

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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MORE "LIBERAL" TRICKERY.

We learn by telegram from the South that advantage has been taken of the pending cases in the Courts to test the validity of the woman suffrage act, and some of the registrars have been induced to refuse women the right to register. Yesterday the following telegram was received by the Registrar of Washington County:

BEAVER, Sept. 13, 1882.

To J. N. Louder, St. George.

Registration office at Salt Lake refuse to register women, test case be heard to-morrow. Direct your deputies to register no more women—let them test case likewise.

Signed, GIBSON CLARK.

The author of the dispatch is a pettifogger at Beaver, who has no right or authority to speak for the Commissioners or anybody else of the slightest importance. The registrar communicated with was foolish enough to act upon it and to stop the registration of women voters. Subsequently, however, he changed his course and instructions to his deputies, and the registration of women voters was resumed.

We understand that the Commissioners disclaim having given any instructions on this matter. As will be seen from their report to the Secretary of the Interior, which has already been published in the News, a demand was made upon them by certain "non-Mormon citizens of high character" to "assume jurisdiction and decide the local statute authorizing women to vote, to be illegal." But the Commissioners concluded that they had no powers in the premises, that female suffrage was not in conflict with the Edmunds law, that the statute had been in force twelve years, and that they had nothing whatever to do with the subject.

Seeing that no instructions have been given by the Commissioners to stop the registration of women, the action of the Registrar of Washington County was, to say the least, hasty and ill-advised. The sender of the dispatch should not have been recognized by the registrar. Both he and his dupe by taking the illegal course which they followed have rendered themselves liable to the penalties of the law.

Supposing the author of a dispatch like the above, directing registrars to act in opposition to the law and the rules, had been an influential "Mormon." What a howl would have gone up from the "Liberal" ranks and what capital would have been made of it as evidence of "priestly interference in political affairs!"

It appears that the situation in Ogden gets "no better very fast." The registration is conducted on the principal of hunting up and favoring all "Liberals" that can be found, and excluding and putting off all of the People's Party that can be "bluffed" or prevented. Private registering on the one hand and obstruction on the other, is the trick resorted to by the malodorous Registrar of Weber County. The object of this trickery ought to be known. It is simply this: The "Liberals" of Ogden, unable to gain control of municipal affairs by fair voting, have laid themselves out to capture the city by fraud. If the People's Party voters can be kept back from registration during this week, the schemers think they can register enough names to make a majority in the municipal election next February. That is the sum and substance of the plot. If assistance cannot be obtained from the Commissioners to defeat this infamy, other legal means must be adopted to secure the rights of the majority. But in view of the statement of those gentlemen in their official report, it appears to us that the people of Ogden may look to them confidently for redress. They say:

However, the business of the Commission, as understood by the members thereof, relates not to questions of parties or candidates, but to securing so far as possible a fair registration and an impartially conducted election under the law.

This is all we want. But this is what certain parties in Ogden and elsewhere are determined the People shall not have. Let the live men of the People's Party see to it that fraud and trickery are not permitted to prevail.

A FALSE ACCUSATION.

SOME of our opponents attempt to justify the shabby tricks resorted to by persons on their side, by claiming that the People's Party have done such things against them in times past. This is certainly untrue and without a shadow of foundation in fact.

Ample opportunities have been afforded to every citizen without regard to creed, party or degree to register according to law. The statute placed it within the power of every one, male and female, who desired to do so, to have their names placed on the registry lists. If the assessor failed in any cases to call upon them at their residences, the way was open to have the omission rectified. There is no authentic case of a person being denied or obstructed in registration by the officers appointed to attend to this business until the present week. The pretence that anything of the kind has ever occurred, cannot be substantiated by facts.

The fullest freedom has been accorded to every person and party at the polls. One of the three judges of election in each precinct, at least, has been a representative of the opposition. The count has been witnessed and all the proceedings scanned by persons of the "Liberal" party, and the fact that they have not offered any objection is evidence that there has been no attempt at wrong-doing by the People's Party.

But the plainest proof that any accusation of the kind mentioned must be untrue, is the fact that there has never been any necessity for such proceedings. The members of the People's Party have been so overwhelmingly in the majority that there was no need, if there had been any disposition, to resort to the tricks now being introduced by the "Liberals."

Then the people here are not politicians. They are not versed in "the ways that are dark" which are so common in political contests elsewhere. They have had no schooling in that direction, and save in Tooele County where some of them "got their eye-teeth cut" by the wholesale election frauds which wrested the country from them for a season, they have not been under the necessity of doing much toward even guarding their position to say nothing of assailing that of others.

We have this satisfaction in all the attempts made to deprive the People of Utah of their rights. Truth, fair dealing, strict construction of the law and honorable proceedings of any kind, cannot be brought to bear against them. It is only by misrepresentation, chicanery, legal quibblings and stretchings, and low trickery, that they can be assailed. All of which speak louder in their favor than the strongest assertions.

UNLAWFUL AND UNJUST.

SEVERAL citizens, ladies and gentlemen, have been denied the right to register during the present week, on the ground that they had lived in polygamy. In each of these cases the parties had violated no law of the United States concerning bigamy or polygamy, but were able to take the oath prescribed, in every particular. They had entered into the plural marriage relation and emerged from it previous to the passage of the Act of 1862, which was the first law of the United States constituting plural marriage a crime. In some cases the lady had not really contracted any plural marriage, the husband had taken another wife and lost her before 1862, yet both the husband and wife who was not responsible for his act if he had broken the law, were excluded from the registration.

We do not suppose that any one will pretend that this is just. But

how can it be claimed that it is legal? The work of the Commissioners is supposed to be in pursuance of the provisions of the Edmunds Act. What was the object and intent of that law? Was it not chiefly, or ostensibly, to suppress or abolish polygamy in the Territories? As we read it, the object of disfranchising actual polygamists was to make the system odious, place those who continue in it under political disabilities and encourage its adherents to relinquish the practice. But how can these objects be achieved by punishing the innocent and including in the penalties of the law those who never violated the law?

Whatever may be said concerning those who contracted plural marriages or lived therein after the passage of the act of 1862, it appears to us that no valid reason can be given for the disfranchisement of persons who have not been in any way connected with the practice since that time.

It cannot be shown that any man who has lived with more wives than one since 1862, but not since March 22, 1882, and who contracted his plural marriages before the Act of 1862, violated any law of the United States on this subject. For the law of 1862 does not make living in the plural marriage relation a crime; it is directed simply and solely against the ceremony or contract. "Living in polygamy in violation of the Act of 1862," so often alleged against parties, is a contradiction in itself. The law of 1862 does not mention or refer to the act of "living in" polygamy or bigamy, or any other marriage relation. That condition of life was not legislated against by the United States until March 22, 1882. Therefore men who married plural wives before 1862 and have lived with them until March 22, 1882 but not since, have violated no law of the United States concerning bigamy or polygamy.

But if it be contended that they have violated the spirit, though not the letter of the law, that cannot be urged against those who were severed from the plural marriage relation previous to the passage of the Act of 1862, and there is no law, as there is no reason or justice to sustain their exclusion from the right of registration.

These cases ought to be tested at once. We do not see how they can fall in a fair court of law or equity. If there are others of the same kind that have not applied for registration, we advise them all to offer to register; then if they are refused, and on a test case it is found that the refusal was contrary to law, their offer to register will stand—under the United States statute—equivalent to the act of registration and if their names are not placed on the registry lists they can demand to be allowed to vote at the election. Even if this offer to register prove unnecessary no harm will have been done and it is worth while to save every point in this present dispute. In excluding them from the franchise it is clear that the intent of the Edmunds law is not carried into effect, and it is also certain that no good purpose is served by inflicting this hardship upon worthy and law-abiding ladies and gentlemen.

THE TRICKERY AT OGDEN.

WE again call attention to the proceedings of the Registrar at Ogden. Another letter from "Ogdenite" shows the drift of affairs in that city. It is claimed by some that everything is going on all right now in Ogden, because the number of persons registered per day has increased so largely. Ninety-three only were registered on Monday, but on Wednesday about five hundred were registered. This does not meet the objection. At first obstruction and tardiness was the complaint. But now, additional deputies being employed, the registration goes on quickly enough, especially in certain picked places, but it is done chiefly in the interest of one party, and it is claimed that the emigrant trains are made available to swell the list of that party's registration.

Our people must keep a sharp watch of these proceedings and note every case of unlawful registering. Between now and election time such cases can be tested, and every attempt at fraudulent voting or bogus balloting must be spotted and prosecuted. This is a matter for the wide-awake men of Ogden to look into. Let them not be caught napping nor be found "left" when they ought to be "on hand."

FAILURE OF THE CONSPIRACY.

THE conspiracy against woman suffrage in Utah has failed. We do not see how it could have succeeded after the interruption to the scheme which it suffered as soon as it came into court. The entrance of the People's Party into the case split the plot wide open. If the intent of the "Liberal" clique had been accomplished the result might have been different. The little arrangement was for a pretended trial in which all the parties would be really on one side. In each judicial district a "Liberal" lady, and no others, was, by a preconceived plan, refused the right to register on the ground that she was ineligible, being a woman. The deputies were instructed how to proceed before the commencement of the registration. A "Liberal" lawyer applied for a mandamus to require the registrar to show cause why the lady was not permitted to register. A "Liberal" law firm which had prepared itself with sophisms and quibbles and quibbles, dressed up in legal phrases and bolstered with citations from authorities having very remote bearing on the question, defended the registrar. It was hoped that a feeble presentation of the case on one side and a vigorous defense on the other, would place the matter in such a light that at least two out of the three judges would refuse a mandamus, and so a pretext could be established for striking the names of all women from the registry lists.

But a bona fide test made a different thing of the trial. The arguments of the People's attorneys presented the case in its proper light. The flimsy pretenses of counsel for the registrar could be seen through like mosquito-bar muslin. The labored pleadings of Sutherland and the brazen effrontery of McBride, with the latter's shameful fictions and second-hand pretended conversations, showed up in pitiful contrast before the arguments of Merritt and Harkness, while the keen blade wielded by Brown and the sharp points put forth by Jonasson cut to pieces what substantiality there was in the "Liberal" brief.

The decision of the Judges puts an end to the plot and virtually settles the main question, that is, the validity of the act conferring upon the women of Utah the elective franchise. Those who have been registered can vote at the November election. The advisability of woman suffrage was not on trial. Some of the attorneys at least who detested the law are opposed to the principle. But the law is declared valid, and that is sufficient. Now let the ladies show their appreciation of the victory, by voting at the election for the nominee of the party which has achieved this victory in their interest.

THE BOGUS APPOINTMENTS.

WE give place to-day to a list of "appointments," made by Governor Eli H. Murray, for certain offices in this Territory to fill vacancies which do not exist. The list is not complete. Other "appointments" are yet to be made. It will be observed that in a number of instances the same person has been "appointed" to more than one position.

This, with the omission to fill places in several counties indicates either that clay is scarce or the potter is a slow hand; whether the vessels formed are unto honor or dishonor remains a matter of dispute.

If there are any vacancies caused by the failure of the August election, as is possible in a very few instances, the appointments to fill them may be valid. In the rest of the offices the "appointments" amount to nothing, because they are already occupied by lawful incumbents who are under bonds and their oaths of office to faithfully discharge the duties thereof. To surrender them without proper cause would be a violation of their oaths of office and a wrong to their bondsmen.

We notice that "appointments" have been made by the Governor to some offices the term of which, to say nothing of the "hold over" provision, does not expire until August 1884. What the object can be in appointing persons to fill them does not at present appear. But it does not matter; those "appointments" are of about the same value as the others.

In a few instances present incum

bents are "appointed." If any of them are unwise enough to accept and attempt to qualify under this arrangement, they will occupy a similar position to the dog in the stable, who dropped the substance to bite at the shadow. They are not very likely to be deceived by the illusion.

The question has been asked, "If the offices are now vacant who is to qualify the new appointees?" This is about as difficult to answer as the question "How can the Governor or any other man fill a vacancy when there is none?" These queries had better be propounded to the Executive himself; we shall not pretend to try to answer them.

We do not anticipate any disturbance by reason of this movement. The difficulties will lie with those who try to get into places already occupied by lawful officers. There will be no more "anarchy" than there is now. Possibly a few persons with small discretion and great ambition will make the attempt to force themselves into offices not vacant. It will be a hard squeeze with little prospects and large expense. We do not envy any of them their position. Some at least will either decline or pay no attention to the form of their "appointment," and these who try to gain possession of an occupied office will be intriguing for the anomalous position of "servants of the people" against the will of the people. We do not think it will work and we are sure it will not pay.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, SEPT. 15.

Still Suffering.—We regret to learn that Mrs. Due, wife of the well known nurseryman, who was injured last Friday, by being thrown out of a wagon, is still suffering quite severely from the effects of the accident. The trouble is mostly in the region of the breast.

Test Case at Beaver.—The validity of the woman's suffrage act is to be tested at Beaver, as well as in the courts of the other judicial districts. A telegram from that town states that Mrs. Thompson, a lady having all the qualifications for registration, was refused on the sole ground that she was a woman.

The case is set for hearing in the Second District Court at Beaver to-morrow morning.

An Arbitrary Deputy.—John Thomson, deputy registrar for Sugar House Precinct is reported to be acting in a contemptible and arbitrary manner. As an instance, Mr. Daniel Garn, a native-born citizen, applied to him for registration, and was refused on the ground that he was a polygamist. In reply to a question as to the ground of his belief he answered, "common rumor." Mr. Garn said he was eligible, and ready to take the prescribed oath, and that he did not see why common rumor should be taken in preference to his affidavit. Thomson persisted in his refusal and intimated that Mr. Garn, a citizen of integrity and respectability was seeking to register illegally. This is but one instance among quite a number that occurred in the same precinct.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, SEPT. 16.

Primary Conference.—A conference of the Primary Associations of Salt Lake Stake will be held on Saturday, Sep. 21st, beginning at 10 a. m., at the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City.

Secretaries of all the branch associations are requested to forward their reports to the Exponent office as soon as possible, ready for the approaching Ladies' Conference.

E. C. CLAWSON, President.

A Tender Conscience.—Last evening, in the Fifth Precinct, a man entered the registration office and took up one of the blanks. He commenced reading it and got along all right till he reached the part where it says, "nor have I cohabited with more than one woman," when he stopped abruptly and said, starting out with a profane word, "I can't say that." Resuming, he read further, "in the marriage relation," when he said, "Oh, all right," at the same time holding up his hand to be sworn, and he took the oath.

A Narrow Escape.—Yesterday Mr. Samuel Bateman had a narrow escape from having a disastrous fire on his premises at West Jordan. The wind blew up a hurricane from