

## EDITOR GLASMANN ON SMOOT CASE.

In the Ogden Standard he Discusses the Answer of Utah's Traducers.

## QUORUM IS NOT ABSOLUTE.

Maintains Twelve Does Not Rule in Spiritual and Temporal Affairs in Utah—Cites Instances.

Editor Glasmann in the Ogden Standard, (non-Mormon) editorially discusses Senator Reed Smoot's answer published on Saturday as follows:

"That was a clear-cut statement made by Senator Reed Smoot in reply to the charges presented against him in the United States senate. The senator makes a complete denial of the charge that he has more than one wife, or that he ever had more than one wife. He even goes so far as to say that his first and only wife is the mother of ALL his children, and that he never cohabited with any other woman. That, of course, settles the polygamous charge against the senator. If there was even a shadow of proof possible against him, he would never have made so complete a denial. The senator positively denies that he has ever taken an oath inconsistent with the oath required of him as a United States senator to defend the Constitution of the United States.

"All the other charges he denies absolutely. "Those opposed to the senator lay much stress upon the charge that the quorum of twelve is absolute in spiritual and temporal affairs in Utah, and that they are self-perpetuating, etc. It often appears as if the bishops and stake presidents are appointed without considering the wishes of the people over whom they are to preside; it only appears so to those who scan Mormonism from the distance, and who judge only from the final appointments. They seem to be made by some apostle and submitted to the people to vote on, and usually the name submitted is approved. It is pointed out that the people approve the appointments through fear of discipline. The truth is that the Church leaders canvass each

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district for the most available man, and advise and counsel with the prominent churchmen of each locality before making a selection. It occasionally happens that the Church leaders advise and consult with the wrong people and are turned down with a vote of promptness and emphasis to surprise even the highest Church authorities. We have several of such instances in mind, and they occur most frequently in districts where the Mormons comprise the whole position.

"We will briefly tell of one instance which took place in Kanab, the county seat of Kane county, only a few miles from the Arizona line. The writer was in that locality making political speeches at about the same time Apostle F. M. Lyman was holding a quarterly conference at the same place. Arriving in Kanab early in the morning we attended, for the first time in our life, a Mormon conference. We listened patiently to Apostle Lyman's 40-minute sermon, after which the trouble started. A Bishop was to be appointed and the Apostle presented a name; instantly the audience became quiet. We felt as if something was wrong, or that it was a very solemn moment when a Bishop is to be chosen. We thought that it had become unusually quiet, for even Apostle Lyman looked around uneasily, and finally concluded to say a few kind words for the proposed bishop and ended with a masterly eulogy in his favor. He then said: "All those who will sustain the choice of — as Bishop of Kanab will raise your right hand." About 30 hands went up, which were hardly visible among the 400 people present. The Apostle repeated the request, but no more hands appeared. Finally, those opposed waited to us with a look unsatisfied. He then thundered, "Well, who do you want for your Bishop?" The response came promptly and Mr. Lyman presented the name suggested by the audience, and he was elected without opposition. But the 20 men who had their choice turned down, had vengeance written in their eyes; they were the powerful and wealthy of the community, and it required a good deal of tact and good judgment to cause peace and harmony to prevail in the bishopric of Kanab in southern Utah. But Mr. Lyman was equal to the occasion, and he attempted to place the rejected Bishop as a member of the High Council. But was again overruled. By this time some of those who had voted against the rejected Bishop the first time, went over to the minority, and the vote for the High Council was almost evenly divided. What looked like the beginning of a good chance for a Church rebellion was in progress. Heated words were exchanged after the morning meeting, and at 2 o'clock the house was jammed to the doors. Everybody seemed anxious and ready for a fight; then Apostle Lyman made a peace talk, taking all the blame on himself for having failed to properly consult

and advise with the people. To settle the whole matter, he proposed that the rules be suspended and that the rejected Bishop be made a Patriarch, which as near as we could learn, is a sort of notice of retirement from active affairs with an honorable mention. To our surprise every man and woman in the house voted to sustain the nomination, and Apostle Lyman was so pleased over the final result that he adjourned the conference.

"Those opposed to the rejected Bishop voted to make him a Patriarch in order to get him out of active church affairs while those in his favor voted for him because it gave him great honors in his retirement; thus all were satisfied. This closed the incident with a unanimous expression from what seemed to be a rebellious congregation.

"We have several other instances in view where the Church leaders were turned down, but not quite so emphatically as in this instance at Kanab. And ever since the Kanab incident the Standard editor has been convinced that the quorum of Twelve Apostles of the Mormon Church is not the whole thing in Utah Mormonism by any means."

## SENATOR SMOOT AT CHURCH.

Meets Cardinal Gibbons at the St. Patrick's Church.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Senators Kearns and Smoot and Mrs. Kearns were among the congregation attending St. Patrick's church services Sunday to hear Cardinal Gibbons, who officiated and preached the sermon. After the services the cardinal held an informal reception, at which Senator Smoot was presented to the distinguished churchman by Mrs. Kearns. Monday evening Rev. Dr. Stafford entertained at a dinner in honor of Cardinal Gibbons. Senator Kearns and former Senator Carter of Montana were among the guests.

## A FOOL DECISION.

Charge of Murder Withdrawn Because a Microbe Got Into Wound

Chicago, Jan. 12.—A dispatch to the Record-Herald from Omaha, Neb., says: One tiny bacillus with a long name has intervened between Henry Foster and the hangman's noose. The microbe found its way into the wound of Thos. Gentlemen of Fremont, whom Foster shot. Death followed as a matter of course for the bacillus is deadly and is known to science as The "bacillus diplocapulus-aerogenes." The hospital surgeons at Fremont declare that Gentlemen had one chance in a thousand of recovery. This chance was eliminated when the microbe appeared. Because of this the county attorney is compelled to withdraw his charge of murder in the first degree.

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## A RISING STORM; BAD LAND LAWS.

Not Improbable That Former May Sweep the Latter Away.

## BIG FRAUDS OF THE WEST.

How the Graft is Worked and What is Proposed in the Way of Remedial Legislation.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Western congressmen have been inveighing against and stoutly defending the national land laws according as their interests lie. Some have asserted that under them gross frauds were being perpetrated in the west while others have pooh poohed the idea of fraud and claimed that the entries under them were legitimate and that the laws were a great aid in the "development of the west."

Now comes the commissioner of the land office with his annual report, in which he says that the order of the secretary of the interior for the investigation of entries made in the three states of California, Oregon and Washington resulted in the suspension of 10,000 applications. If the superficial evidence is such as to lead the government to suspect that anything like that enormous number of fraudulent entries had been made during a recent period in three states alone, it must be apparent, even to the most indifferent and least informed, that the timber and stone act is a law easily susceptible of abuse.

## OLD STORY IN THE WEST.

As a matter of fact the constant employment of the timber law as a means of enabling lumber syndicates to absorb the most valuable public property for purposes of private monopoly is notorious in the localities where the thing is done. It is known to every man, woman and child. No one attempts to deny it, though some defend it on the ground that private capital must be tempted into the development of the country by the assurance of enormous profits.

The commissioner also says in his annual report that there were enclosures of public land covering an area of 1,665,399 acres. Building a fence around other people's property and proceeding to claim it as your own is a somewhat unique way of getting rich, but here is official testimony to the fact that the

method is extensively pursued in certain localities.

## THE FRAUDS DISCOVERED.

The commissioner also says that the figures he supplies represent but a fraction of this species of fraud, since he was obliged to recall his special agents from the field of inquiry and put them on the trail of the timber thieves. The aggressive efforts of the live stock interests in certain parts of the west to enlarge their holdings by snubbing up valuable portions of the public domain is quite as notorious as the operations of those who are grabbing the forests. These facts have been made thoroughly known to the country. And there are many indications that the country will demand legislation to stop

the looting of the public domain and save the rest of it for the highest uses of civilization.

## DEMAND FOR LEGISLATION.

Some of the strongest newspapers in the United States, all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific, have declared in favor of the repeal of the land laws—all but the original homestead law. Many of the most powerful commercial organizations and labor unions have done the same. With the exception of localities where live stock and lumber interests dominate public opinion, western sentiment is also largely in line with the demand for repeal.

It is no exaggeration to say that a storm of protest and indignation is sweeping over the land and demanding

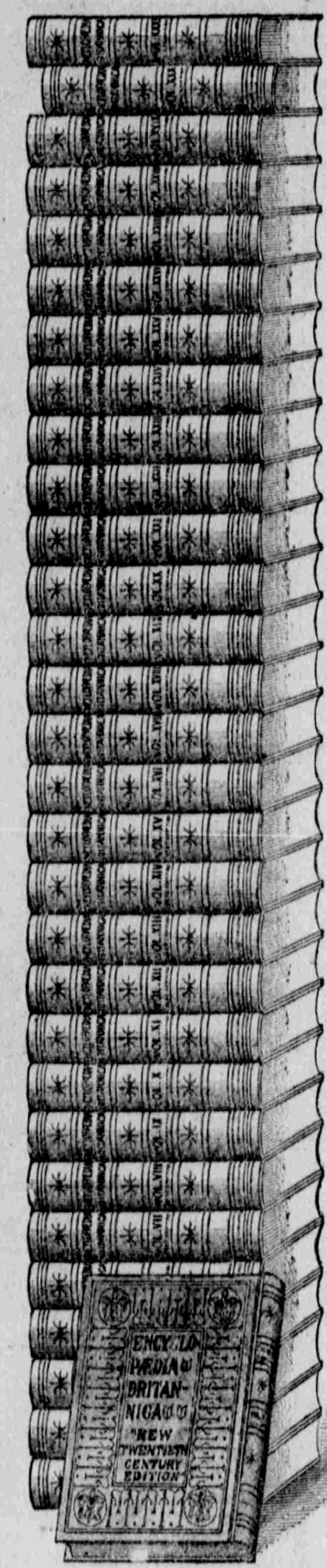
that there shall be no further misuse of the people's estate. Leaders of the present Congress announce that there will be little legislation at this session. Whatever else is done or left undone, this country cannot afford to neglect this paramount duty to the homeseekers of the future.

WILLIAM E. SMYTHE.

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