

REGISTRATION OF VITAL STATISTICS

Important Matter Receiving the Undivided Attention of State Health Board.

PROVISIONS OF THE NEW LAW

Appointment of Registrars Whose Duty it is to Promptly Record Births and Deaths.

The registration of vital statistics is a matter that has received the undivided attention of the state board of health for some time past, and steps have been taken looking to the establishment of a well organized bureau throughout the state, so that deaths may be properly recorded at the time of their occurrence, thus adding to the state's wealth of statistics in the direction indicated.

At the late meeting of the state health officers, Horace H. Smith, clerk of the state board, read an interesting paper on this subject. In this he called attention to the progress made during the past decade in the matter of properly recording vital statistics. When the census of 1890 was taken there were but seven states having adequate laws on the registration of vital statistics, and these states were of the original 13. In 1900 the registration states were nine in number. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Michigan, the latter being the first western state to adopt adequate laws and make suitable provision for their enforcement. Soon after the census was taken Indiana, Illinois and Colorado passed laws on the subject, these being drafted after a term suggested by the census office for the purpose of securing uniform requirements. In the past year several states were added to the list, and the great states of Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania and California are now working under laws almost identical with the one recently adopted by the Utah legislature. A year prior to the convening of the legislature, the standard certificate used in all registration states was adopted by the Utah state board of health as the basis for the vital statistics of the state. According to the best information obtainable they are now 18 states from New York on the east to California on the west, having laws of a like character, making possible the realization of the hope of sanitarians and scientific bodies engaged in the work of protecting the public health.

NEW LAW ENRAGED.

Upon the passage of the Utah law by the last Legislature, and its approval by the governor, the following words were used by the chief statistician of the division of vital statistics of the U. S. census in a letter addressed to the secretary of the state board of Health: "I congratulate you upon the passage and approval of your new law for registration, and will be glad to

have you send me a copy of the law when printed. If you want copies of our pamphlets to supply local registrars and physicians, I will be glad to send them, if our supply is sufficient, and will also be pleased to help you in any other way that I can." In a later communication Mr. King stated in part as follows: "You now have matters in excellent shape, and I have no doubt you will succeed in getting first-rate results. If you can succeed in practically completing registration in sparsely settled Utah, there should be no excuse for failure in other states."

PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

The Utah law has been in force since May 19, and contains all the requirements deemed essential by the committee on public health of the American Medical Association, which are:

1. Deaths must be registered immediately after each occurrence.

2. Certificates of death (standard form) should be required.

3. Burial or removal permits are essential to the enforcement of the law.

4. Efficient local registrars are necessary.

5. The responsibility for reporting deaths to the local registrar should be fixed.

6. The central registration office should have full control of the local machinery, and its rules should have the force of law.

The transcription and preservation of returns should be provided for.

Penalties should be provided.

Owing to the necessity of a complete reorganization of the state system of registration, the reports of deaths thus far received are incomplete; and though showing an improvement over 1900, there is still much to be desired. This state owes it to each individual citizen that an accurate record be kept of his birth and death, both with the local registrar and the central registration office, and to this end our efforts must be directed without fear or favor.

DUTIES OF REGISTRARS.

Those who have accepted the office of registrar of vital statistics are charged with the strict enforcement of the law in their respective localities, and should appreciate the importance of their position as well as the opportunity that lies before them. In the main very little has been done in Utah to secure accurate registration records, and those who have been entrusted with this work may do their community and the state a splendid service by seeing to it that the laws are strictly enforced and proper records kept. These records will depend for their value to sanitary authorities, upon the faithfulness of the registrar in enforcing the law and insisting upon complete returns; and the thoroughness of the records of 1905 and 1906 will greatly add to the value of those secured in 1910 and thereafter. We are not looking too far into the future to see that the work done by registrars now in office will have a growing and enduring worth as the years go by, as each registrar may render a public service which will stand as a monument to his services and the office will be better paid and given a dignity which it does not now possess.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, chief of the division of vital statistics of Michigan, and expert special agent of the United States census bureau, stated before the convention of the Ohio state and national boards of health in January, 1904, that "no state has attained a satisfactory degree of perfection in the registration of births," and he is in a position to know. To quote further from the same authority: "Some state will have to show how this can be thoroughly done for the registration of births is receiving more and more attention, and while not of the absolute pressing importance that a law for

the registration of deaths is acknowledged to be, it is necessary for a complete system of registration of vital statistics."

LIST OF REGISTRARS.

In order to carry out the provisions of the new law, the state board of health has been busily engaged for some time past endeavoring to make suitable appointments of registrars in the different towns. Thus far they have met with gratifying success, and hope soon to complete this branch of the work. Following are the appointments to date in the different counties of the state:

BEAVER COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Alpine Mrs. E. S. Carpenter
Bonneville Carolina Thompson
Brown Gid A. Murdoch
Canyonville Agnes Edwards
Greenville Susan Roberts
Minersville George C. Moore
Newhouse Dr. G. H. Fennimore
Star Wm. O. Orton

BOXELDER COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Brigham S. N. Cook
Three Mts Thomas C. Young
Manus Nels C. Jeppson
Richardson John G. Wheatley
Calls Ferry Robert N. Gardner
Deer Valley W. H. Riggs
Thompson Ferda F. Peterson

GRAND COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Moab, No. 1 George F. Powell
Moab, No. 2 Dr. J. W. Williams

Basin W. E. Price

Richardson, No. 2 Smith M. Davis

Cisco R. W. Heybourne

West Water Wm. Cooley

Elgin George W. Durant

Dolores S. R. Scharf

IRON COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Paragonah D. A. Lamoreaux
Farowan Hans J. Mortensen

Saints Richard Tweedie

Cedar City R. W. Heybourne

Kanara James E. Taylor

Stateeline Mrs. Hattie Knight

JUAB COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Mammoth D. C. L. Addison
Eureka Dr. A. H. Taylor

Nephi Dr. D. O. Miner

Levan James E. Taylor

Mona Ephraim Ellerson

Silver City L. M. Taylor

Fish Springs N. T. Matsos

KANE COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.
Mt. Carmel Maffeline Gardner

Orerville Harriet Howers

Glendale James W. Watson

Hanck Andreas Jensen

Kanab Loma A. Brown

MILLARD COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Castro Dr. F. P. Coffey

Clear Creek L. R. S. Allison

Harper F. F. Ballam

Helper Dr. A. H. Cantrell

Price Dr. D. C. Badue

Reed Deibert Bird

Wellington Louis Gibbs

Carbonville J. J. Frederick

Price A. A. Thomas

Smithfield Newton Woofruth

Clinton John Bingham

College John C. Dowles

Wheeler Rosa B. Knowles

CARSON COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Castle Gate Dr. W. P. Coffey

Clear Creek L. R. S. Allison

Harper F. F. Ballam

Helper Dr. A. H. Cantrell

Price Dr. D. C. Badue

Wellington Dr. F. P. Fisk, Price

Carbonville Dr. F. P. Fisk, Price

Scifield Dr. E. B. Isgreen

Winter Quarters Dr. E. B. Isgreen

Sunnyside Dr. A. W. Dowd

DAVIS COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Kaysville Dr. S. Gleason

Clearfield Peter Christensen

Bountiful Dr. H. Van Cott

E. W. T. Union Amie Hardy

South Weber Dr. E. B. Isgreen

Centererville William H. Evans

Farmington J. H. Robinson

Layton and Pi. Kaysville Silas S. Smith

Clinton Geo. R. Bennett

MORGAN COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Henefer Alfred M. Croft

Canyon Creek Joseph R. Porter

Croydon E. A. Wilde

Milton James Gardner

Morgan Joseph Overton

Leamington N. M. Stewart

Meadow O. H. Jacobson

Oak Creek F. M. Bird

Petersburg Adolph Hansen

Smithville George Bishop

PIUTE COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Kimberley Parley's Park

Rockport Dr. E. K. Ward

Rockport Henry Seamans

RICH COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Castro Dr. Z. A. D'Amour

Cleveland H. H. Oviatt, Jr.

Clawson Henry Thompson

Ferry John W. Smith

Huntington A. J. Johnson

Lawrence Hans P. Rasmussen

Woodside Scott M. Miller

EMERY COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Castro Dale Dr. Z. A. D'Amour

Kingston H. H. Oviatt, Jr.

Koosharem George A. Hatch

TOOELE COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Woodruff Henry Lee, Jr.

Argyle William Jacobson

Randolph O. J. Spencer

Round Valley J. C. Farmer

Garden City John H. Weston

Loketown Meadowlark

SALT LAKE COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Bullion Nels L. Taylor

Big Cottonwood, Mountain Dell, Sugar, Forest Dale, Isaac Brockdale, Murray, R. D. 4.

District No. 2—Foothills, Sugar, Little Cottonwood, Sandy, Granite, Little Sandy, Draper, Josephine, Dr. F. M. Davis

District No. 3—Mill Creek, N. D. Jensen, Calder Station, N. D. Jensen, Calder Station, Murray, outside city of Murray, Henry V. Ballard

District No. 4—Murray, outside city of Murray, Dr. A. M. Dwight

District No. 5—North Jordan, Pleasant, Archibald Frame, Taylorsville

District No. 6—Silver, Butler Union, West Jordan, Nels L. Taylor

UINTAH COUNTY.

Precincts. Registrars.

Riverdale John Jensen

Naples J. M. Shaffer

Vernal Jane S. Rich</