

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-sixth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday morning, October 4th, 1895, at 10 o'clock a. m. A cordial invitation is given to the officers and members of the Church to be present.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

THE SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION.

Now that there has passed away the major portion of the first week in the public schools for the year 1895-6, the people of this city affected by the recent changes in school district boundaries are coming to realize that the present arrangement has for its purpose the convenience, comfort and advancement of the school children, and in many respects is a marked improvement on the conditions which existed last year. As the schools get down to class work, the conviction as to the successful efforts for uniformity, and the fairness in making the distribution, of Superintendent Millsbaugh will become settled in the minds of thoughtful parents who at first looked with dissatisfaction upon the changes. The NEWS expresses this belief after a careful examination of the new districts, and a comparison with their school population; the only criticism we have to offer is a suggestion that if the board of education had published the information in advance, with explanations, in the newspapers, the public would have been prepared thereby to endorse the plan upon its inauguration.

The present arrangement of boundaries has in view the formation of districts with the school building for the central point as nearly as possible. To effect this purpose required a great deal of careful labor and study. In order to do it properly it was necessary to form a basis both on the school population by city blocks and on the number of children in each school grade. Dr. Millsbaugh took up the work during the last school year, and had charts prepared of all the school grades, giving the residence of each child in each grade in the city. For instance, the number of children attending the sixth grade from every block in the city was definitely ascertained; and so with all other grades. This was the basis for the number of each grade to be assigned to the various school buildings. Then the school population on each city block was determined; and upon these two sets of figures was calculated the locality to be included in each

school building district, so that all should be accommodated. The varying capacities of the buildings were considered, and a result attained in apportioning the districts as follows, making them as nearly compact as possible: Emerson school building district, 185; Hamilton, 528; Tenth, 234; Bryant, 447; Watch, 512; Twentieth, 185; Lowell, 794; Twelfth and Thirteenth, 250; Ogden and Ninth, 959; Sumner, 588; Grant, 874; Seventh, 320; Lincoln, 525; Uintan, 195; Franklin, 523; Fremont, 539; Seventeenth, 211; Jackson, 820; Washington, 950; Bonneville, 76; Davis 58.

It may be remarked that this arrangement, taking every public school building in the city district, falls short of providing for the entire school population, because there are not buildings enough yet. But it makes it possible by judicious classification to accommodate with reasonable comfort every child in the city; and based upon the grade reports and this year's school census, the apportionment in districts is mathematically just what it should be. In his recommendations as to district boundaries, Dr. Millsbaugh also gave consideration to the welfare of the children, and has performed work which is worthy of high commendation. Of course it was to be expected that many parents might have a preference for certain schools, or that there might be special reasons why children from one district should attend in another. Every case of this kind brought to the superintendent's notice will receive attention, and full satisfaction will be given as far as this is possible. Neither parents, guardians nor children need hesitate to represent their wishes in this matter direct to Dr. Millsbaugh; for they may be assured of receiving every consideration of courtesy and of an intelligent desire for the welfare of each child in the city. We are satisfied that in this respect, as well as in others connected with its school administration, the citizens of Salt Lake will have just cause to feel highly gratified at the work of its public school officers.

PROF. PETRIE'S DISCOVERIES.

The discovery in Egypt by Professor Petrie, an eminent English Egyptologist, of the remains of a race and a civilization prior to those known by early historians, has been briefly mentioned in these columns. Further details of the interesting find are now published.

The antique remains were found in the Nile valley between Ballas and Nagada, about thirty miles below Thebes, where archaeologists have for years been rewarded with a rich harvest. They were imbedded in the side of a plateau, about 1,400 feet above the river, and the site was probably in remote ancient times on the bank of the Nile, because this river then was much larger in volume than at the present time. It is supposed the remains unearthed belong to a period the date of which is 3,000 years before

our Lord, and this would suggest that the race possibly perished in the deluge to which the traditions of all ancient nations contain references.

According to the accounts published the discoveries include skulls of the new race, with the hair still remaining; a vase with a galley, hills and ostriches painted on it; a carved figure with tattooing marks on the body; another carved figure showing the type of art followed by the new race; a portion of an ivory comb, with a human head carved; another ivory comb; a piece of pottery in the form of a ball, supposed to have held charcoal and to have been used as a foot-warmer; a slate palette, used to grind malachite, with which these people used to paint their eyes and faces; a porphyry vase, hand made, and pots on which are marks supposed to be writing.

The relics indicate a well developed civilization. The combs are of ivory. One of them has a three-branched ornament at the top. Another, from which the teeth are missing, bears the head of a very peculiar-looking human figure. The pottery found is very plentiful. It is all hand made and very accurately formed.

There are a great number of small vases of alabaster, porphyry, breccia and other hard stone. These substances are of course difficult to handle, but all the vessels are symmetrically made and the curves are perfect.

From the condition of some of the bones Prof. Petrie draws the conclusion that the departed race indulged in what he calls "ceremonial cannibalism." He supposes that at a funeral the guests partook of certain portions of the deceased. Apparently they cooked the meat on the bone and then restored the latter. This was done, no doubt with a solemn purpose, possibly a religious one. The same custom among other races is based on the idea that the virtues of the deceased were imparted to the eater, and that his memory is most effectively preserved in this way.

Egyptology already presents many features of great difficulty to the student. It is not improbable that the relics now found will lead to further researches and result in discoveries that may throw desired light on a period of man's history hitherto clouded in almost entire darkness.

A YOUNG REPUBLIC.

Last week there came to an end the smallest and youngest republic of the world, founded two months before, and having enjoyed during its brief career the highest degree of success and happiness. Its population was only about 160 souls, and all but one of these were under the legal age of twenty-one. The domain of the young government was a forty-acre farm in New York state—but perhaps we had better explain before the reader is thoroughly mystified.

The Cleveland Plaindealer, epitomizes the history and labors of the republic and condenses the many columns of descriptive matter that have been written about it into one short readable article. We shall quote largely from that source. It appears that a New York philanthropist, George by name, who was in charge of the boys'