

"It would create a revolution here in Utah," replied Governor Wells. "The people of our state are honest in their allegiance to the two great national parties, and they will not brook any dictation or interference by any church, Mormon or Gentile. As for myself, I am a Mormon, and as such I am willing to render obedience to my church leaders in spiritual matters. If, however, they should attempt to exact obedience to their will in matters political I should rise up and say 'Hands off,' and I am quite sure that the majority of the people of Utah would do the same."

"But I do not anticipate any such condition," continued Governor Wells. "Our Church leaders have repeatedly asserted their innocence of any such intention. Utah procured its statehood upon the positive understanding that there should be no union of church and state. We have this provision incorporated in our constitution, which reads:

"There shall be no union of church and state, nor shall any church dominate the state or interfere with its functions."

"How about polygamy, governor? It is also prohibited by the constitution, is it not?"

"Yes, the constitution states that no inhabitant of Utah shall ever be molested in person or property on account of his religion, but that polygamy or plural marriages shall be forever prohibited."

"Suppose it should be practiced?"

"It will be punished just as it was before Utah became a state. There is a part of the constitution which makes the acts of the legislature punishing polygamy which were in force before statehood still valid. I don't like to discuss such matters, however," concluded Governor Wells. "Polygamy is a thing of the past. It is now a dead question, and it ought not to be associated with Utah in the future. Since statehood dawned upon us we have aimed to put the past behind us and to look forward with eyes of hope to the future."

"What are Utah's prospects?" I asked.

"I think it is one of the best states of the Union," replied Governor Wells. "It is a perfect paradise of mountain and plain. Kate Field once said that God had done everything for Utah, but that man had done very little. In one sense that was perfectly true, though not in the sense that Kate Field intended it. It is true that God has filled our mountains with precious metals, but it remains for men to develop them. It is true God gave us a rich soil, but it was left for us to irrigate it and make it as productive as the valley of the Nile. It is true that God placed great streams of water in our canyons, but it is left to us to harness them to machines and to furnish the power which shall set in motion the wheels of a permanent prosperity. We are working along all of these lines and we are doing much, but we cannot do so if the contentions of the past are to be continually paraded before us. What we want here in Utah is to let the dead past bury its dead and to hustle for the live riches of the future."

"But Utah is not a poor state, is it?"

"No, not in proportion to its population," replied Governor Wells. "It has the natural resources and is one of the richest states of the Union. Today our population is just about 250,000, and the assessed value of its property is \$100,-

000,000. This is an average of \$400 to every man, woman and child in the state, or, at five to the family, of \$2,000 per family. I doubt whether you will find as high an average of wealth in any other state in the Union. This is what we have already accumulated today. As to our prospects and natural resources they are almost incalculable. Last year our mineral products alone amounted to more than \$8,000,000, and our undeveloped mineral wealth is great enough, I believe, to almost pay the national debt."

"The state has already produced something like \$200,000,000 worth of gold, silver, copper and lead, and we stand among the first of the states in our output of precious metals. Gold and silver are found all over the state. I don't believe there is a district in the world which will surpass the Mercur district in its possibilities, and we have not begun to touch its riches. The mines of Utah alone will make the state rich. I have a list before me of some which have paid big dividends. Take the Anchor silver and lead mine of Park City. It has produced about a million and a half dollars and is accumulating a big surplus. The Bullion Beck has paid \$2,000,000 in dividends. It is a gold and silver mine located at Tintic. Another Tintic mine is the Centennial Eureka, which yields gold, silver, copper and lead. The mine is now paying \$2 per share a month, and its stock is said to be the highest priced mining stock in the United States. It pays almost three-quarters of a million dollars a year in dividends, and the profits from it have already been almost \$2,000,000. You have visited the Ontario mine at Park City, which you know has paid more than thirteen millions in dividends, and the Daly silver mine of the same place will soon reach the sum of \$3,000,000 in the dividends paid out. In the Daly-West there is millions of dollars' worth of silver in sight, and there are a number of other Tintic mines which have already paid a million dollars and upward. The same may be said of other parts of the state. Down at Frisco 250 miles southwest of here, there is a rich silver district, in which one mine, the Horn Silver, has paid upward of five millions, and aingham, about fifteen miles from Salt Lake, there are silver and lead mines which are producing heavily. There is one there known as the Old Jordan, which is owned entirely by one family. It makes no public report, but it has produced vast amounts of silver and lead."

"In the Cottonwood district there are valuable mines and another big district is known as the Deep Creek country, nearly two hundred miles from here, from which the ore has to be hauled ninety miles in wagons before it gets to the railroad. This will give you some idea of what we know we have in Utah, as far as precious metals are concerned. We have in addition a vast territory which is practically unprospected, and we will be producing gold and silver for generations to come."

"How about your farms here? Are the farmers making money?"

"I believe they are doing better than in any other part of the United States," replied Governor Wells. "The farms are, you know, mostly in the valleys, and the most of them are irrigated. The farmers in many parts of the state live in villages and not on the farms. The

farms are around the villages and the men go out to work them. Nearly every man in Utah owns his own water, and you get your deed to the water with your deed to the land. Fertility of the land is wonderful. Near Salt Lake City it is so valuable that land is worth \$75 and upward an acre. I heard of one man near here who raised a single crop of \$600 worth of strawberries on half an acre, and there are gardeners near here who are getting rich off of their crops. The most of our farms are small and the great majority of our farmers are free from debt. We have altogether 19,000 farms in Utah, and of these 17,000 are absolutely free of incumbrance. Our cultivated area is something like 467,000 acres, of which more than 400,000 are irrigated."

"How about your sheep industry," I asked?

"It is, I think, in good condition," replied Governor Wells. "We are one of the greatest sheep raising states of the Union. We have now about 3,000,000 sheep grazing on our mountains. The herders keep them there in the summer from May until October. In the fall they are taken to the desert and pastured upon it. The sheep are taken care of in herds, some of which run as high as three thousand and upward, and we have men here who do nothing else but herd sheep. There are usually two men to each herd. They receive from \$30 to \$40 a month, and they live in wagons out on the plains with the sheep. The most of the sheep are owned by farmers, who put their flocks together and send them off to the grazing grounds under a couple of herders."

"What else do you people do? Give me some new points on Utah," said I.

"We do everything," replied Governor Wells. "We are doing a great deal of manufacturing, and our factories pay two million dollars a year in wages. Our merchants sell thirty-three million dollars' worth of goods every year. We have thirty-nine banks and during the panic we had only one bank failure. We are ready to build new railroads, and we expect to have one within a short time from Salt Lake to Los Angeles. This road will go through some of the most extensive iron deposits of the world. The iron is of the finest quality. There are hundreds of millions of tons of it, which lie exposed above the surface of the ground. Then we do a big business in copper. Last year we produced about 2,000,000 pounds. We have down in the southern part of the state some of the finest sulphur of the world. The new railroad to Los Angeles will tap the sulphur mines. It will bring Salt Lake City within eight hundred miles of the ocean, and it will develop a great manufacturing industry in southern Utah. There is a quantity of the finest coal right near the iron, and we have limestone there and all the other facilities for manufacturing. There are other districts in Utah which promise quite as well, and I believe that this state will be one of the greatest of the Union."

"How about Salt Lake City? Will it continue to be the chief city of Utah?"

"I think so," replied Governor Wells. "We have now about sixty thousand people here, and we will soon double this. We have, you see, these great mining regions about us. We have the finest climate of the world. We have enterprising citizens and this is the