

FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Liberals, or anti-Mormon.....	8
Democrats.....	16

Total.....24

The last Legislature stood politically as follows:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Liberals, or anti-Mormon.....	2
People's, or Mormon.....	10

Total.....12

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Liberals, or anti-Mormon.....	5
People's, or Mormon.....	19

Total.....24

A Liberal gain in the Council of 2, and in the House of Representatives of 3.

At the election held in November, 1890, for the purpose of choosing a Delegate to Congress, the issues were made, the lines sharply drawn between the Liberal or anti-Mormon party, and the People's or Mormon party, Hon. C. C. Goodwin being a candidate for the former and Hon. John T. Caine for the latter. The canvass of the Territory was an active one, and much partisan feeling was developed.

In a total vote of 23,293, Hon. John T. Caine received 18,353 votes as against 6912 votes cast for his opponent, and 28 scattering, was duly returned as elected, and was awarded the certificate of election.

When the municipal election for the city of Ogden was held, in February, 1891, the Liberal party was confronted by an organization called the Citizens' party. A convention by that name was held, and candidates placed in nomination, some of whom had heretofore acted with the Liberal and some with the People's party. Subsequently the People's Party Convention ratified and adopted the ticket thus selected. It was charged that the Liberals having control of the registration, and, under the usual custom of appointment, likely to control the Election Boards, contemplated and were preparing for a wholesale system of frauds in order to carry the election, and it was demanded of the Commission that it appoint one member, at least, of each Board of Election from the newly-formed Citizens' party.

For the purpose of investigating the condition of affairs, the Commission held a session in the city of Ogden, inviting representatives of all the parties to appear before it. The representatives of the Citizens' party made demand for representation, accompanied by the assertion that the People's party had disbanded. This was promptly disputed by the representatives of the People's party, each and all of whom vigorously asserted that that party had not disbanded, and would demand the representation the law gave it upon each of the Election Boards one asserting that the People's party only supported the Citizens' ticket as "choice between two evils," and would have its own ticket in the field at the next election.

The Commission declined to depart from the customary rule of action, and appointed to constitute the Election Boards two from the Liberal and one from the People's party.

The Commission believes from personal observation of the conduct of the election that it was fairly conducted, and was free from any attempts to override the will of the people.

The greater portion of the Citizens' ticket was elected by a small majority.

As the time approached for holding the general Territorial election in August, 1891, a new condition of political affairs confronted the people of Utah. The People's party was officially declared disbanded by its Territorial committee, and it was announced that for the future an alliance would be sought with the two great National parties.

This departure from established methods was hailed by some as the end which had been long hoped for, while others looked upon it as a ruse through which the leaders of the Mormon Church were seeking Statehood, well knowing that their large majority would control the State thus formed. Upon this conflict of opinion, the Commission announced no judgment, preferring that the experiment be given a fair trial and be judged by its results. Whether the disbanding of the People's or Mormon party be an act of good faith or a ruse by which to get rid of the power and control of the National Government, the Commission is of the opinion that it is a step in the direction of educating the people to think for themselves politically, will tend to loosen the bonds in which they have in the past been held by the Church, and thus be productive of good in the end.

In view of the fact that the Mormon Church has invariably in the past dictated the political movements of its adherents, and presented a united front against any and every party which came in contact with it, those who now doubt its sincerity may well be excused for doubting.

That church has, through the People's party, strenuously opposed every effort made, whether by laws of Congress, the action of the courts or of the Utah Commission, to put down polygamy. It has appealed to the courts, generally going to the court of last resort upon every question that could be raised to sustain its assumption that it was justified in obeying the alleged will of God expressed through daily revelation vouchsafed only to themselves, as against the revealed will of the nation expressed through its laws. It has denounced the Commission through all the years it has been administering the laws directed against polygamy, and kept a united force constantly standing and ready to oppose every effort to compel its submission to the laws of the land.

When disfranchisement stared the Church in the face; when the city and county of Salt Lake, the city of Ogden and county of Weber, and Park City, had been wrested from its control, and other places were showing signs of becoming anti-Mormon, then, and not till then, did this change come.

This Commission hopes it is the beginning of a better era. It cares not what the motive underlying the movement may be, if its results be for the enfranchisement of this people, and the substitution of better ideas and methods for those which have prevailed in the past. It will do no harm to Utah, or to the nation, to wait awhile and see what this sudden conversion—as sudden as that of Saul of Tarsus—will bring about.

Time, which proves all things, will prove whether it will be for good or

ill. It is worthy of note that 7411 Gentiles, more than ever before, voted the Liberal ticket, by their votes avowed their disbelief in the sincerity of the new political movement.

It is but two years since this Commission and its registration officers were charged with fraud and crime because the city of Salt Lake had shown a Gentile majority of 41 in the August election, 1889. The result of the Salt Lake municipal election of February, 1890, when the Gentiles elected a mayor and city council, by a majority of 807, was made the occasion of again vilifying the Commission by publishing wholesale charges of corruption, from one end of the land to the other.

A sufficient answer to these charges is found in the increased registered vote and increased Liberal majorities in the business centers, as shown in Salt Lake City, and the result of the later elections.

In June, 1889, when the registry for Salt Lake City was made, by which a Gentile majority of 41 was attained, the registration lists exhibited a total of 5494. In June, 1890, 7621, and in June, 1891, 10,273, nearly all of which represents an anti-Mormon gain, an increase of Gentile immigration.

Under this registration, the Liberal party of Salt Lake elected its representatives by a majority of 1045 over its highest competitor; and of 691 over the Republican and Democratic competitors combined, and the old charges of fraud against the Commission and its officers have not been once heard.

It would seem that no better vindication of the work of the Commission could be wished for, and the redemption of these great business centers of Utah from the blight of the old regime points the way to the final redemption of the Territory, if the lessons of the past are heeded and the work continued, which has thus far produced such gratifying results.

As a means of securing impartial and fair elections throughout the Territory, the Commission from time to time, as the exigency arose, issued to its registration and election officers circulars of instruction, which are given as appendices A, B, C and D to this report, and which it is believed were generally observed and acted upon. Many of them do not differ materially from those heretofore published and acted upon, others seemed required to meet a present need, and the prompt acquiescence of the officers so allayed partisan fears that less complaint followed the August election of 1891 than ever before. This Commission has heretofore recommended and now repeats the recommendation that such legislation be had as will make its registration officers responsible to it for their actions.

ATTITUDE OF PARTIES TOWARDS MORMONISM.

The Democratic party of Utah in its declaration of principles, adopted in convention July 20, 1891, has the following upon local affairs:

"Be it resolved, That we accept the declarations and action of the Mormon people abandoning the practice of polygamy, and the People's party in disbanding the same, as done in good faith and all sincerity, and we favor the restoration of the franchise to all disfranchised citizens who will obey the laws of the United States."