two small ponds and he noticed that they consumed all or most of the mosquitoes in an embryo state; while the other pond produced its customary thousands, or millions of those little pests, small in size 'tis true, but big in annoying and biting power.

There are many ponds, and swampy localities where ponds can easily be constructed, in or near settlements, and if a little pains would be taken by owners, or by other parties interested in fish culture who could rent such land on good terms, many tons of wealthy, palatable, brain-producing food could be easily provided for our use; and there is no comparison between the measure of happiness superinduced by a fish diet as compared with a pork and beef fed people; not losing sight of the mosquito nuisance question thus being happily solved.

Now as to forestry. In walking through meadows you will occasionally see pieces of lumber, sticks of wood or other articles that have been forced upwards by the rank growth of grass, while other similar articles can be seen apparently sinking in the ground which if turned over will show that all vegetation under them is dead and portions of the earth they are hugging so closely will adhere to them. Some superstitious people will tell you that it is all occasioned by said articles being deposited there in different stages of the increase or decrease of the moon. I will not give my theory, but I want to say that frequently I have seen axe handles, wagon and other timber worm-eaten, and have heard men say that timber is better, more durable, etc., if cut at certain seasons, not of the moon, but of the year; but until reading an article which I inclose for publication, I never heard an intelligent reason given for choosing any particular time for cutting timber. Here it is:

J. F. Sanborn, M. D., Tabor, Iowa, writes *Orange Judd Farmer*: A large portion of the West has so little timber that the question as to when it is best to cut it for posts and other purposes where durability is desired, is of prime importance. There are certain laws governing vegetable life which, when well understood, cast some light on the subject. Examination shows a large percentage of starch in the berry of wheat, corn or other cereal. Starch as such, while it remains unchanged, is among the most enduring of all the products of vegetable life, but it is prone to change to cane sugar under the influence of warmth and moisture, and from cane sugar to glucose.

In all fermentative action, as in the malting of barley, starch is changed to glucose, and if the fermentive process is kept up, the glucose is changed to alcohol and carbonic acid gas; and if still further continued, acetic acid is formed, or vinegar. If a berry of wheat is placed in the ground, where warmth and moisture are in suitable proportions, the starch goes through a similar change, and the carbonic acid gas is produced just as fast as the young shoot can appropriate it to its own growth. It is a well known fact that carbon is the frame work of vegetable life somewhat as the bones are of the animal kingdom. This carbon is the charcoal left after a partial combustion of the wood or plant. The carbon is derived from the air by the growing plant or tree; but in the young wheat germ, before it gets above ground so as to procure it from the air, it is furnished by the carbon in the starch, stored up in the berry of which it is a part. For a similar reason deciduous trees (those which shed their leaves) must provide within themselves the materials wherewith to supply this carbon to produce the leaves, before the leaves are formed sufficiently to procure it from the air. This material is stored up in the tree in the same chemical elements as wheat starch.

When spring warmth comes the starch is changed to sugar, which being dissolved in the sap of the tree is carried to the branches and twigs, and there in due season decomposed to supply carbon to form the leaves. When the leaves are formed so they can obtain the carbon from the air then, and not till then, does the sap cease to contain sugar. The sugar maple, white maple, box elder, black walnut, and some other trees, are so rich in sugar that their sap can be utilized for sugar making purposes if procured in early spring. Now, if a tree is cut after the starch has been changed to sugar, the worms, being very fond of this sweet, become seriously destructive to wood. The sap or the hickory is so very sweet, that if the tree is cut in February or March, it is well known that the worms in their greed for this sugar cut the wood until it is sadly deteriorated by their ravages. But if a tree is cut in July or August, there is no sugar in the sap of the tree or wood after it is cut, so the worms seek some more savory morsel.

This is one reason why trees should be cut in summer. Another important