

Miss Aggie Herrick read an excellent essay on the causes of the growth and decline of personal influence in Sunday school work.

Supt. Ballantyne then gave his reports and stated that there were twenty-seven Sunday schools in the Stake with over 5,000 pupils and 550 teachers. He said that some of the teachers have an aversion to study and do not prepare their lessons. We need more educated teachers and he appealed to the presidency of the Stake and the Desert Sunday School Union board for the privilege of opening a department in the Ogden Stake academy for the instruction of Sunday school workers. We should have at least 100 students this winter taking lessons in theology, in the theory and art of teaching and in music.

Wm. Kerr, graduate, read an excellent essay, showing the necessity of preparation for class work.

President George Q. Cannon gave much instruction in regard to the importance of good habits, and that children should be so taught to value the Gospel and their standing in the Church that they would be willing to die for it. It were better they should die than lose their standing. He said he felt that there was carelessness among the people—children should be kept out of the way of temptation; teach them earnestly to do right and the impressions made will continue with them all through life; never teach the children to drink tea or coffee, or allow them to use tobacco. He felt that God would not much longer bear with our trifling and follies, and that we would have to suffer the consequences of His displeasure unless we repent.

Singing by the choir, and benediction by Superintendent Ballantyne.

A Teachers' meeting was held immediately after the meeting was closed, when much precious instruction was given by President Cannon, who dwelt chiefly upon the terrible consequences of secret sins, and said this evil was far too prevalent and must be met.

Thus ended one of the best conferences ever held in Weber Stake.

WILLIAM KERR,
Secretary pro tem.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

CHICAGO, Nov. 12.—The United States government report on the great railroad strike in connection with the Pullman trouble was made public today. The report, which is signed by Federal Labor Commissioner Carroll D. Wright and his fellow investigators, John D. Kernan of New York and Nicholas B. Worthington of Illinois, is addressed to President Cleveland and abounds in passages that will attract wide attention, particularly the portion referring to the now famous General Managers' association, the organization of high railway officials that encompassed the memorable defeat of the American Railway Union.

The report says the capitalization of the twenty-four railroads directly represented in the General Managers' association was \$2,103,552,617. The commission continues:

"This voluntary unincorporated

association was formed in 1886. In its constitution the object of the association is stated to be, 'the consideration of problems of management arising from the operation of the railroads terminating or centering at Chicago.'

"Until June, 1894, the association's possibilities as a strike-fighter and wage-arbitrator lay dormant. Its roads fixed a 'Chicagoscale' for switchmen, covering all lines at Chicago. In March, 1893, the switchmen demanded more pay from each road. The association concluded they were paid enough—if anything too much. The roads so informed the men.

"This seems to show," the report says, "that employees upon association roads are treated as under subjection to the General Managers' association," and the report after detailing the action of the association in establishing agencies and employing men adds:

"This was the first time when men upon each side were brought sharply face to face with the fact that in questions as to wages, rules, etc., each line was supported by twenty-four combined railroads."

The association is an illustration of a persistent and shrewdly disguised plan of corporations to overreach their limitations and to usurp indirectly powers and rights not contemplated in their charters and not obtainable from the people or their legislatures. An extension of this association as above suggested and the proposed legalization of 'pooling' would result in an aggregation of power and capital dangerous to the people and their liberties as well as to their employees and rights.

The question would then certainly arise as to which shall control, the government or the railroads, and the end would inevitably be government ownership. Unless the country is ready for that result and all that it implies, the government must restrain corporations within their law, and prevent them from forming unlawful and dangerous combinations.

THE TOWN OF PULLMAN.

Speaking of the town of Pullman, of which, the report says, the company is owner and landlord, the commission says:

"The principal church and its parsonage are very attractive structures, but often are not occupied, because the rental acquired is higher than any church society is willing to pay to obtain the gospel privileges to be thereby secured. In the arcade is a tasteful library of books, carefully selected and cared for by the company. Three dollars per year is charged for its use, and as many as 150 persons a year out of 4,000 to 5,000 employees and residents have, at times, as employed by the librarian in charge, availed themselves of its opportunities.

"The company pays a physician and surgeon by the year to furnish to injured employees necessary treatment and drugs. It is, however, also a part of his employment to secure from the injured party a written statement as to the cause of injury, and it is his custom to urge the acceptance of any offered settlement. If suit follows, the doctor is usually a witness for the company.

When the depression of 1893 came, morally calling for mutual concessions as to wages, rents, etc., we find on the

one side a very wealthy and unyielding corporation, and upon the other a multitude of employees of comparatively excellent character and skill, but without local attachments or any interested responsibility in the town, its business tenements or surroundings. The conditions created at Pullman enable the management at all times to assert with great vigor its assumed right to fix wages and rent, absolutely, and to repress that sort of independence, which leads to labor organizations, and their attempts at mediation, arbitration of strikes, etc. On the other hand, it is an economic principle generally recognized that the shutting down of such a plant and the scattering of its forces usually results in a greater loss than that exhibited by the continuance of business. The Pullman company could hardly shut down for seven and a half months at a cost and loss of less than one per cent upon its capital and surplus. To continue running was for its obvious and unfair advantage so long as it could divide losses equally with its labor. The men at Pullman claim that the company during 1893 and 1894 set the pay through experts, so that, with their forced loss of time, an average man could earn little more than the rent of his house, owned by the company. The company alleges that it simply readjusted the prices of piece work to suit the necessities of the times. Some witnesses swear that at times for the work done in two weeks they received in checks from four cents to \$1 over and above the rent. The company has not produced its checks in rebuttal.

"The company's claim that the workmen need not hire its tenements and can live elsewhere if they choose, is not entirely tenable. The fear of losing work keeps them in Pullman as long as there are tenements unoccupied, because the company is supposed, as a matter of business, to give preference to its tenants when work is slack."

As to the great railroad strike proper the report says:

It is apparent that the readiness to strike sympathetically was promoted by the disturbed and apprehensive condition of railroad employees, resulting from wage reductions on different lines, blacklisting, etc., and from the recent growth of the General Managers' association, which seemed to them a menace.

Further on the report says:

It is seriously questioned, and with much force, whether courts have jurisdiction to enjoin citizens from "persuading" each other in industrial or other matters of common interest. However, it is generally recognized among good citizens that a mandate of a court is to be obeyed until it is modified and corrected by the court that issued it.

The report declares the arrival of troops at Chicago was opportune, and says that policemen sympathized with the strikers rather than with the corporations cannot be doubted, nor would it be surprising to find the sentiment rife among the militia.

From the testimony it is fair to conclude that strikers were concerned in the outrage against law and order, although the number was undoubtedly small as compared with the whole number out.