

DAMAGED BY FLOODS

Disastrous Results of Storm to Ranches Along Salt Lake Route.

Some Valuable Ranches Completely Destroyed and Settlers Will Have to Move.

(Special to The Tribune.)

Caliente, Nev., April 6.—The results of the recent washout along the line of the Salt Lake Route are unprecedented and almost beyond belief. The Tribune correspondent has been down the road on foot, on hand cars and on horseback during the past week, and the results of the great flood of waters sweeping down the Meadow valley wash are terrible, and in many cases pathetic, in their losses to poor ranchers along its line. Beginning at a point three miles east of Caliente, the farm of Isaac Barton, a resident of his farm for over thirty years, is absolutely buried beneath a mass of sand, gravel and rocks, and the unfortunate owner will be forced to abandon the work of nearly two score years and seek, in his old age, some other field of employment.

RANCH IS SAND WASTE.

West of and adjoining Caliente the fine ranch of James Ryan is almost a complete waste of sand, mud and gravel, while two miles further down the wash the well cultivated farm of Joseph Conway, one of the oldest settlers in the valley, is about half under three to four feet of sand and gravel, one five-acre meadow and garden being covered to a depth of four to five feet with gravel and rocks, and one spring totally lost.

MUST GIVE UP HOME.

Adjoining the Conway farm, the Pippin farm, by the breaking of a dyke, is about washed away, and the owners fear they will have to give up their old home and seek a new one where wash-outs do not occur to ruin the labor of years in a night. Still down the wash the farms of Dula, Cook and others are nearly, if not entirely, wrecked and total losses.

POWER PLANT SERIOUSLY INJURED.

The magnificent power plant of the Bamberger-Delamar company, costing thousands of dollars, was seriously injured, the engine-house having been undermined in spite of its concrete foundations, and half of the building ruined, stopping the giant engines which supply water and power and electric lights to the camp at Delamar and its great mines, and throwing hundreds of men out of employment and throwing the town and mines into utter darkness for several days. By the most strenuous endeavor Superintendent Swindler has now gotten one of the two big engines working, and hopes to repair the damages within the next ten days.

PRESENT DILAPIDATED APPEARANCE.

The tracks along the line from Caliente to the town of Moapa, covering a distance of seventy-five miles, present a dilapidated appearance, hundreds of feet having been undermined, and long stretches of track hanging together only by the rails, great crevasses formed by the rush of waters underneath the track yawning beneath and threatening to engulf the entire line.

MEN CHOP WOOD FOR MEALS.

Hundreds of men have been thrown out of employment and all along the line they may be seen hiking from town to town looking for employment, begging for work at any price, chopping wood at farms for a meal or bed, and finding each town as they reach it, a little worse than the preceding one. Farm teams are unable to bring in produce and there is a grain, produce and potato famine all along the line.

FORAGE AND FOOD ARE HIGH.

Hay at Caliente, usually obtainable at \$12 per ton, has jumped to \$20, while potatoes are unobtainable at any price. Anxious citizens are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the delayed mails, while merchants are running short of all classes of supplies.

MAILS ARE DELAYED.

There seems to have been a culpable delay in the transmission of mails, for scores of ranchers and cow punchers have volunteered to ride the line with local mail, but have met with no encouragement at the hands of the Government. It is now reported that the first Eastern mail for ten days will reach Minto, a point

eleven miles east of Caliente, tonight, and be conveyed from that point to Caliente by teams and push cars, and eager crowds hang around the depot and postoffice anxiously awaiting tidings confirming this report.

NO TRAINS FOR ANOTHER MONTH.

The results of the washout will probably be worse felt between Mo-dena and Moapa than at any points along the system, and the report reaching town today that the line could not possibly be repaired so that trains can pass over the line from Los Angeles inside of thirty days has cast a general gloom over the entire region tributary to this camp.

CAMP IS DEAD ONE.

The camp is absolutely dead, no work, great scarcity of money and almost no local business save that which comes in from Pioche and Delamar.