

mittee on appropriations which originally recommended in this bill the abolition of the present Utah Commission. There is no use on earth for the present Utah Commission. It is absolutely unnecessary. It is an alien body, out of touch and out of sympathy with the people of Utah, maintained at an enormous expense to the people of the Union. It cost the taxpayers of this country last year \$33,500 to maintain these five men in what one who was formerly a member of this House from Kentucky used appropriately to designate, with a most peculiar accent, as "a sine-cure"—that is to say, a job with plenty of pay and no work.

Now, to maintain the Utah Commission, even at a salary of \$2000 a year, is to continue these men in a sinecure. We pay to five men \$2000 a year, and contingent expenses, amounting to \$10,000 per annum, to go to Utah once in twelve months, appoint clerks, registrars, and other election officers, and to supervise the election, count the returns, and certify the result. We can have that work done by a board consisting of the governor and secretary of the Territory and the chief justice of the Territory at a nominal cost of \$3000, or \$14,000 less than this bill as reported from this conference carries. In the name of economy, in the name of the taxpayers of this country, I ask this House to refuse to confirm this conference report and let us make another attempt to bring the Senate to our proposition. This Democratic House has been unanimous so far in support of the effort of those of us on this side to abolish the Utah Commission as it now exists.

By a vote of two-thirds the House passed the other day the local government bill for Utah, reported from the committee on territories, which wiped out this alien commission. You endorsed last week a report of the committee on appropriations proposing to abolish this Utah Commission and substituting a board composed of the governor, the secretary of the Territory and the chief justice of the Territory. Is there any reason why we should recede today? But in addition to that fact, we find that the united Democracy of the Senate has stood by the united Democracy of the House in abolishing this alien commission. In the Senate the *Record* shows that every Democratic and free Republican Senators coming from States in the far West, and who therefore must understand the condition existing in Utah, voted to abolish this useless and unnecessary commission. Why, then, I repeat, should we recede today? There can be no reason given, except one which carries little weight, that this bill should be rushed through the House to facilitate adjournment, and that the report of the conference committee should be sustained, whereas, by taking a little more time, by giving the conference committee another chance at this item of the bill, we will save \$14,000 to the taxpayers and lift from the people of Utah that outrageous stigma of having an alien, carpet-bag commission to supervise their elections. That will be time well spent by the American Congress.

I hope that when my friend from Alabama, in charge of the bill, shall make his motion for the previous ques-

tion, which naturally stops debate and will cut off all amendments, that the House will vote down the previous question and give us an opportunity to further instruct the conferees to stand firm by the position thus far adhered to by the House of Representatives and by every Democrat in the Senate and three Republicans to abolish the Commission by this bill.

The Republican members of the Senate themselves confessed that the Utah Commission is a useless and expensive luxury, when they agreed to a reduction of their salaries from \$5000 to \$2000 per annum. If the Senate had thought this Commission necessary to insure fair and honest elections in Utah, do you suppose the Senate committee would have voluntarily reduced their salary?

No good reason can be given why we should continue for another year these commissioners at a salary of even \$2,000 each and \$7,500 for traveling and other expenses, except that it is a ploy to turn them out all at once. I suppose that we must let them down by easy stages instead of coming at once to the proper proposition of giving Utah a home commission of residents, of citizens of the Territory, every one of whom are Gentiles. That is to say, they are not Mormons, and have no connection with the Mormon Church, and no sympathy with those practices of the Mormon Church which have heretofore caused the great difference between the Mormon people and the people of the rest of the Republic. Moreover, these three proposed commissioners are all Republicans, so that our Republican friends should have no objection on that score. We are willing that a board of three Republicans, home Republicans, resident republicans, in Utah shall carry out for one more year at least the elections under the Edmunds act, and then leave it to the Legislature of the Territory, as it has been left for the last ten years, to supply the local machinery to control and regulate elections.

I believe, then, in the name of justice, of economy, and of right that this House ought not to ratify this conference report, but to allow us further to instruct the conferees to stand by the original item in the House bill, which created a commission of three residents of the Territory of Utah to supervise their elections.

#### THE LIBERAL "CONFERENCE."

This is a big field day with the Tuscaraora, Wednesday having been especially set apart for the holding of their conference in the Exposition building. Grand Sachem Powers, the *genius loci*, was jogging around before breakfast this morning, in company with a number of his most prominent "braves," giving the finishing touches to the programme of events; and between 9 and 10 o'clock he sat at his desk in his law office distributing party "favors" in the shape of satin badges, etc. It was he, too, who doled out the non-transferable tickets of admission to the Exposition building, of which, it is said, something like 8,000 had been scattered broadcast up to 11 a.m. today. No less than 10,000 feet of lumber had been employed in provid-

ing seating accommodation in the hall in which the pow-wow is to be held, and the speakers' platform has been elaborately fitted up. The decorations are in keeping with the occasion. The old shields of the counties are there and "Liberal" campaign banners which have done service in the past occupy conspicuous positions. The national colors were brought into play, and Tuscaraora flags were aloft. The mottoes on the badges proclaim the virtue (?) of the "tribe." "We have kept the faith!" runs one; while another admonishes the followers of "Boss" to "Hold the Fort!"

At 9 o'clock this morning the "pages" and ushers assembled, in accordance with a pre-arranged plan, in the office of the "Chief." They there went through what was prettily termed "a drill," and received instructions as to their duties during the day. It was 1 o'clock when the Denhalter band struck up a lively tune and made for the Exposition building—the scene of more active operations, and about the same time the Territorial committee met together at the Walker House to arrange preliminaries.

It was promised that none who attended the "great gathering" need go unrefreshed; so to the janitor of the building has been entrusted the duty of dispensing fresh iced lemonade and other innocent drinks to the thirsty, *ad libitum*. All the visitors have to do is to ask—and receive.

The questions proposed for the consideration of the convention are these:

First—Is it deemed advisable for the Liberal party to nominate a delegate to Congress next fall?

Second—If not, shall the Liberal party wage an active campaign next fall for the local offices?

Third—Is the Liberal party ready to advocate immediate statehood for Utah?

Fourth—Is it the judgment of the Liberal party that the time has arrived to divide on party lines in Utah?

The doors of the Exposition building were thrown open at 1:30 p.m., and then the "Liberal" influx began. Shortly after 2 o'clock the meeting was called to order. Various formalities, termed "the opening exercises," were duly observed, the Grand Sachem, as chairman of the "Liberal" Territorial committee, presented himself before his political adherents, and that worthy was about to discharge the first lot of oratorical fireworks in the great pyrotechnic display.

Strict punctuality does not appear to be one of the most prominent traits of the Tuscaraora brethren. Their "mammoth" conference in the Exposition building yesterday afternoon (foreshadowed in Wednesday's News) was announced to begin at 2 o'clock sharp, but it was quite forty-five minutes after the widely-advertised time that word was given to go ahead and the first move was made by way of unfolding the programme.

A faint pattering of feet and a thumping of umbrellas upon the floor at 2:20 was the signal that somebody of more than ordinary importance had arrived. A moment later the spare form of Judge Powers was seen on the platform. He was heavily laden with books and papers, and after bestowing a pleasant smile upon his hero wor-