

"Following this first prayer, and while I was sitting here in my big arm chair, one of the Elders liberally anointed my head with oil—sacred oil—and after that was done they formed a circle around my chair, each one placing his right hand on my head and all placed their left hands on each other's shoulders. I had perfect faith in all that they were doing, and, while each of the four Elders earnestly prayed, I, too, bent my head in reverence and appealed with all the faith at my command to God for deliverance from my affliction.

"Finally they concluded and one of the Elders commanded me to walk. All at once I became possessed of an almost superhuman desire to get up and walk and when I tried to, after my muscles quivered for a brief instant, I raised my left arm and then stood up. I took a step and found I could move my left leg. I took another step and walked out into the kitchen and back. After awhile I made the round trip to the kitchen again and while on the third trip, my left ankle turned slightly and I sat down.

"While I am profusely thankful to the four Elders for the interest that they manifested in my case, I want it distinctly understood that I look to God as my deliverer and not to them."

"When seen by the Signal representative this morning, Mr. Gray was sitting in his big arm chair with his left foot in a bucket of hot water—a household remedy for sprains. To illustrate the extent of his cure the happy gentleman shook hands with the writer, using first his right hand and next his left hand, and the latter member, which for three years had remained dead almost at his side, contained a strong and hearty grip. Many times he raised his left arm above his head and waved it to and fro to illustrate the positive use he had of the member, and while relating the above experience he gesticulated as freely with his left arm as with the right. Many times he lifted the left foot from the water without any apparent effort and accompanied the pleasant movement with a smile almost glorious in its extent and meaning.

"Matthew Gray is a well known citizen of Zanesville. He was born and raised in Muskingum county and he and his good wife have reared a family of ten children, all but one of whom reside in the county. Mrs. Bert Poe, the estimable wife of the foreman of the Times Recorder press room, is a daughter and their four youngest children are attending the city schools.

"Mr. Gray entered the army in 1862 as a member of the New York Reserve artillery, and was later a member of the 159th regiment, O. V. I. In 1864 he was honorably discharged from the regiment and entered the navy, remaining there a year. In 1866 he was married to Miss Sarah Straub of this city, who is yet a helpmate and who has cared faithfully for him during his three years of affliction."

MINISTER TO SWEDEN AND NORWAY

The appointment of Hon. William W. Thomas as minister to Sweden and Norway will be much appreciated at the court in Stockholm. He is one of the few representatives of the United States in the country who have thought it worth while learning the language of the people and studying their peculiarities. He has previous experience in the diplomatic service, having filled the place of U. S. minister to the Scandinavian countries during President Harrison's administration. He is a personal friend of King Oscar and very popular in Stockholm, in fact one of the best known members of the entire

diplomatic corps. His appointment will be satisfactory to the court and the people alike.

By the appointment of Mr. Thomas as U. S. minister to the united kingdoms of the north, the present incumbent, Mr. Ferguson, is released from his responsible position.

NEW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

Next Thursday the new school board will enter upon the control of the school system of this city. It is a fine system, one that every citizen of Utah's capital is proud of, and desires to see maintained at a high standard. No deterioration nor retrogression in it will be tolerated.

But the campaign which resulted in the election of the new school board developed one thing with emphatic plainness, namely, the fixed determination of the taxpayers to insist on economy in the expenditures of public funds. Desance of public sentiment in this regard will be followed by manifestations of the resentment of the people. This is the last year they will bear with patience the burdens of taxation they are carrying.

The significance of all this to the new school administration is that while necessities must be provided, luxuries must be dispensed with. There must be no fancy trimmings affixed to the school system, no fancy prices paid for anything connected with it, nor must salaries be fixed at fancy figures. All accessories not actually indispensable must be omitted, and all expenditures must be cut to the lowest possible figure that will secure good quality in the thing paid for.

There are rumors about town of prospective friction in the school board on account of differences of religion and politics. Let the public once perceive that friction resulting from any such cause has been suffered to develop in the board, and the confidence of the people in that body is a minus quantity. More imperative even than the obligation to be economical in the expenditure of public money, if that were possible, is the other duty resting upon the board to exclude from its acts, labors and deliberations every vestige of political and religious bias. The schools must be kept out of politics, and religious bias must be kept out of the schools, including the board.

The doctrine that public works should be constructed by days' labor instead of by contract is fast becoming a prominent issue in the economics and politics of many states in the Union. It is a doctrine that has peculiar claims upon the careful and thorough consideration of the school board, for the reason, among others, that the annual increase of the school population of this city is so great as to necessitate the expenditure of a large sum each year in school buildings.

In 1897 there were about 11,000 more school children than in 1896, and an even larger increase may be expected next year, and the next, and so on. A school building that will accommodate 11,000 pupils will cost, including the site, about \$50,000, and the board must figure on spending at least this amount each year for this purpose. Whether it will be put into one or more structures is a matter for the board to decide.

Inasmuch as so large an amount of building must be done every year, would it not be a good plan for the board to employ its own supervising architect, foremen and workmen, do its own purchasing of material, and dispense with contractors and middlemen entirely? The poor workmanship and large profits of the contractor, which often are incidental to the contract system, would be avoided; and if the employees of the board were faithful

and honest, the school would get the most and best for the money expended.

But there is a question whether incorruptible honesty and the highest ability could always be secured in a supervising architect, and in agents purchasing materials; and there is the further question whether as much work could be gotten out of workmen if they were employed by an agent of the board, as contractors get out of them. But one of the ablest financiers Utah ever produced, who did a great deal of building, did almost all of it by the days' work system. He employed a competent firm of builders, in whom he had perfect confidence, to employ and supervise the workmen, and he drew his own checks for the payroll.

The "News" takes no definite stand on this question, but is of opinion that the school board should look carefully into it.

PROFITABLE LOSSES.

Before the "News" will again be permitted to communicate with its readers, this city will lose two important appendages, the expiring City Council and the permanently defunct fire and police board. There are many persons, probably, who will object to the application of the adjective "important" to either of these bodies, and we hasten to explain that the word is here used in reference to their functions only.

The everlasting scrapping, the patience-trying procrastination, the wire-pulling, the business incompetency, the reckless disregard of the people's rights as in the Warm Springs matter, not to mention the blatant drunkenness and maudlin buffoonery, that have characterized and disgraced the methods and sessions of the City Council, make its record disgusting and its death with the dying year a happy relief for all citizens who feel any pride in the character, or interest in the welfare of the city.

There are members of the body who are highminded, honorable and dignified; whose patriotism and honesty are genuine, and who are temperate, able and sober; but the opposite element has been strong enough to impart to the body as a whole an unenviable reputation. The reports given by the daily press of the City Council's proceedings sufficiently indicate where the dividing line falls among its members.

As to the fire and police board, it has so long and so flagrantly defied both the spirit and the letter of the law that created it as to make itself an insufferable nuisance. Recently it has added to its character as such the further attribute of absurd and incredible imbecility. That is, the proceedings of some of its members have been of this nature. Spite, bigotry, incompetency and a total disregard of public as distinguished from personal interests and ends have so long and so far characterized the doings of this delectable institution that the general public will rejoice to forget that such a disturber of its peace and such an infliction upon its patience ever existed.

Under the administration of a Mayor who was elected by a non-partisan vote, and consequently has at his disposal, as appointees to office, the best men in all the parties, and who will control appointments in the fire and police departments, the people of this city may confidently anticipate relief from many of the ills they have endured during the past two years, to go no further back. This confidence is further justified by the high class of men who will comprise a strong majority of the new City Council.

All things earthly, the evil as well as the good, have an end; and one of