

THE TERRITORY GROTESQUELY CARVED.

THE law of Congress passed March 3rd, 1891, making appropriations for the different departments of the government, contained also a clause imposing upon the Utah Commission the duty of re-districting this Territory and apportioning the representative and council districts upon the basis of population as shown by the late census. Of that duty the Utah Commission has now acquitted itself, the result being found in another column of this paper.

The methods and motives of this highly picturesque body have been so frequently expounded that it is now needless to do more than point to any work it has performed for an instance of the injustice that is none the less reprehensible because it is accomplished under the powers and authority that are possible with a strained construction of the law. Hence when we say the Utah Commission has re-districted the Territory, it is unnecessary to say any thing about the fairness or the deference to the people's rights with which it has been done.

Nevertheless, a glance at some of the incongruities of the present arrangement will not be without interest. Take the seventh representative district, for instance. It consists of the southwestern precincts of Salt Lake county, and the northern precincts of Utah county; but though it includes Herriman, it flies away from Bingham, only a few miles distant, as though the place was plague-stricken. Only when we come to the ninth district do we again get sight of the missing Bingham, and then it is associated with Tooele and Juab counties, though Mona precinct has to be omitted from the latter to let the Salt Lake county stranger in. Poor Mona finally pulls up in the twelfth district, finding it self in such good company as the south end of Utah and the north end of Sanpete counties. Then look at the jugglery with the council districts. The honorable gentleman who represents the fifth district in the upper house of the Legislature will be voted for by the residents of Davis and Morgan counties, three trans-Jordan precincts of Salt Lake county with the meteoric Bingham added, besides Tooele and Juab counties, with unfortunate Mona again left out. If there isn't something of the "shoe-string" arrangement about this, where will you go to find it?

But perhaps the principal inconsistency in the arrangement appears in the

case of Salt Lake City, Ogden and Cache and Rich counties in the matter of representatives, and in Salt Lake City in the matter of councilors. Cache and Rich counties elect one councilor, which is all right; but combined they elect two representatives, which is not advisable in any case where the one district could be so easily divided into two. Ogden City elects one councilor, but two representatives. Would it not have been preferable to the voters and more in accord with American methods if that city had been made into two representative districts, as it could readily have been, if bisected either from north to south or from east to west? In the case of Salt Lake City the same objection exists and is still more glaring. Instead of giving one-sixth of Salt Lake City the privilege of electing its local representative, and two-sixths the opportunity to elect their councilor, the honorable Commission requires that the citizens shall elect at large six representatives and three councilors. What has become of all the patriotic ideas of local self-government dropped by President Harrison before and applauded by the Utah Commission a fortnight ago!

As to the political significance of the new order, recent changes in this and other counties of the Territory make it impossible to speak with any accuracy. This much is apparent, however, to the most casual observer. If the Commission believe the old political lines between the People's and the "Liberal" parties are still to be drawn as in the past, no reapportionment could have been better calculated to add enormously to the "Liberal" representation. By the new plan the minority would be favored beyond all deserts or just proportion.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL DEGREE.

Two years ago the General Board of Education of the Church announced its courses of required studies for the certificates and diplomas of the Church school organization, the object being to ensure thorough and systematic preparation for the profession of teaching as practiced in the schools of the Latter-day Saints. On graduating in the primary or intermediate course, the candidate receives a certificate of efficiency, but the academic courses lead to diplomas and degrees. A competent Board of Examiners, composed of the foremost educators in the Church school service, passes upon the qualifications of candidates.

We make this mention as this marks the occasion of the first regular graduation in the academic grade, though

many teachers have long been operating in primary and intermediate schools under authority from the Board. Yesterday, in the course of the commencement exercises of the L. D. S. College in this city, formal action was taken, bestowing on Willard Done of the college faculty the degree and title of Bachelor of Didactics (D. B.) and appointing him Professor of Language to the schools of the Church. This action had no direct connection with the L. D. S. College; the only reason for the ceremony being performed there was that the assembly was for Church school purposes and the President and other members of the General Board of Education were present. Under special appointment of the Board, Dr. J. E. Talmage performed the ceremony of bestowal.

We heartily congratulate Prof. Willard Done on the attainment of such a mark of distinction. He will be remembered as the first to graduate under the new order of requirements. The young gentleman has already achieved a desirable fame for his amiability and thoroughness as an instructor, and as an earnest worker in any quarter of the great educational field. His examples should be emulated by others. Now that the way has been provided for higher attainments, teachers should not rest with the credentials of introductory courses, but should pass on in study and investigation to the highest ranks. Soon we hope to have among our people, institutions for the pursuit of all branches of knowledge, so that our youth will no longer need to look abroad for their merited degrees of distinction. May many more press toward the top, and may all the diplomas bestowed in the church educational institutions be as well deserved as has been that now held by Prof. Willard Done.

A CORRECT VIEW.

THE *Times*, in an editorial treating upon the Republican mass meeting of Wednesday, May 20, has the following paragraphs, which are here reproduced for the reason that they present a truthful view of the matters touched upon:

"But Judge Dickson comes forward with the statement that the vote of the members of the Church is controlled by the Church, and that when an opportune moment should arrive for the consummation of some sinister design, the Mormon vote would be cast solidly at the dictation of the officers of the Church. The *Times* claims that there is no foundation or reason for that assertion.

"It has all due respect for the views of those who differ from it, but it would point out the difference between the conditions of the past and those that are to