

tomorrow will necessarily postpone such answer beyond your meeting tomorrow. Briefly, my opinion is that the election to vote upon the issuance of bonds is an election within the meaning of the act of Congress creating the Utah Commission, and giving it full power to take charge of all elections. I am conscious that, taking all the provisions of the law, Territorial and National, makes the matter somewhat obscure, but I think the course that is being pursued is most satisfactory and in accordance with the proper construction of all the statutes upon the subject. I shall, however, within a few days attempt to write you more fully, stating the various provisions upon the subject and informing you in detail of my conclusion. Respectfully,

P. L. WILLIAMS.

#### A NEW JANITOR.

William Crouch was appointed janitor for the Twelfth District in place of Mr. Pennoyer, deceased.

#### NOT ENOUGH ROOM.

A report from the committee on school work was read calling attention to the overcrowded condition of the Seventh District School, and recommending the employment of another teacher during the remainder of the school year. Referred back to the school committee with power to act.

#### FAILED TO CARRY.

Mr. Snow moved that the committee on sites be authorized to have a school census taken by blocks, and that an appropriation be made to liquidate the expense incurred in so doing. The motion failed to carry.

#### FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The following report from the committee on finance was read and adopted:

Gentlemen of the Board of Education:

The Board having decided to ask the people to vote for the issue of \$300,000 in bonds for the procurement of school sites and the erection of school houses, and this committee having been delegated to present to the people the reasons for the Board's action as stated, do now submit the facts on which that request was based.

The city has a total school population, according to the census of July last, of 8818. This population is distributed among the several precincts, by old school districts, as follows; and for convenience we have stated in the same tables the seating capacity of the several schools, the enrolment, and the deficiency in accommodations in each, as compared with the total school population. This seating capacity is reckoned on the usual standard, fifteen square feet floor space per pupil, and of course in it no rented buildings are counted. The schools as numbered correspond substantially with the old districts, or wards:

#### FIRST PRECINCT.

| School  | Seating capacity. | Enrolment. | Total school pop'tat'n. | Seating deficiency. |
|---------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.....  | 75                | 109        | 286                     | 191                 |
| 2.....  | 91                | 151        | 154                     | 64                  |
| 3.....  | 80                | 138        | 263                     | 183                 |
| 8.....  | 120               | 112        | 295                     | 275                 |
| 9.....  | 125               | 116        | 300                     | 175                 |
| 10..... | 205               | 438        | 510                     | 305                 |
|         | 885               | 1,061      | 1,888                   | 1,193               |

In this precinct the schools occupy, beside the public schoolhouses, the south wing of the Exposition building, in which are enrolled 181 pupils.

#### SECOND PRECINCT.

| School | Seating capacity. | Enrolment. | Total school pop'tat'n. | Seating deficiency. |
|--------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 4..... | 60                | 165        | 230                     | 170                 |
| 5..... | 65                | 148        | 311                     | 246                 |

|         |     |       |       |       |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 6.....  | 268 | 344   | 344   |       |
| 7.....  | 240 | 301   | 347   | 127   |
| 14..... | 600 | 324   | 249   | *351  |
| 15..... | 403 | 701   | 701   |       |
|         | 965 | 1,609 | 2,203 | 1,237 |

\* Excess                      † Net deficiency.

The Board, rents in this precinct the Armstrong building, in which is the Fifteenth school; the Sixth Ward meeting-house; a room in the Fourth Ward; the Husband's building near the Jordan, and known as the Twenty-third School; the Whitney building and the Allen Building.

#### THIRD PRECINCT.

| School  | Seating capacity. | Enrolment. | Total school pop'tat'n. | Seating deficiency. |
|---------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 16..... | 210               | 544        | 682                     | 372                 |
| 17..... | 125               | 197        | 391                     | 267                 |
| 19..... | 215               | 625        | 952                     | 735                 |
|         | 550               | 1,366      | 1,924                   | 1,374               |

The rented premises in this precinct are the Hooper and the Hunter buildings and a room in North Salt Lake.

#### FOURTH PRECINCT.

| School  | Seating capacity. | Enrolment. | Total school pop'tat'n. | Seating deficiency. |
|---------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 18..... | 200               | 100        | 354                     | 351                 |
| 20..... | 200               | 260        | 418                     | 218                 |
| 21..... | 160               | 339        | 568                     | 403                 |
|         | 360               | 699        | 1335                    | 975                 |

The rented premises in this precinct are two rooms in the Eighteenth Ward and one in the Twenty-first.

#### FIFTH PRECINCT.

| School  | Seating capacity. | Enrolment. | Total school pop'tat'n. | Seating deficiency. |
|---------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 11..... | 205               | 471        | 614                     | 439                 |
| 12..... | 300               | 397        | 412                     | 112                 |
| 13..... | 145               | 146        | 413                     | 264                 |
|         | 650               | 984        | 1469                    | 815                 |

Rented places in this precinct are two rooms in the Eleventh Ward and two rooms in the Twelfth Ward.

The total enrolment is 5719, which is 64.8 per cent of the total school population, while we have in school buildings seating capacity for only 3220 pupils, or but 36.5 per cent of the whole school population. The difference between the actual enrolment and the seating capacity is 2499, the excess being partly provided for in rented buildings and in part by a pressure on space which makes rooms altogether overcrowded and therefore unhealthy, inconvenient and hampering to the school work. In several cases the sites are too small and the grounds for exercise are inadequate for the use of the pupils. It is to remedy these evils, to provide schools better suited to the work and to give the pupils more healthful surroundings, with more adequate room for their work, that the board decided on the step taken. The old school-houses were not built on approved models, while as to the rented buildings, it was not to be expected that they would be especially adapted to the work of the schools; they are not so, but it was a question of relief and something had to be done; therefore the best obtainable quarters were secured. Heavy as the pressure has been this school year, the first of a general free system in this city, there is every reason to suppose that this pressure will be much increased the coming year, with the success already attained and the increased population.

It is worthy of special note that the form of relief proposed is not one that calls for the immediate collection of a heavy tax. Authority to issue bonds is the request, and your committee urges that the people will find this form of making the needed provision for the schools far less burdensome than would be a special tax. The interest on the bonds will be five per cent, and they will

run ten and twenty years, in equal portions. We are now paying in rents, and for changes in rented rooms to adapt them to school purposes, a sum that this year will reach very close to \$7000, which lacks but little of being a half-year's interest on the proposed issue of bonds. But it was an expense which the board found it impossible to avoid if they would give even shelter and meagre school accommodation to the throngs of applicants for instruction.

The need of the time is more seating capacity and modern schoolhouses. As stated in the joint committee report, on which the request for bonds was based, the real needs of the schools will be but partly met with the issue of these bonds. But with the good results to be expected and the pride the people will take in their improved school system, we do not fear but that due provision will be made as the need for the same shall become apparent.

WILLIAM NELSON, Chairman.  
JOHN N. PIKE,  
RICHARD W. YOUNG.

#### PUBLIC ADDRESS.

The following address to the public was then read by the clerk:

To the People of Salt Lake City:

The above report having been made at the meeting of the Board of Education held March 19, 1891, and unanimously adopted, we, the members of said Board, unite in an appeal to the people to grant the relief asked for and needed as above shown. The schools are too crowded to allow good work being done; large sums are paid for the rent of buildings and rooms not suited for the purpose, but that had to be rented to give shelter to pupils and teachers; and provision must be made for even a greater pressure on the seating capacity than has already developed. We, therefore, ask the people to grant the needed relief, confident in their goodwill toward the school; utilizing all the rooms at the disposal of the Board, the additions we can make with the relief asked in the bonds proposed will barely provide for the immediate school needs.

The pressure upon the schools in all portions of the city is great, and under the division proposed in the joint report heretofore made public, every precinct will be within the limit of these needs. A number of the old districts have heretofore levied special taxes to build schoolhouses. The board is disposed to recognize the need as done by the districts and the enterprise of the people therein as shown by their vote referred to; and so far as the funds provided will go it, will remember those votes and the revenues of the past as much as possible under the changed circumstances and doing injustice to none.

The tax to pay these bonds and interest that will accrue during the twenty years can all be provided for by an annual tax of half a mill on the dollar on the present valuation of taxable property in Salt Lake City.

WILLIAM NELSON,  
RICHARD W. YOUNG,  
W. J. NEWMAN,  
L. U. COLBATH,  
JOHN M. PIKE,  
GEORGE W. SNOW,  
T. C. ARMSTRONG,  
GEORGE D. PYPER.

#### TO RESCIND AND MAKE VOID.

The subjoined resolution was offered by Mr. Pike:

Whereas, This board has for some time been considering the advisability of submitting to the people of this district the question of voting for the issuing of bonds for the purchase of school sites, school buildings and furnishing the same, and

Whereas, This board adopted a report