

classes, if they put their minds to the work; and it is for them to say what the trend of the nation shall be in its immediate future. They cannot be too deeply impressed with their responsibility in the premises; but it is far from advisable to drop into pessimistic rhaps. The national need is more active work for righteousness, with every prospect that if the work is done the labor will not be in vain.

### DR. TEED'S INFERNO.

The Chicago Record says Dr. Teed of Chicago is likely to become a rival in fame of the African Copernicus, who asserted that "the sun do move," by a new cosmogony, according to which the earth is an eggshell of about 100 miles in thickness, and that we are living on the inside of it, instead, as generally supposed, on the outside. A theory so absurd would not be worth even a casual reference, were it not for the fact that it demonstrates how easily the human mind can stray from the paths of truth, even when all the aids of education are within our reach.

Mr. Teed's eggshell theory is not new. The quaint German writer of the eighteenth century, Jung Stilling, firmly believed that the earth is an immense balloon, habitable on the inside as well as on the outside, and that continents and oceans and islands and rivers would be found in the interior. He thought the center might consist of a large, luminous ball, probably gaseous, from which the inner surface derived light and heat. And he firmly believed that this subterranean world was peopled by departed souls who had wasted their lives on earth in transgression. There, he conceived, was the dominion of the fallen angel, the Hades of the ancients. Dr. Teed, it seems, reverses Jung Stilling's idea and proclaims that the earth we know is really the interior of the shell, Hades. Whether he draws further obvious conclusions relative to the human race does not appear from the reports at hand, but it would seem to follow that we all are in a pretty bad place.

It remains to be seen whether the Chicago doctor will be able to gather any adherents to his new theory, and then what bearing it will have upon the theological questions of the day, before he will be considered ripe for a lunatic asylum.

### THIRTY YEARS TODAY.

Thirty years ago today, December 1, 1866, the Deseret Telegraph line was opened between Salt Lake City and Ogden. Five years previous the overland telegraph had reached Salt Lake City, and the first message carried eastward conveyed the announcement, by President Brigham Young, of Utah's fealty to the Constitution and laws of the Union; while a dispatch from President Lincoln to Acting Governor Fuller declared that "the completion of the telegraph to Great Salt Lake City is auspicious of the stability and union of the Republic." The force of such statements is readily comprehended

when it is remembered that at that time the nation was in the throes of the great civil war.

When the overland telegraph crossed Utah from east to west, President Young conceived the idea of connecting the settlements in these valleys by a line from north to south. At that time the enterprise was a stupendous one. There was no heavy combination of wealth to draw upon; but the President proceeded with characteristic vigor to carry out his plan. The people responded to the missionary call, and by the first day of December, 1866, the wires were strung on the poles between this city and Ogden. The first message was from President Young (the telegraph operators being John O. Clowes at Salt Lake and Joseph A. West at Ogden), and read as follows:

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, Utah Terr.,  
December 1st, 1866.

To President Lorin Farr, and Bishop Chauncey W. West, Ogden, and the Saints in the northern country who gave up freely when called upon,  
Greeting:

In my heart I dedicate the line which is now completed, and being completed, to the Lord God of Israel, whom we serve, and for the building up of His kingdom, praying that this and all other improvements may contribute to our benefit and the glory of God, until we can waft ourselves by the power of the Almighty from world to world to our fullest satisfaction.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

This is the response that came from Ogden:

OGDEN, Utah, December 1, 1866.

To President Brigham Young:

From our hearts we say "Amen!" to the dedication which you have just uttered, and we congratulate you as the great mover of this enterprise, on its successful accomplishment thus far, considering it as one of the great helps in the building up of the kingdom of God. We trust that not only will the Saints who have contributed to this great work continue their efforts, but others will also assist in developing other improvements for the benefit of God's work. May you live long to comfort the Saints and by their integrity be comforted.

LORIN FARR,  
CHAUNCEY W. WEST.

In that December there was a rapid extension of the line north and south; on December 8th communication was opened with Logan, and on the 28th with Manti; two weeks later St. George was reached, and the Territory was spanned from north to south by 500 miles of telegraph line at a cost of about \$150 per mile. Most of the early operators had been called on missions to learn the business; and one of those who early became proficient was Wm. B. Dougall, the present superintendent of the line. Of the incorporators and first officers only three are now living: Alonzo H. Raleigh, a director, George Q. Cannon, treasurer, and A. Milton Musser, superintendent. Following is a list of the pioneer operators on the line:

Joseph Goddard, at Logan; Peter F. Madsen, Brigham City; David E. Davis, Ogden; Morris Wilkinson, Salt Lake; Joseph A. West, Provo; John D. Stark, Payson; Wm. C. A. Bryan, Nephi; Zenos Pratt, Solpico; Richard S. Horne, Fill-

more; Clarence Merrill, Cove Creek; S. A. Kenner, Beaver; George A. Peart, Kanarra; George H. Tribe, Toquerville; A. R. Whitehead, Washington; Robert C. Lund, St. George; Knud Torgerson, Moroni; Anthon H. Lund, Mt. Pleasant; Wm. B. Dougall, Parowan; and John H. Hougard, Manti.

In a short time after, the line was extended into Nevada and Idaho; and it soon became an indispensable motor in the business of the Intermountain region. It was one of those investments which was not made for a money-getting purpose, but was maintained at a financial expense, the return for the outlay for its construction being in the general enhancement it gave to the people's interests, in which it has ever since played an unobtrusive but very important part.

### THE INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

The secretary of the interior at last has got around, in his forthcoming report on the Uintah and Uncompaghe Indian reservations in this State, to the fact, pointed out in the News at the time the law was enacted, that there was a discrepancy between the terms of the government treaty with the Indians and the provisions of the statute under which the reservations were to be opened. This will require further legislation; and while it is possible that the combined effort of the Utah delegation in Congress could get a satisfactory measure passed, even then another year must pass before there can be any opening of these reservations. Hence those desirous of settling on the reservations will have to content themselves with awaiting future developments, so far as 1897 is concerned.

### CONCERNING VOTING AT ELECTIONS

There has been said a great deal about the Utah election laws, and some effort has been made to show that they are invalid. This latter contention, however, does not seem to be well founded, so far as concerns any point yet raised, therefore attempt at agitating the public mind have failed. The election for this year is past, the people are satisfied that the result aimed at by the majority of the electors has been duly attained, and they do not desire any revolutionary movement to set aside the will so expressed. As to any weakness there may be in the statutes—and there are some of importance as shown by the school election affair—there is a general feeling to leave the coming Legislature to remedy it in regular form.

Apropos of these discussions, however, there is still another item in connection with the State election laws. Recently California passed a constitutional amendment permitting the use of voting machines at elections in that state. There is no need for such amendment here, for the Constitution already makes the necessary provision; and if the Legislature should conclude that the machine system were so far perfected as to be easily handled, and were more satisfactory than the present