

generation the character and intelligence of which shall have no equal anywhere else within the confines of our Republic. The remarks of the previous speakers were heartily endorsed. The speaker stated that no Sunday school missionaries would be sent out this fall, as the main effort is centered in the training of teachers at the normal course, at Provo; and no desire is felt to burden the people with so many calls. After the second normal course is completed, an effort will be made to organize similar courses in different Stakes, but until then, no movement should be made by the Stake officers. The speaker called the attention of Sunday school workers to the importance of teaching the principle of baptism, and of parents having their children baptized at the proper age; of teachers being thorough in their instructions and always set such an example that we shall have a generation rise up in these valleys which cannot be equalled in all this broad land. The speaker invoked the blessings of God upon this great movement.

The choir sang the anthem "God of Israel, Hear Our Prayer."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Brigham Young, and the conference adjourned for six months.

JOHN M. WHITAKER,  
General Secretary.

### THE SOUTHERN UTES.

There have been several references in the NEWS recently to the scheme being worked to unload the Southern Ute Indians from their reservation in southwestern Colorado into Utah, and to crowd out the white settlers now in San Juan county. A bill to effect this removal is now before Congress, having been introduced by Representative Bell.

Five years ago a bill of a similar nature was introduced in Congress and went through the house with a rush. It was stopped in the Senate, however, through the influence of Senator Dawes and others who held membership in the Indian Rights association, which fought the proposition on the ground that the transfer would result in an injury to the Indians. The matter rested in that form at the close of President Cleveland's former administration. While President Harrison was in office the subject was not revived to any great extent, but now that a Democratic administration has been returned to power the scheme has been revived. There is not much noise being made about it, however, the present working of its supporters being practically a "still hunt."

A short time ago an order was obtained from the Interior department for a census to be taken of all the Indians on the Southern Ute reservation. The real purpose of this order has just been disclosed; for, while the census was being taking, Major Freeman, the agent, secured the signatures of the Indians to a petition requesting that they be removed to Utah. So thoroughly was this part of the work been performed that every adult Indian except one affixed his signature to the document. This forms a good basis for overcoming the objections of the Indian Rights association.

Judge F. A. Hammond, of San Juan county, who has been in the city a few days, has been thoroughly conversant with the proceedings up to date, and gives it as his opinion that the Indians actually desire the removal. Their present country is a strip along the southwestern side of Colorado, adjoining San Juan county. The southern portion of it is good agricultural land, and for a long time white men have been congregating along its eastern border, ready to rush in the hour it is thrown open for settlement. The Indians are willing to take in exchange for this the whole of San Juan county, Utah, with the exception of a strip ten miles wide on its north end. In this strip there are some patented claims of the Pittsburg Cattle company, which has been one of the chief opponents of the transfer. The reason for the antagonism is that the San Juan country to the south of the cattle company's quarters afforded a good winter range for their stock. Judge Hammond states, however, that this opportunity will not amount to much now, as the cattle company, he is informed, has tired of the fight.

But there is another and very important feature of the case which concerns Utah. The three towns of San Juan county—Bluff, Monticello and Verdine—are in the sections in which it is proposed to locate the Indians when they are removed from Colorado. In the fall of 1888 the county was withdrawn from entry to settlers. But for ten years previous to that time people had been going in, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in improvements. One canal alone cost \$96,000 up to the time of withdrawal of the land, and the repairs on it to the present time have raised the expenditure on it to more than \$100,000. These settlements were made when there was every prospect that the land would be surveyed and opened to entry, so that the settlers went there in good faith. The important issue to them, and to the people of Utah generally, is whether they shall be robbed of their property and the results of years of toil or shall receive reasonable compensation for their homes, farms and ranches.

When the matter was before Congress at a former period, Judge Hammond was at Washington in the interests of the settlers. The Utah delegate did effective work in their behalf. Senator Morgan said he was in favor of giving the settlers in San Juan the first chance of selection in the newly opened section. Senator Teller wanted the people to withdraw their claim for compensation so the bill could get through easier, and promised to see that they were settled with; but this was not agreed to. A commission was appointed to appraise the value of improvements, which was fixed at \$200,000.

In the present revival of the matter, Delegate Rawlins will have this matter of protecting the rights of the people of Utah on his hands, and certainly is entitled to the active support of the officials and people here. The settlers of San Juan county have been very uneasy over this affair for a long time, and are desirous that it should be settled. Said Judge Hammond today,

"All have made up their minds not to further oppose the removal, but to ask the government to give us a fair compensation for our outlay, and to afford us time and opportunity for doing elsewhere. We would like this thing settled up. If we are to be allowed to stay, we would like to know it. But it does not look as though that conclusion would be reached, so if we have to go we would like to find that out soon, and know the terms. We can't get out without getting something for our places, which have increased in value by what we have expended on them since 1888 to more than \$100,000 above the \$200,000 at which they were appraised then. There are none of the people down there who stand in the way of a fair and amicable adjustment of the question at issue, but of course we do not want to be robbed of our homes and farms."

"There is one thing that I think should be taken into consideration by the government. When we went in there thirteen or fourteen years ago we did so to make homes. Had we not believed the land would have come into market we would have gone elsewhere. Since that time most of the places that were open to settlement have been occupied by others, and our chances to make homes are therefore greatly diminished by this means. I think this fact should be given due consideration, as it is a weighty matter. We do not now know where to go for new settlements, and should have the value of our present home to enable us to start somewhere."

The proposed opening of the Uintah reservation to settlement, in connection with Senator Morgan's idea of permitting the San Juan people to select a location in the southern Ute reservation when opened, suggests a solution of the compensation question that in all probability would be satisfactory. That is that the San Juan settlers be given their choice in Uintah county. They would be thus permitted to retain their residence in Utah, and be in a location fully as good as their present abode.

Upon this point Judge Hammond said, "I don't know anything of the Uintah country but by report, and the matter has never been discussed by us. We have not wanted to go to Colorado, our preference being for Utah. I am of the opinion, however, that the body of the people would consent to the exchange. I believe that if it could be arranged and Delegate Rawlins would take it up and press it he would have the full support of the people of San Juan, and would get the assistance of those in Congress who want the Indians removed from where they now are. It might in that way be of material assistance to him in getting the Uintah reservation opened to settlement. I think I can safely say that our people would entertain favorably the proposition of such an exchange. They are anxious to have the matter settled up, and as the Southern Ute Indians want San Juan county, I think it will be given to them."

Says the *Halley Times*: During the past two weeks no less than six attempts at robbery from the person or actual robberies have been reported as occurring in this city and Bellevue.