

WONDERS OF LITTLE ZION VALLEY

Bishop Hirschi of Rockville
Paints Vivid Word Picture
of its Inspiring Scenery

IS BOOSTING FOR ROAD FROM STATE HIGHWAY

Little Zion, or Mukoontu-Weap, Has
Been Set Aside as National Monu-
ment, and Highway is Needed.

(Salt Lake Evening Telegram.)

The good roads movement has struck Washington county with remarkable force, according to Bishop David Hirschi of Rockville, who is in Salt Lake today to launch a co-operative movement in Salt Lake to secure a highway to Little Zion or Mukoontu-Weap valley, southern Utah, which has been set aside as a national monument.

"I am endeavoring to get state and federal aid to put in an automobile highway from the State or Grand Canyon highway, at either Hurricane or LaVerkin, Washington county, to Little Zion valley," Bishop Hirschi said.

"National interest has been aroused by the wonders of Little Zion or Mukoontu-Weap valley, since the visit two years ago by Governor Spry, Douglas White and Wylie Way people. We have a natural park there with more wonderful and more beautiful attractions than the Yosemite, and we want to open these wonders to the view of the world.

"Not many people have heard of this vale of enchantment, this titanic mystery of the southwest, yet it surpasses all other known areas in the number and beauty of its ever changing panoramas, in the ideal loveliness of its painted rocks, in the mysterious enchantment of its desert solitudes. Its majestic domes are romantically suggestive, and its graceful minarets and foaming torrents form numberless pictures filled with wizardry and potent charm.

"There are cliffs and pinnacles that tower on each side for from 2000 to 3000 feet above the bed of the valley. These rise sheerly, almost perpendicularly, while some have sloping ascents of talus and other debris at their bases. Instead of being in one color, most of these gigantic cliffs are in five or six colors. While the pale gray predominates, there also are pale red, brown and dark gray, blending into yellows and other prismatic colors.

"They turn purple at sunset, and at sunrise their peaks are silver and melt to pear at their bases, all shot with every conceivable shade and tint.

"The gorge is so narrow that it is only at noon in some spots, that the sun ever touches the bottom. The trend of the canyon is north and south. There are flowers and ferns of wonderful beauty. Springs of water fall in broad sheets from airy heights, from pinnacle to ledge and from ledge to gase, bathing the face of the cliff in spray, and bursting into countless jeweled rainbows.

"We want these majestic and beautiful scenes made accessible to the nature lovers of the land. We are working with our brains and our hands, our intellect and our money to get that road and open the new Valley of the Thousand Wonders."

Bishop Hirschi says that farmers in Washington county who a few years ago were skeptical as to the result to be obtained by dry-farming methods have been converted and their most sanguine expectations have been excelled. Satisfactory crops are being produced each year, of wheat, barley, oats and corn. A project is under way to open to settlement an area of between 20,000 and 30,000 acres in the Big Plains country, adjoining the Arizona line, to dry farming by conserving and piping to the tract, water for domestic purposes. Every foot of this land will be redeemed, he says, and will be made productive.