

IT IS A FAILURE.

The failure of the home as an asylum for Mormon women who have renounced polygamy, is due to causes which do not need to be enumerated at length here. In the annual report of the Utah Commission (in whose hands the control of the home is now vested) to the Secretary of the Interior, September 23, 1889, occurs the following significant passage:

"As to the ultimate success of the home, the commission express no opinion. It is an experiment which time only can solve. Whether the deluded women of polygamous marriages will after awhile, as the coils of the law slowly circle them about, avail themselves of the munificence which the government offers them in the home remains to be seen. As yet but few have done so, and as it appears by the report of Mrs. Jeanette H. Ferry, president of the Industrial Christian Home Association hereto appended, the number seems to be lessening.

"The occupants at this time are three women and six children, who are abundantly cared for and apparently happy."

From the report of Mrs. Ferry, above referred to, the following extract, giving a comparative table of the number of inmates in the home in 1888 and 1889, is made:

MONTHS.	Females.	Males.	Total.
1888.			
October.....	4	5	9
November.....	4	7	11
December.....	4	7	11
1889.			
January.....	12	4	16
February.....	12	4	16
March.....	11	4	15
April.....	6	3	9
May.....	6	3	9
June.....	6	3	9
July.....	6	3	9
August.....	6	3	9

In the same report Mrs. Ferry says:

"The board of this association do not propose to close the doors of this home so long as our government gives them the means to provide a home. True, there are disheartened and discouraged members of the association—tired of giving time and toil where it is unappreciated—but most of those who began the work are as true today, and if this effort for good fails, it will not be their fault."

A THING FORGOTTEN.

The Woman's Industrial Home had its beginning in March, 1886; at that time there had been hundreds of convictions for polygamy and unlawful cohabitation under the prosecution which began in 1884. In the four years since 1886 the convictions have multiplied, the penitentiary has been crowded with Mormons, and hundreds of polygamous women have been set free to avail themselves of the privilege of the home if they so desired. Yet in these four years, with ample means at its control, Congress having appropriated \$40,000 in August, 1886, \$50,000 in October, 1888, for the building, \$4000 for furniture, and other sums for the annual maintenance of the institution, the number of inmates in the home had risen to three women and

six children—the sole occupants of an immense building which cost the government \$50,000 to erect. In Salt Lake the home is almost a thing forgotten, or, if remembered, called to mind only as the subject of a jest. The humanity that prompted the establishment of the home cannot be doubted; but that it has demonstrated its impracticability and shown that it would be folly to longer perpetuate it no fair minded person can deny. The language of the commission, and the admission of Mrs. Ferry that the number of inmates seems to be decreasing, corroborate this view.

The question of economy to the government in converting the industrial home into a public building is a most important one, and one on which there is no chance for controversy. The title to the ground on which the building stands vests in the government by deed dated January 8, 1889. The property has cost the government about \$100,000. The ground is ample to allow the addition of other buildings. A fair estimate of the cost of making such additions, remodeling the premises already constructed, including the erection of large brick and iron vaults, obtained from competent authorities, puts the amount at \$50,000. The proposition now is to appropriate \$400,000. If the plan to convert the home is adopted, a saving of \$350,000 results to the government, and a building that must otherwise soon lapse into disuse is wisely and properly utilized.

The speedy settlement of the question is very desirable both to the government and the public. The fact of the government already owning a building on an eligible site offers the best of reasons why it need not look elsewhere, and a decision to embrace the plan herein proposed, viz., to convert the home to the uses of the public service, would obviate the necessity of a long investigation and delay, and prevent an unseemly scramble to enhance the interests of one section of the business community to the disadvantage of the other.

The eligibility of the site for the purposes of the government admits of no question. The present grounds comprise 213 square rods, having a west frontage of 165 feet on Fifth East street, and a depth of 330 feet.

Regarding the present building, the Utah Commission in its report, heretofore referred to, says:

The new building is three stories high, with a base and two wings, north and south, of equal height, which add very much to the symmetry of the building and the beauty of the architecture. It is conveniently accessible from the business part of the city by street cars, which run within a few rods of the grounds.

The wings to the building are not yet completed, but are well under way, the walls being completed, the roof on, and the inside work of carpenters, plasterers and painters well on towards completion.

The entrance to the building is by a set of broad steps, made of stone, through a large porch into a spacious hallway. Inside there is a staircase

leading up a well lighted stairway to the upper floors.

The plastering, painting, frescoing, papering, etc., have all been done, so far as completed, in the latest and most approved styles.

The first floor has 11 rooms; (1) office; (2) reception room; (3) sewing room, for use of inmates; (4) bath room, with two closets; (5) sitting room, for inmates; (6) dining room, for matron and other officers of the institution, furnished with a dumb waiter connecting with the kitchen, in the basement; (7) linen closet for first floor; (8 and 9) bedrooms; (10) matron's suite, consisting of a sitting room, bed room and closet; (11) public wash room or lavatory, furnished with two wash-basins, each with hot and cold water attachments. In case of necessity, this room is large enough to be used also as a sleeping room.

The second floor has 10 bedrooms, 1 sewing room, 2 linen closets, 1 public wash-room (of the same size and furnished as on first floor), 1 bath-room and water closets.

The third floor has 10 bedrooms, 12 linen closets, 1 public wash-room (of the same size and furnished as the others), 1 bath-room and water closets.

When the wings now in course of construction are completed there will be 40 sleeping rooms, which may be increased to 50 by the use of those rooms intended for other purposes and by crowding things.

Immediately in rear of the main building is a laundry building or wash-house, where all the laundry work of the institution will be done, it being supplied with all the necessary fixtures and appurtenances for that purpose. The building is heated by steam throughout.

The location of the home is on Fifth East Street, between First and Second South streets; the electric car service runs on First South street, within a block of the home, and will be in operation on Second South, one-quarter of a block from the home, in a few days. The building can be lighted with either electricity or gas, as both are adjacent to it. It is five blocks from Main Street, the principal business thoroughfare of the city, but is only distant two and three blocks from the large business sections on First and Second South streets. With a free postal delivery, there is no reason why the government office should be located on Main Street, and as far as the federal court rooms, judges' chambers, the district attorney's office, the United States marshal's office, the grand and petit jury rooms, the United States land offices, the surveyor general's office, the governor and secretary's office and the headquarters of the Utah commission are concerned—and the interests of the government vastly more so—if the federal building were located on Fifth East Street, the site of the home; the interest of the government would be better served than if it were placed on the main street of the city. It may be said in this connection that though Main Street divides the city, as respects area, into two very nearly equal halves,