

are hundreds of liberal-minded people among us who will be willing to contribute to this worthy object when they find the subject is receiving proper attention, and that definite and permanent arrangements are being made to establish academies of this character.

The brethren whom you select to form this board should be men of character and integrity among the people, who will be able to use an influence in the collection of funds, so that academies may be established, good faculties be employed and education be made so cheap that it will be within the reach of the humblest in the land.

After you have made a proper selection for this board, the names of the brethren composing it should be presented regularly at your Stake Conference, as other authorities are, so that the people can vote for them.

Very respectfully yours,

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

Chairman of the Church Board of Education.

GEORGE REYNOLDS, Secretary.

"In compliance with the above, the Stake Presidency and the high Council of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion appointed as the Stake Board of Education the following named gentlemen, which action has been approved by President Woodruff of the General Board. * * *

"By formal action, the committee heretofore directing the Salt Lake Stake Academy, has resigned all charge thereof to the Stake Board of Education. The scope of the school has been materially enlarged by the addition of an *Academic Department* offering thorough courses of instruction in sciences, languages and mathematics, and by the engagement of competent instructors. The preparatory and intermediate departments will continue in operation as before.

A well fitted laboratory is provided for practical labor in the scientific branches, and an adequate supply of new apparatus for demonstration and experiment has been procured. The rooms of the academy are comfortably and appropriately furnished and arrangements have been made to extend the capacity as occasion requires.

"But far beyond all such facilities and advantages is that, so dear to the soul of every true Latter-day Saint, the opportunity of securing an education in secular branches co-ordinately with the study of the principles of the gospel of Christ, and a training in the duties pertaining to membership in the Church. We doubt not that the institution will continue to receive the warm approval and material support of the Latter-day Saints."

Wilford Woodruff, the chairman of this Church Board of Education, is also the President of the Mormon Church; and, as before indicated, the action taken by the Church authorities of the "Salt Lake Stake" with reference to its academy, is a type of the action being taken, or advocated, throughout the entire Territory. While the laws of the Territory do not forbid the "perusal"

in the district schools of the books referred to, or any other books, yet it is not longer practicable to openly inculcate, in them, the tenets of a creed. Until very recently most of these schools, although partially supported by taxation, were to a great extent essentially Mormon denominational schools, and it will take time to free them from this influence, and especially from the reputation they have thus acquired. When we come to consider the fact that the Mormon people are largely in the majority, that the influence of the leaders of that Church is sufficient to, and does, shape and control the legislation of the Territory, it is a fair and reasonable conclusion that the attitude taken at the recent session of the Legislature, to provide no further means for the support of schools, unless it could be shared proportionately by *private* schools, was but another manifestation of the purposes set forth in the letter above quoted from Mr. Woodruff.

As long as this purpose is entertained and advocated by the Mormon leaders and people, and the legislative power remains in their hands, there can be no reasonable expectation of any material improvement of the Legislation of the Territory upon the subject of a public school system, or any further provision made for their support by general taxation.

By the 25th section of the Act of Congress, entitled an "Act to Amend and Act entitled an Act to Amend Section 5352 of the Revised Statutes of the United States in reference to bigamy, and for other purposes," which took effect March 3, 1887, it is provided, "That the office of Territorial Superintendent of district schools, created by the laws of Utah, is hereby abolished; and it shall be the duty of the Supreme Court of said Territory to appoint a Commissioner of schools, who shall possess and exercise all the powers and duties heretofore imposed by the laws of said Territory upon the Territorial Superintendent of district schools, and who shall receive the same salary and compensation, which shall be paid out of the treasury of said Territory. And the laws of Utah Territory providing for the method of election and appointment of such Territorial Superintendent of district schools are hereby suspended until the further action of Congress shall be had in respect thereto. The said superintendent shall have power to prohibit the use in any district school of any book of

a sectarian character or otherwise unsuitable. The said superintendent shall collect and classify statistics and other information respecting the district and other schools in said Territory, showing their progress, the whole number of children of school age, the number who attend school in each year in the respective counties, the average length of the time of their attendance, the number of teachers and the compensation paid to the same; the number of teachers who are Mormons, the number who are so-called Gentiles; the number of children of Mormon parents, and the number of so-called Gentile parents, and their respective average attendance at school. All of which statistics and information shall be annually reported to Congress through the Governor of said Territory and the Department of the Interior."

The first appointment under the provisions of this act was made by the Supreme Court in April, 1887, about the time that the district schools of the Territory were entering upon the fourth and last term of the school year, ending June 30, 1887. So that the first action that was practicable under the provisions of the Act of Congress, was in taking the school census for the school year beginning July 1st, 1887, which is required by the provisions of the Territorial school law to be taken during the month of July of each year.

Blanks were prepared and furnished in accordance with the Act of Congress for this purpose, and also for use in the schools for teachers' term reports, and trustees' reports; and these, in turn, under the provisions of the Territorial law, are compiled and presented to the Commissioner of Schools by the county superintendents of the several counties; so that the first annual return under the provisions of the Act of Congress could not be placed in the hands of the Commissioner until late in the present year, 1888.

I herewith submit tabulated tables or schedules, marked respectively: Schedule "A," "B," "C" and "D."

"Schedule A" is the annual report of school population of the Territory for the school year beginning July 1st, 1888, showing the total number of children between the ages of 6 and 18 years, with their sexes, and also the total number of those of non-Mormon and Mormon parents respectively. The aggregates are as follows, viz.: Boys of non-Mormon parents, 3,941; girls, 3,641. Total number of children of