

INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND MINES.

W. W. Wallace, probate judge of Sevier county, is a firm believer in the prosperous future of his locality. He is full of information regarding the resources of his county, and is filled with a commendable desire to let the public know of the advantages of Sevier as a place for home-seekers. He says regarding the county: At no time since the first settlement of the country have times been more auspicious. While other parts are injuriously affected by the prevailing depression in business, Sevier county is moving along the even tenor of its way. As it never enjoyed the questionable benefits of a "boom," it has none of the evils thereof to recover from.

Judge Wallace states that the climate of Sevier is hard to excel. The atmosphere is dry and the winters mild and pleasant. On account of the mild winters the valley is particularly adapted to the raising of fruit. The county extends about thirty miles north and south and forty-two miles east and west. In this 1,280 square miles there is 45,108 acres of tillable land, which on the county assessment rolls is valued at \$456,601. This is exclusive of the university lands, about 8,000 acres, which will be sold this winter.

Taking the rolls of the county assessor as a basis, Sevier county has about 8,000 horses, valued at \$160,000; 15,000 cattle, valued at \$150,000; and 78,683 sheep, valued at \$155,000. The total valuation of taxable property exceeds a million and a half dollars. There are 52 miles of telegraph line in the county, but only 7½ miles of railway.

Sevier was first settled in 1864, but an Indian war the next two years compelled the settlers to abandon their homes, so that it was 1871 before permanent settlements were established. The people have built since that time 206 miles of irrigating canals, exclusive of laterals, etc.; there are 17 canal companies. The ditches are all owned by the farmers, and there are no bonded or floating debts.

The Sevier valley is very fertile, and the mountain sides afford pasturage for vast herds of cattle, horses and sheep. The alfalfa and grain crops are very heavy. Of lucern there can be produced, the judge says, five tons to the acre, and as high as 82 bushels of wheat and 97 bushels of barley to the acre has been realized. These, of course, were special instances, and do not represent the average yield.

There are two mountain ranges passing through the county, the Wasatch and the Oquirrh; the summit of the latter divides Sevier from Millard county. Throughout these mountains building stone of superior quality abounds in great variety, and is easily accessible to all the settlements.

The county seat, Richfield, has about 2,000 inhabitants, and is located in a rich farming district, the soil being red clay loam. Richfield is located on the site of a prehistoric city, as is shown by the ruins which have been

found. It has two steam planing mills, a steam flouring mill, a grain elevator with a capacity of 5,000 bushels, and good school and church buildings. A new public school house was completed the past summer, at a cost of about \$1,300. A new court house, which Judge Wallace says is the best building of the kind outside of Salt Lake City, was also built the past season at a cost of some \$14,000. Richfield is nineteen miles from Salina, the railway terminus.

Monroe, ten miles south of Richfield, and in a similar section of farming country, has a population of 1,250. There are warm springs at Richfield, but at Monroe there are hot springs of high medicinal value. There are in the town a flouring mill, a planing mill, a furniture factory and good school and church buildings. The place is the residence of a number of wealthy cattle and sheep owners, and beautiful streets and good residences are characteristic of the town.

Salina, the terminus of the Rio Grande Western southern branch, has a population of 1,200, and is at present the most important commercial town in southern Utah. The railway company has some good buildings there. While the surrounding district is a rich farming country, the soil is different to that further south in being a black clay loam. There is in process of construction at Salina a stone public school building which will cost \$12,000. There are also good church and school buildings, a flouring mill and a planing mill. Salt, onyx, and a superior quality of gypsum abound in the mountains in close proximity to the town, while a few miles up the canyon alum and coal have been discovered in large quantities. Several salt works are engaged in a small way in the manufacture of salt, and there is room for the profitable employment of capital in an extensive line in this industry. The sheep and cattle interests of the town are also large. Judge Wallace says of Salina's prospects: "By reason of its location the town cannot help becoming an important railway center at no distant day. It is situated at the mouth of Salina canyon, which is the natural gateway of that section of country between the east and the west. There are but few passages penetrating the Wasatch range, and most of these are now used by railways and the grades are very steep. Engineers who have surveyed the Salina pass report a grade of only one per cent on one side of the range and two per cent on the other. From this we argue that Salina is destined to a bright future." The streams in the vicinity of the town are well filled with trout, and during the season many sportsmen are attracted there to capture the speckled beauties.

Elsinore is seven miles southwest of Richfield, in a similar section of country. The population will reach 800 souls. The town has a large flouring mill, a small brass foundry, and a porkpacking establishment. Elsinore put in the first system of waterworks in the Sevier valley.

Glenwood is six miles east of Richfield, in a mountain cove, and is beautifully situated. The soil there is black loam. The population is about 700. The town has fine water power, which Judge Wallace says is the best in Utah. There are two flouring mills there. The people have extensive cattle and sheep interests. There are large deposits of silica in the mountains above town.

Joseph City, fourteen miles southwest of Richfield, is a pretty place with 600 inhabitants. The new schoolhouse which has been just completed cost \$3500. The soil is fertile, and the cattle and sheep owners are prosperous. Hot mineral springs bubble out near the town and gold, silver, saltpeter, silica and copper are found in the hills close by. Two canyons give outlets to the south and west, and a railway through that country must include Joseph on its route.

The other towns of Sevier county are Redmond, Aurora, Sigurd, Plateau, Central, Annabella, and Burrville. A sanitarium was started at Plateau a couple of years ago, at which there were a number of patients from the East. They were all consumptives, and on some of them disease had made serious inroads. The curative effects of their stay at Plateau were in all instances remarkable. Judge Wallace says he is certain that that locality would have a very beneficial effect on those afflicted with pulmonary diseases, and would greatly prolong their lives and improve their condition even though it might not cure in every case.

D. J. Schofield, vice-president of the Nevada Southern, has recently returned from a trip over the road, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The line is now in operation from Blake, a station on the Atlantic and Pacific, a short distance west of The Needles, to Manuel, a town named after the recently deceased president of the Santa Fe. Manuel is in the vicinity of the famous Vanderbilt mining district. The road is doing a heavy ore business, and quite an amount of merchandise for the mining camps is shipped over its tracks.

"Work on the extension of the Nevada Southern to Good Springs, Lincoln county, Nevada, will be begun at once," said Mr. Schofield. "The contract has been let and the extension will be completed within ninety days. This will add twenty-five miles of track to the line. Good Springs is situated in the Yellow Pine mining district. The ores are very rich in lead, and are in demand at the Selby smelter. Ultimately the line will be carried across the Southern Nevada to the coal fields at Cedar City, U. T."

The coal fields in the neighborhood are extensive and will furnish an ample and cheap supply of fuel for Southern California. From Thistle, Utah, on the main line of the Rio Grande Western, a branch extends almost due south to Manti and Salina. From the latter point the Rio Grande Western has surveyed a line through the rich valley of the Sevier river and touching several prosperous mining centers, to Parowan and westward a short distance north of Cedar City. When the Nevada Southern is completed to Cedar City it would be an easy matter for the Rio Grande Western to close the gap between that point and Salina.