

The World Famed City of the Saints—The Undisputed Trade and Educational Center of the Great Intermountain Country—Its Steady Growth and Development—Present Population and Future Outlook.

1850.

fifty Year

In the history of Salt Lake City's development the student will find a condition that is unique in the growth of American cities, and especially those of the West. It is simply one of slow and steady progress, without any backward steps. Only at one period was there even anything like an attempt to secure a boom, and while the result of that was disastrous, the city quickly recovered.

At first Salt Lake City was a mere dot on the map of an almost unknown region, and for some time it continued to be the only dot known to the world at large in a wide expanse of country. But each year the influence of some new element was felt—the mineral discoveries, the tide of emigration, the creation of new towns, the railroads.

- OUR MAYORS. A year after the Pioneers settled here, the population was 2,000, and by 1850, it had reached upwards of 5,000. It was shortly after organized as a city, and up to this date has had twelve mayors, as follows: Jedediah M. Grant . 1851-1857 Abraham O. Smoot . 1857-1866 Daniel H. Wells . . 1866-1876 Feramorz Little . . 1876-1882 William Jennings . 1882-1884 James Sharp . . . . 1884-1886 Francis Armstrong . 1886-1890 Geo. M. Scott . . . . 1890-1892 R. N. Baskin . . . . 1892-1896 James Glendinning . 1896-1898 John Clark . . . . . 1898-1900 Ezra Thompson . . . 1900

THE FIRST CITY OFFICERS. The spirit of the people at the time the city was incorporated is shown by the record of the first meeting of the first officers. Except the aldermen and magistrates, they served without pay, and their first thought was to make the city beautiful and clean.

It was a memorable occasion when these first officers met at the State house and organized. The minutes of the meeting are preserved in Record Book A of the city recorder's office, and are as follows:

THE FIRST MEETING.

"An ordinance having been passed by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret, January 9th, 1851, 'Incorporating Great Salt Lake City,' Jedediah M. Grant, mayor, Nathaniel H. Felt, William Snow, Jesse P. Harmon and Nathaniel V. Jones, aldermen; and Vincent Shurtliff, Benjamin L. Clapp, Zera Pulepfer, William G. Perkins, Harrison Burgess, Jeter Clinton, John L. Dunyon and Samuel W. Richards, counselors, met pursuant to notice from the clerk of Great Salt Lake county court, in the State House, and having been severally sworn to observe the Constitution of the United States and this State, they organized in due form. The ordinance incorporating Great Salt Lake City was read by the clerk of the county, when the mayor informed the council that it would be necessary to appoint a recorder, treasurer and marshal for the city. 'Motioned that Robert Campbell be the recorder of Great Salt Lake City; seconded and carried. 'Motioned that Elane Luddington be the marshal, and assessor and collector of Great Salt Lake City; seconded and carried. 'They being notified of their appointment, appeared and accepted their offices.

GOVERNOR YOUNG SPEAKS.

"His excellency, the Governor, addressed the council and said: 'You have been sworn to fulfill the duties of your offices. The next thing will be to file your bonds, then attend to such business as shall be for the welfare of the city. You will have to regulate markets, keep streets clear, remove nuisances. You will want a city police, city inspectors, and you will appoint the different officers who will see to the cleanliness of the city. The municipal council will meet every month and the city council as often as is necessary.'

GENERAL WELLS' ADVICE.

"General D. H. Wells addressed the council and said: 'I am very glad that the city council is now organized. I hope to see the officers proceed in seeing that the original design of beautifying the city by planting trees in the streets is carried out, and that the water is carried into its proper channels and not run down the middle of the streets.'

SERVED WITHOUT PAY.

"The Governor suggested to the city council to appoint a supervisor of streets and levy a tax forthwith, and said to the council: 'You will attend to the duties of your office in this time, and receive your pay in the next time, but as to aldermen and magistrates, they will receive their fees.' He wished to counsel the Saints not to law with each other.

MAYOR GRANT'S VIEWS.

"The mayor wished it understood: 'I am on hand to do what good I can and the council have similar feelings. In my opinion, it should be the pride of this city council to be men of piety and men that will do their duty and have a pride in it. We should work for the welfare of the people, as we have the privilege to do all the good we can and remove what nuisances there may be in the city, be constantly awake to the interests of the city, have as little law as possible, and attend to peace and good

order, and as we know what is right, have the firmness to do it.'

"The clerk then read the rules of the city council of Nauvoo which had been approved by the Prophet Joseph Smith, defining their duties, which are somewhat similar to the rules of Congress and those of the Legislature of Deseret. 'Half past twelve, on motion adjourned until 2 p. m. 'THOS. BULLOCK, 'Clerk of G. S. L. County Court.'

THE NEXT DECADE.

During the next ten years, up to 1860, the policy of beautifying the city was adhered to, with the result that Salt Lake became famous at an early day for its attractiveness. The settlers planted shade trees along the sidewalks and in a few years the city was a bower of flowers and verdure in summer.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The commercial development of the city commenced at the same time. Upper Main street assumed the character of a business center.

By 1870, several big mining enterprises were under way and the great industry was of particular importance to the city and its business interests. The completion of the railroad and telegraph gave a further impetus along this line, and brought the population up to 20,000. The future of the city as a trade center was by this time plainly seen and in 1880, the population had increased to over 30,000. The next ten years was a period of rapid growth and by 1890 the population was over 40,000.

A WONDERFUL GROWTH.

From 1890 to 1900, the residence lines were extended in every direction and in an architectural way the city was transformed. The humble abodes of the pioneers rapidly disappeared and handsome modern residences were built by the hundreds. Salt Lake, with all its development, its great business enterprises, its mills and factories, is still essentially a city of homes. One big factor in giving it this character is the high standing of its educational institutions. This has exerted a powerful influence in bringing from the surrounding states a splendid class of people as residents.

PRESENT POPULATION.

The population today is estimated at 80,000. Polk's directory for 1900 gives 28,202 names, and the population, including the suburban additions, is estimated by the directory publishers at 84,606. Should even the proportion of growth shown for past decades be maintained during the next ten years, Salt Lake will have a population at the end of ten years of considerably over 125,000, but all who are familiar with the great movements on foot for the development of Salt Lake City and Utah, are confident that in 1910 the population will not be less than 150,000.

A GREAT SHOWING.

As to the volume of business here, it may be noted that the clearings for 1899 footed up \$128,000,000, a net gain in a year of nearly \$40,000,000.

RAILROADS COMING IN.

Salt Lake's claims as a railroad center will be vastly added to within a few years. The city now has two outlets to the East, the Rio Grande Western and Union Pacific; one to the north, the Oregon Short Line; one to the west, the Southern Pacific, and numerous feeders to them all, the Utah Central, Utah & Pacific, Salt Lake & Los Angeles, Utah and Nevada, Salt Lake & Ogden and the Tintic branches. The long projected road through to Southern California seems assured at last, C. P. Huntington having taken up the enterprise and announced his intention of carrying it through. Should his project fall other capitalists will take it up, connecting with the Utah and Pacific. Within a year, the Burlington will be in the city, bringing with it immense advantages to Salt Lake, and adding to its commercial importance. The inter-urban road, which is to run through the chain of villages between Salt Lake and Ogden, will doubtless have the same effect here that similar roads have exerted upon eastern cities, and the activity in railroad circles is equally marked in other directions that must contribute heavily to the up-building of Salt Lake.

MERCHANDISING IN EARLY DAYS.

Merchandising in Salt Lake City during the decade from 1850, presented many novel features aside from the prices charged them as compared with the prices of today.

Bishop Nelson A. Empey was a youngster in those days, but he mixed up in business, and his impressions are keener than those of many older men who witnessed the same things. With the establishment of the firm of Chislett & Clark Mr. Empey became "the boy" at the store. Since then the whirligig of time has thrown Mr. Empey into still closer relations with Mr. Clark, and they are now partners in one of the big wholesale stores of Salt Lake.

ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN.

"I remember well," said Mr. Empey to a "News" representative, "what an occasion it was in those days when an ox train of goods arrived here. The house owning the shipment would close up while the goods were being unpacked and placed on the shelves. When this was completed the doors were thrown open until a sufficient number of people were inside, when the doors were closed and the wants of the first lot of customers were supplied. This was kept up until the rush was over. Of course the arrival of a train created a good deal of excitement in the little community.

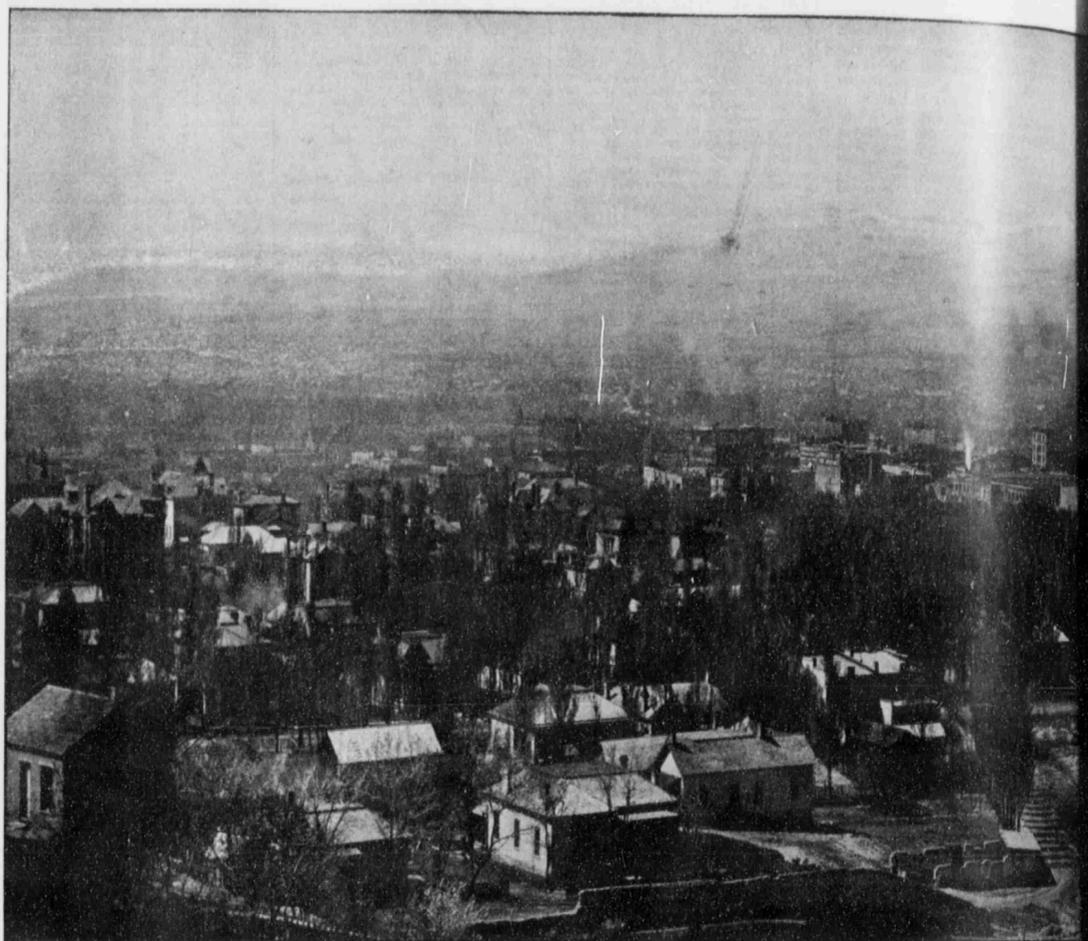
"In those days if a man came in and wanted a sack of sugar, he couldn't get it. The store keeper had something to say about that, and the allowance to each customer was limited. After buying such necessities as he needed, the customer generally announced the

merchants became quite expert in sizing it up. After looking it over, the merchant would announce the value per ounce, and trading proceeded on that basis. 'I remember one time another house that I was with sent a lot of goods

Buying gold dust was an important part of banking then—perhaps the most important part. The dust as it came from California was very pure, and merchants generally took this in payment for goods, just as currency is received today. Each store being pro-

Salt Lake banks have ever enjoyed a reputation for security. Out of all the number only one went down during the perilous time that a few years ago wrecked financial and business houses throughout the country with a frequency that demoralized the world of

that a majority of the present, together with twelve and a number of citizens." "The Bishops," say "and representatives of the wards, by reports of me



From a photo by Savage, taken from Prospect Hill.

amount of cash he had left, and took goods to the amount of it.

PRICES VERY HIGH.

"Of course prices ruled very high, but that's an old and oft repeated story. However, to illustrate I will say that sugar was 60 cents a pound, coffee \$1.25, tea \$3.50 to \$4.50, nails 63 a keg, coal oil \$25 a can, calico now worth 3 cents, was 40 cents, and demins, now 15 to 25 cents, was \$1.25 a yard. All other things were proportionately high.

FIXING PRICES OF FLOUR.

"Flour brought all kinds of prices, and I remember on one occasion that my father paid \$100 in gold for 100 pounds. The variation in the price of this commodity caused a good deal of trouble, until finally President Young fixed it at \$6 a hundred.

IN FAMINE TIMES.

"The story of the famine has been told better than I can hope to tell it, but it was a time of great want with the people. The grasshoppers had completely destroyed the crops, and we boys used to go up on the hills and get sego roots for our families. They were cooked just as you would cook very young potatoes and were nutritious and palatable.

MONEY PLENTIFUL.

"The impression that money was very scarce here in early days is an erroneous one. There was plenty of money. The emigration of gold hunters to California in '49 brought a great deal of money here and our Battalion boys brought a large amount of gold dust in from the coast. The influx of this precious metal is what led to the establishment of the mint here.

EMIGRANTS OVERLOADED.

"Sometimes great bargains were offered by emigrants going through to California. Frequently they arrived here completely overloaded, and sold the surplus of their supplies at practically our own prices, generally taking cattle and horses to go on with. As a rule, their animals were used up, and it was necessary for them to get fresh stock.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

"One little incident occurred in my own experience that is worth telling. I was going out on Emigration Street when I met a man with a big mule. said he: 'Son, what will you give me for the mule?' 'Don't want a mule,' I answered. 'Well,' continued the emigrant, 'he has got a halter on that's worth something. Better buy the big mule.' 'I had just a dollar and a half in my pocket and finally said: 'I'll give you \$1.50 for him.' 'Take him along,' said the emigrant, and so I got the big mule. I kept the animal till fall when my father sold him for \$150.

THE YELLOW STUFF.

"Speaking of gold reminds me of the way it was taken. The gold, of course, varied somewhat as to purity, and the

south, taking as pay therefor eggs, wheat, butter, hams and bacon. These goods were, in turn, sent to Montana, where the eggs brought \$1.25 a dozen, and the ham 75 cents a pound, these prices being very reasonable. I remember when the returns from these goods came back, I took the gold to the bank in a couple of satchels. The distance was so short, but the weight of the gold was so great that I had to sit down twice and rest.

WAS LIKE A FAMILY.

"The condition of the people of this city in those days was like that of one family. Of course there were few luxuries, and during famine times, the necessities were very scarce, but generally speaking, a family that had supplies divided with a family that had none and so they got along. As times improved the people lived better, of course, but always carefully.

"I believe the people were as happy and contented during all those days as they have ever been. It was like one big home circle. 'When we went to a dance, we used to take a peck of wheat, some candles, or whatever we had, to pay the musicians. Of course the trip across was a long, rough and perilous one. It required three months to cross the plains from Winter Quarters, a trip now made in a couple of days, and the hardships were great, so that the fathers and mothers were glad to get to this haven of rest, and the 'short commons' seemed a small matter after that journey, while as for we boys, we couldn't recollect anything better, and so were content.

"Speaking of the journey across the plains, it is remarkable how closely the old trail and the railroad run together, but the hardships of it cannot be imagined today.

GETTING FUEL.

"Bringing in fuel was one of the industries of the early days. I don't know just when the first coal was brought in, but I do know that in 1869 I brought in ten tons—about the first I know of. I sold it out at \$40 a ton. During that year, with some others, I took a contract to construct eleven miles of railroad, commencing in April and finishing in December. We cleaned up \$5,000 each on that contract."

PIONEER BANKING METHODS REVIEWED.

Every man was his own banker during the first few years after the founding of Salt Lake City, but when the tide of travel to California set in and the flood of gold commenced to come back, the department of banking was soon added to the business machinery. Wells, Fargo & Co., Walker Bros., Hooper, Eldredge & Co., Hussy, Dahler & Co., were among those early institutions and all thrived.

vided with fine scales, the value of the dust per ounce was closely estimated and the weighing proceeded.

The question as to what became of all this dust has often been asked. The great bulk of it, so the Pioneer business men say, was shipped east. Little was said of these shipments, for prudential reasons, but during the entire period up to 1879 the value of this product sent out of Salt Lake, ran into the millions.

DEPOSITS SMALL.

The deposits in the pioneer banks were comparatively small. Today there are sixteen banking institutions in Salt Lake, and the aggregate of deposits on January 1st last was \$1,500,000, which with clearings for the year of \$126,000,000, show the magnitude of the banking business today.

L. S. Hills, now the cashier of the Deseret National Bank, has been connected with that institution since its incorporation, late in the sixties, the firm name being Hooper, Eldredge & Co. In 1870 it was succeeded by the Deseret bank, organized under the territorial laws, and two years later the present institution was incorporated as a national bank.

"When I first started here," said Mr. Hills to the "News" representative, I was cashier, paying and receiving teller, bookkeeper and utilized my spare time in doing the janitor work.

"No, it didn't keep me very busy. Deposits were very light, but all things considered, the bank did well.

HOW DUST WAS BOUGHT.

"We handled a great deal of gold, but at the time our house went into business, most of this came from Montana and Idaho. It was not so difficult to determine the purity of the gold as people seem to think. Practice with the scales and familiarity with the product enabled us to estimate the value per ounce quite accurately, although we, of course, allowed a margin so as to be on the safe side.

SECURITY FOR LOANS.

"The bank loaned a great deal of money, but it was very seldom on collateral or real estate. Personal security was generally taken, and there was little loss through this.

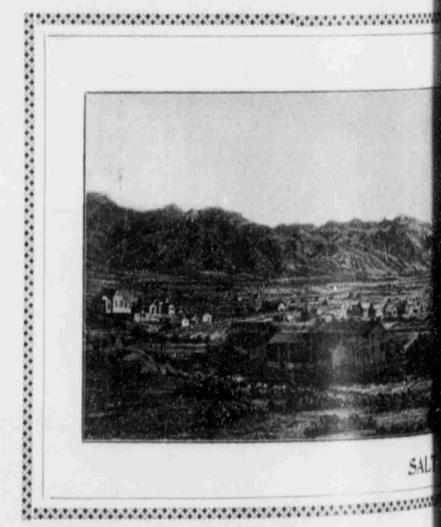
INTEREST RATES.

"Interest rates were away up. Along in 1869 the rate was from two to three per cent per month."

PREMIUMS ON GOLD.

"As to the big purchase of gold dust made, they were, as a rule, shipped to New York. San Francisco was a good deal nearer, but we received a higher premium in New York. At that time we paid from \$16 to \$18 an ounce, and as I said, always took care to be on the safe side.

"Real estate, as a security, was not taken to any extent for several years, and the banking business was carried on in the sort of primitive way I have outlined, the whole system, however, being in keeping with the times, but the banks did a profitable business."



trade. The reason for this is apparent. The State is full of natural resources and possesses a thrifty and industrious population and business men whose conservatism is as widely known as their names. The man or woman who has money in a Salt Lake bank need have little fear for its safety.

SALT LAKE'S OLD SPANISH WALL.

One of the most important pieces of public work undertaken in pioneer days was the construction of the old Spanish wall around the city. This subject had been discussed for some time before the authorities, civil and ecclesiastical, took it up in 1853. The number of men killed by the Indians in that year and the warlike attitude of Chief Walker doubtless had something to do with bringing the matter into definite shape, but the need of supplying work to a number of men was of course a factor. As originally intended, the wall was to commence eight rods south of the east corner of lot 2, block 1, plat B, in the eastern part of the city, and run thence north 535 rods, thence due west 468 rods to the east line of First East street, thence northwesterly about 287 rods to a point near the old public bath house, thence west 472 rods to the Jordan, thence up the east bank to a point where the line would intersect the west prolongation of the north line of the five acre lots, thence due east about 1,028 rods, to the place of beginning, making in all about 2,721 rods. COUNCIL TAKES IT UP. A meeting of the City Council and citizens took place on Aug. 23, 1853, to discuss this wall, and the minutes show

their various wards, by the Great Salt Lake City, and testimony, were unanimously of building a wall around the defense against Indian attacks. Every ward of the city was to be of the committee on matters they were ready to report on for the regulation of the wall. Mr. Felt reported that the committee had not any well arranged plan defined; the committee proper to defer the introduction of the bill until after the meeting.

OBJECTIONS CALLED.

"Governor Young called citizens present, if any there were not in favor of the wall, to bring forth their objections. Judge Snow spoke of the amount of labor as an objection.

"Gov. Young, Hon. G. A. Kimball and several citizens in terms of the greater expediency and practicality of up said wall, as well as the cost of its construction.

"It was motioned by President Kimball and seconded by H. C. Kimball, Bishops concur in any measure City Council may adopt, which is

"The Bishops then reported Mayor instructed the Council good substantial wall, the (pounded) the consideration and depth, the amount of assessed for its construction, dary to be surveyed, vacated, taxed, 5 acre lots not enclosed.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

"On motion, the following was appointed to locate the wall, their views in relation to suitable for the wall, also the