

tional branch of the State. Briefly, we hold that the initiative in the case belongs now and forever with the educators and not with any political organization whatsoever. If we are right—and it is not the proper function of a party convention to nominate in such a case independent of regular advice from the educators, then this is the time above all others to protest against such a policy. We have consulted with a large number of educators in connection with this subject and thus far the opinions expressed have been unanimous.

We earnestly urge the teachers and superintendents throughout the Territory to let their wishes be known to the voters. The columns of the NEWS are open to them. The coming election being for the initial organization of the new State, it is important that we start right. It would be highly profitable to the State and particularly to the cause of education, for practical educators from various parts of the Territory to get together and ventilate the question freely. If such a gathering should accomplish nothing more than an emphatic assertion of privilege in the premises, it would be setting a precedent that might prove of inestimable importance in future elections.

We have the experience of other states to prove that for any educational department to be regarded as a legitimate spoil of party government is a menace to the whole school system, which is certain eventually to turn our public schools into a stronghold for professional demagogues. We hope the voters of the Territory will see the importance of this question and serve upon political leaders on both sides of the fence an emphatic notice that our system of public education is in no sense a party institution, except as to a question of state policy between those who do and those who do not believe in public education, and on this point we re-assert without qualification that of all the opponents of public schools their most insidious enemy is the person who would make them the instrument of a political party.

AS TO WOMEN VOTING.

With a profound consciousness of the risk incurred in differing on a legal proposition from the Salt Lake *Herald*, and in all awe and humility as becomes one who ventures to run counter to the opinions of that judicial colossus, we still make bold to say that both good law and good sense are exhibited in the decision of the Territorial Supreme Court on the question of women voting. The agitation out of which many of the sex were made sincerely to believe they had the right to vote on the Constitution—a view to which also a good many men appeared to be converted—was unfortunate and ill-timed in the highest degree. We adhere to the belief that it originated and has been largely stimulated in political or rather partisan anxiety to curry favor and win votes—in other words that it was a trick, not so plausible but what it was transparent, and not so magnanimous but what its other purposes could be discerned. We would not pretend to say that all who have

stood for the affirmative side of the question of the women's right to vote have been actuated by unworthy or improper motive; the controversy is undoubtedly one on which there may be honest differences of opinion. At the same time many leading equal suffragists themselves have been strongly inclined to the negative of the proposition, and very reluctantly accepted the view which the court now rules to be incorrect. Among these is the NEWS itself, which yields to no party, paper or person in its conviction that women are entitled to suffrage, and which has been a consistent champion of their rights. As to the case in point, it has never seemed for a moment admissible that Congress in passing the enabling act contemplated that the voting strength of the commonwealth on the adoption of the Constitution should be nearly doubled at one stroke, the effect of which would be to swamp all legitimate opposition. The same doubt applies as to the Constitution at Convention itself—many of its members having since declared that in voting for equal suffrage they had no idea of authorizing the women to vote upon the charter which proposed to confer the right of the ballot. Lastly, there is the overwhelming argument that no matter what rights or privileges the Constitution may confer, they can only become available and may only be exercised when the Constitution itself becomes effective, which cannot be until it is ratified by the legal voters of the proposed state and approved by presidential proclamation; and this is an especially powerful argument in the present case because the beneficiaries of the equal suffrage clause are distinctly and unequivocally disfranchised by an existing, unrepealed law of Congress.

This appears to us to be the common sense of the proposition, without regard to legal technicalities or quibbles; and hence we applaud the decision which gives it force and effect—a decision which would undoubtedly be affirmed by the court of last resort could the case be carried that far in time. Of course the vote for the adoption of the Constitution will be much smaller than if the women had voted, but it will be large enough, and above all else, it cannot be questioned on the ground of legality. When the result is certified up to the President and he issues his proclamation admitting the State of Utah, then, and not till then, may the gentler sex assert and exercise the priceless right conferred, and vote to their heart's content. We regard the decision of the Territorial Supreme Court as removing a grave peril from the path of statehood.

DO NOT FORGET THE PIONEERS.

Quite a number of persons, who have grown up with this Territory, and witnessed its marvelous development notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, feel concerned about a tendency, now and then manifested, to obliterate the traces of the work of the Pioneers in these valleys, particularly in the matter of changing the names of familiar places. Not long ago a correspondent in the *Springville Independent* called attention to the fact that the

streets in that city had been renamed, and that the first intimation he, as well as many others, had of the fact was in a city ordinance prohibiting bicycle riders from perambulating in certain thoroughfares, the names of which were all new to him. When the change had been effected he did not at the time know, but he objected to it on the ground that the present generation should be slow to wipe out the names of persons prominent among the first settlers of Utah, whose history is so closely connected with the redemption of the country.

The point is well taken. To a people, as to an individual, it is both instructive and delightful to look back to the days of childhood occasionally and recall the early experiences of life. With names, ideas are associated, and with the obliteration of the former the latter are sure to become dim to popular view. Every locality has had its own prominent men and women, who for one reason or another deserve to live in the remembrance of the people of that place, and to preserve their memory should be a sacred duty to each succeeding generation. It is beyond successful controversy that nations which have remained true to their first traditions have preserved their identity throughout the ages, as witness, for instance, the Hebrew race as compared to Egyptians, Babylonians and Romans, all of whom once claimed dominion over all the known world. Their traditions, in the hand of Providence, were the links that united that race and held it together when empires rose and fell around them on all sides. The people of Utah have an early record to be proud of, and it should not be mutilated on flimsy pretexts.

We are aware that names on streets and cities and well known institutions have been altered on patriotic grounds. But there is no need of that. Utah is growing, and there is, and will be, every opportunity of honoring the men prominent in the history of the United States, for the benefit of the growing generation, without detracting in anything from the honor due to the Utah pioneers. There is room for Washington streets, Jefferson streets, Grant avenues, etc., without appending these and other immortal names to places already named in memory of men without whom there had not been a Utah, perhaps, to admire the heroes of the nation. True Americanism, like charity, commences at home, and it is in full accordance with its spirit to preserve the individuality of each locality and thus add its strength to the sum total of power and intelligence of the whole Union. Let the people of Utah, therefore, always remember and hold in veneration the Utah pioneers!

Avoid the Early Boom.

The political history of the past, say for a quarter of a century anyway, shows nothing more clearly than that it is bad politics to trot out your candidate too soon. The blight which nips and shrivels the premature boom has become proverbial; no matter how long and tenderly it may have been cherished, no matter how well-coddled and healthy it may at last appear, a