

structure was not capable of sustaining heavily loaded prairie schooners like mine; consequently, I was compelled to divide my freight, which consisted mostly of copper, and had to carry each lot over separately. The laborious undertaking consumed the entire day.

"In 1873 a tempting offer was submitted for my approval. Mr. Gustave Moye, who was Consul for the United States in Chihuahua, and a brother-in-law of Governor Terrazas, offered me a partnership in a large ranch he owned, called El Comeado, that is situated eighty miles West of the City. The estate in question contained about sixty thousand acres of land. The property, though only partly improved, was very valuable and the prospect offered great encouragement for the development of its mines and other natural resources.

"About one thousand acres were under irrigation, and the same source of supply was capable of furnishing sufficient water for two thousand more acres of tillable land. That in cultivation was very productive and the yield of wheat, oats, corn and other crops was enormous. Irish potatoes grew wild in many localities and produced abundantly. Apples of good flavor also grew naturally in that region, and the trees were generally loaded with fruit in season.

"Mr. Moye offered me a half interest in the ranch and all its belongings, in return for my services and a joint interest in my wagon train. He stipulated that I should reside on the estate with my family and devote my entire time to its management, and that the wagon and teams were to be used exclusively for hauling silver or agricultural produce to Chihuahua.

"His generous proposition was under consideration, when I left for Texas. On arriving in San Antonio there was illness in my family, and I lost one of my children; that diverted my attention from the Mexico proposition, and I lost a wonderful opportunity.

"I afterward hauled many thousands of pounds of potatoes from the ranch to the Big Bend, which cost me nothing except the outlay for digging them. They were excellent for food. They kept well, and were not injured by the long haul. They were small, none larger than a hen egg.

"I often sold quantities of them at Fort Davis and Stockton for fifteen cents a pound. On one occasion I sold twenty thousand pounds of potatoes at ten cents per pound to the settlers at Fort Stockton.

"I also sold at the Forts many crates of wild apples that were gathered on the ranch, at ten to twelve dollars per crate. The fruit was about the size of June apples and resembled the Bell-flower apple in appearance. They were nicely flavored, and the demand for

them was greater than I could supply.

"On one trip to Chihuahua I was informed, when I arrived at Fort Clark, that numerous bands of Indians had been seen in that section between Devils and Pecos Rivers. It was feared that a general raid was on foot. General McKenzie was at the time in command of Fort Clark, and he was making the necessary precautions for a concerted drive against the Indians.

"The news caused me to feel some uneasiness, but I continued my journey with the hope that we would avoid coming in contact with them. I was some what relieved at noon the next day, when I met Dr. Livingston and six other men at San Felipe (now Del Rio), who were awaiting the arrival of my train, with the intention of traveling with us for mutual protection, as it was unsafe for any small party to travel alone.

"They were from the eastern States, on their way to California.

"The next morning we crossed Devils River and nooned at Painted Cave. The following day General McKenzie overtook us at California Springs, where we had stopped for dinner, and he also made camp there.

"His command consisted of a regiment of cavalry and one company of Seminole Indians, which was accompanied by ten wagons and a hospital ambulance in charge of a surgeon.

"General McKenzie wanted me to travel under the protection of his troops to Beaver Lake, at the head of Devils River, where he intended to establish his camp, and said that from that place he would send his scouts toward the head of the Concho, the Pecos, and over to the Rio Grande to keep other Indians from coming in, and to drive out those who were known to be spread over the country.

"I thanked him for his advice and said I appreciated the interest he took in the safety of my train, but told him that it would be impossible for me to travel with his troops on account of my big wagons and their heavy loads. So we left him there, and camped that night at Dead Man's Pass. We nooned next day at Fort Hudson on the West bank of Devils River, and camped that night between the seventeenth and eighteenth crossing on Devils River. From there it was only a short distance to Beaver Lake, where at noon the next day General McKenzie overtook us, and made his military camp.

"The General was aware that I was compelled to go forward and could not wait for his scouting forces to clear the country of the Indians. He urged me to proceed with caution.

"We started about one o'clock in the afternoon for Howard's Well on Johnson's Run (or Dry Draw) about forty-five miles distant.