

vesting in progress; grain plump, with some smut. Corn and potatoes looking well. Water scarce. Second crop of lucern a partial failure.

Chester—Unusually hot weather. Large crop of hay; second in good condition.

Newton—The past week has been warm and windy. Harvesting going on fast. Grain heavy.

Levan—Wheat harvest in full operation. Weather favorable.

Charleston—Haying about over. Water getting scarce on uplands. Second crop of lucern good.

Fillmore—The weather has been hot and dry. Streams quite low. Second crop of lucern about ready to cut, promising a good yield. Corn is looking fine. Grain is being cut, and is better than usual.

Asays—Past week has been very warm. No rain. First crop of lucern about all in and crop good. Rain needed.

Tropic—Fall wheat ripe and second crop of lucern will soon be ready to cut. Early apples ripe.

Mill Creek—Most of the grain cut and in the shock. Second crop of lucern being stacked in good condition. Water very scarce.

Miller—Farmers are busy harvesting hay and grain. Second crop of lucern where irrigated is doing well. Water getting scarce.

Meadowville—Winter rye and some fall wheat cut. Potatoes ready for use. Small fruits ripening fast.

Logan—Weather warm and dry. Harvesting fall grain. Spring grain turning.

Cache Junction—Past week very warm with cool nights. Grain ripening fast. All machines busy. Hands scarce.

Hyde Park—Weather warm and dry. Plenty of water. Second crop of lucern being cut.

Lawrence—Weather hot and water scarce. The early spring wheat and oats are getting ripe, the late wheat is green and not likely to fill well for lack of water.

Ferron—Weather very warm. Rain much needed. Water supply falling rapidly. It is possible we will have enough to finish the grain, but the third crop of lucern will not materialize as heretofore. This is not a good honey year, nor a good one for garden truck either.

Utah—The extreme heat is hard on crops. Rain would be welcome. Great many trees and bushes are dying for want of moisture.

Peterson—Timothy hay about all gathered in good condition. Second crop of lucern will be about half a crop. Grain is ripening fast and water is getting very low. Unless we get rain soon the grain and potato crops will not be as good as was expected.

Payson—Threshing commenced on rye, oats, early barley and wheat crops. Grain being cut and stacked. Second crop of hay being hauled. Beets, potatoes and corn doing fine, especially sugar beets. Very dry; rain would help us out.

American Fork—A warm, dry week. The drought will cause some loss to the farmers. There will be only a fourth of a second crop of lucern. All small grain ripening fast. Fruit dropping from the trees.

Loa—Weather still warm and dry. Oats heading out. First crop of lucern about all gathered. Potatoes large enough for use.

Coyote—The past week has been extremely hot. A light rain on 24th which made vegetation look fresh. Haying still in progress. Water is getting low, but plenty for irrigation purposes. Potato crop looks fine.

Mt. Carmel—Still hot and dry. Wheat partly cut. Crops in some places showing the need of water.

Heber—Weather very hot. Water

getting scarce. Some patches of early spring grain ripe. Second crop of lucern one foot high where it is watered; half of the crop will be burned up unless rain comes soon. Timothy hay is heavy, 100 loads coming into town every day.

Coalville—It has been a fine week for haying—Grain ripening very fast.

Deweyville—The weather has been very hot and dry; a good shower of rain would be of great benefit. The grain harvest is about finished and threshing has commenced.

Garland—Weather still warm and dry. Winter wheat about all in the stack. Spring wheat is being cut.

Circleville—The past week has been exceedingly hot and sultry. Small portion of crops suffering for water, otherwise all kinds of crops are looking well, and growing nicely. First crop of hay mostly all in stack, in good condition. Grass hay being cut.

Manti—Weather hot and dry. Haying continues. Water getting low, but all small grain is past needing any more. The gardens and orchards are now safe but the lucern may suffer some for lack of moisture. Harvesting will begin the coming week.

Scioto—Another hot, dry week. Commenced to cut wheat and oats. Corn, potatoes, etc., growing fine. Second crop of lucern nearly ready. Water holding out. Crop good.

Holden—Hot and dry everywhere. Harvesting general. Second crop of lucern is being cut. Corn and other crops looking well. Water holding out fairly well.

Glenwood—Fall wheat is being harvested and spring wheat will be ready for reaper in a few days. All anticipate a large turnout, more than the average for several years. Water is very short, and some patches of late grain, and corn and potatoes may suffer badly. Lucern looks well and second cutting will be ready by middle of August. Some earlier. Bees are gathering honey in good style.

J. H. SMITH,  
Section Director, Salt Lake City.

#### THE LADRONES.

The agreement of peace just reached by the United States and Spain gives the former one of the Ladrone Islands, most probably the one now occupied—Guanha, on which is situated the port of San Luis d'Padra, where some of the government buildings and property are located. The occupancy took place by the first expedition of United States forces to Manila in the early part of June. They were discovered by the great Portuguese navigator Magellan, in 1521. He was sailing under the flag of Spain at the time, and exercising the authority (then unquestioned) of a discoverer, took possession of them in the name of that national octopus. He gave them the name of Las Islas de los Ladrones, the English interpretation of which is, "the islands of the thieves." The group consists of some eighteen small islands. In Spain they are called the Marianas, in honor of Maria Anna, the queen of the fourth Philip.

The capital of the islands is San Ignacio de Agahan, also situated upon the island spoken of. The present population, as described by a writer in the New York World, are "wanting in energy, of indifferent moral character, and miserably poor." They are descended in part from the original inhabitants, called Chamonos, and from the Mestizos, a mixed race formed by the union of Spaniards with these natives. On the island called Saypan a colony from the Caroline Islands, which lie to the south of the Ladrones, was established some years ago. These people are the most active and enterprising inhabitants of the Ladrones.

Spain is said to have derived no revenue from these islands, and has done little to civilize the people. At one time a few small schools were started, but they were soon abandoned. August and September are the hottest months, and the rain-fall in the summer months is very heavy. The capital is well built of timber, and many of the houses have tiled roofs. There are altogether twenty small villages on the islands.

The natives are an exceedingly primitive race. It is said of them that they live in about the same manner as characterized them when the Europeans first went there. In one thing they are known to excel the inhabitants of any of the Polynesian Islands: They build and sail a peculiar water craft with a lateen sail, with so much expertness that they have elicited the admiration of sailors for 300 years.

Putting it altogether, it looks very much as if the largest field the United States would have in the Ladrones would be the field for missionary endeavor along the lines of genuine Christianity, mental culture and physical skill. We will soon have our hands full in that as well as other lines, sure enough.

#### SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A new microphone, capable of giving distinct warning at a great distance of the approach of a steamship, has been shown to the Paris Academy of Sciences, and its performances are to be made known by tests at Cherbourg. A similar instrument, called the hydrophone, was devised several years ago by Commander Banare. This consisted of a water-tight box, the vibrating plate being placed inside to avoid the too great pressure of the water, and this transmitter was immersed at some distance from land, with wires supported by a float and carried from that to a receiver on a ship or on shore. The transmitter was affected at a distance of a mile or a mile and a half by the vibration of the screw of a torpedo boat, or the more regular beat of the screw of a large battleship, making it possible, with two or three miles of wire, to hear a vessel from four to five miles away.

So marked an effect is produced upon the eyes by heat that the term "heat cataract" has become well understood. It is known that many glass-blowers develop cataract before the age of forty, and a German physician, Dr. Hirschberg, has just reported finding five victims of the disease in a crew of thirty men employed in a glass factory. The idea that cataracts are most common in hot climates is confirmed in India, where persons of forty are often affected, although in cooler lands sixty-two is the average age for senile cataract to appear.

In a new method of porcelain manufacture, the clay, instead of being worked cold upon a potter's lathe or pressed into a mould, is finely ground, then melted in an electric furnace at about 3215 degrees C. and poured into a heated, fireproof casting mould. Glazing is usually unnecessary. An advantage, in addition to reduced cost, is prevention of shrinking in cooling, and the inventor expects to make the cooled mass malleable. An unconquered difficulty is colored decoration.

There are several kinds of animals points out Cosmos, that have never swallowed water. Among these are the llamas of Patagonia and certain gazelles of the far East, and a considerable number of reptiles—serpents, lizards and certain batrachians—that live and flourish where there is no moisture. A kind of mouse of the arid plains of Western America also exists