

blinded by the prejudices and hatreds of the past, has been striving, for twenty years, as the so-called Liberal party of Utah, to disfranchise, drive, rob and dispossess the Mormon people.

If the "fair and straight" men of the Liberal party are "open to any reasonable argument," let them consider this matter even a little, and one of two things will follow—either the organ of the Liberal party will cease to be *anti-Mormon*, or the Liberal party will speedily die and disappear forever. Either will be satisfactory, but one of these things *must be*, and that, too, in the near future. The day of hate and falsehood against the Mormons is nigh ended. Already the rising Sun of Promise gilds the mountain peaks of Mormon patience, forbearance and fidelity. Soon the glory of Equal Rights and Equal Protection for *all* will burst upon these valleys across the Wasatch of Prejudice, and Utah shall have such a Year of Jubilee as the world has not known for thousands of years.

CHARLES ELLIS.

### BOX ELDER STAKE.

*Editor Deseret News:*

The Box Elder Stake of Zion embraces the principal part of Box Elder county, Utah, and consists of fourteen Bishops' wards, of which four are in Brigham city. These four wards have an aggregate membership of 2204 souls, or 402 families. The largest ward outside of Brigham city, and also the largest ward in the Stake, is Willard city, with a membership of 715 souls, or 140 families. Next in size is Bear River city, with 410 members, or 81 families. The other wards rank in size as follows: Mantua, with 388 members, or 72 families; Deweyville, with 218 members, or 35 families; Three Mile creek ward, with 217 members, or 41 families; Snowville, with 196 souls, or 89 families; North ward, with 195 members, or 28 families; Honeyville, with 178 members, or 84 families; Park valley, with 143 members, or 27 families, and Grouse creek, with 128 souls, or 21 members. The whole Stake has a total membership of 4992 (920 families), of whom one Apostle (Lorenzo Snow), two Patriarchs (D. M. Burbanks and Samuel Smith), 189 Seventies, 169 High Priests, 369 Elders, 73 Priests, 94 Teachers, 274 Deacons, 2388 lay members and 1450 children under eight years of age. The presidency of the Stake consists of Rudger Clawson, President, Adolph Madsen, First, and Charles Keeley, Second Counselor. President Clawson is the first man who was imprisoned in the Utah Penitentiary under the prosecutions under the Edmunds law, and spent the time from November 3, 1884, to Dec. 12, 1887, in durance vile. His wife, Lydia Spencer Clawson, was the first woman imprisoned for alleged contempt of court, in refusing to testify against her husband. She only spent one day in prison, however, while some of her sisters, who followed her example, were incarcerated for weeks together. In connection with this it may be said that Brigham city has supplied more under the effects of the Edmunds law than any other town of its size in Utah.

All the settlements of the Saints in the Box Elder Stake of Zion, excepting three, are easily reached, as they are located in a string at or near the foot of the Wasatch Mountains, commencing with Willard City on the south, and terminating with Beaver Dams, a branch of the Honeyville Ward, on the north. The three exceptions are Snowville, distant from Brigham City about 45 miles, Park Valley, distant about 100 miles, and Grouse Creek, near the Nevada line, about 145 miles west of Brigham City. Nor can these settlements be reached by rail, as they are situated near the base of different ranges of mountains far to the north of the Central Pacific. A few years ago Box Elder Stake included all the wards lying in the Malad Valley and the Cassia country, but as these distant settlements, which compose the Malad and Cassia Stakes of Zion, grew in size and number they were given separate stake organizations of their own, and now the Box Elder Stake, instead of extending into the neighboring territory on the north, has even given up Portage, Washakie and Plymouth within the borders of Box Elder County to make up the south end of the Malad Stake.

Box Elder county is one of the largest of the northern counties of Utah, and is divided into 17 voting precincts and 23 school districts. A large district in the southwestern portion of the county is rendered a blank by the great American desert. The portion of the county which has the bulk of the population, and which is being fully developed in its agricultural features, is the region basing the Wasatch mountains. Experience has proven the soil in this part of the county to be suitable for every variety of small grain and fruit of all kinds, and the peach in particular is raised in great abundance. It is said that Brigham City alone exports annually \$50,000 worth of peaches, and that the garden fruits of different kinds raised in that burg alone are worth \$125,000 annually.

Box Elder county was first settled in the spring of 1851 by Wm. Davis and others, who located at a point about one mile northwest of where the county courthouse now stands, in what is now block 60, Plat "C" of the Brigham City survey. In 1853, when the Indian war broke out, a fort known as the Box Elder fort was built about half way between the first location and the court house, in what is now Block 17 of plat "C" of Brigham City survey. In 1855, when Apostle Lorenzo Snow came up, a town plat was surveyed and a city, named Brigham City, founded, which has grown steadily from that time until the present, and has a history different to any other modern city on the American continent. It must be remembered that it was here the United Order, under the able management of Apostle Snow and other faithful men, flourished for years, and when the people gained an experience that undoubtedly will be of great value when Zion shall be redeemed and the temple and city in the centre Stake of Zion will be built.

A Stake of Zion was organized here as early as 1856, with Apostle Lorenzo Snow as president, and Jonathan C. Wright and Samuel Smith as his counselors; there was also a High Council.

In 1877 a thorough reorganization of the Stake took place, since which fifty-three quarterly conferences have been held here, and an organization pertaining to a well organized Stake of Zion been kept in good running order. The Stake Tabernacle, occupying a beautiful site on one of the most elevated spots in Brigham City, is one of the finest Stake houses of its size in Utah. It is built of limestone, sandstone and brick, is 98 feet long by 58 feet in width exclusive of the vestry, has cost approximately \$50,000, and was dedicated by President Wilford Woodruff in October, 1890.

I am here to write up the history of the Box Elder Stake of Zion, having previously gathered material for the histories of the Salt Lake, Sanpete, Emery, Bannock, Oneida and Cassia Stakes; and thus I expect to continue until I have gathered sufficient historical information to make a full and complete history of all the Stakes of Zion, including all the wards composing the same. This labor I am doing under the direction of the Church historian, and as I shall have to visit every Stake, ward and branch of the Church in the different parts of this great western country where the Saints dwell, it will take me some time to get through. ANDREW JENSEN.

BRIGHAM CITY, May 3rd, 1891.

### "MORMONS" AND CITIZENSHIP.

Samuel Stewart, an energetic little Scotchman who lives in the town of Washington, created quite a little sensation in the district court Tuesday in the manner in which he held the judge "level" in the interrogations made by the latter as to Stewart's eligibility to be admitted to citizenship. After his honor had received satisfactory answers in regard to the period of the applicant's residence and his general statutory qualifications, the judge suddenly enquired if the applicant was a Mormon. Receiving an affirmative answer, his honor further enquired if he was in good standing, and whether he paid tithing or not? Mr. Stewart replied that he was in "pretty fair standing" and had paid a little tithing last year, but none the two years prior to that, whereupon the judge declared that, to be a Mormon in good standing was a bar to admission to citizenship. Then followed quite an interesting colloquy between the court and Mr. Stewart, the latter in respectful language demanding to know wherein he, as a Mormon, willing to obey all laws of the United States, anti-polygamous and otherwise, was unfit to become an American citizen? The judge replied that such men could not become good citizens, because in an investigation held some time ago before his honor, certain parties had testified that in the ceremonies of the endowment house they had administered an oath to members of the Mormon Church who were passing through the "house" to the effect that they, the aforesaid members, would avenge the spilt blood of Joseph and Hyrum Smith upon the United States; that, therefore, in the opinion of his honor members of the Mormon Church were unfit to become citizens of the United States. To this