

terlan and Methodist. While Carthage is no doubt a live and flourishing city as compared with Nauvoo and other places in the vicinity, to me a dead spirit seemed to permeate the town and the progressive push and energy so common in the Utah towns is entirely absent here. Beyond the points of interest which I have attempted to describe, there was nothing in the place to attract my attention and at the time for leaving, I was willing and anxious to shake the dust of the place from my feet.

J. FRANK PICKERING.

### OLD FOLKS' DAY.

The seventeenth annual excursion of the old folks of Salt Lake City and vicinity was a success in every particular. It came off June 29th, the trip being over the Rio Grande Western Railway to Payson, a pretty town of 3500 inhabitants, seventy miles from this city. A special train consisting of seventeen coaches and a baggage car was placed at the disposal of the Old Folks' arrangements committee by the local management of that company, free of cost. The courtesy and efficiency of the railroad officials and employees contributed in no small degree to the success of the occasion.

The Old Folks' arrangements committee was composed of the following gentlemen: C. R. Savage, George Goddard, John Kirkman, Bishop W. B. Preston, W. Edington, W. Naylor, W. L. Binder, Andrew Jensen and N. A. Empey, all of whom were present and actively engaged in superintending the work of attending to the old people. Brothers Savage, Goddard and Kirkman were members of the original committee which inaugurated Old Folks' day seventeen years ago. Bishop Hunter, now deceased, was one of their colleagues at that time. To Mr. Savage might be credited the idea of originating the day, and though on the first excursion only a limited number of persons participated, he had the satisfaction of seeing 1152 persons on the train yesterday, 1000 of whom were over seventy years of age.

Shortly before 8 o'clock yesterday morning the old folks and their friends began to pour into the R. G. W. depot. They came in hacks, carriages, street cars, buggies and in vehicles of all kinds. Those between 70 and 80 wore red badges, between 80 and 90, blue, and those of 90 and over white silk. The seventies seemed so numerous that the woods appeared to be full of them, the eighties were not so plentiful and the nineties numbered about half a dozen. The work of seating the old people was promptly performed under the guidance of the committee and an able corps of assistants. For this duty three young persons—two ladies and one gentleman—were deputed for each car. The cars were distinctively designated, and the deputations were numbered accordingly. So there was no confusion.

Immediately after the train started, lemonade, cake, candy and other little delicacies were served to the old folks. No royal or aristocratic personages could be more tenderly waited on. Then came the old folk's choir, composed of members of the Tabernacle Choir, under Prof. Beesley,

and serenaded the occupants of each car. On the outward trip they gave 18 serenades, no easy task, in yesterday's temperature. They were followed by Mr. W. C. Dunbar, with his bagpipes, who also rendered "The Highland March" in each of the 18 cars. Contingents were taken up at all the depots between here and Payson, and care was taken that no aged person wishing to participate should be neglected.

The train arrived at Payson about 11:30 a. m. The Payson Silver band was at the depot, discoursing lively airs for the benefit of the old people. The Payson Executive Committee, under the guidance of John Quigley acquitted themselves ably. Stalwart young fellows were stationed at the steps of each car to assist the aged to alight, and in cases where persons were too feeble to walk, to take them bodily in their arms to vehicles in waiting. The road all the way from the depot to the city park was strewn with new-mown hay, and on each side of this was a line of young lasses all dressed in white, waving miniature American flags. The Benjamin brass band was also in attendance and marched at the head of the procession.

The old folks marched six abreast to the City Park, the entrance to which was marked by a triumphal arch, under which was wrought in beautiful flowers the word WELCOME. In fact, it was a triumphal march such as only conquerors or heroes are usually accorded. Immediately on their arrival at the grounds, the work of dining commenced. Bulwer says man can live without lots of things, but he can't live without dining. Here were special tables of great length, laden with edibles of the choicest kind, and in attendance was a little army of young men and young women dressed in garbs suggestive of the culinary department of Delmonico's. The banquet was a success in every respect. Though the crowd was larger than was anticipated, yet there was abundance for all, and large quantities of viands remained untouched.

Among those over 70 were noticed the venerable parents of his Excellency Governor A. L. Thomas. Mr. Thomas, Sr., was born in Wales, and takes delight in talking the ancient tongue in which Caractacus and Boadicea exhorted their warriors to oppose the invading legions of the Roman Cæsars on British soil nineteen centuries ago. Mrs. Thomas is an American lady, having been born in the Keystone State some seventy summers since, but she can do a little in the ancient cymrae, by way of accompaniment to her aged spouse.

Governor Thomas, though having attended several of these old folks' days, felt more at home yesterday than ever. On the way down, President Angus M. Cannon, who seemed to be personally acquainted with every man and woman on the train, escorted the Governor through the cars and gave his Excellency a personal introduction to the veterans. When he got through he had shaken the hands of over 1150 persons, representing, perhaps, a score of nationalities, ranging from the age of nineteen to ninety-four.

There were on the grounds at Payson probably about 2,500 people. Of these fully 1,200 were over 70; Payson

and vicinity furnished about 200 over 70. That town also furnished the oldest person, Rachel Drollinger, aged 94, a native of Kentucky. The next oldest lady was Mrs. Sarah Free, 92, a native of England, Mrs. Anne Taylor, the mother of Counselor Joseph E. Taylor, who was with the party, also aged 92, a native of England, was among the veterans. Jane Cornwall, aged 90, native of Ireland, and Johanna Jensen, aged 90, native of Sweden, comprised the ladies' list of 90 and over. There was one gentleman aged 92, Joseph Hancock, a citizen of Payson and Robert Wimmer, aged 90, also of Payson. This it is believed comprised the list of persons aged ninety and over.

About 2:30 p. m. Mr. C. R. Savage called the assemblage to order, and the exercises of the day commenced, Mr. John Quigley acting as master of ceremonies. The Payson Silver band gave a selection, followed by prayer from Father Robert Wimmer, aged 90. The Old Folks' choir next rendered a chorus in fine style, followed by "Hail Columbia" by the combined Benjamin and Payson bands.

Governor A. L. Thomas addressed the old folks. He regretted that he could not make himself heard in every quarter of the grounds. It was a grand spectacle to see so many aged persons present, notwithstanding the heat, and he deemed it one of the greatest events of his life to be present among so many old people, where such careful attention, respect and reverence were paid to them. In other States gatherings of old persons were not uncommon, but they could not equal Utah in their concern for silvery hairs and bent forms. There were present many of the original settlers of the valley, persons who by their toil and labor paved the way to the comfort and affluence enjoyed by the present generation. All honor, respect and veneration were due these aged veterans; when they first beheld these valleys nothing but sand, sage and alkali met the eye. This morning meadows, pasture fields, and growing crops smiled on every side, the result more or less of the early labors of these old people, whom he was so glad and proud to meet. This was the fourth occasion of the kind at which he had been present, and he hoped by the aid of Providence he would meet the old folks many times in the future. It was well that practical proof could be given in such a manner of the goodness in the human heart, in thus honoring old age and paying respectful homage to the founders of a progressive community. Future generations will yet call those pioneers blessed.

The Governor then concluded by extending his best wishes to all present, to the old that they may enjoy the day and many repetitions of it, to the young for their tender solicitude and regard for the aged.

"The Star Spangled Banner" was rendered in excellent style by the combined bands.

Next came an address of welcome, written specially for the occasion by J. L. Townshend, and read by Miss Annie Worsencroft, a bright, intellectual young lady. She was arrayed in a costume composed of the Stars and Stripes, and might have served as a representation of the genius of Columbia.