

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The erection of a college building was commenced in June last, and will be finished about November 15th of this year, at a cost of \$25,000.

The services of an experienced gentleman have been secured to take charge of the college and of the agricultural experiment station to be conducted in connection with it. It promises to be one of the most useful of the Territorial institutions.

INSANE ASYLUM.

This institution located at Provo is crowded with patients far beyond its capacity. It is confidently expected that the new legislative assembly will provide for additional accommodations.

CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The \$25,000 appropriated for the purpose of improving the land granted to the Territory by the city of Salt Lake as a site for the proposed Capitol building has been expended in placing an iron fence around the land, and in running ditches and flumes and reservoirs to secure a water supply.

AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION BUILDING.

This building was completed last year, and has been used for agricultural fair purposes. The Fair held this year was highly creditable and very successful.

THE QUESTION OF IRRIGATION.

An Unusually Dry Year—The Senate Committee—The Bothwell Project.

The present year has been an unusually dry one. The farmers in many parts of the Territory have not been able to raise more than one-half of the usual amount of grain, vegetables, etc., and the question of the water supply has become of vital interest to the people. During the month of August last, the committee of the United States Senate, appointed to investigate the subject of irrigation, and the facilities for storing water for the reclamation of the arid lands, visited Utah and were in session for two days in Salt Lake City.

The people of the Territory were deeply interested in the visit of the committee, and through the efforts of the county courts and many of the citizens, a complete statement was prepared of the actual condition of the water supply and the opportunities for storing it.

There was also filed with the committee maps showing the location of settlements, streams and the places especially adapted as sites for reservoirs. All of this very valuable information was given to the committee, and will be made a feature of their report. The following statistical statement will convey a very fair idea of the extent of the interests dependent upon irrigation in Utah.

THE BEAR LAKE PROJECT.

In connection with the subject of irrigation a brief statement of the work proposed to be done by the "Bear Lake and River Water Works and Irrigation Company," may prove of interest.

This company organized under the laws of Utah proposes to construct a lacumouth system of head works, conduits and canals, by means of

which the waters of Bear Lake, Bear, Ogden and Weber Rivers in Utah, are to be diverted and distributed to cities, towns and farms for municipal and domestic use. The lands which will be tributary to the canal will exceed 250,000 acres. Some of this land is equal to the finest in the Territory for agricultural purposes, in fact nearly all of the land is remarkably fertile. The cost of the canal when completed will probably exceed \$2,000,000.

The influence of this vast enterprise on the section of country through which it runs and the Territory, if successful, can hardly be overestimated. It will transform thousands of acres of arid land into garden spots, and will enable many thousands of people to find comfortable homes. It is a most important enterprise for the Territory, and ought to be successful.

The Board of Directors are representative men. The organization of the company was accomplished by the energy and enterprise of Mr. John R. Bothwell.

PUBLIC AND DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

A Full Presentation of the Whole Question in its Various Phases.

Under the provisions of the Edmunds-Tucker Law, the Territorial superintendent of public schools is appointed by the Supreme Court of the Territory. He is required by the law to make an annual report to Congress, and to give in his report detailed information respecting the schools. I shall therefore only refer to the subject in a general way. The importance of free public schools and an efficient public school system in which the youth may be educated, is universally recognized. While Utah has a very fair system of public schools, they fall far short of what they should be. The tax collected for the support of the schools does not pay one-half the expenses of maintaining the schools, consequently the pupils must pay tuition fees or the schools be closed. In many of the poorer districts the children are denied school privileges for many months of the year.

There is but little prospect, in fact there is no prospect, that this will be changed. I am led to this conclusion by the fact that the Mormon people with almost entire unanimity are quietly preparing for denominational schools, in which their children may be taught Mormon theology in addition to the ordinary branches of education.

Stake or county academies have been established under church auspices, and in some of the school districts the Mormon children have been withdrawn from the public schools and placed in church schools.

The following extract from a letter written by Wilford Woodruff, the President of the Mormon Church, shows very clearly the object and purpose of establishing these church schools:

"We feel that the time has arrived when the proper education of our children should be taken in hand by us as a people. Religious training is practically excluded from the public schools. The perusal of books we value as divine records is forbid-

den. Our children, if left to the training they receive in these schools, will grow up entirely ignorant of those principles of salvation for which the Latter-Day Saints have made so many sacrifices. To permit this condition of things to exist among us would be criminal. The desire is universally expressed by all thinking people in the church that we should have schools where the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants can be used as text-books, and where the principles of our religion may form part of the teaching of the schools."

It is very plain that the church has decided to take its place as an enemy of the public school system and the principles which are at its foundation. The remedy for such an evil is obvious. Congress should at once place the control of the public schools in the hands of those who are disposed to be friendly to the public school system. If the Mormon church leaders are determined to oppose these schools by establishing denominational schools, their power and influence should be destroyed so far as the administration of school affairs is concerned, and this can only be done by taking the management and control of these schools out of the hands of its members. The free public schools have justly been regarded as one of the strongest pillars which support our political fabric, and it is a strange perversity which prompts the dominant power in Utah, in this age of enlightenment and progress, to attempt to break it down.

The different denominations had in Utah for the year ending June 30th, 1889, the following schools:

Denominations.	1889.	1888.
Baptist.....	2	3
Catholic.....	6	50
Congregational.....	24	2,490
Methodist.....	32	1,386
Presbyterian.....	6	2,160
Protestant Episcopal.....	3	800
Swedish Lutheran.....	2	75
Total.....	98	7,961
	230	90
		285
		7,442

Of the 2490 scholars enrolled in the Congregational schools, 1035 were the children of Mormon parents; of the 1396 scholars enrolled in the Methodist schools, 291 were the children of Mormon parents.

Bishop Abiel Leonard of the Episcopal church in his report says: "I am persuaded that the religious schools planted in this Territory have done very much to bring about the change in public sentiment as to the bonnden duty which rests upon every true man to uphold the government of the United States, and to compel respect to the laws enacted by the highest legislative authority. The work of our schools is not yet completed, but I believe the day is not distant, especially in the larger towns, when we may feel that our