

requiring the approval of Congress or to filling the offices vacated, and some changes in the existing law are not an improvement.

The act changes the general election from August to November. It changes the time, manner and place for registration, provides for a different board of review, gives the formula for a trial on a challenge at the polls, provides that a new registration shall be annually made in each city and county at the office of the registrars only; that no election precinct shall have over 500 voters, and that the county courts and city councils may divide precincts. It provides a registration officer for each county and one for each city, and a registrar for each precinct, both in counties and cities. All give bonds, but no duty is assigned to the registration officers. Every duty of the act is put upon the precinct registrars.

This double set of registration officers takes the place of the assessor and his deputies under the present act, and of the appointees of the Commission to fill their places.

Under the existing law it is provided the senior justice of the peace of the precinct shall act as a board of review, and he hears challenges to registered voters, and notice to the person challenged is provided for. This proposed act provides for a board of three persons to be appointed as registrars are. The power of the justice (or the person acting in his place under appointment by the Commission) to act judicially and strike off the names of voters without any power of review by the courts or otherwise, though existing, at least, since 1878, has been recently criticised as arbitrary; but the proposed act makes no change in the power or authority of the receiving board, and omits the provisions of the existing law that the challenged party shall have notice of the challenge.

I have on my hands an act intended for the approval of Congress and to supply the legislation provided for in the acts of that body.

It is intended to cover the whole subject of registration, qualification of voters and the conduct of elections, and both these acts embrace many common subjects; but they differ in details relating to the same subjects, and it is difficult to understand both can be the legislative will, expressed at nearly the same time. I am very respectfully,

ARTHUR L. THOMAS,  
Governor.

### WOMAN'S INDUSTRIAL HOME.

Many times in the past reference has been made in our columns to the "Woman's Industrial Home" scheme that was palmed off on Congress, and by which that body was induced to make large appropriations for a "home" for polygamous wives in Utah who abandoned their marital relations. We have pointed out that "Mormon" wives and mothers possessed too much nobility and independence of character to entertain any thought of associating them-

selves with such an institution; and from a full knowledge of this fact, as well as a fair comprehension of the designs and methods of those who were operating the "home" scheme, we found it an easy matter to foretell the outcome of the whole business.

Mention has also been made of the efforts of certain non-"Mormons" here to have the "home" converted into a public government building, and the opposition of others of the Gentile residents to the plan. The supporters of the proposition have not, however, ceased their operations, as can be seen by the annexed circular, which is being circulated in Washington, as stated in a special telegram to the *Herald*. We publish the document, not as our view on the public building subject, but as containing a verification of our statements made regarding the "woman's home" at the time of its inception:

### THE PUBLIC BUILDING FOR SALT LAKE.

The following considerations are respectfully urged to the honorable committee on public buildings, as reasons why the proposed government building for Salt Lake City, Utah, should not cost to exceed the sum of \$50,000. Your attention is also respectfully directed to the plan contained herein by which the expenditure of that amount will provide a building satisfactory in all respects, ample for the needs of the city, and the sum of \$350,000 be saved to the government.

The inhabitants of Salt Lake City are earnest and united in favor of a public building, wide as their differences are on most other subjects. The great increase in criminal prosecutions under the recent enactments of Congress, the duties of the Utah Commission, which has charge of all the elections in the Territory and whose headquarters are in Salt Lake City, the increased importance of the United States land interests, and, more than all, the recent decided growth of Salt Lake City, have all combined to make a commodious place of business for the federal offices an imperative necessity. As it is today, the various government offices are situated in not less than six different localities in Salt Lake City, at a cost to the government of about \$8000 per annum in rents alone, and that figure will be almost doubled when the leases of the present quarters expire. The uniting of all these branches, with which the public has so many dealings, under one roof and in some locality easy of general access, is a consummation the desirableness of which cannot be questioned.

As happens in every other city for which a public building is proposed—the question of a site has commenced to agitate various business and property circles in Salt Lake City. It is realized on every hand that the vast volume of business which would flow to the government headquarters would have the effect to increase values on all adjacent properties, and already combinations and syndicates have

been formed in Salt Lake City looking to the influencing of the commission which will have the locating of the site. Whole blocks have been "tied up" under long options on the chance of the public buildings being located somewhere contiguous. Since it has been decided by a committee of Congress to recommend the insertion of \$400,000 in the appropriation bill for the purchase of a site and erection of the building, the agitation, speculation, and discussions in the circles referred to have increased by tenfold growth.

An important fact which should not be lost sight of now that the amount to be used for erecting the building and purchasing the land for its site has been definitely named, is that the sum proposed is not adequate to carry out both the purposes named. Had the land been acquired years ago, before values rose to their present height in Salt Lake City, a site might have been obtained, and sufficient funds left out of \$400,000 to erect an edifice for the government needs, but even then it would have sufficed only for the time being; but with land values anywhere near the business center of Salt Lake as they are today, the purchase of a suitable site would consume so large a part of the appropriation that it may be doubted whether the residue would be sufficient to erect such a building as would meet the requirements of the government. The supervising architect of the treasury department addressed a request to the postmaster of Salt Lake, asking him to solicit proposals from owners of corners in the central part of the city, looking to the acquirement of a lot 150x200 feet; the postmaster in his advertisement limited the location to two blocks east or west of Main Street, and between South Temple and Fourth South streets—an area which embraces the part of the city strictly devoted to business pursuits. Basing an estimate upon the value of foot frontage for corners within the district valued as quoted in actual transfers in Salt Lake during the past five months—and it is safe to say any site such as the one named by the supervising architect would cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per front foot—an expenditure of from \$150,000 to \$200,000 for the site alone. This objection forms an additional reason for the adoption of the plan we respectfully submit, which is as follows:

That the institution in Salt Lake City known as the Woman's Industrial Home, already owned and controlled by the government, be converted into and constitute the federal building for Salt Lake City.

The reasons urged in support of this plan are:

1—The failure of the institution to accomplish the ends sought to be attained in its creation, and its entire uselessness to either the government or the people of Utah.

2—The saving of a large sum of money to the government.

3—The immediate solution of a question which otherwise will require long investigation and delay to settle.