

EVENING NEWS

Published Daily, Sunday Excepted,
AT FOUR O'CLOCK.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE
DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Friday, October 3, 1884.

JUDGE ZANE BLUNDERS
AGAIN.

The case of Rudger Clawson, who was indicted by the grand jury of the Third Judicial District in April last for polygamy, under the Edmunds law, is now before the Court. The attorney for the defendant, F. S. Richards, Esq., moved yesterday to quash the indictment on the ground that the grand jury which found the indictment was illegal. A brief report of his able argument in support of the motion will be found in another column. The prosecution depended chiefly for answer to the argument on a decision of a California Court, to the effect that no challenge could be interposed to a grand jury except such as are named in the statute providing for such challenges. That as the Utah law is taken from the California code, it is therefore subject to the same limitations and the ruling of that Court applies here.

But, as was shown by Mr. Richards, the situation is different in Utah from that in California. The Legislature of Utah stands in a different position to that of a State Legislature. Congress assumes to legislate for the Territories, and in addition to the Utah law in relation to jurors, there is the Polak law enacted by Congress. Now over anything that is regulated by the Polak law, the Utah statutes cannot prevail either by excess or limitation. The Congressional law is paramount, the local law subordinate. Therefore challenges to a grand jury may be interposed if it has not been impeached by the Congressional law requires, even if the Utah statute providing for and limiting such challenges does not cover the ground of the Polak law.

For instance, the law of Congress requires two hundred names to be placed in the box, half of which shall be selected by the Probate Judge and the other half by the Clerk of the District Court, and the Utah statute provides that:

"A challenge to the panel may be interposed for one or more of the following causes only: 1. That the requisite number of ballots was not drawn from the box; 2. That the names of the persons in the panel were not drawn in the manner provided by law; 3. That the drawing was not in the presence of the officers designated by law." (Act on Criminal Procedure, Sec. 119, Laws of Utah, 1876.)

But suppose the names put in the box were not selected as required by the Polak law. Would not the jury made up from the persons thus unlawfully selected be an illegal jury? And would the limitation of the local law to the three causes of challenge given above preclude a challenge against the unlawful selection? Clearly not, since the statute providing for such selection is a law of the United States, while the statute limiting challenges so as not to cover the ground is but a law of this Territory. A jury then, may be challenged if not drawn and impeached according to a law of the United States, even though the ground of challenge is not contained in the local law in relation to challenges.

And, there is no remedy for juries selected by fraud. But there is a remedy, and that is found in Sec. 135 of the Criminal Procedure Act, which provides that the indictment must be set aside, upon motion of the defendant, among other reasons, "Where it is shown that the jury was selected as prescribed in this Act," and "this Act" requires it to be found by a grand jury of "fifteen eligible male citizens of the United States, selected, summoned and impaneled according to law. If it is not selected according to law it is illegal, and must be set aside by the Court" on motion of defendant.

The ruling of the Court on the motion to quash the indictment will be found in full in another part of this paper. It does not touch on the question explained above; for some reason the Court avoided this issue. We will draw attention, however, to some points in the Honorable Opinion which we consider fatal defects in its argument. In quoting from the Edmunds law relating to challenges to jurors, Judge Zane in one place omits a very important clause. The wording of the law, as may be seen from the section which he gives in full in another place, is as follows: "Any challenge to a grand jury, or unlawful cohabitation, or unlawful cohabitation under any statute of the United States, it shall be a lawful cause of challenge, etc." The Judge claims that this covers a grand jury as well as a trial jury. But in that portion of his argument on this point he conveniently leaves out the words "under any statute of the United States," and the words we give in italics, a grand jury acts entirely under the laws of the Territory. It is selected and drawn under a law of Congress, but when impaneled it is governed entirely by the local statutes. Therefore the clause "under the laws of the United States" had to be omitted from the Judge's argument or would have spoiled all his reasoning. It is only in a "prosecution" under the "laws of the United States" that a juror may be challenged as to his belief in bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation; and supposing that a prosecution commences with the proceedings of a grand jury, as the Judge contends, seeing that they act entirely under the local law, and not the laws of Congress, his argument falls to the ground.

The question as to when a prosecution commences is very important. In order to make the section of the Edmunds law providing for challenges in the impaneling of a jury, cover the trial of a grand jury as well as a trial jury, the Honorable Judge strains a little the meaning of the term "prosecution." It is generally understood that there can be no prosecution in a District Court until an indictment is found. The beginning of a prosecution is the indictment. And the proof of this lies in the fact that unless a "true bill" is found no one is proceeded against. No witnesses for the defense appear before the grand jury which body simply inquires into allegations to see if there is sufficient ground to a prosecution. If there is not, there is no presentment and consequently no prosecution. The prosecution therefore commences with the indictment.

His Honor says the prosecution begins when the grand jury subpoenas witnesses and commences to examine them. As we have shown, this is not in the nature of a prosecution, but granting his position, where does it place him in the argument? It lays him flat on the floor. For the point in dispute is the right to challenge a juror on his belief in polygamy, etc. This is only lawful in a prosecution for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, and the Judge says the prosecution is commenced when the grand jury subpoenas witnesses; therefore the challenging of a grand juror before the grand jury is impeded, and before the investigation commences, and before there is any prosecution,

and consequently by his own argument is unlawful. There was never a more complete case of giving away an argument than this.

Again, His Honor says the object of the law was "to provide an impartial jury by which to try polygamy cases." Correct. And for this purpose it was so arranged under the Polak law that juries should be composed equally of "Mormons" and non-"Mormons." But is a jury anything like impartial when it is made up entirely of persons prejudiced from the beginning against the accused? Why, then, is it so important to have a process that packs a grand jury with persons embittered against a class of citizens, for the purpose of finding indictments against them on frivolous pretences, and then packs a trial jury with the enemies of those indicted, in order to convict them on slender evidence, if it is not a fact, known to the Court as well as to the public, that a bitter prejudice exists against the "Mormons" among the class from which this packing system selects both grand and petit jurors to indict and try them? To secure an "impartial jury," His Honor sustains the law by which the enemies of the accused, selected whether he is to be prosecuted, or not, and by which his enemies shall also try him, if indicted. A new way to provide an "impartial jury."

It should be observed that Judge Zane's argument in regard to a juror's belief concerning murder, etc., applied to trial juries only. Who ever heard of a grand jury being challenged as to his belief in reference to such crimes? There is always a difference made between grand jurors and petit jurors in the matter of challenges, and that which may be proper for the latter may be improper for the former. Again, it is mere presumption to say that a juror who believes in polygamy is not a true juror. Who ever heard of a command of God will not indict one who practices polygamy and violates the law of the land. Belief in the rightfulness of a principle is one thing, violating an oath to judge according to evidence is another thing. One does not pre-suppose the other. A "Mormon" may think it right before God for a man, under some circumstances, to have more than one wife at the same time, and yet, being sworn to find according to a human law and the evidence, he would be bound before God and man to bring an indictment and find a verdict according to his oath. If the Judge cannot see this we are sorry for his mental blindness; if he does see it, we are sorry for his argument, or rather assumption.

His Honor actually avoids a very important objection raised by Mr. Richards in regard to impartiality in the grand jury which indicted Rudger Clawson. It was shown that while "Mormon" jurors were challenged as to their belief in the rightfulness of certain things "in the marriage relation," and rejected on their answers, non-"Mormon" jurors were not questioned as to their belief in or practice of cohabitation with more than one woman outside of "the marriage relation." This was an individual distinction not at all likely to aid in procuring an "impartial jury." Why did not the Judge pass on that question? The Prosecuting Attorney claimed that he had the right to put questions to some grand jurors and to refrain from putting them to others, just as he chose. In other words, to pick out just such persons as he wanted to indict "Mormons" and exclude all others. Is this what Judge Zane would call "providing for an impartial grand jury?"

This ruling will be passed upon by a higher court. It is to be hoped that it will receive due consideration and that if the decision should be sustained, some more cogent reasons will be found for its support than those offered by Judge Zane, which, as we have pointed out, are exceedingly weak and in some instances prove the reverse of his conclusion. His Honor may improve on acquaintance, but the two important opinions he has delivered on the jury question do not comport with the reputation for legal ability which preceded his advent to Utah.

THE RUDGER CLAWSON CASE.
JUDGE ZANE'S RULING.

The arguments made before Chief Justice Zane yesterday on the motion of F. S. Richards, Esq., to quash the indictment against Rudger Clawson for polygamy, under the Edmunds law, were heard by the Court. The grand jury which found the indictment was illegally constituted one, were listened to by a full representation of the bar of the city and by many other auditors. The public are doubtless acquainted with the circumstances attending the case, and the two important opinions he has delivered on the jury question do not comport with the reputation for legal ability which preceded his advent to Utah.

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Mr. Richards took the ground that this grand jury was not lawfully constituted to seek out polygamy cases, but was formed for the purpose of inquiring into all kinds of offenses against the laws of the United States. The statute known as the Polak bill was moreover plain in its provision that both parties in this Territory should be represented in the jury box, and there was therefore no cause for excluding the fifteen "Mormon" jurors from the panel if they possessed the qualifications required, which it was conceded they did. Nor does Section 5 of the Edmunds Act, which provides "that in any prosecution for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, under any statute of the United States, it shall be a lawful cause of challenge to a juror drawn or summoned as a juror or summoned as a juror," apply to a grand jury, where all kinds of indictments are to be found, its plain meaning being that in certain trial juries, after the indictment has been found, persons entertaining a certain belief may be excluded from the panel if they possessed the qualifications required, which it was conceded they did. Nor does Section 5 of the Edmunds Act, which provides "that in any prosecution for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, under any statute of the United States, it shall be a lawful cause of challenge to a juror drawn or summoned as a juror or summoned as a juror," apply to a grand jury, where all kinds of indictments are to be found, its plain meaning being that in certain trial juries, after the indictment has been found, persons entertaining a certain belief may be excluded from the panel if they possessed the qualifications required, which it was conceded they did.

as belief in polygamy, and there was manifest all the way through a disposition to create such a jury as was not provided for by law. Mr. Richards contended that a person suspected of crime had rights before the law which would shield him from bias and prejudice, and that the law should be applied to all alike. He argued that the provisions of the Edmunds bill in regard to the qualifications of jurors on polygamy cases, were applicable to grand jurors as well, and hence that this grand jury was a legal one. He declared that the point made by defendant's attorney that the "Mormon" members had been asked certain questions regarding cohabitation which had not been put to the non-"Mormons," had no weight, from the fact that this was a matter purely optional with the prosecuting attorney. He cited authorities to show that the only ground defendant could have for his motion would be in proving that the requisite number of ballots was not drawn from the jury box, and that the notice of the drawing was not given in the manner provided by law, and that the drawing as not had in the presence of officers designated by law (but that these steps having been regular and fully complied with, there was no legal standing for the motion to quash the indictment on the ground of the illegal nature of the impaneling of the jury.

Mr. Richards, in his closing argument, showed that the authorities quoted by Mr. Varian were not applicable to the state of affairs in this Territory, where there were two legislative bodies, the Congress of the United States and the Territorial Legislature, and referred to some length to the jury system which obtains here, and to its history from the beginning, making a strong and concise argument in support of his motion.

The matter was taken under advisement by the Court. At ten o'clock this morning, at which hour, in the presence of the bar, the following was rendered by Chief Justice Zane as his decision:

This is an indictment for polygamy and the objection to the indictment is that the grand jury was not a legally constituted jury and that the indictment is void. As I understand the substantial reason is that certain grand jurors were excluded illegally and certain others were placed on the grand jury, in consequence, that ought not to have been there. It appears from the statement of the attorneys for the prosecution and the defendant that the grand jury was first selected in pursuance of section 4 of the Act of Congress approved, I think, June 23d, 1874. In brief, there were at that time grand jurors selected in accordance with the statute in force at that time, and the grand jury was organized in accordance with the statute in force at that time. I do not understand that there is any objection to the grand jury as organized, but that certain grand jurors were excluded illegally and certain others were placed on the grand jury, in consequence, that ought not to have been there. It appears from the statement of the attorneys for the prosecution and the defendant that the grand jury was first selected in pursuance of section 4 of the Act of Congress approved, I think, June 23d, 1874. In brief, there were at that time grand jurors selected in accordance with the statute in force at that time, and the grand jury was organized in accordance with the statute in force at that time. I do not understand that there is any objection to the grand jury as organized, but that certain grand jurors were excluded illegally and certain others were placed on the grand jury, in consequence, that ought not to have been there.

Do you believe in the doctrine of tenets of the Mormon Church? Do you believe in the doctrine of plural marriage as taught by the Mormon Church? Do you believe it is right for a man to have more than one undivided wife living at the same time?

And each of these grand jurors answered these questions in the affirmative and was excused, and other jurors were selected in the following mode as provided in section four:

If during any term of the district court any additional grand or petit jurors may be necessary, the same shall be drawn from the box of names of the United States marshal in open court; but if the attendance of those jurors is not sufficient, the same may be drawn in the same manner.

These were, after the fifteen were excluded, the additional jurors selected by the Court. It is to be noted that it was not until after the question whether the grand jury was legally constituted was applied in this case which is found in the Revised Statute book, section 1009, and the statute in force at that time, that the grand jury was organized in accordance with the statute in force at that time.

Section 3. That if any male person in a Territory or other place where the United States has exclusive jurisdiction, hereafter created by law, shall be guilty of bigamy, or of cohabitation with more than one woman, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

And then Section 5 provides:

Sec. 5. That in any prosecution for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, under any statute of the United States, it shall be a lawful cause of challenge to a juror drawn or summoned as a juror or summoned as a juror, if he is or has been living in the same household with more than one woman, or if he is or has been guilty of an offense punishable by either of the foregoing sections, or by section thirty-three hundred and thirty-five of the Revised Statutes of the United States, or by the act of July first, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled "An Act to punish and prevent the practice of polygamy in the Territories of the United States," or by the act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled "An Act to amend the act of July first, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled 'An Act to punish and prevent the practice of polygamy in the Territories of the United States,' and to amend the act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled 'An Act to amend the 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