Scaling the Steeps of Utah's Rugged Road of Learning

Leading Educators Make Review of Year's Work

INCREASED interest and progress in all departments of educational work has marked the year just closed as an exceptional one. Throughout the state, county and city new features have been added to the already excellent schools of our state until they now stand second to none in the Union. The state, county and city superintendents all report a decidedly successful school year and tell of the excellent new features which have been added to the school work in order to advance the efficiency of the schools. Under the jurisdiction of the state superintendent of schools perhaps the most important feature of the year has been the establishment of high schools in several counties of the state. Then in addition to that has been the establishment of school libraries in a large number of the district schools, and, for the first time, the system of uniform teachers' examinations has been installed in every county in the state.

The Consolidated System.

The Salt Lake county schools this year have seen the consolidated school districts system established upon a firm basis and also the establishment of the first year high school course in a number of the larger schools. By the consolidation of the 36 districts of the county into three large districts it is believed that a great step in the matter of advancement has been taken which will insure better supervision and better teaching than many of the smaller districts have heretofore been able to secure.

Physical Education.

In Salt Lake City the most important feature has been the introduction of the physical educational work in all of the grades as well as the high school. This new department promises to become very popular as well as profitable. Then another important feature in connection with the city schools has been the establishment of two additional free kindergartens and eight new centers for manual training instructions. The work in manual training and physical education has received a fresh impetus recently by the action of the board of education in authorizing the construction of two new buildings on the high school grounds, one for manual training and one for a gymnasium.

PROF. A. C. NELSON.
State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

State's New High Schools *and* Free School Libraries

IN regard to school work in general throughout the state this year State Superintendent of Schools A. C. Nelson has the following to say:

"The leading feature in connection with our schools the past year has been the establishment of high schools. It has been my aim ever since I have been in office to encourage and advance the establishment of high schools and this year has been very successful in that respect. High schools have been established at Manti, American Fork, Lehi and Salina and the high school at Nephi, which was about to be discontinued, has been revived and is now in a flourishing condition with a good attendance and better support from the citizens than ever given it before. At Manti a high school building is being constructed at a cost of $18,000, and when completed it will be a great credit to that city.

"In addition to the high schools mentioned, ninth grade or first-year high school work has been established in eight or ten school districts. This means the establishment of a complete high school course in those districts within a few years.

School Libraries.

"Not even second in importance to the high schools is the establishment of school libraries in various districts throughout the state. It has been apparent to this office for a long time that the pupils of our public schools should have access to more and also to a better grade of literature than that which may be found in most of the schools of the state. Realizing the great part which the reading of proper juvenile literature plays in the education of the child, and being fully aware of the scarcity of such reading matter in most of the schools, this department has had prepared the following list of books which various experts consider almost an ideal school library. The books number more than 200, their price is $143.13. They were selected to cover such subjects as history and biography, geography and travel, science, legend and fable, poetry, literature, the short story, historical fiction, and such other literature as is most interesting and profitable to the pupil. The books were selected with exceptional care and they are adapted to the various grades, giving material for every child in a school or a home. Most school libraries of this state are but poorly adapted to the requirements even of the eighth grade pupils, thus leaving the other pupils without suitable library books at all. Books equal in number may be secured for less money than that of which this library is offered, but in making this selection, the subject matter, quality of literary material and strength of binding were the all-important consideration. I am pleased to see that a large number of school boards are now buying these libraries.

Uniform Examinations.

"This is the first year of uniform teachers' examinations, which I feel will have a tendency to increase the efficiency and standard of our teachers. There were a large number of failures this year, but I think that will be an incentive for teachers to attend summer school and better prepare themselves for the examinations and for teaching.

"The revenues for school purposes show a steady increase. Last year the increase was $40,700 over the preceding year and this year the increase will be about as great. A large number of handsome new school buildings have been constructed during the year and in nearly every town and city the best buildings are found to be school buildings.

"The total school population of the state this year is approximately 92,600 children, an increase over last year of about 1,000. The attendance will exceed that of any previous year in all departments and grades from the kindergartens to the university and the people all over the state show an intense interest in educational work."

County Establishes the Larger School District Plan

COUNTY School Supt. Smith gives the following review of work under his jurisdiction:

"After long years of struggle and many reverses, the larger school district plan advocated by the late Hon. John R. Park has found lodgment, and is now in active operations in the schools of Salt Lake county. Thirty-six school districts, embracing the rural portion of the county, have been consolidated and placed in the hands of three boards of education—Granite, Jordan and Murray. The superior wisdom and economy of these large districts over the smaller ones is apparent to any one making a fair and impartial comparison of their results.

"Under the 36 district system, the small schools were, in some cases, more enfeebled by numerical poverty than by financial embarrassment and were so attenuated that it was difficult to ascertain whether there was any literary life in either school or pupils. But more commonly the conclusion was reached and acted on that insufficient means were at the disposal of the trustees to employ first class teachers, consequently teachers of interior ability were obliged to conduct the learner through the arcana mysteries of their own ignorance. The method belittled the aspirations of enterprise and excited in the minds of the young a distaste for knowledge and a disgust for the usual means of obtaining it.

"Under the plan of consolidation small schools have been closed and the pupils conveyed to larger centers, because it is quite as important that the school have quality and character as it is that the child attend. In some instances small seventh and eighth grade classes have been discontinued and the students taken to overburdened schools where they are instructed in larger groups.

"Nine principals, who for the most part are exempt from actual class duty, have supervisory charge and devote themselves exclusively to the careful and detailed direction of the work. Each room is visited at least once a week and helpful suggestions are offered to both students and teachers.

"The first year high school has been introduced and an enrollment of 75 pupils constitutes this class. These students are taught at Mill Creek, West Jordan, Sandy and Bingham. The course of study adopted is co-ordinate and equal to that offered to first year students in any modern, progressive high school. The instructors are efficiently qualified by both education and experience for the work in hand, and the students are enthusiastic and loyal.

"During the past year about $[illegible] has been spent in the erection of modern school buildings proportionately distributed over the three districts. This, together with the amount previously invested, raises the total value of the educational equipment past the [illegible]

THE NEW STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT MONTAGUE THIS YEAR.

Something of the New University Gymnasium.

THE University of Utah gymnasium is just being completed and classes will soon be at work on the main floor, and in the basement. A portion of the [illegible] is partitioned off for the use of women students. Two separate gymnasiums are provided, [illegible] men and the other for women, Jos. Maddock and Miss Rebecca [illegible] being in charge of the work in physical education for men and women students respectively.

The "gym" was begun early in the present summer, [illegible] building by the last legislature. It was [illegible] and friends of the institution. As yet only one of these wings has been [illegible] The next legislature is expected to furnish more money with which a rear addition will be [illegible] When these are completed the basement will be utilized for a swimming pool and the executive offices will be arranged in the south extension. Temporarily the men's dressing room [illegible] the basement and the gymnasium for women in the south half. The upper floor is to be devoted to general gymnasium work, and will contain the equipment of bars, parts, weights and [illegible] from the east. A fine halftone of the new "Gym" appears in another part of the Deseret Evening News.

JOHN W. SMITH
Superintendent of Salt Lake County Schools.

City's Free Kindergartens *and* Physical Training

AS to the work of the past year in the Salt Lake City schools Supt. D. H. Christensen [illegible] of the several recommendations. In [illegible] of the board Supt. Christensen made the following statement:

"We have established several instructional features in the city schools this year. The most important of these I believe is the physical education department. The board of education has authorized the employment of Miss Martha Johnson, an experienced efficient educator who has been connected with the public schools of New York City for several years past. She has taken charge of the work here and is now giving regular work in physical education to the teachers of the grades, and High school girls, who in turn give the exercises to their pupils. This department promises to be a very successful one.

"During the year two new free kindergartens have been established, one at the Lafayette and the other at the Hamilton school, thus giving us three kindergartens in connection with our schools. Each of the three kindergartens has a special teacher and she is assisted by student-teachers from the training school of the University of Utah. It will be seen therefore that the younger children of the city are better provided for in the matter of education than ever before.

"Manual training has covered a broader scope this year than ever before. Eight new centers have been established in the larger buildings throughout the city so that manual training instructions can now be given to a much larger number of pupils than ever before. The board of education has authorized the construction of a manual training building on the High school grounds at a cost of $3,700. It will be completed at the earliest possible date and will be thoroughly equipped with the necessary appliances.

"The total attendance of the city schools at the close of the month of October was 14,148 pupils, an increase of about 500 over the same month last year. In the high school there are 1,054 pupils. The total number of teachers in the schools this year is 387. These are under the direction of 25 principals and seven special teachers and supervisors.

"During the year no new school buildings have been constructed but additions and alterations have been made to several of the large buildings in order to afford additional seating capacity. The sum of $25,470 has been expended the past year in additions and alterations to the buildings. The only new buildings contemplated at present are the gymnasium and manual training buildings on the High school grounds. The gymnasium will be a two-story structure and will cost $10,000. The first floor will be used as a gymnasium while the second floor will be equipped as an assembly room with a seating capacity of 600 students.

"The finances of the city schools this year have been in good condition. In addition to the regular tax revenue the board has sold several pieces of school property for which it received $33,000. It has also redeemed school bonds of the value of $23,000 thus saving about $1,100 annually in interest. Taking everything into consideration I feel that the past year has been a very successful one as I have received the most favorable reports from the supervisors in all the departments."

D. H. CHRISTENSEN,
Superintendent of Salt Lake City Schools.

Seventeen Thousand Attend City Schools

ACCORDING to the school census taken during the last half of July there are 17,850 children in Salt Lake City of school age. This is an increase over the year 1904 of only 37, while the census of 1903 showed a [illegible] Nevertheless there has been a slight increase in the school population for the six years, the six [illegible] in the census of 1900 showed more accurately the actual population of the city than does any other year. Due to [illegible] the reason is taken to be the fact that the census was taken in the midst of a [illegible] when a large number of families were out of the city with their children and such [illegible] could not be counted in the census.

An effort was being made to have the [illegible] taken in March instead of a later date, when the census is being taken in Utah. As it now stands the city is [illegible] of a large school population [illegible]

[illegible]

School Population Shows Increase of 878

The total school population of the state for the year 1905 is 92,560 children of whom 46,487 are boys, and 46,073 are girls. This is a total increase [illegible] over the year 1904, [illegible] reports received from the various counties and cities by State Supt. of Schools show that there are 251 more boys than girls between the ages of 6 and 18 years. The figures are very close in some instances between the boys and girls. The report from Piute county is the closest race, there being just one more boy than girls in that county. Following is a table showing the school population by counties and cities:

COUNTIES.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Beaver	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,117
Boxelder	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,874
Cache	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carbon	873	829	1,702
Davis	1,409	1,409	2,807
Emery	94	90	184
Garfield	61	65	126
Grand	125	159	284
Iron	2,186	2,085	4,271
Juab	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,187
Kane	272	256	528
Millard	898	853	1,751
Morgan	338	349	687
Piute	368	373	741
Rich	224	225	449
Salt Lake	4,176	4,316	8,492
San Juan	72	77	149
Sanpete	2,395	2,468	4,863
Sevier	1,596	1,612	3,208
Summit	1,356	1,365	2,721
Tooele	1,018	1,017	2,035
Uintah	881	851	1,732
Utah	4,551	4,546	9,097
Wasatch	1,352	1,377	2,729
Washington	763	717	1,480
Wayne	678	708	1,386
Weber	324	309	633
Wyoming	1,537	1,652	3,189
Total	46,487	46,073	92,560

CITIES.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Salt Lake City	[illegible]	6,513	13,231
Ogden	[illegible]	2,734	5,[illegible]
Provo	[illegible]	1,408	2,867
Logan	1,[illegible]	1,[illegible]	2,[illegible]
Total for cities	13,[illegible]	14,[illegible]	27,697
Grand totals	59,[illegible]	60,[illegible]	92,[illegible]

The most beautiful wild flower is claimed to be the Table Mountain, or "The Snow Flower" of South Africa. It is popularly known as the flower of the gods. It is not easily cultivated, and is at its best in June and July. Its most brilliant colors are scarlet, light rose and gold.

School Money Nearly Half a Million

During the school year ending June 30, 1905, the total sum of $422,639.36 was apportioned among the schools of this state out of the state district school fund and the rental and interest on the state school lands. This is an increase of $20,091 over the apportionment for the previous school year. The money was apportioned upon the basis of a school population of 91,666 pupils which was the result of the census taken during the month of August, 1904 and is at the rate of $4.61 per capita. Following is a table showing the apportionment by counties and cities to the year:

Counties and Cities.	School Population.	Apportionments.
Beaver	1,198	$ 5,522.7
Boxelder	3,731	17,199.9
Cache	4,751	21,897.1
Carbon	1,780	8,205.8
Davis	2,845	13,115.4
Emery	1,799	8,293.3
Garfield	1,146	5,283.4
Grand	202	932.2
Iron	1,210	5,578.1
Juab	2,566	11,824.6
Kane	574	2,646.1
Millard	1,752	8,078.7
Morgan	648	2,987.3
Piute	636	2,930.2
Rich	678	3,125.3
Salt Lake	8,739	40,289.7
San Juan	153	705.4
Sanpete	4,894	22,122.0
Sevier	2,967	13,737.7
Summit	2,941	13,724.2
Tooele	1,614	7,437.7
Uintah	1,885	8,687.6
Utah	8,517	38,847.7
Wasatch	1,546	7,127.0
Washington	1,611	7,426.7
Wayne	644	2,984.6
Weber	3,376	15,097.7
Salt Lake City	16,319	77,078.8
Ogden	6,050	27,930.5
Provo	2,374	10,957.1
Logan	2,012	9,136.3
Totals	91,666	$422,639.3

In teaching a parrot to talk, the usual plan is to hide behind a screen or to cover the cage, and repeat over and over the words to be said. The average bird takes a week to learn a single sentence. The task of teaching therefore is very tedious, and the happy thought of the wife of a leading bird fancier promises to become a great labor-saving idea. It occurred to her to put the talk upon the phonograph. The first experiment, upon eight birds, has proven highly successful, and they are rated as the finest talkers in the world with a high value.