

In my mind. Yet Mr. West has been Governor of the Territory of Utah, and now occupies a prominent position here. I have, therefore, decided to leave it with him to decide whether he can honorably cast a vote here in view of his declaration regarding a change of residence from Utah to Washington last fall.

The challenge is therefore denied.

A. H. PARSONS, Registrar.

THE LIBERAL FRAUD AT SCOFIELD

Editor Deseret News:

The Liberals are boiling hot over a letter received by the Democratic party from the commissioner of schools for Utah Territory, correcting the false action of the Liberal party here. The majority of that party are ashamed of its doings. The Democrats wrote out their ticket for "A. Hood, S. trustee," according to the form provided by the statute, and cast thirty-seven true votes for him, thus giving a majority of two for the Democratic nominee. But the judges of election refused to count the votes on the ground that they were illegal in form and so cast them out, thus giving the election in favor of J. M. Beattie, who we think is a man of too much honor to accept a stolen office. The president of the Democratic club wrote a letter to the commissioner of schools for Utah Territory and stated the facts. The answer received was as follows:

OGDEN, Utah, July 20, 1891.

A. Hood, J. K. Parcell, Esq., Scofield, Utah;

Gentlemen—Yours of the 16th instant has been received. A telegram signed "School Trustees" was received by me a few days ago in regard to the same matter of which you write. I ought not to have answered the telegram—

First—Because no name was signed to it.

Second—Because the inquiry was as to their past acts and not to guide their future action.

Third—Because my opinion in the matter was not binding upon the trustees or upon anybody else. No intimation was given to me as to the ground upon which the trustees acted in rejecting the ballots headed "A. Hood, S. trustee." The ground of their action, as stated by you, namely, that the length of term was not stated upon the ticket, is certainly wholly untenable. The law did not require the length of term to be stated, unless your district was a new one and there were several trustees to be elected, each for a different length of time. I telegraphed to the "school trustees" that I thought their action correct. But I was basing my opinion upon a wholly different point from that which you say was raised by them. My opinion was based upon the assumption that the ballots did not show that A. Hood was being voted for, for school trustee. You are at liberty to show this letter to the "school trustees" and any others that you desire.

Yours truly,

JACOB S. BOREMAN.

SCOFIELD, Utah, July 27, 1891.

THE MEXICAN MISSION.

Editor Deseret News:

Since my last communication to the News was written I have visited the colonies of Diaz, Dublin and Juarez, met numerous old acquaintances I had not seen for many years and had a chance of learning something of the true condition of the Saints in that land, about which so many and such conflicting reports have been made. I was informed before going there that I would see the country in its worst aspect, as it was just "between hay and grass," the rainy season, which the thirsty soil and the impatient inhabitants who cultivate it without sufficient water to irrigate their crops, await with anxiety, not having set in. Had I been a few weeks later, I would have found luxuriant, waving grass, high enough to cut with a mowing machine, on plains that are parched and barren and in many places apparently almost as destitute of vegetation as Main Street, in Salt Lake City. Instead of the crops appearing wilted and stunted as I most generally found them, I was assured that had I arrived after the showers commenced which are now daily expected, I would have been able to almost see them grow. As it was, I was impressed with the fact that Chihuahua was especially adapted for the development of those qualities which the Latter-day Saints generally are somewhat noted for possessing, buoyant hope, unconquerable faith, dogged perseverance and unflagging industry. That whereas all nature was made to take on an appearance of gladness and freshness during the rainy season, causing the drooping spirits of the tired stranger and his emaciated teams to revive, the season of drouth, the scarcity of water with which to irrigate, the peculiarities of the soil with which the people are not yet familiar, the scarcity and costliness of good building material, the strange customs and language of the natives, the duties levied on imported goods which the new settlers who are not yet prepared to engage extensively in home manufacture find it so necessary to have, are all calculated to call forth the faith and patient persistence which only true Saints can manifest, and which are capable of transforming the most forbidding wilderness and barren desert into fruitful fields and blooming gardens.

In the estimation of many of the Saints who now inhabit that land, Chihuahua is quite as good a country as they can reasonably hope to be allowed to possess in peace, but no person need go there with the idea that he is going to find it possessed of very many material advantages over Utah.

Diaz, the first settlement I visited, has not made the advancement agriculturally that I expected it had. Many of the inhabitants are cultivating but little if any more than their gardens, and some of them, owing to scarcity of water or the presence of mineral in the soil, do not promise very rich returns. In other instances, however, the trees, shrubs and vegetation generally gave evidence of the fact that with proper care and attention very satisfactory results as to appearance, and doubtless as to profit as well, might be obtained in the line of gardening.

Brother William W. Galbraith, formerly of Kaysville, in Utah, is the most extensive farmer of the place, and when he informed me that he had, near the river, about two miles east of the town, the best farm he ever owned I was satisfied, as his acquaintances in Utah will be also, that it must be an unusually good one. The results obtained by him would not be a fair criterion by which to judge of the quality of the soil generally, as he doubtless has some of the best land in the region and is one of the most thorough cultivators of the soil, but he assured me he had raised corn on his farm the stalks of which stood eighteen feet high, and that Brother Winiflow Farr, formerly of Ogden, who is known to tower a long way above most of his fellows, could not reach the lowest ears on it while standing on tip-toe, which statement was also corroborated by Brother Farr. I have no doubt that Diaz and the surrounding region will in time support a heavy population, but its resources are yet undeveloped, and it will require much labor and patient endurance to develop them.

Dublin, the next settlement of the Saints reached as one journey towards the interior of Mexico, has one of the finest sites for a town I ever saw, but when one considers the absence of the essentials which would render it a desirable place to locate upon, he is apt to be reminded of the saying of the cynic who, on being told that a certain locality only lacked plenty of water and good society, remarked the same might be said of Hades. The uncertainty about securing a title to the land in this region, which in the opinion of some of the inhabitants is not likely to be enhanced by the making of valuable improvements thereon before the title is obtained, and the water problem which has thus far not been practically solved, are serious barriers to the progress of the settlement, but nevertheless a considerable number of houses have already been built and a great many fields have been cultivated with more or less success. If the obstacles mentioned can be overcome this will become the most desirable place I have yet seen in Mexico to locate.

Juarez, the farthest settlement in the interior I visited, nestles in the bottom of a long narrow hollow, occupying less than 300 acres of cultivated land including town lots and fields, and is a veritable oasis in a surrounding desert. What there is to support it, however, is not quite clear to me. It is a nice place for gardens and the forty families who reside there as a rule have comfortable houses and attractive surroundings, but the peanuts, corn, fruit and garden truck generally which they produce, and for which the soil seems specially adapted, will not suffice to support the inhabitants. They must have some income from elsewhere or come to want.

One of the brethren called my attention to the fact that the village might serve as an object lesson to the Mexican natives, who, as they viewed it from the surrounding hills and were entranced with its beauty, would be sure to compare what the "Mormons" had here accomplished in a few years in making homes and redeeming the desert with their own squalid habits.