

ordered stomach has afflicted with nightmare and spooke.

### GIVE THEM RELIEF.

Utah always has been ready to bring comfort to the afflicted and relief to the needy. Calls from the outside have been responded to promptly and generously, and those from nearer home have not passed by unheeded. Therefore it is with confidence that the rule will be followed in the present instance that the NEWS raises its voice in behalf of the sufferers by the awful disaster at Almy, Wyoming. The bereaved families of the victims are in sore need of material assistance. They are women and children. Their husbands and fathers have been torn from them by a terrible calamity, and an indescribable grief rests heavily upon them, which even words of consolation and sympathy cannot assuage. Human solace cannot fill up the deep yearning for the loved ones called away, and it must be left for the Divine power to bestow that spirit of resignation and the consolation of faith and hope with which to bear up under the great bereavement. But there is another fact to consider. The men who went down to death in the coal mine horror were workmen; they were poor men; their families were without means of subsistence except such as came through the toil of the hands that now rest in the silent tomb. The situation of the bereaved families calls upon the noble and generous hearted people of Utah to respond with promptness and liberality, and furnish the material assistance so necessary.

We feel that this call will not be made in vain. The members of the Constitutional Convention yesterday took a step in the noble work. The people of Wyoming have been called upon, and are adding their share. In another column of the NEWS is a further movement started by Bishop John R. Winder. Utah people are closely bound to the afflicted ones by ties of kinship and brotherhood, and should not delay in giving the required relief. As yet no committee has been appointed to take the matter in hand, but the action of Bishop Winder suggests that President L. S. Hills of the Deseret National bank is a person eminently suited to discharge the trust in connection with Hon. W. W. Cluff and such others as may be named. Let the funds be forthcoming, and their equitable distribution to the proper persons will be attended to.

### TOBACCO-USING.

In the EVENING NEWS of Tuesday, March 26, was a brief communication from President Joseph F. Smith, which should receive the prompt and special consideration of every member of the Church, not alone for the special occasion which called it forth, but also for the general persistent, and successful application of the rule it promulgates. Reference is made to the pernicious tobacco habit, which is such a powerful factor in rapping the vitality and destroying the morality of the

present generation, and there is an appeal to those interested in the welfare of the youth especially to make an effective remonstrance against the evil. The fact that efforts to bring the noxious weed to the particularly favorable notice of young men and boys are being made by those in this community who should know better affords no justification for passing the procedure by uncondemned; it rather presents strong reason for administering a justly merited rebuke, that injury may be prevented, and possibly a reform be instituted in the conduct of those who, unwittingly or otherwise, may be engaged in encouraging that which has been aptly styled a menace to morals.

In referring to the matter, we are not indulging in any special criticism of those manufacturers whose extra effort to get their wares before the people has been the subject of much curiosity and comment of late. That is in the line of their business and to their mercenary advantage; hence to point out any ill effects of their action would be a waste of time and words. Their object is money-making, to the exclusion of any consideration of moral or physical results to others. At the same time it is the duty of all those interested in the moral, intellectual and physical development of the community, whether as parents, teachers or preachers, to resist this advance and to take prompt and vigorous steps to avert the evil which threatens.

So far as the attitude of the Church upon this subject is concerned, no one need have any doubt. The emphatic declarations and pointed exhortations of the Church authorities regarding the Word of Wisdom, which have occupied such prominent place in the instructions at Stake and general conferences, and in religious meetings generally, are conclusive evidence as to the course which is desirable for Church members to pursue. Under the power of the Spirit, the servants of the Lord have declared His will as set forth by revelation and counsel to the Saints, and have indicated the divine condemnation that will follow the rejection of that counsel. It may be said, therefore, in this connection, that the tobacco-user, or the violator of the Word of Wisdom, who may have membership in the Church, are not in full harmony with its doctrines or its authorities, and to that extent are deficient in enjoying its full fellowship. They are responsible for their own attitude in this regard, which comes through a willful and unnecessary breach of the law of Church discipline.

Regarding the particular subject which comes up at the present time, there should be public antagonism to it because of the obvious injury it inflicts. The aim is to encourage cigarette-smoking among boys, thus making the movement specially objectionable from a physiological point of view. Whatever ill attend the tobacco habit in men, they are more numerous and more aggravated in those who have not reached maturity. The many diseases of the heart, throat, eyes, lungs, and other portions of the human body, caused by the use of tobacco, find a vastly larger field for

operation in the growing frame of the young than in the fully matured tabernacle. The heart, the lungs, the eye, and all the muscles, bones and nerves are in the process of developing, in which condition they are specially susceptible to injuries that work permanent deformity. The heart-valve whose growth is stopped by the paralyzing effect of the narcotic never attains its full size, and consequently the heart troubles—so common among young men, and a principal cause of their rejection in callings requiring perfect physical health—brought in that way are incurable and lead to a life of debilitation and to premature death. The same remark may apply to the injury inflicted by tobacco on other organs.

The moral and intellectual effects among the young are not less noticeable than the physical. The brain of the cigarette smoker always is benumbed to a greater or less extent beyond that of one who is clear of the drug, and his intellectual advancement is consequently impeded. That his moral senses also are dulled is given evidence of every day by the discourteous manner in which tobacco-users afflict and annoy others with the nauseating stench that arises from their clothing and bodies—more objectionable in refined company than the odor of onions and asafetida, but borne with more because the offenders do not seem capable of comprehending their rudeness; and further by the fact that criminal statistics show even a greater proportion of tobacco users than of whisky consumers, and that the crimes indicate greater moral demerit.

In scientific data alone there is ample reason for public educators directing their strong endeavors against the cigarette habit—so ample that in several states prohibitory laws have been enacted against it. The bare suggestion of a prohibitory law in Utah would be unnecessary if in homes, schools and churches the young were brought to realize the ill which science has demonstrated follow the tobacco habit.

Turning again to the position which the Latter-day Saints occupy under the revelations of the Lord and the instructions of His servants, there is no father or mother in Israel who can neglect to take up the contest against this evil and be guiltless; there is no officer from the Deacon up who can afford to condone it or indulge in the habit. Their example, and consequently their most practical teaching, should be firmly opposed to it. As circumstances exist today, it is a shame that so many members of the Church are addicted to the habit; it is an outrage on the youth that so many of them are dragged into slavery to the evil by the example of those who should guide them in the other direction; it is a disgrace to many who bear responsible positions that they exhibit in their conduct a contempt for the word of the Almighty in this matter. Sometimes this class includes Bishops, Teachers, leading officers in Sabbath schools, Mutual Improvement and Primary associations, etc., to their lasting shame and disgrace. How long shall such a state of things be permitted