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Utah in Congress.

The House Committee's Report on Statehood

Among the reports made to the national House of Representatives on January 21, 1893, was one by the House committee on Territories, submitted by the chairman, Mr. Manu. The report was on "A bill to enable the people of Utah to form a constitution and state government, and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states." It was committed to "the committee of the whole House on the state of the Union."

The opening pages of the report consist of a number of documents which have heretofore been published in the News. They are given in the following order:

Proclamation by President Harrison, made January 4, 1893, granting amnesty to offenders against the Edmunds law of 1878.

The manifesto of the First Presidency of the Church, issued September 25, 1890.

The motion in relation to the manifesto, adopted at the Church Conference in Salt Lake City, October 6, 1890.

Governor Thomas' report to the Secretary of the Interior on the manifesto.

Official declaration of the First Presidency of the Church, made October 6, 1891, denying the allegation of the Utah Commission that plural marriages had been contracted during the preceding year.

The petition of the First Presidency and Apostles, asking amnesty. This is dated December 19, 1891.

The official endorsement, made December 21, 1891, of Governor Thomas and Chief Justice Kane, to the petition for amnesty.

The Governor's report for 1892 on the petition.

Memorial of the Utah legislature of 1892, asking admission into the Union.

The resolutions relating to statehood adopted in 1892 by the Territorial Republican and Democratic conventions, and the references to the same subject in the national party platforms of 1892.

The report then says:

"When we remember that Utah has a population of 225,000 people and property of an assessed valuation of over \$100,000,000, and of a real value of not less than \$100,000,000, being a population and wealth far exceeding that of any Territory, except South Dakota, that has ever been admitted into the Union as a state,

it is not surprising to all that the only barrier in the way of the admission of Utah as a state was that of polygamy.

POLYGAMY EXTERMINATED.

"While your committee utterly condemns the doctrine of polygamy, and holds that so long as the Mormons constituted the larger part of the population of the Territory of Utah, and personally or as a matter of faith, with or without the practice, believe in the doctrine of polygamy, then it was proper and right for the Federal Government to use all of its vast powers to secure the overthrow and destruction of that practice; yet, in view of the foregoing facts set forth in this report, as well as the concurrent testimony of all parties interested in the welfare of Utah who have appeared before your committee at its hearings upon this subject during the present Congress, as well as the vast amount of testimony submitted to your committee during the Fifth Congress upon the same topics, your committee believes without doubt or hesitation that the institution of polygamy as taught by the Mormon Church, whether of faith or of practice, is now absolutely stamped out and exterminated.

CHARACTER OF MORMON PEOPLE.

"Your committee, in regard to the general character of the Mormon people for truth, honesty, morality, sobriety, and virtue, other than their disputed doctrine of polygamy, call attention to the following statements and excerpts of evidence produced to your committee:

"The Mormon Church will be 63 years old on the 6th day of April, 1893. Polygamy was not taught or proclaimed in the Book of Mormon. The Church long existed without polygamy, and was about 35 years old when the revelation of polygamy was promulgated; two of the three original witnesses to the translation of the Book of Mormon recorded from the Church after it had adopted polygamy, and upon that account. The revelation concerning it was first made public in 1852, and published in the book of 'Doctrine and Covenants' in 1853. Let us now see what are the general characteristics of the Mormon people under the teachings of their religion.

"The statements of Judge C. S. Kane, ex-U. S. Marshal F. H. Dyer, Governor Stephenson, of Idaho, Bayard Taylor, Dr. Miller, Philip Green, Mrs. Emily Pratt, Stevens, and Judge Alexander White, regarding the people of Utah, are incorporated in the report. They have all appeared in the columns of the News. The committee next proceed with the subject of

POPULATION.

"The Territory of Utah possesses in a marked degree those requirements essential to statehood, the necessary population and resources."

"The census of 1890 places the population of Utah at 227,000, which is 15,000 more than the combined population of the States of Montana and Wyoming, and 17,000 in excess of the entire population of the adjoining States, Nevada, Idaho, and Wyoming, and 22,000 more than required under the census of 1890 for a Representative in Congress."

"The population has greatly increased since the census was taken. The governor of the Territory, in his report to the Secretary of the Interior, dated October 1, 1892, estimates the population at 227,000, being an increase of 10,000 over the census report. This is deemed a very conservative estimate, and the population today may be safely placed at 225,000."

"The idea often expressed by persons ignorant of the facts, that the people of Utah are mostly foreigners, is most successfully refuted by the census reports, which make the following showing: Total Americans born 154,841; total foreign born 72,159."

"The proportion of foreign born to American born in Utah is less than in the States of North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, California, Massachusetts, South Dakota, New York, Michigan, Washington, and the Territory of Arizona."

"Only in three States and one Territory has the foreign population decreased more than in Utah during the last census decade."

"The percentage of aliens who speak the English language is greater in Utah than in thirty-two States and two Territories."

"The population of Utah consists largely of the white element, there being of colored persons, embracing civilized Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Hawaiians, as well as Negroes, only 2,000 in the entire Territory, less in proportion to the white than any of the Pacific States and Territories."

"The total number of votes cast at the election for Delegate held in November, 1892, was 34,577, being an increase of 10,112 over the election for members of the legislature held the year previous."

WEALTH AND RESOURCES.

"Utah has all the elements of greatness within its borders. Its resources being varied, diversified industries flourish and the future gives promise of wonderful results. The splendid system of irrigation which has been provided largely by community co-operation, renders crops certain, and assures food supplies at cheap rates."

"Statistics are given in relation to Agriculture, Irrigation, Live Stock, Mining, Building and Investments, Banking, Sugar Factory, Manufactures, Assessed Valuation of Property, Public Lands, Roads, Cattle, Sheep, Horses, etc. The report says, under the heading of

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

"Utah has an excellent free-school system supported by taxation, and much attention is being given to the cause of

education and the schools of the Territory give promise of great thoughtfulness and usefulness."

"The amount of Territorial and district school-tax levied for the benefit of the common free schools for the year 1891 amounted to \$101,600.20."

"Besides the common schools, Utah has its due proportion of private, church, and denominational schools."

"In his report for 1892 the commissioner of schools for Utah says: 'In children of school age in the Territory was given at 60,000, of which 55,341 were of non-Mormon parents, and 15,000 were of non-Mormon parents. According to the present report, the total number of children of school age in the Territory is 72,159, of which 57,122 are of non-Mormon parents, and 15,037 of Mormon parents. This shows the increase in one year of the children of school age who are of Mormon parentage to be 0.55 per cent, and the increase of those of non-Mormon parentage to be 0.22 per cent."

"Exhibit A of school population shows that the number of children of school age in the Territory who attend no school, the report for the preceding year (1891) showed 7,100. It will therefore be noticed that, while the number of children of school age is rapidly increasing, the number of those who attend no school is decreasing."

"A table, showing that the total amount invested in the educational establishment of Utah is \$1,437,000, and the general distribution of the schools throughout the Territory, is given in the report of the commissioner of schools for 1892. The remainder of the committee's statement is as follows:

"Only about 5 per cent of the people of Utah are illiterate, and this fact, considered in connection with the educational facilities of the Territory and the ambitious character of the people, is ample assurance of one of the most essential characteristics of good citizenship. But the aim of education in Utah is not merely to reduce the number of those who are technically denominated illiterates, but to give to the people the same training and learning that may be had in the best schools of the East; and therefore the course of study includes not only the usual and ordinary branches, but extends to the higher studies which are taught in the schools of the older commonwealths."

"Utah has not been unmindful of the more unfortunate class of its citizens. It has established at Provo, a large and well equipped asylum for the insane, and at Ogden a reform school provided with all the necessary means for educating and instructing in some industrial pursuit such boys and girls as have no parents or homes and those who can not be controlled by home influences."

THE ENAILING ACT.

"The bill provides an enabling act for the people of Utah Territory and the terms upon which the constitutional convention will be held and the constitution framed and submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection. The enabling act, submitted in amended form, a copy of which was passed at the last session of Congress by this House

or the admission of the Territory of Utah into the Union."

"All persons qualified to vote for representatives of the legislative assembly are authorized to vote for delegates to form the convention, which shall consist of six delegates, who are apportioned upon the following theory of representation: Every county to have at least one delegate, and one additional for every 10,000 of population, and for the larger fraction thereof. The election is to be held for delegates on the first Monday in August after the passage of this act. A new registration of voters is to be made under the provisions of the laws of the United States and the Territory, the registration to commence on the first Monday in June after the passage of this act. Delegates to the convention shall meet at the seat of government the third Monday after their election and declare, on behalf of the people of their proposed State, to adopt the Constitution of the United States, whereupon the convention is authorized to form a state constitution, and government for the proposed State of Utah. It is required that such constitution shall be republican in form, and make no distinction as to race or color, except as to Indians not taxed, and not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. They shall provide by ordinance, irrevocable without the consent of the United States, that no inhabitant shall ever be molested in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious worship. The enabling act also provides that the proposed State of Utah shall forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof, and all lands lying within the limits of the State owned or held by any Indian or any Indian tribes, and until the Indian title shall have been extinguished by the United States, such Indian reservation shall be and remain subject to the disposition of the United States. All Indian lands shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the United States."

"The other provisions usual in an enabling act are required, especially that the debts of the Territory are to be assumed and paid by the State, and provision made for the establishment and maintenance of public schools, to be open to all the children of the State, free from sectarian influence. The constitution thus formed to be submitted to the people of Utah Territory for ratification or rejection, at an election to be held at a time fixed by ordinance of the convention, where, if a majority of votes cast shall be for the constitution, the governor shall certify the result to the President of the United States. If he shall find the constitution and government of said proposed State to be republican in form, and all the provisions of the enabling act are complied with, it shall be his duty to proclaim the constitution, and to call the Legislature of the State to assemble at the seat of government, whereupon the proposed State of Utah shall be deemed admitted by Congress into the Union upon an equal footing with the original States. Also, that until the next general census, or until

otherwise provided by law, Utah shall be entitled to one Representative in the Congress of the United States, who, together with the other State officers, may be elected at the same time the election is held for the adoption of the constitution. Sections 5 to 12, inclusive, relate to the different grants of lands which it is proposed Utah shall receive from the General Government. In view of the mountains and arid character of the land, and as the larger part of all agricultural lands lying along the streams fit for cultivation without irrigation have either been homesteaded, purchased, or secured under the various land acts of the Government, it is provided that Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, of every township of the proposed State are granted to it for the support of common schools, with indemnity for all lands heretofore taken up, to be made in such manner as the legislature may provide, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior."

"One hundred sections of land are granted for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the capital, 100,000 acres for the use and support of an agricultural college, 10 per cent of the proceeds of the sales of public lands within the State and after deducting all expenses, shall be paid to the State for a permanent fund, to be devoted to the common schools, of which the interest only shall be annually expended. All lands granted by Utah for educational purposes are to be disposed of at public sale, at a price not less than 25 per acre. Two townships of land are to be reserved for the use of the University of Utah. All schools, colleges, and universities provided for in this act are to remain forever under the exclusive control of the State. No part of the proceeds of the lands can be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college, or university. All mineral lands are excepted from any grant made under the act. The lands here given to the State of Utah are in lieu of all grants of lands for the purpose of internal improvements, also swamp and overflowed lands, and of saline lands, and shall be in quantities as follows:

"For irrigating purposes, 100,000 acres for levee system, 100,000 acres for school of mines, 100,000 acres for deaf and dumb asylum, 100,000 acres for reform school, 100,000 acres for State normal school, 100,000 acres for an institution for the blind, 100,000 acres for miner's hospital, 100,000 acres also the United States penitentiary, that Salt Lake City, with all lands and appurtenances attached, are granted to the State of Utah. These are specific grants of lands exclusively for the purposes mentioned. It is expressly provided in the act that Utah is not to be entitled to any further grants of lands. All lands granted are to be sold at public sale, and not less than 25 per acre provided, the State may lease any

grants of lands for a period of time not more than five years. The State of Utah to compose one judicial district, for which there shall be one United States district judge, one attorney, one marshal, and a clerk for each of the circuit and district courts, with proper provisions for the transfer of all business

from the courts of the Territory to the Federal courts of the State; and also provide for all cases of appeal or writs of error in cases pending now or hereafter in the Territorial courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. Section 13, appropriate, 20,000 to the Territory for defraying the expenses of the convention. Section 20 provides that the convention shall, by ordinance, provide for the election of officers for the new State government, including members of the legislature and a Representative in the Fifty-third Congress, all of whom shall remain in obedience until the State is admitted into the Union. If admitted, the legislature shall assemble and elect two Senators, in the manner prescribed by the laws of the United States; and upon the Governor's certificate the Senators and Representatives shall be qualified to meet in Congress. Also, that all laws in force in the Territory at the time of its admission into the Union shall be in force in the State until modified or changed, according to its constitution and laws."

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION.

"The Mormon Church and its adherents have been subject for long years to the sharpest and most unjust criticism, and heretofore all prayers of the Mormon people for statehood have been denied. Indemnity at four cents a acre have come to the conclusion that the time for statehood for Utah has at last arrived. It is eminently proper that the characteristics of the Mormon people shall be made known, not only for the information of Congress, but of the nation."

"These statements will be repeated from the pulpit and the stump, and around Christian firesides."

"Many thousands of people who heretofore have looked upon the Mormons as moral outlaws, it is believed will change their opinion, and admit that a people showing the characteristics that the Mormons possess, are at last worthy of statehood with full admission to all the rights of American citizenship. Upon this basis, the question, your committee quote from the argument of Judge Jeremiah M. Wilson, of Washington Territory, in 1890, Judge Wilson, among other things, said:

"Utah is entitled to admission and we have nothing to suggest, first, whether the constitution Congress has a right to require that Utah be a State, whether there is anything in it, or of these conditions that will justify it."

"Utah has more than 100,000 inhabitants, more than the number required. That is not a small number."

"Utah has a public school system of the highest order of excellence and a university of high grade. Every department of the Government has been established, and the result of it is an increase of wealth and a more prosperous condition of the people. That is not a small thing."

"As a commonwealth, the people of Utah are not at all deficient. This is not a dispute. The evidence of the fact, that great benefit of good government is shown, is more than that of any other Territory in the Union. That is not a small thing."

"His statements include about every

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