

The question is, whether the provision in regard to the duties of the trustees is repealed, or whether it is suspended by the later provision and the board of construction can act as having the expenditure of the present appropriation only, or whether the later appointments are invalid entirely in view of the act of 1888. Only a competent court can officially decide these questions, and we understand the board of trustees will bring suit before Judge Zane to compel the Auditor to issue the necessary warrants to that body. This will bring the question up squarely, and the public will await with interest the judicial settlement of this dispute.

### THE NEW ELECTION LAW.

WE have received the annexed communication from Vernal, Uintah county, and answer as requested because the questions propounded may be of interest in other counties besides Uintah?

*Editor Deseret News:*

There has been much discussion and difference of opinion in this county, over the election law—that most important, though very ambiguous, statute—passed by the last Legislative body of Utah. The following opinions are held by the best informed men of the county:

1. That all county and precinct officers are to be elected in November next and to enter upon their duties of office January 1st, 1893, except assessor and collector who hold until June.

2. That all county and precinct officers are to be elected in November next, but those only, to enter into the duties of office January 1st, 1893, who would have been elected under the old law. The others to take office January 1st, 1894, thus obviating an election (county) in 1893.

3rd—That only those who would have been elected under the old statute are to be elected in November next, the others to be elected in '93, but in November instead of August.

4th—That there is no general election in '93, but that elections for county, precinct and Territorial officers are to be held biennially.

"I hold to the first opinion for county and precinct officers, and that the Legislative members must be elected in November, '93.

"We wish to remove our county seat in '93. Our probate judge holds, I am informed, the 'fourth' opinion herein set forth, and says that we cannot move the county seat in '93, because there is no general election for that year.

"Will you kindly express through the columns of the News your views on the election law as it now stands, and oblige Yours, etc., R. S. COLLETT."

We understand the law as follows:

A general election is to be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November 1892. This is for the election of elective territorial, county and precinct officers, but not for members of the Legislature. The officers elect will enter upon their duties Jan. 1st, 1893, and continue in office two years and until their successors are elected and qualified, but no longer. An exception is made as to the county collector, whose term of office commences in June instead of January. The official terms of present incumbents is extended to, or ex-

pires, as the case may be, on Jan. 1st, 1893.

There will be no general election after November 1892, until November 1894.

The election to be held in November, 1893, is for city, town, village and school district officers and for members of the Legislature, but for no other officers. The election for city, town, village and school district officers in 1892 is designed for that year only and to fill the gap till the election of 1893, which is to be biennial thereafter.

The law in relation to the removal of county seats requires votes on the question to be taken at a general election. Therefore unless a vote is taken on the removal of the county seat of Uintah county in November, 1892, it cannot be taken until November, 1894. But the time of removal may be in 1893, if the vote taken at the general election in 1892 so determines.

Careful examination of the law, we think, will show that our views of its import are correct and that there is no ambiguity about its provisions. By taking immediate steps all difficulty about the county seat may be avoided, the election can take place next November and the removal in 1893, if so desired.

### SOUTHERN STATES MISSION.

On returning from an extensive tour of the conferences comprising the Northern States mission, I feel it my duty to state through your columns, something of my trip, and for the benefit of those interested in the missionaries and their labors, to give an account of our doings and prospects.

We held a very successful series of meetings at Littleton, a small town on the B. & O. railroad, in northern West Virginia, that being the headquarters of the Pennsylvania conference. Elder W. H. Freeman, the President of that conference, having just been released by instruction from President Woodruff, owing to sickness in his family, his presence was missed, but Elder Hyrum F. Thomas, the clerk of the conference was in charge, and still remains acting president, until the Spirit shall suggest a permanent president for that conference. We held six conference meetings and a priesthood meeting in the largest room of the school house, and although the weather was stormy part of the time, there was no diminution in the attendance. It rained very hard Sunday evening, and was so dark and the roads so bad, that but little headway could be made without lanterns, and yet when I arrived at the school house, I found them bringing extra benches from the other rooms, and it was with some difficulty we could seat the congregation. During the conference, nine Elders besides myself addressed the people, and the best of feelings prevailed. New fields are being opened up in that conference, and by letter from Elder Denio, just received, I learn that since conference there has been great inquiry, and a request made by a settlement of people near Burton, for conference to be held there next time, promising every accommodation for the Elders during the gathering. Elder Denio, whose

health has been somewhat affected on Long Island, though well cared for by the Saints there, has now in this new region entirely recovered, and can again use his lungs with freedom. Elder Keetch was debarred from attending conference, as his health had been feeble, and had not sufficiently recuperated to admit of the long journey from his field, especially as much of it would have had to be performed on foot. Elder Meeks has been appointed to labor with him, and I think will make a good companion. The other Elders throughout the mission are in excellent health. From Littleton I made my way via Grafton, W. Va., Cincinnati, O., and Louisville, Ky., to Taswell, Indiana, traveling on the Baltimore and Ohio, Louisville and Nashville and the "Air Line" railroads, and thence in private conveyance to a place bearing the somewhat appetizing name of "Dumpling Creek," where conference was to be held Saturday and Sunday. Your readers must not imagine that this place takes its name from any discovery of dumplings in the creek or anywhere else that I could discern, but from the rather forlorn fact that a brutal husband given to drinking—not water from the creek apparently—coming home to supper, in a fit of drunken anger at there being nothing but a sauce-pan of dumplings for the meal, compelled his wife, who had done the cooking, to eat the whole potful of dumplings. And you know that dumplings and prairie biscuits are satisfying but not over attractive articles of diet, especially when, as Horace Greeley says they are, "hard as bullets and twice as dangerous." The legend does not state the result of this involuntary gastric performance on the part of the submissive wife, but the cruel act of the foolish husband is permanently handed down to posterity in the name of the locality where it is said to have occurred.

At this point were assembled twelve Elders, including Thomas A. Nixon, president of the Indiana Conference, who has since returned home, having been succeeded by Elder Rober J. Duke. Elder Nixon was able with his corps of Elders to report an excellent work in the States comprising that conference. And we held six general meetings and a Priesthood meeting in the spacious school house at that place. We had a fine turn out of people, and at some of the meetings we could not seat all the congregation. Many encouraging words were spoken to the Elders by those who heard the discourses, and baptisms commenced immediately after the conference ended. The labors in that field are about to be extended into Illinois, and already a very good work is being done in Ohio, where the headquarters are now located.

From this point I went and visited some friends of our people who had been burned out, and as I had been authorized to do, rendered them some relief, and found that already the Elders had rallied round them and rebuilt their house. These people had given our Elders a home when they first appeared in that region, and made them comfortable. So when their home fell a prey to the destructive element, Elders Corbett and Jones, and others who could