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CURTAIN FALLS ON FIRST ACT IN SMOOT INQUIRY

Senate Committee Takes a Recess Until Additional Witnesses Can Be Summoned From Utah--Positive Statements by Attorney Hiles of Salt Lake City--During Adjournment Teasdale and Other Well-Known Polygamists Will Be Sought.

Special to The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The first act in the Smoot-Mormon hierarchy case was concluded today when the curtain was rung down by the Senate committee upon whom devolves the task of saying whether Reed Smoot shall retain his seat in the United States Senate.

From present indications there will be at least four acts before the finale of the melodrama is reached. The second act will open about two weeks hence, when another batch of witnesses from Utah and the West will be on hand to make their bow. The curtain will raise on the third act in Salt Lake City, as it is more than probable that a sub-committee will visit that city to investigate affairs of the Mormon church. The fourth act will be in the Senate chamber when the committee makes its report and recommendations.

What the climax will be it is difficult to say. The fact that members of the committee have discussed informally the method of procedure necessary to declare Mr. Smoot's seat vacant may be prophetic, but that is another story.

Ogden Hiles, an attorney of Salt Lake City, was the last witness heard today. Mr. Hiles gave some very positive declaratory testimony in regard to the political power of the Mormon church. As to whether plural marriages have been contracted since the issuance of the manifesto Mr. Hiles said he believed they had.

"Reed Smoot would not have been elected United States Senator from Utah had his candidacy not been approved by the church. When consent of the church was given his election was assured. All other candidates retired." This was emphatic language used by Judge Ogden Hiles.

Among the witnesses to be sent for are Apostles Merrill and Teasdale and John Henry Smith, whose alleged plural marriages have been recounted by witnesses during the hearing just closed.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The absence of a quorum caused a delay in calling to order the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections which is investigating the protest against Senator Reed Smoot. E. B. Critchlow, formerly a United States Attorney in Utah, again took the stand and his cross-examination was continued by Waldemar Van Cott, one of the attorneys for the defendant.

Statement against Mr. Smoot was the subject of inquiry by Mr. Van Cott, who asked specifically if a wave of antagonism to the Mormon Senator was not created by the Lellich charges that Mr. Smoot was a polygamist. Mr. Critchlow thought that had not been the effect, though there had been much surprise that this was made in face of the statement in the general protest that Mr. Smoot was not charged with polygamy.

Little interest was taken in the cross-examination and only two members of the committee remained in their seats for the greater part of the forenoon hearing.

The cross-examination was confined almost entirely to bringing out Mr. Critchlow's views on the acts of others and the thoughts of others. After this procedure had continued for nearly an hour Senator McComas objected and called attention to the fact that the character of the testimony could not influence the committee in any manner.

Mr. Van Cott then addressed the committee directly in regard to the candidacy of Reed Smoot and drew from the witness the fact that Mr. Smoot had announced himself as a candidate for the Senate before 1902.

"Did he announce himself as early as 1898 and receive votes in the Legislature?" "I believe he did. He received votes and so did I. The minority only had three votes and they were passed around as a compliment."

Mr. Critchlow's attention was called to the nominations for members of the Legislature and the fact that he participated in the convention and had moved to make certain nominations unanimous.

"I did move to make them unanimous," said the witness. "Yes, that is, the candidates who were defeated, and I made the motion as a matter of courtesy."

"Did you know that it meant Reed Smoot for Senator?" "Yes, sir."

"Did you go on the stump that fall in support of the Republican ticket?" "Mr. Critchlow, when his attention was

(Continued on Page 2.)

ousting of Senator and the Modus Operandi

In the Event of Senate Deciding to Remove Reed Smoot, a Majority Vote of Members Is All That Is Necessary.

FACT THAT STATESMEN ARE READING UP ON THE RULES APPLYING TO CASES SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UTAH SENATOR IS CONSIDERED AS FORECASTING WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

BY A. F. PHILLIPS.

Tribune Bureau, National Hotel, Washington, D. C., March 12.

There is much discussion as to the manner in which Senator Smoot may be removed from the Senate providing a case against him is made out.

Opinion has been that a two-thirds vote would be necessary, but that vote would be necessary only when the Senate decided to expel him. His seat can be declared vacant by a majority vote and this is what will most likely be done should protestants sustain their case.

Senator Blackburn, in discussing the matter said:

"The Senate may at its pleasure call by majority vote any of its previous actions relating to its own membership null and void. It is the absolute and sole judge of its membership, in fact, and may do as it may please with whatsoever Senator it may please according to its own judgment. The fact that a Senator has been sworn in, and that he takes his seat, cannot be taken into consideration by the Senate to interfere with any action it may take subsequently. By majority vote it can declare a Senator's seat vacant and 'elect' that Senator, whether he has been sworn to or not. It makes no difference."

Senators Allison, Spooner and a number of others also are of this opinion. It will be some time before the hearing is concluded and authorities in the Senate on parliamentary rules and law will have ample time to study the question.

One thing is certain, regardless of Smoot, and that is that a universal marriage code will be presented to the country in the shape of a constitutional amendment as a means of wiping out polygamy. This will come up in all probability at the next session of Congress and be passed, and there is no doubt but that the vote of thirty-four States necessary to ratify it can be secured.

Never before has the country been aroused to such a high pitch upon the question as now. President Joseph Smith's evidence given before the Senate committee has aroused the Nation. The pressure to wipe out the twin relic was never so strong as now. There is a wave of indignation that such a state of affairs exist in a sovereign State as that detailed by the head of the dominant church of Utah, and Senators are besieged with petitions and letters from their constituents regarding the question.

Notwithstanding the inquiry is proceeding petitions still continue to come in praying the Senate to institute an inquiry into the Smoot matter.

MILES BOOM FOR PRESIDENCY LAUNCHED

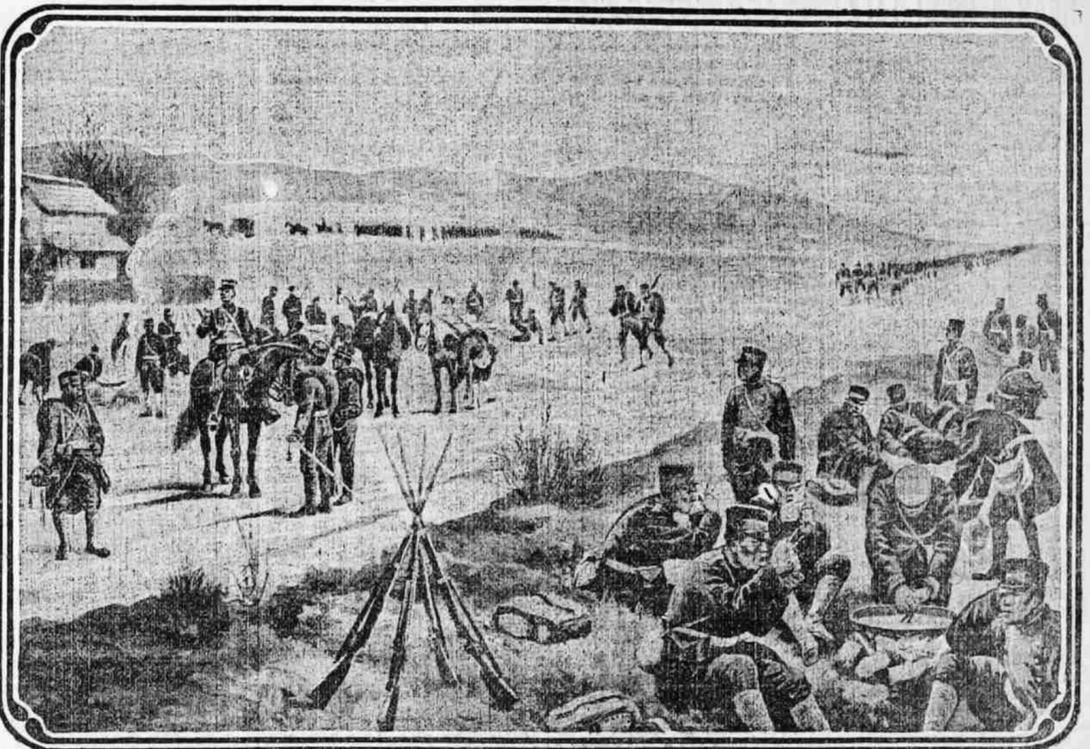
DES MOINES, Ia., March 12.—About seventy-five prominent Iowa Democrats held a conference here tonight and launched a boom for Gen. Nelson A. Miles for the Democratic nomination for President. It is claimed that the Iowa movement is part of a national one which has been begun by Gen. Miles' managers.

MIGHTY ARMIES OF MIKADO AND THE CZAR

Russian Force in Unknown Number

CLOSING IN ON EACH OTHER FOR BATTLE

18,000 Japs In One Column



JAPANESE BIVOUAC WHILE CONCENTRATING SOUTH OF PINGYANG, KOREA.

Cablegrams Indicate that the Opposing Columns are Nearing Each Other to the North of Pingyang, and It is Near That Town That the First Real Battle Will Be Fought--Over Twenty Thousand Japanese Soldiers Massing Near the Theatre of Hostilities--Advance of Russians.

LONDON, March 12.—Where the first land battle of magnitude between the Japanese and Russian armies will occur is a matter that is causing much speculation in military circles here. That the mighty armies will soon meet in battle there is no doubt. From the best advices at hand the first real battle will occur in the vicinity of Ping Yang. This place was the scene of one of the principal battles in the Chinese war. It is situated midway between the Yalu river and Seoul. It is connected with Wiju by a military road. The distance from Yalu is about 125 miles. The town proper is well fortified and is at present one of the Japanese bases. The Japs are also reported to be north of Antung, and it is believed by military experts to be planning to seize that section of the Siberian railway which leads to Daly and Port Arthur.

Aside from the report of Admiral Makaroff, which it is believed was "trimmed" in the St. Petersburg War office, the first credible report of the effect of the bombardment of Port Arthur from midnight on Wednesday to past noon on Thursday last have been received from Tien Tsin.

Eye-witnesses, according to the dispatch, say that the Japanese fire, which was indifferent in previous attacks, showed marvelous accuracy. The fire came from the direction of Pigeon bay, where the Russians report having sighted double the previous number of Japanese vessels, and it is supposed that transports of various kinds accompany the fleet.

It is reported that the Retvizan, which, it is understood, was then inside of the entrance of the harbor, was struck several times and that there were fatalities among the crew. It is also said that the Golden Hill forts were badly damaged, and that there were many casualties among the remaining non-combatants in the new town, which suffered most.

One building in the rear of the War bureau was destroyed and elsewhere a shell annihilated an entire family. The Russians are suppressing the circulation of foreign newspapers and any person suspected of being a correspondent is ordered out of their lines. Residents of Port Arthur assert that the defenders of that place possess the delusion that British officers command the Japanese ships.

A leading police officer who had been prominent in expelling suspects killed himself, it is reported, on account of his failure to apprehend newspaper correspondents. A St. Petersburg dispatch says a telegram received here from Gen. Zhilinsky, Gen. Kuropatkin's chief of staff, says that, according to reports published in Korean newspapers, 18,000 Japanese have landed at Chinnampo, Korea, and are marching to Pingyang. Five hundred Japanese are said to have landed at Kieng Sieng, on the northeast coast of Korea and 2000 other Japanese who reached Kieng Sieng before this detachment of 600, have started marching along the coast to Sheng Jin. Koreans from the points named, however, deny emphatically the reports of the landing at Kieng Sieng.

All is quiet at Port Arthur and Vladivostok. There are no Japanese troops anywhere in Manchuria. Small patrols of Russians are to be seen in northern Korea, and are believed to be the advance of the long Russian column.

ARMED WITH JEWELLED SWORD AND WEARING SACRED TALISMAN, GENERAL KUROPATKIN, RUSSIA'S GREATEST OF FIELD GENERALS, LEAVES FOR THE FRONT

ST. PETERSBURG, March 12.—Gen. Kuropatkin, accompanied by his entire staff, left here at 6 o'clock this evening on a special train for the far East, where he will take command of the Manchurian army. The departure of the General was marked by demonstrations of patriotism and personal regard such as seldom have been witnessed in the Russian capital. Thousands of persons who lined the Nevsky prospect and the approaches to the Nicholas railroad station vied with the highest personages in the empire, including the principal military authorities, members of the imperial council, foreign military attaches, members of the French Embassy and persons prominent in society, who had assembled inside the station, in giving vent to expressions of confidence in the new commander who is to lead the Emperor's army to victory. Modesty and without the accompaniment of music or escort the General drove to the station in an open carriage. He was dressed in the fatigue uniform of his rank. The short figure of Russia's greatest General was instantly recognized by the populace and his passage down the broad boulevard was followed by a crowd of cheers, which grew louder as the crowd grew denser near the station. Here the enthusiasm broke out into mighty shouts, and in spite of the cold the air was filled with hats thrown aloft by the frenzied people. The imperial waiting-rooms inside the station were crowded with celebrities, and the staircase leading from the courtyard was lined with a seething

mass of picturesque uniforms; there was a commotion of bestarred Generals and distinguished naval men. As Gen. Kuropatkin reached the head of the stairs Gen. Eggrestoff, while har-

ried and trembling with emotion, began to speak inside and out there was an instant hush. "I have come to bid you good-bye," said Gen. Eggrestoff. "We all wish you

a safe journey, and with God's blessing we shall come here to greet your victorious return. Take this small image of Alexis, your patron saint, and wear it around your neck, and may the Almighty hold you in his keeping." Gen. Kuropatkin knelt reverently and accepted the talisman. Then he spoke in response. His few heartfelt words of thanks were uttered in so low a tone that they were hardly heard ten feet away. Thunderous cheers burst forth when the two warriors clasped each other in a strong embrace.

Gen. Kuropatkin then stepped forward. His strong personality was strikingly illustrated in the way he moved through the room. The czar's aides de camp, in their handsome uniforms, helped to clear a space in front of the little man, whose grizzled beard and piercing eyes suggested a resemblance to Grant.

He was entirely self-possessed amid the surrounding excitement, and he walked easily and unaffectedly, greeting all present, embracing and kissing old comrades and shaking hands with officers. He did not forget the naval and military attaches, and had a kind word for every member of the group, representing almost all the great armies and navies of the world.

French, German, British, Italian and Austrian attaches were attired in picturesque variety of uniforms. Lieut.-Commander Roy Campbell Smith, the naval attaché to the American Embassy, wore the simple uniform of the United States.

The Korean Minister to Russia, who was present, was just as enthusiastic as any Russian and seemed to regard Gen. Kuropatkin as the savior of his country. He pushed and struggled hard to get near enough to shake the General's hand and wish him every success.

Several ladies who were present could not refrain from kissing the hero of the hour, an attention which he gallantly reciprocated.



GEN. KUROPATKIN.

UNEASY RESTS HEAD OF GREAT BRITAIN'S PREMIER

LONDON, March 12.—The continued existence of the present Government after the past eventful week in Parliament created surprise even among its most faithful supporters. Premier Balfour kept the Cabinet in power by a majority of forty-six gained at the expense of what is universally admitted to be a personal defeat for the Premier. For the first time since the fiscal question became a live issue in British politics Joseph Chamberlain's followers showed their strength and intentions.

No less than 110 members of the House of Commons put themselves on record this week as willing to turn over Balfour rather than sacrifice their adherence to Mr. Chamberlain's out and out protectionist principles. As a result Mr. Balfour has foregone his personal policy of retaliation and retains office only by the support of those members of Parliament who openly uphold preferential and protective duties. This section of the Unionist party, though strong enough to decide the fate of the Ministry, is not strong enough to effect anything as an individual unit.

The complications within the Unionist party came during the week to an almost Gilbertian climax. Even the Saturday Review, which supports Mr. Balfour's policy, holds that he lost more than he gained by his comparatively narrow majority of forty-three. On all sides it is admitted that a dissolution of Parliament alone can solve the existing conditions. The Cabinet itself, so recently constructed, has been on the verge of a serious split.

BLUFFED INTO BACKDOWN. During the week Austen Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Colonial Secretary Littleton and several minor members of the Government threatened to resign unless Mr. Balfour withdrew his support of the motion which denounced Joseph Chamberlain's proposed preferential duties based on the taxation of food.

Beset within and without, Mr. Balfour gave in to the Chamberlainites and still further antagonized those free trade Unionists, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord

Balfour of Burleigh, Charles T. Ritchie, Lord George Hamilton and Sir John Gorst, formerly his colleagues, and their supporters. In addition to these tactical difficulties in which the fiscal question has involved what is known as the "The strongest

(Continued on Page 2.)

INDEX TO SUNDAY'S TRIBUNE.

- PAGE 2—'YEGG' LEADER CAUGHT. PAGE 3—CHICAGO BANDITS TO HANG. U. S. STEEL CO.'S PROFITS. INCREASE IN CRIME DISCUSSED. PAGE 4—THE WOMEN'S CLUBS. NEW LIBRARY BOOKS. PAGE 5—IN THE COURTS. 'THE MAN ABOUT TOWN.' CHURCH APPOINTMENTS. PAGE 6—SPORTING GOSSIP. PAGE 7—SPORTING GOSSIP. PAGE 8—ODGEN DEPARTMENT. STATE NEWS. PAGE 9—DIETRICH INVESTIGATION. MINES AND MILLS. PAGE 11—STOCKS AND MARKETS. PAGE 12—EDITORIAL. PAGE 13—IN THE BUSINESS MARTS. PAGE 14—CLASSIFIED ADS. PAGE 15—CLASSIFIED ADS. PAGE 16—LOCAL NEWS. CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD. PAGE 17—MARK HANNA. PAGE 18—SOCIAL EVENTS. SOCIETY IN THE STATE. PAGE 19—SOCIETY IN THE BURG. PAGE 20—PARIS FASHION LETTER. SOCIETY IN THE BURG. PAGE 21—ENTERTAINING IN JAPAN. JAPAN'S GREAT FINANCIER. PAGE 22—WITH THE STAGE FOLKS. PAGE 23—MUSICAL CHORDS. PAGE 24—SOCIETY AT CAPITAL. LOVE CONQUERS CHAOS. PAGE 25—A STORY OF ADVENTURE. PAGE 26—MOUNTAIN RUBBER PLANT. RADIUM AND DISEASE. PAGE 27—SMOOT COMMENT FROM ALL OVER. PAGE 28—SMOOT COMMENT FROM ALL OVER. PAGE 29—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. OLD TANGLES. PAGE 30—CURRENT PUBLICATIONS. PAGE 31—WASHINGTON NEWS.