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Sunday Schools in Utah.
by
George G. Cannon.

Salt Lake City.
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Sunday Schools in Utah

Our Sunday Schools date back to the year 1849, being two years after the pioneers' entrance into this valley.

The Superintendent of the first school was Richard Ballantyne, and held in the 4th Ward of Salt Lake City, 1849. From that time they continued gradually to increase, as fast as circumstances permitted, until the year 1864; when, under the direction of our late President Brigham Young the following organization was effected, under the ^{title of} "The Parent Sunday School Union Society". The following officers were elected:

George D. Cannon, President

Edward S. Sloan, Secretary

George Goddard and

Robert S. Campbell } Corresponding Secretaries

Brigham Young, Jun. }

Albert Carrington } Committee on Libraries

George Albert Smith }

And the first Territorial Statistical report ever published was in 1872, and shows the following from twenty Counties: - 149 Schools, 677 male teachers, 420 female teachers - total 1,108; 5263 male pupils, 6550 female pupils - total 11,813; total number of teachers and pupils 13,921; 118 Bible classes; 330 Testament classes, 28 Theological classes, 129 Book of Mormon classes, 52 Doctrine and Covenant classes, 203 Second Reader classes, 202 First Reader classes, 206 Alphabet classes, 52 Juvenile Instructor classes, 72 Miscellaneous classes - total number of classes 1394. Books in Library 8,645.

We continued to receive additional reports each succeeding year, which showed a steady increase in the number of schools, teachers and children. The last Yearly Report was for the year 1879, which shows the growth of the institution during the past seven years. From twenty-one Counties there were reported 265 Schools; 2,956 male officers and teachers; 2,042 female officers and teachers - 4,998 total officers and teachers; 15,215 male pupils;

15,542 female pupils - 30,757 total number of pupils; - 35,755 total number of officers teachers and pupils, 133 Theological classes; 991 Bible and Testament classes; 361 Book of Mormon classes; 159 Doctrine and Covenant classes, 213 Juvenile Instructor classes; 107 Catechism classes; 1,316 Miscellaneous classes; - 3,360 total number of classes, 17,908 books in Library; \$5,742,75 Amount of funds collected.

In comparing the two reports it will be seen that during the past seven years, the Sunday school interest had grown nearly 300 per cent., which shows a very gratifying result.

Another pleasing growth is equally observable, namely, Singing, which forms a very attractive feature in our schools, and this may be mostly attributable to the introduction of organs - hundreds of them being scattered throughout the Territory. I also enclose a letter for your perusal containing a full account of our Sunday school system.

Yours truly, J. L. Cannon