

Paper-Making in Utah.

Resuming our westward journey, our next stopping place is in the Great Salt Lake Valley. Here, upon the eastern bank of the Jordan, is situated Salt Lake City. It is now nearly thirty years since the religious body popularly known as Mormons, left Nauvoo, Ill., and settled in this spot. Unlike the great body of western emigrants, their object was not a search for gold, which at that time had not been discovered in any large quantities, but simply a resting place where they might pursue undisturbed their own peculiar views of life. The Great Salt Lake Valley seemed admirably suited for this purpose. Shut in on every side by high mountains, reached from the populous east only by a long and dangerous journey over desert plains and through mountain passes, uninhabited except by a few miserable savages, the Digger Indians, there seemed none to dispute their possession of this land in which they purposed to make their home. In 1847 the foundations of Salt Lake City were laid, and its founders "built wiser than they knew" as far as worldly prosperity went. In a few years the discovery of gold in California drew to the Pacific Coast a large body of adventurers. For those who crossed the plains Salt Lake City became a very "Tadmur in the Wilderness," where the weary traveler might find rest and refreshment and procure all things necessary for his further journey.

The Latter-day Saints seem always to have had great faith in the power of the press, and about three years after their settlement in Utah President Young began the publication of a weekly newspaper called the *Deseret News*, the first number of which was issued June 15, 1850. (1) The difficulty of procuring paper, not only for printing purposes, but also for the necessary uses of life, must at this time have been very great. It will be remembered that there was no paper mill built west of the Mississippi River previous to 1850, hence the nearest paper market was St. Louis. From this city the paper was probably taken by water up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and then carried across the plains by ox teams, as was the custom at that time. The inconvenience and expense of supplying a population of over 11,000 people by such a mode of transport was probably the reason that President Young so early in the history of Salt Lake City determined to build a paper mill within its limits. This he did in 1853, and it is, therefore, worthy of note as the first paper mill west of the Missouri River. The building of the mill determined upon, there was no difficulty in finding a proper person to superintend its construction. About two years previous to this time there had come to Salt Lake city, with other emigrants, a paper-maker whose practical experience of his art extended over a period of more than twenty years. To this person, Thomas Howard, President Young entrusted the building of the mill, and when finished and in running order he took charge of it for several years. It was a small mill, situated on what is now called Temple Block, and was run by water power from City Creek, a small tributary to the Jordan. It contained one paper engine, one vat, and one hydraulic press. The paper was manufactured by hand, and consisted of print and wrapping paper and boards.

Thomas Howard deserves especial mention as being the first to manufacture paper west of the Rocky Mountains, or, in fact, west of the Missouri River. He may be said to belong to a family of paper-makers, as both his father and grandfather had been engaged in that occupation in Buckinghamshire, England. His parents were living in North Wales at the time of his birth, March 1, 1815. When he was only nine weeks old they traveled on foot to Oxfordshire, where his father took charge of a mill that had been recently built. For thirteen years they remained there, and then Mr. Howard's father was removed by his employers to a new mill at Woburn in Buckinghamshire. Here Mr. Howard learned the art of paper-making, and for twenty-two years pursued his occupation in the same place. In 1850 he became a member of the "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," and the year after emigrated to Utah, where he still resides.

The old mill was run without any change of machinery until 1861. This year it was abandoned and a new one built four miles south of the city. Into this two paper engines and a 30-inch cylinder machine were put. The previous year President Young had imported this machine from the East, freighted it from the Missouri river by ox teams. The mill was completed and began the manufacture of paper July 24, 1861. Since that time it has been running with only occasional stoppages. The longest stop was from October, 1870, to October, 1871, when the mill was shut down for the purpose of giving it a thorough repairing. For about two months in the winter the mill is closed on account of ice and lack of water. During six or eight weeks of the summer it is again closed for want of water, the stream from which it obtains the water power being used for the purpose of irrigation at that time. The valley of Salt Lake, like all the region lying east of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges, has but a scanty supply of rain. This want of natural moisture is overcome in Salt Lake city and its neighborhood by a well regulated system of irrigation. Until 1868 the mill was run by President Young, but in that year the proprietors of the *Deseret News* took charge of it, and it still remains under their management. From 1868 up to November, 1875, the mill manufactured 9,392½ reams of print paper, valued at \$57,068.40, and wrapping paper to the value of \$8,405.10, making the aggregate value of the paper manufactured during the six years \$65,473.50, or less than \$11,000 worth a year. This seems a small amount of paper to be consumed by a population of over 130,000 people. But it must be remembered that at the present time the facilities for transportation are very great, and hence goods can be brought from the East at a comparatively small expense. On the other hand, owing to the scarcity of water power, manufacturing is difficult and expensive, and consequently a large amount of paper consumed is imported. This is exactly the reverse of the state of affairs at the time the first mill was built. Then the difficulty of transportation made it much more convenient to manufacture than to import.—*Paper Trade Journal*.

(1) Previous to their removal to Utah, the Latter-day Saints had published several papers in the various places in which they had settled. A full list of these will be found in R. F. Burton's "City of the Saints," page 255.

Our Country Contemporaries.

Ogden Junction, April 29—

The morning a boy, who was out cow hunting in or near Lawson's field in the northwestern part of the city, discovered the body of a new born infant which, to all appearances, had recently been hid away in a rabbit hole in the edge of a slough. The head of the child seemed to have been broken. The coroner has summoned a jury and will hold an inquest this afternoon.

The bridge over Ogden river, on the State Road is thought to be in danger of being carried away by the high water. We believe that people have already ceased to cross it with teams.

Sanford Bingham, of Riverdale, called at the Junction office this morning, from whom we learned that yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock, a portion of the wagon bridge spanning the Weber river, near that place, went downstream, in consequence of defective piling. The bridge has been considered in danger for some time, and steps were being taken to prevent the accident which has befallen it, but the movement was not made quite soon enough, it would seem. There is a gap of about fifty feet in the bridge, though we believe a portion of the materials were saved. It is feared that further damage may be sustained, as the west end of the bridge is not considered beyond danger. It is very unfortunate that this bridge has been rendered useless until repaired, as there can be no communication between settlements on the south side of the river and Ogden for some time, except by way of the railroad bridge. The bridge at Uintah is unapproachable, in consequence of high water.

It is to be hoped that, since the late election of a new directory for the company proposing to erect iron works in this city, something will come of this hitherto abortive

efforts of the company to accomplish something of profit to themselves and benefit to the community. With six resident directors, with the capital and enterprise possessed by the members of the board lately elected, there is no good reason why they may not accomplish much in the direction sought. The Utah directors are as follows: J. R. Walker, C. W. Bennett, George M. Scott, Fred. Zeimes, Chas. Woodmansee and Geo. T. Brown.

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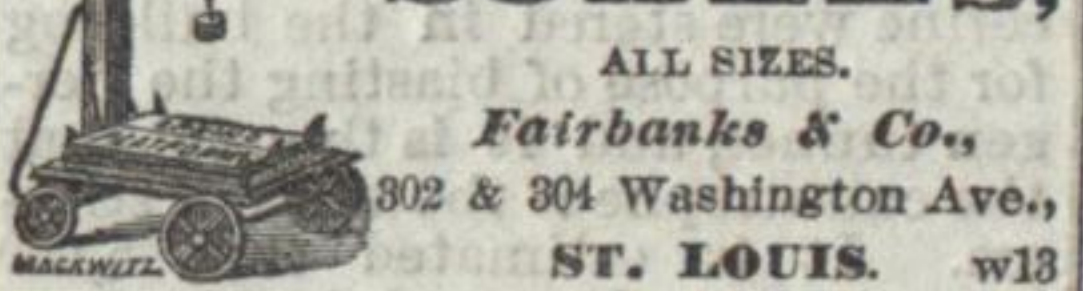
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