

MORMONS IN POLITICS.

HOW THEY RULE IDAHO.

Senator Smoot Took Part in Election of a Polygamist Apostle.

Washington, Dec. 17.—More important testimony was brought out to-day in the investigation of protests against Senator Reed Smoot than at any previous time in the present session of Congress. The witnesses were Charles H. Jackson, chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Idaho; John Nicholson, chief recorder in the Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City; Charles W. Penrose, Editor of "The Deseret News"; and an apostle of the Mormon Church; William Budge, president of the Bear Lake Stake, in Idaho, and Apostle John Henry Smith, of Salt Lake. Mr. Penrose was elected an apostle last July, and the attorneys for Senator Smoot admitted that the Senator was present and took part in the election of Penrose. Mr. Penrose testified that he is a polygamist, and was known to have been such at the time he was made an apostle. The testimony of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Budge related to political affairs in Idaho, the former being a prominent anti-Mormon, and the latter as active in protecting the interests of the Church. The examination of Apostle John Henry Smith had not been finished when the committee adjourned.

When the investigation was resumed to-day Mr. Jackson was again called to the stand. He is the witness who testified yesterday in regard to Mormon interference in political affairs. The examination followed similar lines to-day. As an illustration of the local Church issue in the last election, Mr. Jackson said the vote for Gooding, Republican candidate for Governor, ran behind the vote for Roosevelt in Gentile counties and ahead of Roosevelt in the Mormon counties, while the vote for Helfeld, Democratic candidate for Governor, ran ahead of Parker in the Gentile counties and behind Parker in the Mormon counties. The influence of the Mormons was shown, he said, by the fact that the Democrats and independents were unable to get chairmen of political meetings held in Mormon counties without the aid of Mormons.

TOLD PEOPLE OF "REVELATIONS." On cross-examination Mr. Jackson said that Apostles Matthias Crowley and John Henry Smith were among those who went into Idaho and told the people that there had been a revelation that they should vote the Republican ticket. Questioned by Mr. Van Cott, representing Senator Smoot, the witness said he never had heard of these apostles declaring that there had been such revelations; that it had always been taken for granted there had been a revelation when a Mormon apostle appeared in Idaho, to direct political affairs. Cross-examination drew from the witness the statement that he knew only from general reports of these affairs and that his evidence yesterday concerning sugar legislation and counties was based on the same information. He asserted, however, that it was well known that the Mormons asked the legislature to pass the Sugar Bounty law, and wanted it for the reason that sugar manufacture had been hailed as a Mormon institution in Idaho, and the Mormons get everything they ask in Idaho, whether it is a Republican or Democratic legislature, he concluded.

Mr. Van Cott produced a table of the election returns in Idaho in 1904, and attempted to prove that if the vote for Governor in the six Mormon counties had been thrown out Gooding, the Republican candidate, would still have received a plurality of more than 2,000. Mr. Jackson combated this statement by calling attention to the fact that in practically all the Gentile counties there are Mormon settlements which voted for Mr. Gooding. The witness said he did not know whether Mr. Gooding was a Mormon; that he had heard as many people say he was as that he was not.

Mr. Van Cott brought out the fact that there was about 20,000 Mormon votes out of a total of 60,000 votes in the State. He asked the witness if it was not true that although the Gentiles were in a large majority, and that the Democrats put an anti-Mormon plank in their platform and the Republicans carried the State by a very large majority.

"That is a bald fact," responded the witness, but he added that the inference drawn by the attorney from the question was not justified.

Mr. Jackson contended that there were "Jack-Mormons" or Gentiles who are Mormon in political affairs, who are able to control elections.

An effort was made by Mr. Van Cott to show that the Mormon delegates in the last Democratic State convention had agreed to vote for an anti-polygamy resolution if the crime of adultery were included also. Mr. Jackson declared that the reverse was true; that in fact the Mormon delegates defeated the resolution. Mr. Jackson, in answer to questions by Chairman Burrows, told of the passage of a resolution by the Idaho Legislature calling a constitutional convention. He said the resolution created no committee, and, in fact, its purpose was ignored until Senator Dubois wrote a letter calling attention to the fact that such a convention could repeal the Idaho tests against polygamy. Mr. Jackson said the resolution had been put through the legislature on the advice of Apostle John Henry Smith.

Asked why the resolution was not submitted to the people, Mr. Jackson said the Attorney General gave an opinion declaring that the resolution was improperly passed, and the Secretary of State refused to certify the resolution to be placed on the ballot.

Mr. Van Cott asked if the Attorney General who rendered the opinion was not and is not now a Mormon, to which the witness replied in the affirmative. Mr. Van Cott brought out the fact that there were only nine Mormons in the legislature which passed the resolution calling for a constitutional convention, but Mr. Jackson added that members from counties where the Mormons held the balance of power were under Mormon influence.

WOULD NOT PRODUCE RECORDS. John Nicholson, chief recorder of the Salt Lake Temple, was recalled and examined in regard to the marriage records he was subpoenaed to bring to Washington. He said that the record he brought contained all the marriages solemnized in the temple since 1850, when the book was opened.

"Is the book you have here the only one in which marriages have been recorded in that period?" Mr. Taylor asked. "I have no recollection of any other," he replied. Then the witness explained that there is another book, in which are recorded the sealings of men and women who have been married outside the Church. He was asked if there were still other books, and replied that the various religious processes each have a book. Considerable time was consumed in an attempt to get from the witness confirmation as to other books.

"Are there any records in the book you have here of the sealing of a man to a plural wife when he already has a legal wife?" asked Senator McGowan. "No, sir," said the witness, "and," he added, "I am satisfied there never have been any such cases in the period covered by this book." He repeated that the records he brought with him are those of marriages of people who under the law have a right to marry.

The witness would not admit he knew where to find the book of sealings of living persons who had previously been married. Chairman Burrows attempted to ascertain where this book was kept, and also some name by which it might be designated. "You admit that there are other records there and that they are kept in the temple. I want you to tell me why you did not bring them here," he said. "I had no authority to do so," said the witness.

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Then he told Mr. Taylor that he could not bring the records without the consent of the president of the Church. After half an hour more of searching questions in which all the members of the committee took part Mr. Nicholson said that the book of sealings could be identified by the name "Sealings of Persons Not Married in the Temple." He also gave the names of his assistants whose duties are to record the ceremonies in the book. He said, too, that the books could not be removed without the consent of the head of the Church and that the head of the Church could not give them up without a vote of the Church.

Mr. Taylor took charge of the examination again, and, bringing out the fact that the witness believes the records are still in the temple, he asked: "If you were told by President Smith not to bring the books you would refuse to touch them, wouldn't you?" "Yes, sir."

"And if the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate should call on you with a warrant to demand the books and arrest you and put you in jail if you did not give them up, you would still refuse to give them up, wouldn't you?" "Yes, sir."

Mr. Nicholson said that the book of marriages had brought with him contains the records of 6,538 ceremonies. He said the book which he had not brought is not so large as this one and does not contain more than half as many entries. "Suppose," said Mr. Worthington, "a couple who were not married should apply to be sealed, what would be done?" "Nothing could be done," was the reply.

Mr. Nicholson said he was a polygamist, having two wives, but when asked if any children had been born to him by his plural wife since 1900 he refused to answer the question. "Wait a minute," adding, "I have so many I can't remember." After the laughter subsided he said that he had fifteen children.

Mr. Nicholson then was excused. A MORMON EDITOR'S EVIDENCE. Charles W. Penrose, Editor of "The Deseret News," who was elected one of the twelve apostles of the Mormon Church last July, was sworn. He said he was a polygamist, with two plural wives living. He has children by his first plural wife, but none born since the manifesto. Mr. Penrose said he was not present when elected an apostle, but was sent for by the First Presidency and informed of the election. He said he could not say whether Reed Smoot was present or not.

He did not receive special amnesty at the hands of President Cleveland, in which one of the conditions was that you should thereafter obey the laws relating to living in polygamy," asked Mr. Taylor. "Yes, sir."

"And have you lived up to that amnesty?" "No, sir."

Mr. Taylor announced that this completed his examination, and Chairman Burrows said he wanted to have it made clear whether Senator Smoot was present at the conference which elected Mr. Penrose. Mr. Burrows said they would admit that Mr. Smoot had been present.

Mr. Penrose then said, in answer to a question, that he never had heard of any one making a protest against his election on the ground that he was a polygamist.

"Was it known that you were a polygamist?" asked Mr. Burrows. "I did nothing to conceal the fact, but I had never admitted it," was the witness' reply.

In regard to general knowledge as to his polygamous relations, Mr. Penrose said that Mr. Smoot would have the same knowledge, and that the testimony of President Joseph Smith before the Senate committee last spring would have given him this information. It was shown that the election of Mr. Penrose as an apostle took place in July of this year, since that hearing.

Dr. Budge, of Paris, Idaho, testified that he has three wives and he has had three children born since the manifesto of 1880. All his wives live in Paris, and he does not live with one to the exclusion of the others. Most of the children are grown and live in Idaho. One son is a judge of the District Court, and one is prosecuting attorney in Bear Lake County; one son-in-law, H. Smith Woolley, is chief assayer of the mint at Boise City, and one daughter is postmaster at Paris. Dr. Budge said he was the most prominent Mormon in Idaho, having served in the State Senate and taken a leading part in Church affairs. Mr. Taylor put into the record a long open letter written by Dr. Budge on the subject of the fight made by Senator Dubois for "an unwarranted persecution" of the Church, and charging him with misrepresenting conditions in the State.

Senator Dubois asked a great many questions relating to the present conditions in Idaho and the part taken by Mormons in politics. This resulted in a discussion between the Senator and the witness. Dr. Budge reminded Mr. Dubois that he had promised to work to repeal the Idaho test oath, and the Senator replied that it was true, because he then thought the manifesto was sincere.

APOSTLE SMITH'S FAMILY. John Henry Smith, of Salt Lake City, testified that he became an apostle in 1858, and is the second in rank. He has two wives and fifteen living children, four having died. He could not say how many of the seven living children of his plural wife were born since the manifesto, but thought four. He testified that he was one of the signers of the application for amnesty. Asked concerning his failure to practice the agreement he thus made, he said:

"Nobody can take from me my family. I am responsible to them and to God alone, and if my countrymen choose to punish me I shall have to suffer the consequences."

The testimony of Apostle Smith in regard to his duties toward the law and his families was similar to that given by President Joseph Smith, when he appeared before the committee last spring.

The witness said he realized that those who disobeyed the laws were amenable to the courts. He quoted President Smith as saying that he had not married Abram Cannon and Lillian Hamlin. Asked if he had ever concerned himself about the fact that an apostle of the Church had taken a fourth wife six years after the manifesto, Mr. Smith replied that he felt that every man was amenable to the laws; that the courts have jurisdiction, and that he was not responsible for the acts of his associates, moral or otherwise.

Mr. Taylor told the witness that the answer did not appear candid. Mr. Smith answered: "If I were a grand juror and satisfactory evidence were presented to me of the fact you have stated, I would have indicted the defendant." Further than this he could not answer. He told of his visit to Idaho for the purpose of having the test oath removed from the constitution.

The committee adjourned until Monday, when Apostle Smith will continue his testimony.

WOMEN PLEAD FOR THE BALLOT.

Belva Lockwood and Others Heard by Senate Committee.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A hearing was given on the resolution granting women the right to vote for members of the House of Representatives before the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage to-day. The question was presented by a committee consisting of representatives of the Federal Woman's Equality Association, including Mrs. Clara Bewick Colby, Dr. Clara W. MacNaughton and Mrs. Belva Lockwood.

"I live in the District of Columbia, where nobody votes," said Mrs. Lockwood, "and I am just as good as a man here." She and Mrs. Colby made arguments in support of the constitutionality of the resolution. Mrs. Lockwood expressed the hope that the representation of the Southern States in Congress would be reduced unless the negroes are protected in the right of suffrage. This declaration brought a smile to the face of Senator Bacon, of Georgia, who is chairman of the Suffrage Committee.

Mrs. Colby said it was not true that women are quiet under the present discrimination against them, but in reality they feel keenly the deprivation imposed on them. Many of them are, she said, property owners, and she contended for their right to be represented. She also called attention to a Supreme Court decision to the effect that the right to be represented is entitled to vote in all negroes, being citizens, are entitled to vote in all States, and drew the conclusion that as women are citizens, the same privilege should be accorded to them.

MILES TO BE ON DOUGLASS' STAFF.

The President Consents to Allow Him to Serve.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Governor-elect Douglas of Massachusetts recently wrote to Secretary Taft asking him if he would detail Lieutenant General Miles, retired, for the Governor's staff, if he should make the request after his inauguration. Secretary Taft replied to Mr. Douglas to-day, saying that, by direction of the President, he will make the detail when requested to do so.

TAKE MACHEN CASE TO SUPREME COURT

Washington, Dec. 17.—It was decided to-day by counsel for the defendants in the postal conspiracy cases, A. W. Machen, Dr. George E. Lorenz and the Groff brothers, to apply to the Supreme Court of the United States for a writ of certiorari to carry the cases to that court.

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