

FROM SUNNY CALIFORNIA

Jacob Miklethun Writes Interesting Letter from the Pacific Coast

Long Beach, Cal., Jan. 1, 1915

Friend Anderson:

We left Minneapolis Monday morning, Dec. 21, and got to Los Angeles Christmas Day at 11 a. m., after being on the train 3½ days and 4 nights. We stopped off one day at Salt Lake City, Utah. It is a very nice place, having the widest and cleanest streets I have ever seen. We went out to see the city in a sight-seeing car, the trip costing us 50c each for about a 20-mile ride. We also visited the Mormon Tabernacle and saw the biggest pipe organ in the world.

The chief interest of the visitors to Salt Lake City is the Temple block. It is in the very heart of the city and is a ten-acre square surrounded by a stone wall 12 feet high and 3 feet thick, large gates on each of the four sides through which the passerby gets glimpses of the beautifully paved grounds. Inside the gate is an attractive building of artistic design, with the words "Bureau of Information." Strangers are welcome into comfortably furnished rooms, where at brief intervals parties are formed and are escorted through the buildings and grounds by ladies and gentlemen who give their time freely for the entertainment of visitors.

We stayed five days at Los Angeles which is quite a city having 500,000 inhabitants.

When we left Salt Lake City we saw some very nice and some very poor country. The last we could see at night was nothing but a desert and mountains; the next morning at 9 a. m. we were in orange and lemon orchards. All of the passengers clapped their hands. It was quite a change.

New Years Day we were at Pasadena to see their New Year Flower Tournament. Their street parade lasted 2½ hours, had four brass bands, one regiment of old soldiers, cavalry, nearly all kinds of wild animals like a circus, autos and carts all decorated with flowers, and an ostrich hitched to a cart with a lady driving it.

There were present over 100,000 people; they came hundreds of miles in autos. They have here the nicest auto roads you ever saw, oiled roads for hundreds of miles. I asked one man one day how the state could afford to build such roads, he said the the auto owners pay for the roads, they are taxed from \$10 to \$40 each a year, and there is a lot of them. The climate is fine, no wind at all, something one of our nicest April days in Dakota, and every day the same.

The farmers here are now plowing and seeding. I saw some barley up a week ago. They raise lots of barley and alfalfa here. Land is worth from \$300 to \$600 per acre.

The fair at San Deigo opened Jan. 1st. It is 140 miles from here, steam boats running down every day, \$2.75 for round trip. The San Francisco fair opens Feb. 20th. Will close for this time. Wish you all a Happy New Year.

Jacob L. Miklethun