

ternity, makes a suggestion which the NEWS is ready to endorse with cordiality and urge with enthusiasm. It is to the effect that, since there is still much room for improvement in our public school system, and since the value and importance of education are deeply impressed upon the mind of every progressive citizen, a concerted effort should be made in the immediate future for devising ways and means to supply all deficiencies in the present system and elaborate and perfect all the features that have been found suitable and effective. An educational convention, the members of which shall be practical instructors and wideawake superintendents, with possibly a few energetic, brainy trustees thrown in to give variety and vigor to the proceedings, would be the means, our friend thinks, of bringing the whole subject plainly before the public. Every part of the Territory being represented, the plan of action finally decided upon would come in for uniform adoption—of itself an inestimable advantage. Perhaps there are crudities and incongruities in the school law; if so, any recommendations for amendment made by such a convention would be sure to receive favorable attention from the Legislature. Even if nothing else were accomplished, there would still be the one great benefit of an interchange of ideas, an examination of the various systems of instruction, and an encouragement to renewed energy in a field the most important, though at times the most trying, in human endeavor.

But there are many reforms and improvements that should be made, and would be, we believe, if the educators of the Territory could be gotten together to consider them. One crying need suggests itself to the most casual observer: that of county high schools, the grade between the common school and the University. Economical reasons, if there are no others, would seem to urge this particular subject upon the notice of the various county authorities. To be sure, the Territorial University has a preparatory department where students may fit themselves for the more advanced courses in the institution proper. But think how much cheaper and more satisfactory it would be, both to pupils and parents, if such preparation could be had at home—at least in the home county! One would think each community would be almost consumed with local pride to build, equip and maintain an institution from whose portals young men and young women could go forth to enter with credit to it and to themselves the highest educational establishment in the land.

We have alluded briefly to one feature that might be discussed; there are many others which every teacher or superintendent has thought of or met with in his own experience. All such subjects should be ventilated, considered, acted upon; the various communities of the Territory ought to know what they want in educational affairs; and it seems to us that the plan of holding a representative convention is about the best way to bring the whole matter forward for intelligent investigation.

THE "Q" in Judge Gresham's name stands for Quintin.

### THE OPPRESSED JEWS.

The recent action of the Russian Czar, in issuing an edict placing all religious organizations in his empire under government espionage and inquisition, occasioned no surprise. It merely emphasized what was known before to be a fact—persistently denied by Russia's official representatives—viz: that the persecutions against the Jews in that land have an exclusively religious basis. This is clearly proven by the fact that the Stundists, the Lutherans, the Mennonites, in fact every Christian sect not attached to the Greek church, come in for a share of persecution. The only means of relief offered is in a course which for baseness is only surpassed by the action of those who compel its adoption. This way of escape is opened through conversion to the dominant faith of the empire. Even the Jew who apparently becomes a devout convert to the faith of the Greek church is thereby relieved from the onerous burden heaped upon those who maintain the faith of Judaism.

To the lasting credit of the Jews it can be said that very few have accepted, at the price of turning their backs on the religion of their fathers, immunity from the outrages, indignities and cruelties systematically heaped upon them. Their oppressors crowd them down in the financial and social scale, but as a people they exhibit an unflinching hope in the promise of Israel's deliverance.

Though Russia is the most barbarous nation in her treatment of the Jews, she is not their only oppressor among the powers of Europe. The hostility to the Hebrew race in that part of the world extends over a large area, and is assuming the attitude of a serious political phenomenon. In Austria, in Germany, and even in France, the anti-Semitic movement is being steadily augmented, and is taking position among the issues to be met by political parties. Anti-Semitism was thought by some to have reached its culmination in Germany in the Xante blood-accusation proceedings last June, but though the baselessness of the charges of child-sacrifice, made against the Jews, was there shown by a judicial investigation, the lull was only temporary; antagonism to the Jewish people has developed increased vigor in new channels. Its avowed purpose is the expulsion of all Jews from the nation.

This condition of affairs is causing a steady migration of Hebrews to countries where the hostility toward them is not very pronounced, if it indeed exists at all. For the relief of the tens of thousands of that race who are unable, because of poverty, to escape from galling bondage, Baron Hirsch, Baron Rothschild, and hundreds of philanthropic Jews have engaged in schemes for colonizing their distressed brethren in some land where they will be free from the tyrant's yoke. Baron Hirsch is inclined toward America, and in 1891 founded a colony in New Jersey. In 1892 he founded another in the Argentine Republic. Baron Rothschild looks to Palestine, the "home land," and gives his fostering care to efforts for gathering the Jews to their ancient national abode. Of the Hirsch colony in New Jersey, a recent issue of *Public Opinion* says:

It has prospered in an unhopd-for manner. The land purchased by the baron was divided into sixty-two farms of thirty acres, each provided with the necessary buildings, and occupied by as many families, who have ten years in which to pay the \$1,200 at which each farm is valued. A town has now been laid out, and thirty-five new houses are inhabited by the workers in the cloak factory which has been started. A trousers factory, just completed, will give work to over 500 people. The rules of the colony are rigid, and all are expected to obey them implicitly. The applicants for the farms must be men with families, who have been in the country less than a year. There are two schoolhouses in the colony with an average attendance of 125. The colony is under the management of Prof. H. L. Sabsovich and his assistant, Leo Nelson.

As with the New Jersey colony, those who go to the Argentine must be men with families. The colonies there are under the supervision of Col. Albert E. W. Goldamid, and are located on an extensive tract of land purchased from the Argentine Republic, for the purpose, by Baron Hirsch. Twenty-five centuries ago a small colony left Jerusalem, thus escaping the Babylonian oppression, and became the founders of the mighty nations of ancient America. Today, within a comparatively short distance from where Lehi and his family embarked 600 B. C., the Argentine colonies of Baron Hirsch are seeking to establish a place of refuge from Russian tyranny. At last reports the work of colonization was progressing favorably, and the baron had entered into stipulations with the Russian government for the emigration of 25,000 Jews annually, should he be able to accommodate that number.

Col. Goldamid, though engaged with Baron Hirsch in the Argentine, is an ardent believer in the revival of Jewish nationality. The dream of his life is to see his co-religionists become again "one nation upon the mountains of Israel." To his efforts, more than to those of any other man, are due the recently organized movements in England in connection with the Chovevi Zion Society and other associations, for a re-establishment of the Jews in Palestine. He took up the work in South America with a view of obtaining present relief there for many of his afflicted race, and of ultimately turning the tide, when opportunity came, toward Judea.

Meantime Baron Rothschild's means are being spent with lavish hands upon the work in Palestine. He has already obtained important concessions from the Turkish government, and his negotiations for a further extensive tract of land on which to colonize Russian Jews are understood to be about closed on terms satisfactory to him. Mills, factories, workshops, etc., are in course of erection. The work goes on slowly; it is necessarily so. Under existing circumstances it will take many years to repopulate Palestine with the race for which it flourished anciently. But the progress is steady. The evolutions of the present indicate clearly that the time is drawing close when Jerusalem shall no longer be "trodden down of the Gentiles."

THE AVERAGE mortal is only too willing to take his chances with the deadly microbes on bank bills.