

Sunday schools is marked. During the period mentioned there were slight losses in Ireland, Spain and Portugal, and more marked gains in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, Russia, Finland, Austria, Sweden and Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece and Turkey in Europe. Schools are also reported as growing rapidly in China, Japan and India.

Readers of the NEWS will remember that at the recent Deseret Sunday School Union meeting in this city, statistics were presented showing that over 83,000 persons were enlisted as pupils and teachers in the great Sunday school cause among the Latter-day Saints—a number which, in proportion to the Church membership, will be found without an equal in any religious body or in any country in the world.

UTAH AND IRRIGATION.

The *Irrigation Age* for May might almost be called a Utah number, in view of the many articles in its pages written by Utah men and the many allusions to Utah methods and means of reclaiming sterile soil by industry as applied in irrigation. On one of the early pages a map is presented showing the "striking comparison between the promised land of Canaan and the Salt Lake Valley," which, the *Age* says, "strikingly exhibits the topographical similarity between the Promised Land of the Bible times and the Promised Land to which Brigham Young led the Mormon Pioneers of 1847. In both localities a River Jordan connects a body of fresh water with a Dead Sea, and the surrounding mountain landscape is almost the same in both cases. How much this strange likeness may have appealed to the imagination of Latter-day Saints it is not easy to say, but it is by no means difficult to understand how even a sentiment might take very firm hold of a people's mind, especially a people having just such an historical environment as the Mormons."

On another page are portraits of President Woodruff and Bishop Thomas R. Cutler, the latter being referred to as manager of the Lehi sugar factory, in a lengthy article discussing the question of irrigated sugar beets. Of the former gentleman, the *Age* says: "We present the portrait of the memorable Willford Woodruff, who in his eighty-fifth [eighty-eighth] year is still the active head of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has lived nearly fifty years of his life on a twenty-acre irrigated farm and his experience has fully illustrated the soundness of Brigham Young's industrial policy alluded to elsewhere in this issue of the *Age*."

The article thus referred to is headed, "Brigham Young's successful policy," and this is how the policy is treated:

Against the folly and error of the one-crop country, east and west, there is one bright example of success through diversified production which cannot be too often recalled. It is the example of the builders of Utah. They went to that beautiful land a little less than fifty years ago as a band of fugitives. They were cut off by high mountain ranges and great distances, then untraversed by the iron horse, from civilization. They had

no assets, save the brain of a masterful leader of men. Whatever may be thought of the religious doctrines then sincerely held and practiced by the Mormon people, Brigham Young was a very great man. He was animated by the spirit of the empire-builder. In all-round practical sense and capacity to do a great many things well, he much resembled Benjamin Franklin. Finding himself in what appeared to be a hopeless desert, he formulated an industrial system to which he adhered to the day of his death. So perfectly was he able to enforce it that every Mormon farmer and artisan labored with the brain of Brigham Young. He said the farm unit should be twenty acres. He said each family should produce first of all what it consumed and then a surplus exchangeable for some other form of property. The surrounding mountains were bursting with mineral wealth, but he said it should lie there untouched, because of all things he abhorred the spirit of speculation. He had founded his state upon industrialism. The world knows the result. Each farm of twenty acres supported its owner, and in a very few years the people became absolutely free in an industrial sense. Not only did the system produce enough to satisfy all the wants of the people, but it produced a surplus capital for banks, factories and stores. Not only that, but a surplus of many millions for temples and missionaries. There are no Mormon recruits in the "industrial army" of today, and there never will be.

In addition to these references there is discussion of a speech delivered before the late Legislature of Utah by Col. Chas. G. Stevenson, the well known engineer of this city (with portrait); the announcement that the declaration by ex-Gov. A. L. Thomas of the position of Utah membership on the national committee of irrigation has led to the selection of Mr. Wm. H. Rowe for the place; excellent papers on "Experimental Farming in Utah," by Pres. J. W. Sanborn, of the Agricultural College; on "Simple Earthen Dams," by Mr. Samuel Fortler, the well-known engineer of Ogden; and on "Tree Irrigation and Spraying," by J. C. Lemon, a successful farmer and fruit-grower of Ferron, Utah.

LET US REASON TOGETHER.

These men who have banded together for the purpose of petitioning Congress for certain legislation have done so, they say, with the object of obtaining work. They are unemployed and hope by legislative enactments to create a condition of industrial prosperity that will benefit the working men all over the country. They believe that the government is at fault, and propose, by imposing numbers, to enforce their views and effect a change.

In the blind enthusiasm prevailing among the "industrials," fed by the frequent harangues of their leaders, the chances for a calm consideration of the proposition are, we fear, but slim; yet it would seem unkind not to endeavor to point out some of the fallacies that underlie the whole movement.

In the first place, it is a matter of doubt, to say the least, whether Congress has it in its power to provide work for a portion of the country's unemployed, virtually at the expense of the rest of the people. If the gov-

ernment should engage a number of unemployed, establishing industries of various kinds, the result would most likely be the depression of the various private industries, crippled by a competition of gigantic proportions. There would soon be more unemployed to provide for and the number would increase until the government at last would be converted into a vast employment agency. The effect has been left in places where convict labor has been employed in competition with free labor. To rush to Washington, then, with demand for work at the hands of the government is at the very best to seek a remedy in shifting the burden from one shoulder to another, were the petition acted upon favorably—if this is the petition—since people would be given work at the expense of depriving others of their daily bread.

In this country legislation is supposed to facilitate and regulate and aid individuals in creating and enjoying means of subsistence. Those who are out of employment are supposed to utilize the vast resources of the country and become self-supporting by their own industry, skill and ingenuity. A free country in which every citizen is a sovereign means the universal recognition of this principle. It is the foundation and chief cornerstone on which it is established and maintained. It follows that when men turn to the government for paternal legislation, they virtually abandon this foundation of liberty and inaugurate a regime foreign to our institutions. In the present movement, therefore, the germ of a revolution can plainly be discerned, inasmuch as it is proposed to substitute for the existing individualistic conditions one of socialism. It is plain talk but nevertheless true, that the followers of Coxey and the other "generals" are revolutionists in their poor way, for they have engaged in the business of directing the affairs of the country by means unknown to the Constitution and the laws founded thereon.

In the next place, the course they pursue is entirely contrary to their own interests, provided their object is to obtain work and a living. No corporations have provided more labor for the unemployed than the railroad companies, both direct and indirect. Vast armies of workmen have found profitable employment in constructing the lines, building the rolling stock, operating the roads, etc. Through these iron highways vast tracts of land have been made valuable for cultivation and the products of the mines had not been available except for the railroads. On these the material prosperity of this country depends to a large extent. And yet these "armies," pretending to petition the country for work, go about interfering with trains, stealing expensive engines, threatening to tear up tracks and causing the lawful owners of the property irreparable loss in various ways. Can anybody for a moment imagine that either the government or private corporations under the circumstances will invest in railroads, extending or building new lines for the sake of developing new regions and finding new resources? It should be evident to the dullest brain that the