

not only for the necessities of our own government, but for the benefit of all men, and the questions, including those relating to farms, homes and mortgages, were almost universally and promptly answered.

"This census will, it is believed, be found to be reliable. To say that there are no errors in it would be to claim for it more than can be expected of any such work. But those who find the most fault with it are those who from the beginning have endeavored to defeat it. The great body of our people are content with it.

The disputes that have arisen as to certain cities, and even one State, have been patiently heard where it was asked, and opinions given setting forth the reason for the action. Time can now alone test the eleventh census, exposing errors, if any exist, and confirming its substantial accuracy. The work has certainly been most carefully prepared, and as the result goes to the country, the Secretary feels that the duty imposed upon the census office has been faithfully performed.

Under this head, the Secretary, after reviewing the work of the bureau of education, gives some interesting public school statistics. There are enrolled in the public schools of the United States 12,291,259 pupils, or 19.7 per cent of the whole population. The increase during one year has been 220,953, or at the rate of 1.83 per annum. This, however, has not equaled the rate of growth of the school population, which has been 2.17 per cent.

The progressive decrease in the number of public school pupils as compared with the population in the Northern States, which has already been referred to in this office, is still going on; in point of fact, there has been during the past year an absolute decrease in the number of pupils enrolled in six of the Northern States, and in one other—New York—there has been an increase of only 544 pupils against an increase of school population of over 30,000.

In the commissioner's opinion the apparent retrograde movement in the Northern States may be partially accounted for by the increase of private and parochial schools, and by the tendency to refrain from sending the children to school at as early an age as heretofore, whereby the number of very young pupils has diminished. In Massachusetts, for instance, the number of pupils under five years of age has decreased during each of the last ten years. The growth of the public school system of the South is a remarkable phenomenon. It must be noted, however, that many of the existing public schools of that section were in operation in 1870 as private schools.

The number of different public school teachers is as follows: Males, 124,929; females, 227,302; total, 352,231.

The male teachers comprise 35.5 per cent, or somewhat more than one-third of the whole. The relative number of male teachers has been continually decreasing since 1879, at which date they formed 43.3

per cent of the whole. This decrease is taking place in all parts of the country. The present percentage in Massachusetts is only 8.9.

The average wages of male teachers per month in thirty-six States and Territories is \$42.43, being a decrease of 4 cents; of female teachers \$34.27, an increase of 32 cents.

The total amount expended the past year for public school purposes was \$132,189,600, being an increase over the preceding year of \$8,861,660, or at the rate of 7.19 per cent per annum.

The amount expended for all purposes per capita of the population was \$2.12, of which \$1.41 was for salaries. To educate a child in the United States costs at present an average of 13.3 cents per school day, of which 8.2 is paid for salaries of teachers and superintendents.

The rate of growth of school expenditure (7.19 per cent per annum), when compared with the rate of growth of the number of pupils enrolled (1.83 per cent), is seen to be extraordinary, and indicates a rapidly growing per capita expenditure.

The suggestion of his Excellency, Governor Thomas, for additional legislation on the subjects of grazing lands, school lands, irrigation, etc., are set forth in detail. The demand for a public building for Federal offices at Salt Lake City, is also urged, as a measure of economy, for the protection of the public records.

The Secretary presents the governor's recommendations in reference to additional legislation on the Mormon question, and adds:

"Since the period at which the Governor wrote, however, great changes have taken place in the professions of the Mormons and the public declarations of the Mormon Church. There was handed to the Secretary of the Interior by John T. Caine, Delegate to Congress from Utah, a written communication of October 1, 1890, in which attention was called to the following declaration of Wilford Woodruff, president and highest authority of that Church.

[The manifesto of President Wilford Woodruff follows.]

"Mr. Caine added in his letter that this declaration was entitled to great weight in any consideration that might be given the subject, and seemed indeed conclusive and the very result at which the Government has been aiming so long."

"In the conversation which took place when this letter was delivered, it was objected that Mr. Caine and the president of the Church would have to meet the specification of forty cases with more than a general denial, and that the president was without authority to change the doctrines of the Church; that this belonged, if to any, to the high council or general conference.

"Mr. Young, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Caine have, with some others, presented the claims of their Church to confidence and favor.

"After the conversation with Mr. Caine there followed (October 6th) a general conference of the Mormon

Church, and the proclamation above set forth was unanimously ratified. Addresses were there made to the people on the subject by the president and leading apostles.

"What is expected because of these proceedings is, no doubt, a removal of the Utah Commission; the preservation of the elective franchise to the members of the church in all the States and territories, where they may be and a test oath may be required of them; a restoration of the property of the Church; and possibly the admission of Utah to Statehood with or without a test oath against polygamy. The present laws should not, however, be changed on these professions alone. These can be unmade by the same body that has made them. The "revelation" sanctioning polygamy remains unchanged. The Mormons, by their works, must prove their declaration to be made in good faith, abandon polygamy and conform to the practices of our people in social and home life, acknowledge and prove their allegiance to the United States Constitution by obedience to the laws made pursuant thereto by a loyalty equal in time and strength to their past disobedience. The present system of laws against Mormon practices has been constructed by legislative wisdom, sanctioned by judicial decree, and enforced by the Chief Executive of the nation. Its object is not attained by securing a proclamation of obedience from those who have so long resisted it. Its purpose will be accomplished only when the opposing system shall have lost its power, even if it regains the will, to work the evils of the past."

The work of the Utah Commission in supervising recent elections is set forth, as presented in their report previously published.

THE SCHOOL TAX DECISION.

In the school tax injunction cases Judge Anderson delivered the following opinion today:

"These three cases were argued and submitted for decision together, and as they involve substantially the same questions and must be disposed of in the same way, they will be considered together in this opinion.

The material facts averred in the complaint are in substance that prior to March 13th, 1890, the city of Salt Lake was divided into twenty-one independent school districts. That in the month of December, 1889, the trustees or the qualified voters of each of these several districts except the 13th and 18th districts, pursuant to the law then in force, levied or voted a tax for school purposes on the property of said districts for the school year beginning July 1st, 1890, which taxes were placed upon the tax books for the year 1890, and that the defendant Hardy is about to proceed to collect the same; that said taxes were to be levied and were levied on the assessment of property made in 1890; that the percentage of tax levied by the several school boards varied from 2½ mills on each