

detailed information on the subject at this time. The paper then published the following:

Since the army of the over-credulous is large and great injury might result from the unfounded and unattainable expectations that would undoubtedly be raised, and are even now circulating by ignorant or designing persons, concerning Dr. Emmens's discovery, it appears proper that *The Engineering and Mining Journal* should even now say that so far as our knowledge goes there is nothing yet known that gives any firm ground for a belief in the transmutation of the elements; in fact the tendency of scientific investigation seems to lead to the opposite conclusion. Neither is there anything in Dr. Emmens's statements that would convince any careful investigator that he has succeeded in converting silver into gold.

Pariff claimed some years ago that he could convert copper into gold, yet notwithstanding the undoubted fact that this announcement transmuted much of other people's gold into his gold, the outcome was disastrous to him when the courts of barbarous Peru required him to perform the transmutation in their presence. But perhaps Dr. Emmens's 'discovery' is only for present political purposes."

CONCERNING SUNDAY SCHOOLS

To the Presidents of Stakes and Bishops of Wards:

The question of conducting Sunday schools without interruption by General and Stake conferences, Mutual Improvement associations, Relief societies and Primary associations, has been brought to our attention several times, and some general counsel has been given, but not in such a form as to receive the attention it deserves.

Again the subject has been brought before us by the brethren who have spent years of their lives in the Sunday school cause and who are actively engaged in the management of the affairs of the Sabbath schools, and after due consideration we have decided that it should be understood throughout all the wards and Stakes of Zion that each Sunday morning shall be held exclusively for the Sabbath schools, and that no organization shall consider itself at liberty to use that part of the Sabbath to the prevention of Sabbath schools being held.

The general consensus of opinion among leading officers of the Church who have given this subject attention is to the effect that the breaking up of the Sunday schools even for one Sunday has an injurious effect; and these schools are so important and they are doing so great an amount of good that we feel convinced that it is unwise to permit them to be suspended. We have, therefore, concluded that this request which has been made upon us by the Deseret Sunday School Union is consistent and proper, and take this method to make it known throughout the Church.

It is our desire that the superintendents of Sunday schools be permitted to conduct their schools every Sunday morning without any interruption whatever, even on the Sabbath days when general or quarterly conferences may be held. This is not intended to pre-

vent other organizations holding conferences, provided that in so doing the Sunday schools are not stopped.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

SWISS WOMEN.

From a recent incident in connection with the Geneva exposition, it is evident that the managers thereof did not fully recognize the high qualifications of the women of their own country when they made an appeal to the vanity of Swiss matrons and maidens. The exposition managers thought to add to the attractions by instituting a beauty show. The national pride of the little republic and the local pride of each canton were artfully appealed to by those in charge of the exposition, and who thought of nothing but success. But they were disappointed. Out of all the women of Switzerland not one was found willing to make herself ridiculous by entering on such a contest. On an appeal for photographs only six were submitted, and these were of a character to suggest that the senders were trifling with the managers of the exposition. So far as the Geneva exposition is concerned, the beauty of the women of Switzerland remains an unknown quantity, but there can be no doubt of their good sense and uniform self-respect. And, as the *New York World* aptly remarks, commenting on the incident, "a nation in which not one woman is found willing to advertise herself as a beauty must command the respect of sensible people all over the world."

THAT REGISTRATION BUSINESS.

We believe that County Commissioners Roberts and Christopherson did an injustice to some of the people of Salt Lake county in voting down the resolution of Commissioner Geddes to reopen registration on the 29th and 30th of the present month, so that those who had been misled could be given an opportunity to register, and that registry agents could have full opportunity to close up their work. The plea of economy on the part of the two commissioners named was not good in this instance; expenses less urgent for the public good have been passed upon favorably. Commissioner Geddes's proposition was in the right line, and should have prevailed.

With respect to the limitation of the registration to ten days in Salt Lake county, probably the commissioners would act differently if they had it to do over again. This being the first registration under State laws, the longest scope of time possible should have been allowed. It was a commendable effort to make the canvass as inexpensive as possible to the county; but the law allows twenty days—from the 10th to the 30th of September. The commissioners cut it down to ten days. If the period had been from the 10th to the 20th, instead of five days later, it would have been much better than from the 15th to the 25th, and would have allowed several

days at the close to reopen, if necessary.

The house to house canvass idea is a most excellent one in the present state of affairs here. Were it not for that, thousands of those who registered when called upon at their homes by the agents would have failed to go to an office to do so, and the house to house canvass should be maintained in the law for some years at least. With respect to the open offices of registry agents, which is on Tuesday and Saturday of the week beginning with the second Monday in October, and which in the present year falls on October 13th and 17th, there is still an opportunity for those who have not registered to do so. The only complaint that can be made of the law in this respect is that two days was too little, and a week would have been better for the first registration. The small election precincts, however, may make two, or at most three, days enough in the future. The law as it stands is fortunate in at least one respect, viz., that it contains both the house to house and open office provisions, so that really no one who wants to be registered can blame any one else but himself for failure to do so.

THE ALBATROSS.

The latest invention in flying machines is that of Mr. William Paul, a Russian by birth, now living in Chicago. He calls his air ship the Albatross and confidently expects great results from it.

According to the descriptions the Albatross is a boat frame nineteen feet long and six feet wide, covered with oilcloth. Above this are three balance tunnels, the central one being left open at the top while the two side spaces are rooted. Above this are the wings, seven feet wide and forty feet in length from tip to tip. Above the wings is an adjustable plane supposed to balance the machine and back of the body is a tail and also a rudder.

The inventor is now waiting for a favorable wind to lift him up into the air. Two preliminary experiments he considers entirely satisfactory. One proved that he had complete control over the equilibrium of the machine. The other demonstrated, it is thought, that it could be steered in its flight and come down as gently as the bird whose name it bears, and the inventor, therefore, feels confident that when he gets a good start, he will be able to sail up in the air and alight somewhere in Michigan.

The construction of the Albatross is the result of a change of opinion among aerial navigators, according to which the basis of experiments must be shifted from the principle of the balloon to that of the bird. Mr. Paul having been a close observer of the albatross came to the conclusion that the bird obtains its soaring and speed powers through the peculiar shape of its wings and its method of balancing the body. The problem now was to construct a machine in imitation of the albatross.

When Mr. Paul came to Chicago, eighteen years ago, he began to put his ideas into practical form by building small models and flying them as kites. Then, in 1889, he went to Mammoth