

## FOR BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB.

OGDEN, November 16, 1896.—As an item of news we send you a brief account of the organization of a Sunday school for the benefit of the deaf, dumb and blind who have been sent to the State Institute, now located in Ogden City, for instruction in the deaf, dumb and blind languages.

At 10 o'clock Sunday we perfected the organization as follows: Edwin A. Stratford was appointed to take charge as superintendent, with George Seaman as first and Laron Pratt as second assistant. The school was divided into four classes or departments, one for the blind, consisting of nine students; twenty-six young men and young women, deaf and dumb, constituted the higher department. Sister Amy Devine was given charge of the primary; Andrew Madsen of the intermediate, John Clark of the higher, and George Sorensen of the blind. Total of the school, including the superintendents and teachers, seventy. Each class has a separate room for class work, but the whole school will meet together to be benefited by the opening and closing exercises. The deaf and dumb cannot understand the singing of prayer, but the blind can, and they assist in the singing. Both the prayer and song are, however, interpreted, as the praying and singing proceeds, into the sign language, and the students are greatly interested in the interpretation. Three of the above named teachers are students in the State school and were selected because of their proficiency in the sign language and other qualifications. We were greatly assisted in this work by the Deseret Sunday School Union board and by Brothers Griggs and Summerhays, two of its members; also by Brother Laron Pratt, who comes from Salt Lake City to assist in teaching and regulating the school.

The school starts under very propitious circumstances, and no doubt will do much for these unfortunate brothers and sisters.

R. BALLANTYNE,  
L. F. MOENCH,  
T. B. EVANS,  
State Superintendency.

## FROM PLEASANT GROVE.

PLEASANT GROVE, Nov. 16, 1896.—D. M. Smith had his barn burned Saturday night. The fire was discovered near 11 o'clock. The stock about the stables were saved. Everything else went up in smoke. The loss will be in the neighborhood of four or five hundred dollars. The cause is supposed to have been a cigarette.

Joseph West, who had one of his eyes almost gouged out in a "scrap" on election day, is in a precarious condition. Dr. Allen of Provo was summoned to bleed Sunday morning.

Elder F. S. Humphries has received a call to fill a mission to Great Britain. Elder Alma Swenson left last week for the Southern States mission. This makes fifteen Elders in the field from Pleasant Grove.

The Utah county teachers held a session here Saturday. A large number attended. Dr. J. M. Tanner from the Agricultural college, Logan, lectured both in the afternoon and

evening. Those who were fortunate enough to hear him were well paid. His talk was of a nature to do a great amount of good to the young men and women in shaping their future lives.

The late cold snap caught plenty of "spuds" ungathered, as well as apples, and as a consequence there was some loss to owners.

Joseph Wadley sold his apples this fall to Messrs. Green & Olpin, approximating the crop at 1,000 bushels. When the fruit was gathered it reached 1,500 bushels. The firm will make about 2,000 gallons of cider from sweet apples. Mr. Wadley has a young and fruitful orchard and the fruit is comparatively free from worms.

A new townsite has been surveyed midway between here and Provo. Streets have been opened and some buildings are in course of erection. A postoffice has been asked for. The name of the new buy is Sharon. This is a very desirable location and well adapted for orchards. Lots are sold on reasonable terms.

Numerous flocks of sheep are passing daily to their winter ranges in the western part of the State. B.

## L. D. S. COLLEGE EXERCISES.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 1896, being the tenth anniversary of the organization of the Latter-day Saints' College, exercises were held in the Salt Lake Assembly Hall last evening, the building being crowded to its utmost capacity.

The singing was conducted by a German choir under the leadership of Prof. J. J. McLellan and the exercises commenced with the rendition of the hymn, Captain of Israel's hosts. Invocation was offered by Elder Karl G. Maeser, after which the choir sang a German hymn entitled Ueber den Sternen.

President Willard Dore of the College, then introduced President George Q. Cannon as the speaker of the evening, whom, he said, would deliver the anniversary sermon.

President Cannon began by referring to the large attendance—a feature which he was pleased to note. He stated that the occasion was an exceedingly interesting one. The tenth anniversary of the Latter-day Saints' College was of great importance in the history of the institution. He felt that the Lord had impressed upon the minds of His servants the necessity of doing something of a very thorough nature in relation to education. The promoters of Church schools, he felt, did not realize at the time of commencing the work, the great importance which would attach to it in later years. The organization of Church Sunday schools had done a vast amount of good to the people of the State of Utah. So also had the organization of Church day schools brought about an excellent state of affairs among the people. They not only fitted and prepared the youth of Zion to pursue the various vocations of life, but gave them an education which qualified them to go out into the nations of the earth to take part in the ministry. Outside denominations had noted this scholastic training and had recognized in it one of the best reasons why the Mormon Elders

were able to carry on the work of the ministry throughout the length and breadth of the earth.

President Cannon called attention to the deep-seated desire among the people of this community to become educated. He did not believe there could be found a locality in which the people were so eager to become well versed in the arts and sciences as in the valleys of Utah. They prized education highly, and as a rule the young people while attending schools, went to work with zeal and energy to drink in the instructions given at those schools.

The speaker referred to the establishment of sectarian schools in our midst, commenting briefly on the objects for which they were organized, and incidentally calling attention to the dire results which in some cases had followed a strictly temporal training to the utter neglect of a spiritual education. Particular reference was made to a condition of affairs that at one time existed among students of the University. They had become imbued with ideas leading to infidelity and had become very skeptical with regard to the existence of Deity. The cause of this condition was ferreted out by the board of regents and it was found that the trend of thought contained in the text-books from which the lessons were being pursued, was such as to lead to infidelity unless some counteracting influence was brought to bear.

In the organization of the Latter-day Saints' College, the promoters had in contemplation, the acquiring of a spiritual training as well as a temporal or every-day education. The human mind naturally craved for training of a spiritual nature, and such a training was included in the curriculum of the Latter-day Saints' College.

The conditions existing abroad at the present time with regard to Christianity and a belief in the Bible, were such as to bring about almost a general disbelief in this line. Scientific men had written volumes upon volumes of works, which in their trend led directly to a common disbelief in God and His attributes. These books were read and re-read by the growing population of the earth until the very thought of their being a God had almost diminished from their minds. A theological training was an absolute essential, for without it the world would retrograde and drift into a most pitiable condition.

The Latter-day Saints' college, said the speaker, had grown from small beginnings, but the students it had turned out were men and women who would grace any community. Its enrollment was gradually increasing, but the increase was not as great as it should be. The speaker said that the school today had a membership of 250—a number which should have been increased ten-fold ere this time. The school had not been supported as it should have been. The Mormon people were not acting in a manner antagonistic and in opposition to the public schools of the State, by establishing Church schools, but the object in their establishment was to give the young people a chance to obtain a theological education as well as to become versed in the arts and sciences.

President Cannon paid a tribute to