

with Joseph H. Gardiner and George A. Slauch as Counselors.

The Glines ward embraces that part of Ashley valley lying northwest of and adjoining the Ashley ward; forty-seven families or 307 souls constitute the numerical strength of the ward, over which Peter Abplanalp presides as Bishop. This is the first ward which the traveler reaches in visiting Ashley Valley. The Glines ward meeting house is situated two miles northwest of Vernal; the Merrill ward school house, where the meetings are held, is three miles southeast of Vernal.

The Mill ward, thus named because the only two mills in the valley are located within its borders, comprises the upper end of Ashley Valley proper and joins the Ashley ward on the northwest. The meeting house is situated in the midst of a fine farming district three miles northwest of Vernal. There are 52 families, or 444 souls (Latter-day Saints) in this ward, presided over by Bishop Wm. Shaffer. The Mill ward contains some of the very best farming land in the valley, and the people are fully as prosperous and well to do as those of any of the adjoining towns.

Mountain Dell is situated on Dry Fork, a tributary of Ashley's Fork. It is called Dry Fork because the water in the creek disappears entirely in the latter part of the summer, leaving the people to depend upon some springs, which gush forth at the point where the little cluster of houses called Mountain Dell nestles in a beautiful little valley, and this valley extends above Dry Fork for a distance of six miles, and has an average width of less than a mile. To reach this dell in the mountains the traveler has to pass over a sandy road and through a long canyon, at the mouth of which stands a romantic rocky formation consisting of high and perpendicular cliffs, which form what is locally known as the Silver Gate, immediately above where Old Fort Thornburg once stood. The distance from Ashley Centre, or Vernal, to Mountain Dell is fifteen miles in a northwesterly direction. This ward consists of 26 families, or 183 souls, some of whom reside in Deep Creek, a tributary of the Uintah, across the mountains southwest. The present Bishop of Mountain Dell is Calvin P. Bingham.

The Riverdale ward consists of 43 families or 199 souls, who live in a scattered condition along Ashley's Fork and Green River. The farms extend about eight miles up the former and about six miles up the latter stream. There are three school houses in this ward, the upper one situated on Ashley's Fork, being about seven miles, and the lower one, located near Jensen's ferry, on Green River, about thirteen miles southeast of Vernal. Elder Nathan Hunting presides as Bishop over the ward, and George P. Billings has special charge of the lower end of the same, where separate meetings and Sunday schools are held.

Throughout the entire Stake I found a good people, who treated me with hospitality and kindness, and rendered me all possible aid in my labors. Besides attending the quarterly Stake conference on the 7th and 8th of August, I held special meetings in five of the six wards, and had a good time, and when I finally left last night,

the families of President Bennion, C. C. Bartlett and Sterling Colton provided me with ample provisions for the journey across the desert, and showed other acts of kindness.

I would say, by way of conclusion, that there is ample room and facility for hundreds more families yet in the Ashley valley, and the good Latter-day Saints and the "Gentiles" who are there extend a hearty invitation to others of their faith to come out and cast their lot with them. By and by a railway will undoubtedly be built through the valley and the people then be placed in closer communication with the outside world, which will give new impetus to develop both the agricultural and mineral resources of the country. All the resources necessary to make a prosperous commonwealth are found in the Ashley valley. All that is wanted is time, better means of transportation, a better market for the products raised, and more people to cultivate the soil.

ANDREW JENSEN.

FORT DU CHESNE, Uintah county, Utah, August 18, 1892.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder Thomas H. Gardner of Pine Valley, Washington County, Utah, who left for a mission to the Southern States on March 3rd, 1891, returned today at 11 a.m. He has been laboring in the State of Mississippi, and is now released on account of sickness. He has enjoyed his labors and met with some success. He leaves for his home in a few days.

Elder W. A. Walker of Louisville, Idaho, called at our office this afternoon, having just returned from a mission to the Eastern States. He left on July 31, 1891, and has been laboring in the Iowa conference, of which he was the president, for the last three months. Elder Walker returns on account of failing health. He has nevertheless, he says, enjoyed his labor and had many opportunities of bearing his testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Elder John S. Groesbeck has just returned from a two year's mission in New Zealand. He left his home at Springfield, August 13, 1890. He labored first in the Manawatu conference. After six months there he was transferred to the Bay of Islands in the north. He reports the mission in the southern part of the island in a flourishing condition, while in the north the natives do not manifest so much interest in the Gospel.

He enjoyed his labors very much, and was blessed with good health all the time. He left Auckland on August 13th, and arrived in San Francisco on the 3d inst.

EXCITEMENT IN CANADA.

CONSERVATIVES in Canada begin to feel the loss of Sir John McDonald's master mind. Ever since his death the party is having rather untoward experiences. He was succeeded as Premier by Sir John Abbott, a capable man, but an invalid. He has not been able to attend to affairs of state, and he is now on the point of retiring, to be succeeded, it is said, by Sir John Thompson. The latter is reputed a very able statesman from the con-

servative standpoint. But in religion he is a Roman Catholic. Religion in the Dominion is quite a factor in politics. The extreme Protestants and extreme Catholics in that country are conservatives. Extreme Protestants are, and have always been, at the side of a strong monarchy. The master hand of Sir John McDonald manipulated both these extremists and kept them in one fold. Sir John Abbott has endeavored to do it, and succeeded indifferently. Now that it is a certainty that Sir John Thompson, a Roman Catholic, will take the helm, what will the Orangemen do in the matter. Already they are raising a furious howl, and, like their brethren in Ireland, say they will fight.

Canada is not in a prosperous condition. As between that country and the United States for last year the balance of trade in favor of the latter was nearly \$20,000,000. The balance of trade with British countries was \$2,000,000 in favor of Canada. The last census gives the Catholic population as nearly 2,000,000. The Methodists, Presbyterians and Church of England communicants aggregate over 2,600,000. Canada has 28,000 pagans and 34,000 agnostics.

Sir John Thompson was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, forty-eight years ago. He is by profession a lawyer. He has had legislative, judicial and executive experience, and acquitted himself successfully in all. He was Sir John McDonald's friend and counselor, and has always been a politician. He assisted Joseph Chamberlain and Sir Charles Tupper in drafting the Fisheries Treaty of 1888, which the United States Senate subsequently refused to ratify.

MEXICAN MISSION CONFERENCE.

This conference was held in the Juarez school house and called to order at 10 a. m. on Saturday, Aug. 27th, by President George Teasdale, who delivered a very interesting discourse.

The speakers during the two days' meetings were Elders James A. Little, Counselor Henry Eyring, Elders Isaac W. Pearce, P. J. Christopherson, Y. Yorgensen, Counselor A. F. Macdonald, Elder D. E. Harris, Patriarch Henry Lunt, Elders J. H. James, H. Pratt, Bishops W. Farr, J. N. Smith, Elders Frank Spencer and M. P. Romney.

The subjects treated upon were the payment of tithing, the proper training of children, faith in God, signs of the times, schools and general instructions.

The attendance was the largest at any conference ever held in Mexico, especially as to the attendance from Colony Diaz. The singing by the choir was excellent and would be creditable to much larger settlements.

The various societies held their usual conferences. All of these were attended by President Teasdale.

Juarez has had a fair fruit crop this year, consisting chiefly of grapes, apples, pears, plums, besides some smaller varieties of fruits.

The health of the people is good.

M. P. R. ELIX,
Of Mexican Mission.

JUAREZ Colony, Aug. 30th.

The next Scandinavian philological congress will be held at Christiania, Norway.