

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

UTAH TO THE FRONT.

The financial progress which Utah has made since the development of her resources began has been good. When her isolation and utter poverty during the early years of her settlement are considered, her financial record becomes more than good; it is splendid. But it is not what it might have been.

For nearly a generation this Territory suffered from the baneful effects of a religious strife, which was an anomaly under American institutions, and a heavy and ever-threatening cloud, darkening the horizon of future prosperity. The development of the limitless resources of the Territory was hampered by conditions that kept enterprising men apart, and made co-operation of the highest effectiveness among the masses an impossibility. But all this time there lay among our mountains and in the valleys between them infinite riches, easy to bring forth whenever the people should unite on a policy of developing them and building up each other.

Once or twice Utah has seemed on the starting point of a dashing and brilliant financial career, which was to make her a great wealth center in a very brief space of time. From the commencement of 1887 to the early part of 1890, her prospects were the brightest, but she had not developed her own resources far enough to enable her to withstand the depression which swept over the continent, and she suffered in common with the rest of the country, though not nearly as much as did many portions of the Union.

But Utah is a thoroughbred. She has the blood, mettle and training of a swift and winning racer, and she is impatient to make another and this time a true start. She is on the point of doing it, too, and, profiting by the past, when the rein is given her again, she will make a race that will eclipse the record left by any state in this glorious Union, in the rapidity with which she will win a place among the wealth owning and producing centers of the world. The elements necessary to her success are coalescing, and before many months we believe that she will have fully entered upon a career of prosperity that shall know no check until the place to which her possibilities entitle her is fully won.

In line with all this comes the following paragraph from the *Denver News*:

During the past week two banking concerns at Salt Lake City received from the East \$2,200,000 to be placed on city and ranch property. This speaks well for the coming State of Utah, and shows that Salt Lake City, ultra conservative in its business methods, has gained from low taxes. In no city of its size in the West is the valuation of property more conservatively based, while the total tax levy is also low for school, city, county and territorial purposes.

With the social and political changes that have brought all citizens together in one cordial and harmonious mass, filled with an enthusiastic purpose to

make Utah what she can and ought to become, with the robes of Statehood about to be donned, and with money by the million voluntarily seeking investment among the people of Utah, why should they not be filled with hope and cheer? The coming winter may pinch some of them a little uncomfortably, but we look to see it the last hard times winter Utah will have for a period of the future too long to be calculated.

SCHOOL ELECTION.

It may be deemed unkind to tell the people of this city, who are still panting with the exhaustion produced by the great political struggle they have just passed through, that they have another election on the tapis to which they should commence to devote some attention right away. But duty requires us to bring the fact to popular remembrance. On Wednesday, December 5th, an election must be held for choosing a member of the school board of this city from each municipal ward. The members whose terms expire are as follows: First municipal ward, A. J. Pendleton Jr.; second, William Nelson; third, W. J. Beattie; fourth, R. W. Young; fifth, J. E. Dooly. It will be remembered that a municipal ward and a precinct are geographically the same thing.

Scarcely a word of criticism is ever heard regarding the administration of the school board. Its management of the school affairs of the city, at least so far as the general public are informed, seems to have been characterized by excellent executive and business ability, and a patriotic and disinterested desire to accomplish the greatest amount of good for the greatest number. One fact is patent, and it tells a good story. This city has a public school system not excelled by that of any other city on the continent, of similar size.

Beyond all question, a leading cause which has contributed to the excellence of the work of the school board, has been the non-partisan character, politically and religiously, of its personnel. The splendid results that have followed the exclusion from that body of public servants of all political and religious issues, leave the voters of the city with only one consistent course to pursue in future, which is to perpetuate that exclusion. A change in the policy now prevailing which would make it possible for partisanship, either political or religious, to enter the school board, would be a deplorable retrogression. A partisan school board means that the positions held by the superintendent, the principals, and even the teachers would be made the football of party success at the polls. Even the janitors would hold their tenures subject to the mutations of municipal politics.

This would degrade the schools to the level of a political machine. Employment in them would be contingent on the votes an applicant could command. The positions of teachers would be filled by the favorites of men in power, and the baneful and detesta-

ble results of such a system would show itself in the preference displayed by the teacher for the children of parents of the prevailing political faith. May the day never come that will bring such evils upon the magnificent public school system of our mountain metropolis!

But there is, in our view, no danger of such a change being seriously proposed, much less effected, as will admit partisanship into the school board. The man who would suggest such a thing would be hooted down; at least he ought to be. Heretofore in most instances some patriotic citizen of the municipal ward has prepared a call for a primary, and has circulated it for the signatures of prominent men of both parties. The primary thus called has nominated a candidate, without regard to his politics or religion, who has been chosen solely with a view to his fitness for the office. We recommend that this be done in each municipal ward this time.

It is not the purpose of this paper to advocate the election of any particular candidate. The position is almost destitute of pecuniary emoluments, while it involves much labor and responsibility. Of the gentlemen whose terms are expiring, it is but just to say that they share the credit for the excellent record made by the board as a whole. Whether any or all of them shall be returned is a matter of indifference to us, so long as the board shall continue non-partisan, and be made up of men suited for the position.

WICKED ADVERTISEMENTS.

There are demons walking up and down in the earth, whose especial object is to destroy chastity. Some of them, at least, are provided with bodies in the ordinary human form, but they represent a horribly degraded type of the race. A favorite method for accomplishing their diabolical designs is to publish alluring advertisements in such journals as will sell space for the purpose. Incredible as it may seem, there are journals that lay claim to decency and to a character that justifies their admission into the homes of decent people, which, for a few cents, will risk becoming accessory to the ruin of any number of pure young persons by publishing such advertisements.

The procuress or the lecherous villain who is seeking fresh victims, will say in an advertisement that "a gentleman of means desires to meet an attractive young lady," or will use words of similar import. Some giddy girl who has not been properly instructed or disciplined, or who perhaps has no thought of anything more than a little fun, answers the advertisement. She thus places herself to a greater or less extent under the infernal spell of the wretch who is seeking her destruction. If she carries her folly far enough to consent to an interview, she throws herself into the maelstrom and the chances are against her ever again returning stainless to the walks of innocence. An advertisement printed in a paper which is read in her home has been the means of destroying her, body and soul; and the suffering involved in such a ruin has