UTAH'S STATEHOOD CLAIM.

Delegate Caine Presents Strong Arguments in Its Behalf.

QUALIFIED FOR ADMISSION.

Denial that the Mormon Church Influences the Politics of the Territory Backed Up by Proof.

It is the habit of the residents of a territory to rail at the territorial system. This habit is confined to no class, being indulged in by citizens generally, irrespective of party or conditions. The exceptions to the rule are those who hold the Federal offices and those who profit in some manner by the anomalous government. Nor is the discontent restricted to a single territory; it embraces all the people of all the dependencies. It was as vociferous in Colorado a *few years* ago as it is in Arizona today; it is no more pronounced in Utah than in New Mexico, except that in the former there are more people, hence the proportionately greater discontent.

The antagonism asserts itself with the organization of the territory and increases in intensity with the years and the growth of the population. The complaints become louder because there are more people to complain.

I sometimes think that perhaps we of the territories are so accustomed to quarreling with the territorial system that we do not stop to consider that the originators of the scheme devised what is probably as wise and good a plan as could be arranged.

In our knowledge that the territorial government is un-American in principle and is openly and defiantly unrepublican in practice, it may be that we forget all else and blind our intelligence to the fact that the aim of the founders of the system was humanitarian and charitable. Manifestly the theory is that during the period of their infancy, while they are lacking in population and wanting in the wealth necessary to establish and carry on a state government, the nation, as the parent, guardian and protector, shall assist the weak community, not with its moral influence merely, but with material aid; that it shall take under its parental care the few who are unable to stand alone, or to walk, providing them a government and paying that proportion of the expenses which the people themselves cannot contribute without suffering deprivation and hardship.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

This, I say, is the theory, and would undoubtedly be sooner taken into account were it not that the practice is accompanied by so much oppression and such utter disregard of the rights of American citizens. As a rule our officials are sent to us from distant states, and it is rare that they are chosen with reference to their fitness for the duties to be performed. They are not acquainted with our people, are seldom in sympathy with them, and I regret to say it, they sometimes pose almost as the representatives of a foreign power, acting as if they regarded themselves as rulers and officials sent to govern a subject province. If the people of the territories have lost sight of one feature of the theory of our territorial system may it not with equal truth be said that the nation itself has forgotten, or at least ignores, another and very important feature, which is that it was intended the territorial government should be temporary, continuing only until the time when the conditions are such as to warrant the erection of the community into a state? Can anybody name a territory which was admitted to the Union at that precise period? Will somebody mention a state the sole motive for admitting which to the Union was the knowledge by Congress that her people had become sufficiently numerous and wealthy enough to maintain a stable government without the aid of the nation?

If this had been the rule some of the territories would have been states long years before they were admitted, and, may I also say, that some of the present states would yet be in the condition of territorial serfdom?

But let me speak directly of my own Territory of Utah. I am not going to quarrel with anybody because it was not admitted a quarter of a century ago, when it possessed all the qualifications for statehood, nor am I going to find fault because so many of her neighbors and sister dependencies have been taken into the Union, while she, with more population, greater wealth, as high culture and with as much loyalty and patriotism as the best of them has been denied enfranchisement.

UTAH SHOULD BE ADMITTED.

I will simply congratulate the neighbor and sister dependencies. I do insist now, however, that Utah should be admitted. It has been urged as an excuse for denying emancipation to Utah that certain objectionable conditions existed in the Territory, which must be changed as a condition precedent to admission to the Union. What those conditions were it is unnecessary for me to detail here beyond saying they referred to the practice of polygamy by a portion of the people, and to the alleged domination of the State by a church, the members of which embrace a large percentage of the population.

Whether or not those allegations were well founded is not a matter for present discussion. It is sufficient to assert, which I do with emphasis, that however much truth there may have been in the cry in times gone by, there is absolutely nothing in it today, nor has there been anything in it for fully three years. For some time previous to 1890 polygamous marriages had become less and less frequent, and in the year named the Mormon Church, in the most solemn and effective manner possible, declared against further plural marriages. How sincere and honest they were in that declaration is demonstrated by the records of the federal courts in the Territory, which do not show the indictment of a single Mormon for contracting a plural marriage within the period.

NO CHURCH IN POLITICS.

As to the other charge that the Church controls in politics, and the Territory is therefore under an un-American rule as to local affairs, I assume that the public is reasonably familiar with the emphatic denials of the Church authorities that they have the right or the desire to dictate in politics, and also with our recent election campaigns and party contests. I may, however, with propriety refer to the election last November for Delegate to Congress. On one ticket (the Democratic) was the name of a well known and influential gentile, while the Republican aspirant to the delegate's seat was not only a Mormon, but the son of a prominent official of the Church. The conventions were composed of both classes of citizens—if we may be allowed to divide people into religious classes when talking of politics. The campaign was most spirited, prominent Mormons and leading gentiles being arrayed on either side, and when the votes were canvassed it was found that the gentile had been elected, and of course, largely by Mormon votes.

I claim, and am seconded and supported in this by all the intelligent, unprejudiced people in the Territory, that the demonstration of Americanism in Utah has been full and complete, and should be accepted as satisfactory by Congress and the nation. And this being true, there can no longer be presented a reasonable excuse for denying admission to the Union or depriving us of our rights and privileges as American citizens beyond the time it will take to secure them by the speediest possible process. But one or two of all the territories at the time of their admission had population equal to that of Utah today.

ATTRIBUTES OF UTAH.

Her people are chiefly, they are almost exclusively permanent residents, the floating element, such as is attracted by booms and spasmodic excitements of a speculative character comprising but a small percentage of the whole. The taxable property is greater in the aggregate and per capita than that of any territory heretofore admitted. The people are educated up to the American standard, the community ranking among the foremost in this respect. The official records give her an enviable reputation throughout the West as regards obedience to the laws and in the observance of the moral code. In short, while not saying it boastingly nor with the thought of giving offense to anybody, I refer to the history of Utah as furnishing a splendid example of community stability amid surroundings and under conditions tending to the opposite, that history providing an excellent certificate of character for the people.

Today Utah asks for admission to the Union as a state, and I cannot understand how any fair-minded person can oppose her appeal. The Territory has fully demonstrated her qualifications for statehood, and that is all that can in reason be asked of her. That is all the theory of the territorial system contemplates. We have done our part, and now let our fellow-citizens, through their representatives in Congress, do theirs, and add another star to the grand constellation, and which, I vouch for, will shine to the credit of the commonwealth which has so long been in the shadow of the clouds.—*Hon. John T. Caine in Washington Evening News.*

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