

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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REGISTRATION REVISION.

ON Monday the registration of voters for the present year will commence under the rules prescribed by the Utah Commissioners. Under the laws of the Territory the work of registration should be done by the Assessors of the various counties or their deputies, at the dwelling-houses of the voters, when visiting them for the purpose of assessing their property. Under the Edmunds law the work is to be done by Registrars (or their deputies) appointed by the Commissioners.

The work to be done is not a new registration. It is only a revision of the registry lists made last year. It will not be necessary for voters whose names now appear on the registry list to be registered again, unless they have removed from one precinct to another. Any voter whose name does not appear on the registry list may attend before the deputy registrar of the precinct in which he resides, and, by taking the oath prescribed, have his name inserted.

The elongated and double-and-twisted oath of last year, "in the marriage relation" included, will be presented this year to all who apply for registration. Any person who is in plural marriage, or who cohabits with more than one of the opposite sex "in the marriage relation" may not register, but any amount of improper cohabitation of either sex does not debar registration, providing it is done outside of the marriage relation. Men who married plural wives before there was any law of the United States against it and who are now not in the marriage relation at all, and legal wives whose husbands at any time married a plural wife with or without their consent, and who therefore committed no offense against any person or statute, are not allowed to register and vote. But licentious men who indulge in promiscuous sexual intercourse, no matter to what extent, libertines, adulterers, seducers, the vilest of the vile, and kept mistresses, faithless wives, abandoned women, and females who make it a business to prostitute their bodies, may appear before the officer, take the oath, have their names registered as legal voters, and walk up to the polls and vote without objection.

This is the way Utah is to be "regenerated" and brought into harmony with the civilization of the age. It is to be "Christianized" by law, and this is one of the methods for its conversion.

We call the attention of our friends to the fact that it is necessary for all who are not debarred, to see that their names appear on the registry list, so that they may be able to vote at the August election. The registrars are empowered to erase from the list the names of such persons as have died or removed from the precinct, or who they may have reason to believe have become disqualified to vote under the provisions of the Edmunds law. Therefore, every registered voter of last year should see to it that his name appears on the list of this year, and every voter now qualified who has not been registered, should appear at the place appointed in his precinct during the week ending June 9th, take the oath as he would a nasty pill, because it is necessary, and get his name on the registry list. The same suggestions apply to lady voters.

There are no doubt some young men and women who have become of age since the last registration, and some aliens who have been naturalized since then. They should not neglect to register if able to take the oath, and the committees appointed last year to give an eye to these matters ought to be on the alert, that no legal voters shall be prevented from securing his lawful right and privilege. The registration re-

vision will commence on Monday, June 4th, and close on Saturday, June 9th. Take time by the forelock and let there be no neglect!

NOW IS THE TIME.

It should be fully understood that the revision of the registration lists lasts only during the week ending on Saturday, June 9th. It is necessary that all persons, male and female, otherwise eligible to vote, whose names are not on the registration list of 1892, should be registered during the present week. If they neglect to attend to it they will be deprived of the right to vote at the August election, which will be one of great importance. At that time members of the Legislative Assembly and sundry precinct and county officers will be elected by the people.

The citizens of Utah have few of the privileges of citizenship. They are deprived of the right to a voice in the choosing of the chief officers of Territory. They have but a few scraps of a Republican form of government to enjoy. They should make the most of what is doled out to them. Such rights and privileges as are within their reach, they should secure and exercise. If they do not avail themselves of these, they cannot reasonably expect to obtain their full rights as citizens.

Without being registered no one can vote at an election in Utah. No young man or young woman who has reached the age of twenty-one years since the last registration, and who is eligible, should neglect to register now. And those who have since that time become naturalized should be sure to take the next essential step, by appearing before the registrar of the precinct in which they reside, before Saturday, June 9th, and take the oath prescribed, that they may be registered and made legal voters.

At the last registration, committees of the People's Party were appointed to see that all the eligible members of the party in their respective neighborhoods were duly registered. It is expected by the Territorial Central Committee that those committees will act now. They did a good work last year for which they deserve great credit. Let them be as active and vigilant this year. The opposition may not be as lively as then, but the need of the services of these committees is just as urgent in all the precincts of all the counties in the Territory. Will the members of the County Committees and other leading citizens kindly interest themselves in this matter?

At present they should find out who has become eligible for registration since last fall, and then post those members of the party as to their privilege and duty, and render them such advice and assistance as may be necessary to secure a full registration. There is but a little time in which to accomplish this. Vigilance and promptness are essential. Let there be no laggards. Now is the appointed time, now is the day of registration.

GROWLING AT THE UTAH COMMISSIONERS.

We notice that several newspapers which draw their inspiration concerning Utah from evil fountains in this vicinity which continually belch forth "bitter water," have been exhibiting their invincible ignorance of affairs in this Territory by finding fault with the Commissioners. Their complaints extend to things alleged to be done and things claimed to have been left undone.

That "Mormons" are still permitted to vote at the polls is put down as the work of the Commissioners. That any "Mormons," especially alleged polygamists, are allowed to remain in office is pointed out as the fault of the Commissioners. If a rumor goes out, as it frequently does without any foundation in fact, that some prominent "Mormon" has married another wife or two, the Commissioners are berated for it. When any supposed infraction of the laws of the United States is said to have taken place in Utah, these papers want to know what the Commissioners are doing all the time.

Now this appears to us very ridiculous as well as extremely unjust. If anyone has cause to complain about the Commissioners sent here

to regulate our election affairs it is the "Mormon" people, who alone have been adversely affected by their presence and proceedings. Yet we make little or no complaint, while persons and papers that have not the slightest cause for grumbling raise a senseless howl about something that they seem to know nothing about.

The Utah Commissioners obtain their powers from Section Nine of the Edmunds law. In that their duties and powers are clearly defined. They have none but what are there designated. Before finding fault with those officials or expecting wonderful revolutions and transformations from their administration, would it not be at least prudent to read the section and find out what they may legally do? It will not need a lawyer to explain that other things than those therein specified they may not legally and officially perform.

It will be found, on examination, that they are not only not authorized to do anything to prevent "Mormons" from voting, but are expressly forbidden to exclude from the polls any person eligible to vote or refuse to count a vote "on account of the opinion of the person casting it on the subject of bigamy or polygamy." Neither have they any authority to interfere with persons already in office on account of any alleged incapacity because of polygamous marriage or otherwise. They are not required or empowered to prosecute any one for bigamy, polygamy or any other offense against the law. Their office was not created for the purpose of constituting them a tribunal to hear complaints or determine charges against the "Mormons." They are not even a committee of inquiry or investigation into "Mormon" affairs. They are simply appointed to appoint the officers necessary under the laws of the United States and of this Territory for the conduct and management of elections; also to receive the returns of the votes for members of the Legislative Assembly, and to issue certificates to such persons who being eligible shall appear to have been lawfully elected. They are to continue in office until the Legislative Assembly shall make provision for filling the offices which the Commissioners are authorized to fill, then their official existence ceases. If they have any other duty to perform except to draw their salaries we would like to have it pointed out.

Have the Commissioners done anything in the direction sought? We think they have, and more than they were required to do. They have added to the election laws of the Territory a rule of their own enacting, compelling all persons who desire to vote to take an oath not found in any statute book. By this means they have shut out from registration and consequently from voting a large number of men and women who are not practical polygamists, some of whom are not now "Mormons" in any sense, and many of whom never broke any law of the United States, whether in reference to bigamy, polygamy, unlawful cohabitation or any other offense. In this we think they transcended their legal bounds. But they think otherwise and it remains for the courts to settle the question when test cases are brought before them.

Although we take this view of the doings of the Commissioners we have never taken occasion to abuse them for their excess of zeal. Our people have quietly submitted, and those who have been injured are waiting a judicial ruling, and looking anxiously for some case or cases to be brought on which a decision can be rendered. Why, then, should anti-"Mormon" papers find fault with the Commissioners? They have done all that has been required of them and more too. Is it not because absurd, not to say impossible, things have been expected of them? Do not our enemies want the Commissioners to trample upon law and right and prevent any one but anti-"Mormons" from voting at any election? Do they not expect the Commissioners to revolutionize the Territory and all republican government therein, and turn over the immense majority of the people here into the hands of a few unprincipled, ambitious and avaricious persons? That in our opinion is all that is the matter with the growlers. If they cannot be just nor keep their "Mormon"-eating appetites within reasonable bounds, let them at least look at the law and at what has been done by the Commissioners under

its provisions and then, if possible, let them exercise a little modicum of plain common sense.

LYING PRESS DISPATCHES.

SALT LAKE, May 26.—Five hundred Mormon families have left Utah this spring and been colonized by the Church along the valley of Snake River, Idaho. This is in accordance with the boast of the Church leaders, made last winter, that they would hold political control of Idaho and would send in large colonies this spring.

The above was sent to the California papers by the lightning stationed "we believe" at Ogden for the purpose of transmitting press dispatches. The following came in the regular telegrams from the East and is about as truthful as the "news" sent to the West:

RALEIGH, N. C. May 31.—Mormon missionaries are again at work in the western part of the State. They have induced large numbers of women to join their church. The ceremony of baptism of the new converts is attended by most horrible orgies. All that was previously known of the abominations of Mormonism was surpassed by the scenes that took place on this occasion. The Mormons will probably be driven out of the State. Public indignation is so great that lynching is feared.

It is a disgrace to the Association which pretends to furnish the public with current news, that so persistent a manufacturer of falsehoods as the Ogden dispatcher is permitted to deceive the public. Why cannot facts be sent over the wires without the comments which so frequently spoil the press dispatches? The public want tidings of passing events, not the stupid theories and imaginary additions of political and theological partisans.

There have been several families moving from Utah into the Snake River country this spring, but not anything like the number stated above. And they have simply gone there because that region seemed to offer better facilities for farming than the places where they formerly resided. And it is not true that the "Mormon" Church has made any boast about "political control in Idaho." That is but an invention. In other words it is bald and wilful falsehood.

The Raleigh dispatch was conceived in the same spirit and brought forth with the same evil intent, that is, to manufacture public sentiment hostile to the "Mormon" Church. Baptism is a sacred ordinance with the Latter-day Saints, and is administered in a similar manner to the immersion of the Baptists. There is nothing about it that can be construed into impropriety, and if there had been any "orgies" connected with "Mormon" baptizings in North Carolina they must have been those of anti-"Mormon" scoffers.

Public indignation should be directed against the mobocrats and defamers who concoct such stories as those contained in these telegrams. There is nothing in "Mormonism" calculated to provoke anger in any well-regulated mind. Its missionaries preach the plain gospel of Jesus Christ and baptize converts after the pattern of His baptism. That this creates antagonism is not to be wondered at. It did the same of old. And there were then, as now, threats of driving the Saints and lynching the servants of the Savior. And they came from the mean fellows of the baser sort, prompted by the hireling clergy of the sects. It is only history repeating itself once more.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 1

Diminution of Drinking.—A few short weeks ago no fewer than seven saloons flourished in the town of Beaver. Now the number is reduced to three of those life-blighting institutions. This reduction of the concomitants of modern civilization has occurred since the recent abandonment by the military of Fort Cameron. A further diminution of the evil is hoped for and anticipated.

Gored by a Cow.—Last Tuesday, at Beaver, a cow with a wild streak in her dashed out of a herd belonging to Murdock and Farnsworth and rushed along one of the leading streets of the town. Seeing William

Holt the infuriated bovine made directly towards him. As he did not get out of the way the cow caught him in the side with her horns, inflicting quite a painful, though not very serious injury.

The Musical Festival.—The sale of reserved seats for any single concert of the Theodore Thomas Musical Festival will commence Monday, June 4th at 10 a. m. at D. O. Calder's Music Store. Those subscribers who have not yet selected seats are reminded that the sale to subscribers only will close on Saturday evening. After that date the seats will be first come first served, whether for single or season tickets.

Cut With a Saw.—Brother Joseph Field, formerly proprietor of the Beaver Enterprise, met with a serious accident a day or two since. Having abandoned the journalistic field he purchased a saw mill. Quite recently the saw caught arm near the elbow and lacerated badly, tearing the flesh and cutting a tendon. It looks as if what is left of Brother Joseph after attempting to run a country newspaper is being used up by the next most destructive contrivance—a cany saw mill.

Departures.—This morning President Woodruff, of the Quorum of the Twelve, President A. M. Cannon, of this Stake, and Brother Thos. E. Taylor, Business Manager of this office, left on the Denver and Rio Grande R.R. for Emery County where they will attend the Stake Conference to be held tomorrow and Sunday. On Tuesday they will be joined at Priceville by President Joseph F. Smith, Elder Brigham Young, of the Quorum of the Twelve, and Elder John Morgan. Brothers Taylor and Cannon will proceed to the East on a business trip, while the other brethren of the party will visit Manassas and the other settlements of the Saints in Colorado.

The Gallifant-Fowler Killing Case.—The preliminary examination of David Gallifant, charged with the murder of Richard Fowler, was resumed this morning. Dr. Allen Fowler was placed on the stand and stated in substance that he had examined the wounds in Fowler's body, had asserted that they were necessarily fatal, and had not since learned anything that tended to change his opinion.

The only new feature in the evidence was given by Charles Austria. The substance of his testimony was that he was in Gallifant's butcher shop on Monday between eleven and twelve o'clock, and served that he was walking about very excitedly. Austria was about to leave and as he intended going to Provo he bade Gallifant good bye, but the latter made no answer. The witness stated that as he was leaving the shop he heard Gallifant mutter "I'll fix the—of a b—of a blacksmith." He left and went about one-fourth of a block toward Main Street, when he heard the shooting. He turned around and went back, and as he was going toward the blacksmith shop, Gallifant was in the act of coming out and putting his pistol into his pocket.

Mr. Whittemore offered in evidence an informal statement made to him by Fowler, after the shooting, a short time prior to his death. This evidence was objected to on the ground that it was not made to appear that the deceased was at the time impressed with the conviction of his approaching dissolution.

The defense did not offer any evidence, and pending the arguments, a recess was taken until one o'clock.

This afternoon Mr. Rawlins made a strong argument to show the case was not one of murder in the first degree, but of manslaughter. He was followed by Mr. Whittemore for the prosecution, on the other view, and some remarks in the same connection were made by Judge Snow. As the latter introduced some points not brought out in the opening, Mr. Rawlins was allowed the privilege of replying, and made an additional argument to show that the case was a bailable one.

The court reserved decision until 10 a. m. to-morrow.

THE IMMIGRANTS TRAIN WRECKED!

By telegram to President Taylor from Elder Ben. C. Rich, at Tie Siding, Wyoming, this afternoon, we learn that five freight cars were wrecked on the train bringing our emigrants. All of the cars contain-