

A LARGE NUMBER.

THIS issue of the WEEKLY is much larger than usual. This is caused by the extra press of current matter of great importance from a historical point of view. The extra eight pages have been necessary to enable us to preserve in the columns of this journal the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Church case. An object kept constantly in sight in the publication of this magazine is the preservation of articles and documents that will in the future be of great value in enabling the Latter-day Saints to present a record of the wrongs that have been inflicted upon them and the various phases of circumstances through which they have to pass in prosecuting the labor of establishing on the earth the foundations of truth and justice.

The first number of the DESERET WEEKLY NEWS was published on the 15th of June, 1850, and it is consequently forty years old.

IDAHO'S INFAMIES.

The United States grand jury was discharged today. They reported one hundred and fifty-three indictments, mostly against "Mormons." Some are for unlawful cohabitation and adultery, but mostly for illegal voting. This is a political racket to continue the political life of Fred. T. Dubois and the supremacy of the republican party in Idaho.

The following gives other particulars regarding the illegal voting proceedings noted in the foregoing:

On Saturday, May 31, there developed in the Third District Court of Idaho, sitting at Blackfoot, an abominable political plot. Almost a week previously certain parties who had had official connection with the last election in Idaho, at which territorial officers and a delegate to Congress had been voted for, were summoned to appear before the grand jury at Blackfoot; poll books of precincts where "Mormons" were living were sent for, to be produced before those inquisitors. It was at once surmised that some scheme was afoot to make political capital at the expense of the "Mormons," or of those who had resigned their membership in that Church prior to registering, but it was for a time uncertain what the procedure was to be.

Doubt upon this point was soon removed. About the middle of the week it became known that a number of "Mormons," whose resignations as members of their Church had been tendered, and who had thereupon registered and voted, had been indicted. Now the offense thereby committed against the territorial statute, if offense it was, was misdemeanor, barred at the expiration of one year by the

statute of limitations. It was known that more than a year had elapsed since the election, and it was further generally supposed that the dismissal of a large number of indictments at Malad, three or four months ago, which had been found against resigning "Mormons," had been accepted by all concerned as a final settlement of the vexed and troublesome matter.

But political exigencies which have arisen since the dismissal of those indictments have impelled a certain clique of conspirators to begin these prosecutions again. This could not be done under the territorial law, because under it, as above stated, the offense, if any had been committed, was barred. But a delegate to Congress had been voted for at that election. Hence a congressional statute designed to secure fair elections of members of Congress, including delegates, could, it was hoped by the conspirators, be made to apply. The indictments were therefore found under Section 5511 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, a violation of which constitutes a misdemeanor which is not barred by limitation for two years.

The clause in this section which the prosecution relied upon makes it an offense for any person not having a lawful right to vote for a delegate to, or a member of, Congress, so to vote. One of the defendants who had been indicted was arrested, and his case made a test one on demurrer. James H. Hawley, Esq., of the law firm of Hawley & Reeves, Blackfoot, appeared for the defense, and United States District Attorney Wood for the prosecution. The demurrer to the indictment was argued last Saturday forenoon and was based on the proposition that an act, to constitute an offense under the section under which the indictment was brought, must be a violation of some law of the United States relating to the qualifications of electors. Mr. Hawley made an excellent argument in support of the demurrer. He showed how absurd it would be to punish a violation of a territorial law under a penal section of a congressional law. There was no pretense that any law of Congress forbade the "Mormons" in Idaho to vote; hence, if they had done so, no law of Congress had been violated by them in so doing.

Mr. Wood held that Section 5511, United States Revised Statutes, made it an offense for any person not having a lawful right under the territorial law to vote for a delegate to Congress to cast such a vote; and that a person might, therefore, be punished under this law of Congress for violating the law of Idaho relative to elections. Judge Berry, after helping Mr. Wood with his argument, rendered a decision in his favor, and adverse to the demurrer.

It is expected that, under this decision, a large number of indictments will be found, perhaps as many as 200. Of course those who were indicted under the Territorial law, but whose cases were dismissed after the taking of their plea, cannot be re-indicted. But all alleged

"Mormon" voters at the last election for delegate to Congress, except these, are liable to indictment.

Several objects are sought to be gained by this wholesale indicting process. It is no secret that, if the accused will pledge support of certain prominent republican politicians, the cases against them will be dismissed. Conversely there is an implied threat in this proceeding that if the resigning "Mormons" support the democrats, the cases against them will be pushed. Thus it is sought to make and brandish a gigantic club, with the hope that they can be intimidated.

The more criminal prosecutions, the more fees. This financial proposition also has its weight, while an unreasoning and unjust hatred of the "Mormons," their religion and their friends, is doubtless a factor of the scheme.

Idaho presents the deplorable sight of a commonwealth whose courts and governmental machinery are run by and in the interest of corrupt and conspiring politicians, at the expense of justice, good order and the public welfare, and at an enormous cost to the taxpayers.

BLACKFOOT, Idaho, June 6,

A PLEASANT JOURNEY.

Since last writing we have made the trip of about one thousand miles from Arizona to Wyoming in about thirty-six hours and now inhale the bracing atmosphere of the North after basking for months in the sunny climes of the South. I must not neglect, however, to notice some of the places visited since leaving St. Johns, Arizona.

A drive of eighteen miles from the last named city enables the traveler to reach Concho, or Erastus. I prefer to give both names, as there are two distinct towns, though in one precinct. The first mentioned, as its name implies, is a Mexican town situated at the lower end of the valley. Erastus contains about fifteen families and is a "Mormon" settlement, pleasantly situated on the side of the sloping hills. Bishop C. I. Kempe took advantage of our visit and announced an evening meeting to be addressed by a Bishop from Salt River, and a Brother from Salt Lake. We had an enjoyable time, and it was evident that a good Spirit prevailed among the people.

Concho and Erastus are supplied with water for irrigation from springs and, by storing it in the early part in the year, have an ample supply. Both towns are in one school district, and two schools are conducted. The postoffice has recently been moved to Concho, one and a half miles from Erastus.

Show Low is a small town about thirty miles from Erastus. A wealthy stockman owns most of the property there, and has extensive farms and gardens. Small farms are located along the creek, and the Saints are organized into a ward presided over by Bishop Hansen. The town being on the main road to Camp Apache there is considerable travel through it.

Pine Dale is situated in the moun