

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper
THE UINTAH COUNTRY.

PROVO, Jan. 7, 1894.—W. H. Wilson, of Lake Suore, who has spent several months in Uintah county, where he has bought a large quantity of lucern seed, has returned here. He is delighted with his trip and with the people whom he met, and in conversation with a representative of the NEWS expressed the opinion that the people of Uintah county are the most prosperous of any in the Territory.

Being asked now he accounted for this favorable condition he explained that Fort Duchesne furnished them a good market for a large portion of their agricultural products, and the business men have a large and profitable trade with the cattle and sheep men, whose flocks and herds roam over that portion of Uncle Sam's domain. Wheat was worth \$2 a bushel in the month of August; lucern hay brings \$9 35 a ton at the fort, and oats \$1.50 per cwt. Mr. Wilson also furnishes the following information:

Vernal has five stores each employing from three to seven clerks and all doing a good business. The Ashley Co-op, H. Bennion superintendent, keeps seven clerks busily engaged. Frank Moore, who formerly did a mercantile business in Ashley, has removed to Vernal and formed a partnership with a Mr. Luxeu; they have erected a fine building and are prospering financially. L. Johnson & Co. is another strong mercantile concern. Mr. Johnson was elected to the constitutional convention on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Colthrop is also a successful merchant and keeps three clerks busy taking care of his share of the trade. Woodruff & Co. supplies the people with hardware and the postoffice is located in their store. Hamlstead & Co. are doing a drug business and keep a fine stock of goods in their line. Mr. S. M. Brown has erected a fine hall used for dancing. Prof. Phelps of Salt Lake City is engaged in teaching the young people the latest terpsichorean movements.

The Vernal Roller mills, W. L. Perry superintendent, are equipped with the latest improved machinery, has twelve sets of rollers, and turns out a first-class article of flour. Mr. Workman is erecting a fine opera house which he expects to have completed by the 1st of May. The building is 50 x 80 feet and will have a seating capacity of 750.

In addition to the above mentioned concerns the town has two barber shops, four blacksmith shops, one wheelwright shop, and also supports three saloons.

At Jensen, situated seventeen miles southeast of Vernal, on Green river, George Billings conducts a general merchandise business, and Mr. Jensen, who has been operating a ferry across Green river for seventeen years, has just completed a boat that will carry three teams and wagons across at one time, in order to be ready for the expected rush when the reservation is thrown open for settlement.

At the Ouray Indian agency, thirty-five miles southwest of Vernal, great improvements have taken place in the last few years, under the direction of Colonel Rondelet, post commander at Fort Duchesne, who is also Indian agent, and Acting Agent Brothers, who is in immediate charge of the agency. Three fine 2-story brick buildings, 50x50 feet, have been erected within the last three years for the use of the agency employes and for school purposes, and a residence for Dr. Robinson the agency physician has just been completed. The agency also has a large laundry, a fine barn and granary.

The school is well attended by the Indian children. There are about 150 enrolled and the discipline maintained would be creditable in any school in the territory. The children are not instructed in the branches ordinarily taught in the district schools, but receive lessons in farm work and other industrial pursuits, and as a rule are well behaved and anxious to learn. The teachers in the industrial department informed Mr. Wilson that they often had to stop the children from working too hard, something that is quite contrary to the generally conceived opinion of Indian characteristics. In order to encourage the parents to send the children to school Colonel Rondelet builds houses and makes ditches for them, and several of them raise considerable grain and other farm products. Miss Edelin, of West Plains, Maryland, is the principal of the school and is aided by an able corps of teachers. Curry and Mease are the Indian traders and do a satisfactory business.

Fort Duchesne was established about nine years ago on a barren desert, about thirty-five miles west of Vernal. Today the post presents a very inviting appearance, the streets are lined with fine shade trees and the officers' residences and other buildings would do credit to a town of 10,000 inhabitants. Colonel Rondelet is the post commander; Lieutenant Keeler quartermaster and Lieutenant Horn commissary. There are over 300 men in the post; all except the commissioned officers are colored. It is not expected that the post will be continued after the reservation is thrown open.

From talks Mr. Wilson had with prospectors he received the impression that the statements of the great mineral wealth of the reservation have been overdrawn, although a great portion of the country has not yet been prospected, and may yet justify the expectation entertained by the seekers after the precious metals. He is also of the opinion that when the Indians have selected the lands to be allotted them the most valuable agricultural lands will be disposed of.

SOJOURNING IN TURKEY.

Elder E. W. Robinson, writing from Aleppo, Syria, in a letter dated November 26, 1894, published in the *Millennial Star* says:

I have had quite a varied experience in Turkey—sometimes easy,

sometimes hard, but always interesting. Leaving Beyrout I went with Brother Clark down to Haifa, a city located at the foot of Mount Carmel. There I spent a week with the Saints, and very much enjoyed reading the account of I Kings of El Jabb's cave and his experience with the prophets of Baal on that historic mountain; I visited the cave in which tradition says he took refuge, and brought therefrom a rock. I also visited the tombs in that vicinity supposed to be the work of the Phenicians, or Philistines.

Going down we went ashore at the "strong" city, Tyre, known in history as the mother of Carthage, and the home of the expert workmen whom King Hiram sent to assist in the building of Solomon's temple. But perhaps it is best known for having so long withstood the attack of Alexander the Great. It was formerly on an island, but the causeway which that monarch constructed from the mainland to the city converted the island into a peninsula. I viewed with great interest this fallen city, for it is now only the shadow of its former greatness. Returning, I was alone and went ashore at Sidon (Zidon), another place which figured conspicuously in early times. Brother Clark remained in Haifa, and he is indeed in good hands; for the few Church members there are excellent people. I enjoyed my visit with them very much. I was alone in Beyrout about six weeks and then proceeded to this city. To reach here I traveled about thirty-six hours by steamer and three days by horse. It is inland from the northeastern extremity to the Mediterranean sea.

At Alexandrette, my books were all taken from me with the promise that I should receive them here at Aleppo. I have filed a complaint with the American consul and he says he will try to procure them. He does not speak English. Aleppo is old and quaint, and its bazar resembles a great fair. The city is beautiful, seen from the hills tops as one approaches, but within it is crowded and dirty. This is a characteristic of Moslem cities. Constantinople, viewed from the Sea of Marmora, is grand but within it is little less than disgusting.

In Aleppo there stands a high artificial hill on the top of which are the ruins of a castle. The sides of the ascent are very steep and overlaid with flat, slick rocks, to make climbing difficult. It is probably three hundred feet high and requires about fifteen minutes to walk around it. It certainly reminds one of the days when kings took every precaution to protect their own lives. Around it runs a moat which was formerly filled with water. Nobody seems to know anything in particular about it. The streets here do not exceed ten feet in width and along these go mules, horses, camels, dogs and people. The market is all under of and is truly an interesting place to visit. I have seen no large stores, not even large enough for the purchaser to step inside while buying. Each merchant occupies an arch in the wall, and sits on a mat at the entrance smoking his narghile. He can reach most of his wares without getting up. They always ask just about twice the amount they expect to sell for. And if the buyer wears a hat instead of a cap they ask even more. I am quite an outly here, there being very few for-