

feel it to be our duty to clearly define our position, so there may be no cause hereafter for dispute or controversy upon the subject:

First—We unanimously agree to and promulgate as a rule that should always be observed in the Church and by every leading official thereof, that before accepting any position, political or otherwise, which would interfere with the proper and complete discharge of his ecclesiastical duties, and before accepting a nomination or entering into engagements to perform new duties, said official should apply to the proper authorities and learn from them whether he can, consistently with the obligations already entered into with the Church upon assuming his office, take upon himself the added duties and labors and responsibilities of the new position. To maintain proper discipline and order in the Church, we deem this absolutely necessary; and in asserting this rule, we do not consider that we are infringing in the least degree upon the individual rights of the citizen. Our position is that a man having accepted the honors and obligations of ecclesiastical office in the Church cannot properly of his own volition make those honors subordinate to or even co-ordinate with new ones of an entirely different character; we hold that unless he is willing to counsel with and obtain the consent of his fellow-laborers and presiding officers in the Priesthood, he should be released from all obligations associated with the latter, before accepting any new position.

Second—We declare that in making these requirements of ourselves and our brethren in the ministry, we do not in the least desire to dictate to them concerning their duties as American citizens, or to interfere with the affairs of the State; neither do we consider that in the remotest degree we are seeking the union of Church and State. We once more here repudiate the insinuation that there is or ever has been an attempt by our leading men to trespass upon the ground occupied by the State, or that there has been or is the wish to curtail in any manner any of its functions.

Your brethren,
WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEO. Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

LORENZO SNOW,
F. D. RICHARDS,
BRIGHAM YOUNG,
FRANCIS M. LYMAN,
JOHN HENRY SMITH,
GEORGE TEASDALE,
HEBER J. GRANT,

JOHN W. TAYLOR,
MARRINER W. MERRILL,
ABRAHAM H. CANNON,
Apostles.

JOHN SMITH,
Patriarch.

SEYMOUR B. YOUNG,
C. D. FJELDSTED,
B. H. ROBERTS,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JONATHAN G. KIMBALL,
RULON S. WELLS,
EDWARD STEVENSON,
First Council of Seventies.
WM. B. PRESTON,
R. T. BURTON,
JOHN R. WINDER,
Presiding Bishopric.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 6th, 1896.

NOTE—The reason the signature of Apostle Anton H. Lund does not appear in connection with those of his quorum is because he is absent, presiding over the European mission. He, however, will be given the opportunity of appending his signature when he returns home.

AN OASIS IN THE DESERT.

HINCKLEY, Millard Co., Utah,
April 3rd, 1896.

It is seldom that I find anything in the News in regard to the Hinckley Ward. It is located on the desert, close to the sink of the Sevier river about five miles from the railway station at Oak; and notwithstanding the many difficulties the people have had to encounter, they are in a fair way to prosper temporarily as well as spiritually, for we have a good people here, the majority of whom moved from our Dixie country in the south within the last three to eight years and are scattered over the desert about four miles east and west by about eight miles north and south, including a branch known as Abraham, so named I believe by President Willford Woodruff. The people, few in number, have had many difficulties to overcome in their settlement of the same, but they have succeeded in building a neat substantial district schoolhouse, eighteen by thirty feet inside measurement, under the management of their school trustees, Nella Boreeson, David Orison and Wm. D. Van Noy, assisted by their president, O. M. Fulmer, and all interested; and on Sunday, March 22nd, a ward meeting was held there under the direction of our worthy Bishop, Wm. H. Pratt, and the house was dedicated for the purpose for which it was built, by Patriarch John Ashman of Fillmore, and Robt. W. Reeve, who has been here laboring among the people about three weeks. Their labors will surely result in good if the people listen to the counsels given them; good instructions were given by the speakers, Elders Nella Boreeson, Thomas Davis, Patriarch John Ashman, Bishop Wm. H. Pratt and Elder O. M. Fulmer, and it was a time of rejoicing long to be remembered.

There is plenty of room for more settlers in this part of the vineyard, but it will require hard work for a time, but good comfortable homes can be made here and plenty will crown the

efforts of those who will persevere, for the Lord is surely blessing the desert lands that they are producing an abundance of the necessities of life to those who faithfully labor for it. We have as good drinking water as can be found on earth from artesian wells, from an average depth of 135 feet.
Your Brother in the Gospel,
R. W. R.

NOTES.

At Coulterville, Cal., Saturday, Miss Rosie Martinez committed suicide by swallowing carbolic acid. The deceased was 21 years old, and was well educated. She had been led from the path of virtue.

The levee separating the ranches of the late Senator James G. Fair and W. C. Curtle, in California, broke recently, and the water which had been standing on the Curtle ranches within a few inches of the top of the levee ran through to the Fair ranch. Three thousand acres of wheat, which would have yielded twenty sacks to the acre, were soon covered by water, and the whole crop will be destroyed. The damage done is estimated at about \$20,000.

At Ferndale, Cal., Saturday, the stage between that town and Petrolia met with an accident while going down a steep grade which resulted in the death of William Peters, the driver, and the killing of one of the stage horses. The brake gave way and the stage started down hill at a terrific pace, passing over and killing the horse and throwing Peters over the steep embankment, killing him almost instantly. There were no passengers on the stage.

A wholesale shooting affray occurred on the Clark ranch, nine miles from Wenatchee, Wash., Saturday night. A man named Brewster tried to persuade his wife to return to him. She refused, and he used force. She appealed to a man named Bird for protection, and shooting then commenced. One bullet from Bird's revolver entered Brewster's abdomen and passed through his body. Bird received a shot in the arm and shoulder and Mrs. Brewster also received a ball in the shoulder. Brewster will die.

A dispatch from Ensenada says that Colonel Augustine Sangines, governor of Lower California, is now lying in a critical condition as the result of an accident which happened Saturday afternoon. About 4 o'clock the governor, in company with M. Merino Rivera, Don Emiliano Ybarra and Don Emiliano's brother, Everado Ybarra, of the City of Mexico, started on a tour of the Jacalitos mining district, in which Ybarra and the governor were interested. A rube was driving the spirited team that was to carry the party on their mountainous journey, and in leaving the city and turning a sharp corner the carriage was overturned, coming in contact with a deep ditch which had been washed out by recent rains. All the occupants were thrown violently to the ground. Governor Sangines struck on his head. Medical assistance was immediately summoned, and it was found that the governor suffered from internal injuries and blows on the head, which caused concussion of the brain.