

offer a solution of the vexed problem. On its plan of county classification, the Legislature could name, instead of giving a proportion of fifty percent of the salary, the amount to be paid out of the State treasury to any county officer, based on the fifty percent idea as near as it could be applied. Then it could provide that the respective boards of county commissioners shall determine the amount to be paid by the counties, which amount shall not exceed that paid by the State to the same officers; or the aggregate sums for officers which the State does not pay. Thus all counties could be treated alike.

Such a plan would save each county from being required to provide more for salaries than it could afford. In some instances the State might be paying more than half of an officer's salary, because of the lower amount fixed for the county's compensation. But that flexibility of the plan would be a benefit to the counties most requiring it, while the State would be paying fixed and definite salaries for its portion of the work devolving on such officers, and would be equally as well off as under either of the other plans. The various counties would be able thereby to exercise equal rights and be subject to legislative restrictions, while the State would retain direct and full control of the expenditure of its own funds, and the Constitution would be complied with.

STATE RESERVOIRS SYSTEM.

The first session of the State Legislature is getting well along, and considerable work has been done, with much more in sight. There are still, however, some matters of vital interest to the State that have not been noticed as yet by the legislature, so far as known to the public. Upon suggestions as to the State land department, many of the items relating thereto have received attention, and now there is a proposition to cover the mineral lands division and to reserve coal lands for a term of years from the operation of agricultural patents. The question of ownership of State reservoirs has been raised, and the selection of land therefor has been required of the State board of land commissioners.

But no one has presented a scheme for the utilization of this half million acres which goes to one of the most important elements in our prosperity. When the lands are selected, how are they going to be made available? And should not the selection itself be made in pursuance of a definite plan as to how the lands can be utilized to the best advantage for reservoirs? Shall the land board make selections with a view to lake, or canyon, or bench reservoirs, or either to the exclusion of the others, and then the State have to adopt a plan to fit the selection, good or bad? Or shall there be something of a general State reservoirs system so that the land commissioners will know what they have to work to?

These are vital questions for the present Legislature to answer. No scheme involving great expense can be entered into; and no reservoirs can be made without considerable outlay. Therefore there can be no actual work

at making State reservoirs now. But there can and ought to be agreed upon a general reservoir system of sufficiently definite character to enable the land commissioners to act intelligently in their selection of sites, and to place it within the reach of the people to come to the State's aid in constructing reservoirs where there is urgent necessity and the State is unable to proceed without the co-operation of the inhabitants to be specially benefited. If any one or a score or more of citizens, whether legislators or not, have the genius to evolve a plan for making State reservoirs available at the earliest possible moment, now is the time to launch the scheme and become public benefactors.

THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

A Mount Pleasant correspondent sends the News a number of questions to which he asks an early reply. His letter was delayed in reaching the editor's desk, or we should have noticed it before. Four questions were submitted by the correspondent, who asks:

1. We are told in the Doctrine and Covenants that the Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit. Does that imply that it has the form and stature that we have, or is it myriads of intelligent particles diffused through space, in which "all things live and move and have their being"—a substance in all and through all, by which all things are governed and controlled?

The inquirer will probably note that we have omitted certain words from his question. This does not interfere with inquiry; the reason for their omission is that they imply a misconception of the Godhead, which is composed of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. As to his inquiry, we will say that the word personage does not imply that the Holy Ghost is in the form and stature of man; nor does it imply that it is myriads of intelligent particles. The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit, or a spiritual organism. There is not room in a brief newspaper article to give the instruction on this subject which the inquirer seems to be in need of, therefore we will refer him to the fifth Lecture on Faith, in the Doctrine and Covenants, second and third verses, as a text to commence on, and the Compendium for further references on the subject, in both ancient and modern scriptures.

2. When the Church was overcome in the meridian of time, so that it ceased to be preached on earth, because the arch enemy had prevailed against the Saints (whether it be in the third or the fifth century) do you think that the Gospel ceased also to be preached in the spirit world; or is it reasonable to suppose that it has been preached in the spirit world since Christ to this dispensation?

The overcoming of the Saints referred to, or the apostasy as it is generally called, afforded no occasion for ceasing the work in the spirit world. It was when the Savior Himself was unable, by reason of His body being in the tomb, to preach in person among the Jews that He opened the Gospel dispensation to the spirits in prison. As to what we may "think" on the continuous preaching to the spirit world, or any other

event: replying to theological questions we endeavor to make only statements of correct principle or of facts that have been revealed through history or divine revelation; we are not giving our mere opinion—opinions are of knowledge, and an opinion as to the probable occurrence of something of which there is no available record is not always profitable or wise.

3. Is it or is it not generally conceded that the followers of Christ, including His disciples, did not "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" which follows baptism till after the Savior's death and the resurrection, i. e., the day of Pentecost?

Such a thing is not generally conceded. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost, from his birth (Luke 1: 15); his mother Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost (Lk. 41); so was his father and Simeon; the disciples exercised the gifts of the Spirit in healings, etc., and when they were sent out among the Jews, Jesus told them the Holy Ghost should teach them what to say (Luke xii: 12). But that special outpouring of the Holy Ghost which He promised as a Comforter was at the Pentecost. The Holy Ghost was given to the baptized believers in Christ anterior to His ministry in Judea.

4. Is not Isaiah and Esaias believed by us to be one and the same individual?

Isaiah is the Hebrew form and Esaias the Greek form of the same name.

"Seam," writing from American Falls, Idaho, asks:

Is the kingdom of God upon the earth?

Sometimes there is a slight confusion of terms, because different writers occasionally have applied the term kingdom to the Church of Christ; but we take it that our correspondent refers to that kingdom which shall assume temporal dominion and control among the affairs of men. When that kingdom is established upon the earth, there will be no doubt in the matter among members of the Church. The word of the Lord to the Saints is to "be subject to the powers that be, until He reigoes whose right it is to reign, and subdues all enemies under His feet." When the King comes to exercise temporal control over "the nations of this world," the kingdom will be "upon the earth" in the sense that we understand our correspondent's question.

PENSIONER SAMUEL TARWATER.

The recent publication in the News of some information regarding Samuel Tarwater, the Missouri mobocrat who draws a state pension for "services in the Mormon war," has brought out the fact that there is now living in this State a lady who remembers the mother's appearance shortly after the Crooked river battle. She was five years old at the time, and was a visitor to Richmond jail, whither she had gone with her mother, at a time when the wives of the prisoners there were permitted to visit their husbands. The late Elder Parley P. Pratt was one of those confined in the Richmond prison, having been arrested just after the Crooked river battle for taking part therein. The lady who was a child then says that she