

REOPENING OF THE SMOOT HEARINGS.

R. H. Roberts Testifies Regarding The Manifesto and Its Interpretation.

HIS EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS.

Dealt Positively Critchlow's Statement About Having Received A Vision.

Washington, April 20.—With the reopening of the investigation in the Reed smoot case before the senate committee on privileges and elections, the prosecution devoted considerable time to drawing from Brigham H. Roberts the character of the oaths which are said to be necessary for a "Mormon" to take in order to have the support of the church for political office.

Members of the committee showed an equal interest in the obligations which are said to be taken by "Mormons" who go through the endowment house. Along both lines much evidence was brought out.

It was shown by the testimony of Mr. Roberts that without the consent of the "Mormon" Church he failed of election to a seat in Congress and later with church recognition of his candidacy he was elected.

In relation to the endowment house obligation, Mr. Roberts was extremely reticent. He said that the sacredness of the ceremony was such that he could not reveal it to the world, and that if he did so he would lose caste with the church as having betrayed a trust.

Portions of the testimony given by Mr. Roberts, especially in regard to his reasons for maintaining polygamous cohabitation with his plural wives, were a duplicate of the testimony given by other polygamists who have been on the stand.

Mr. Roberts said that he regarded the laws of God as higher than the laws of the state, and that his moral obligation to his wives was greater than both the laws of God and man.

Important testimony for the prosecution is expected to be developed at this session of the committee. The hearing opened without formality of any character, Brigham H. Roberts was called to the stand by Mr. Taylor. He was questioned to bring out a statement of his official connection with the church.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session Mr. Taylor asked concerning Mr. Roberts' conviction in 1884 of the crime of polygamy.

Senator Bailey objected to the line of inquiry in regard to Mr. Roberts' conviction and Mr. Roberts' service in the penitentiary. He said he thought the testimony of the witness that he had violated the laws was sufficient. Mr. Taylor said this was to determine whether the authorities of the "Mormon" Church had taken any action in respect to the witness living with more than one wife. Mr. Roberts said no action had ever been taken by the church.

MANIFESTO OF 1890.

Questions were asked respecting plural wives and living in polygamous cohabitation and the witness said he

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regarded the manifesto as an admission of the act of the church, and of binding force upon all members. He admitted that to disobey any of these laws would subject the member to liability to church discipline. The witness was asked then in regard to polygamous cohabitation, and said that he was a duplicate of the testimony given by other polygamists who have been on the stand.

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denying his services to his state to discharge duties which would involve upon him by the acceptance of a political position.

Mr. Roberts said the emergency might arise whereby an official should resign his political office if the will of his constituents would not permit him to perform his duties in harmony with the church mandates.

Senator Bailey called attention to the church rules which forbid an official to accept an office without the consent of the church unless he resides his office in the church, or is "reduced to the ranks."

"In the event of such a crisis," said the witness, "I think one would have to rely on the individual's patriotism."

RUNNING FOR CONGRESS.

"But the patriotism and religion in such a case would be in conflict," said Senator Bailey. "At one time you desired the church, did you not?"

"I did."

"And you were defeated?"

"Yes."

"Because you refused to submit to the orders of the church?"

"I think I was enlightened by the church," said the witness. "And when you were enlightened and did submit to those orders you were elected."

Mr. Roberts said that both he and Apostle Thatcher had stood out against the church rule, and that he had withdrawn his opposition to the rule and was elected to office.

Senator Dubois brought out the fact that Thatcher did not submit to the church at that time, and was defeated.

CHURCH NOT IN POLITICS.

Senator Bailey asked the witness if it was not true that the political support of the Mormon Church in Utah was sought by political parties, the same as the Irish, the German or Italian vote was sought in other communities.

"I believe not," said Mr. Roberts. "There may be individuals who trim their sails that way, but not the church."

Chairman Burrows inquired: "If you were invited to accept a political office, would you feel at liberty to accept the request without first getting consent from the church?"

"I think not."

"If your request were refused, you would not feel at liberty to run for the office?"

"That would depend upon the emergency and which was the more binding, my duties as an officer of the church or my duties as a citizen."

"And if you decided the church should be considered first?"

"Then I should decline the office."

"Well, if the church should refuse to consent and you should still accept the office, what action would be taken by the church?"

"I would probably be called upon for an explanation."

"What if you should inform the church that you regarded your duty to the state above that to the church? Would the attitude of the church be one of hostility?"

"I cannot believe there would be any action taken politically."

DID NOT TELL CRITCHLOW.

Resuming cross-examination and quoting from the records of the testimony of E. B. Critchlow, Mr. Van Cott asked Mr. Roberts if he ever had stated to Mr. Critchlow that he had a vision of his dead ancestors which induced him to change his attitude toward the rule pertaining to permission to run for office.

Mr. Roberts said he never had made such a statement. He also said he never had stated that he had seen his ancestors in perdition and that they could not go through the temple and be baptized unless he conformed to the wishes of the church. The witness said he had been through the endowment house; that the endowment ceremony was now being performed in the temple.

"Can you tell us in regard to this ceremony?" asked Chairman Burrows.

"I cannot. I do not feel at liberty to do so. I consider myself in trust and

not at liberty to disclose what takes place.

OBLIGATIONS SECRET.

Mr. Roberts said that the obligations were secret and he thought them not unlike the oaths of the Masonic order or other secret societies.

"What would happen if you did reveal what took place in the temple?" asked the chairman.

"I would lose caste and be regarded as betraying a trust. If I keep faith I can not disclose what takes place."

"Then," pursued Chairman Burrows, "any person who takes the endowment house obligation is under oath not to reveal its nature?"

"I think so."

"And Senator Smoot could not reveal his oath of that character?"

The witness nodded his head in acquiescence.

Senator Bailey asked whether there was anything in the ceremony that abridged a man's freedom in any political or religious way.

The witness replied he thought not.

Chairman Burrows asked again what there was in the obligation which makes it necessary that it be kept from the world.

"Its general sacredness," answered Mr. Roberts.

"Do you think there is anything sacred which ought to be kept from the world?"

"I think there are some things that should be kept."

"Can you name one thing in that oath which should be kept from the world?"

"I cannot state it."

"Why? Because you are under obligations not to tell or because you cannot remember?"

"I ask the committee that I may be excused from stating."

"Very well, we accept your explanation," said the chairman. "Only I cannot understand such an organization having such things in its obligations to members which cannot be given to the world."

The witness made no answer until reference was again made to the oath, and he said:

"I do not think I can throw any light upon the matter."

NATURE OF OBLIGATION.

Mr. Van Cott started to question the witness in regard to the obligation. His question indicated a purpose to show that the obligation could interfere with the exercise of the rights of citizens when Senator Pettus interrupted.

"If the witness cannot tell what this obligation is, I do not think he has the right to construe for the minister and thus create confusion in regard to it."

After much discussion it was decided that the line of questioning pursued by the defense was not in order.

"Well, if the witness refused to state the nature of the obligation, Atty. Worthington asked if the obligation did not relate entirely to spiritual affairs, whether temporal affairs in any way were affected by it."

Senator Bailey said he did not think the question had any bearing or that it would in any manner influence the committee in its final decision, and the witness was permitted to answer by declining to believe the obligations related specifically to spiritual affairs.

The committee adjourned until tomorrow.

W. VA. DEMOCRATS.

Convention to Elect Delegates to St. Louis a Stormy One.

Charleston, W. Va., April 20.—The Democratic state convention held here today was very largely attended and was marked by stormy scenes, in which delegates passed the lie and threatened each other with personal violence. Notwithstanding the expressions of bitter feeling, however, the convention finally closed in apparent harmony, and all the delegates at large to the national convention were chosen by acclamation and the platform was adopted unanimously.

While no instructions were given, it is known that all but the four delegates from the Fourth and Fifth congressional districts favor Governor for president, with Parker as a second choice.

The delegates at large are Owen S. McKinney, former Senator Henry G. Davis, former Gov. William A. McCorkle and former Senator Johnson M. Camden.

The resolutions "condemn the usurpation of legislative power by the president; condemn the spirit of military domination which has led to the disregard of our treaty obligations, and to the oppression of our people; oppose trusts and combinations, and demand a 'reasonable revision of the tariff'."

Judge Dent of Gratton was named to succeed himself on the supreme court bench.

Senator Burns Not Guilty.

Grand Rapids, April 20.—The jury in the case of David H. Burns, charged with accepting a bribe of \$200 for aiding the Lake Michigan water deal in the state legislature, brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Gov. Brady of Alaska.

Portland, Or., April 21.—Gov. Brady of Alaska reached Portland yesterday from Sitka. The purpose of his coming here is to confer with the Lewis and Clark management concerning the Alaskan exhibit in 1905. The governor declares that the exhibit which his territory will make here next year will exceed in size that at St. Louis, which is itself the most elaborate ever attempted by the Alaska people.

Silk Mills May Close.

New York, April 21.—A general shut-down of the silk mills in Paterson and other parts of New Jersey and in Pennsylvania is threatened as a result of the paucity of orders for the full trade. The manufacturers talk of closing their mills next month and not resuming operations until September unless business picks up. No concerted action is to be taken, but it is said that the conditions are such that practically all the mills will be obliged either to curtail production much more than at present, or shut down entirely. Orders now on hand are said to be barely sufficient for the looms until the middle of May.

Most of the silk men ascribe the dullness in trade to such causes as the presidential election, unfavorable weather and the reduction in demand for the higher priced fabrics because of the general financial conditions.

Thousands of persons in Paterson and surrounding cities would be affected by the shutting down of the mills.

Secy. of Democratic Committee.

Washington, April 20.—The Democratic congressional campaign committee tonight elected Charles Edwards secretary.

A motion was made preliminary to this action by Representative Claude Kitchen of North Carolina, to have a member of Congress for secretary. The motion received a vote of 16 to 14.

The old office of the committee elected unanimously, including Secy. Edwards, J. T. Peary, assistant secretary, James T. Norris, treasurer, J. J. Sinnott, J. W. Marmaduke, sergeant-at-arms.

Chairman Cowherd was authorized to name executive, finance and literature committees, and also was ex-officio chairman of a sub-committee to fill all vacancies of the committee.

A SENSATION IN CHURCH CIRCLES.

Wife of Rev. Dr. Buckle of Elizabeth, N. J., Charges Him With Trying to Murder Her.

HE SOUGHT TO SUFFOCATE HER.

Placed a Warm Wet Towel Over Her Mouth and Nose, Her Struggles Alone Saving Her.

New York, April 21.—A sensation has been created in church circles at Elizabeth, N. J., by application from the wife of the Rev. Dr. George Buckle for a warrant on the charge that her husband attempted to kill her as she lay in bed ill.

Dr. Buckle has been pastor of the Greystone Presbyterian church for more than 20 years. Among the worshippers there are numbered many leading citizens of Elizabeth. A few hours before application was made for the warrant Mrs. Buckle says her husband returned from the parsonage and begged forgiveness. After talking for a while she says he opened his study, opened a strong box and, taking securities valued at \$20,000, disappeared. The police of New York, Washington, Richmond, Va., Philadelphia and other nearby cities have been notified.

According to Mrs. Buckle's story the minister came to her bedside just after having performed the wedding ceremony of their daughter in the parlor below. The bride couple had started on a tour to San Francisco and every one was happy. Asked how she felt, Mrs. Buckle told her husband she was suffering from a severe headache. He offered to procure a wet towel and returned a moment later with one soaked in warm water. She objected, because it was not cold, but he reassured her and then, she alleges, placed it so as to cover her mouth and nose. She declares the minister held it in that position, saying she would soon feel better and that when she began to smother he held her down. After a terrific struggle she wrenched one hand free and alarmed the household. Neighbors were called and found Mrs. Buckle unconscious. Buckle declared his wife had fallen out of bed in a nightmare, but she convinced them by showing bruises on the neck and arms. The minister remained about for two days and then disappeared.

Panama Canal Zone.

Washington, April 20.—The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today took up all pending bills for the government of the Panama canal zone and disposed of the question by striking out the senate bill after the exacting clause and inserting with a few slight changes the second section of the act of 1863 of which Thomas Jefferson was the author for the government of the territory acquired by the Louisiana purchase. As authorized by the report the bill is as follows:

"That until the expiration of the Fifty-eighth Congress, unless provision for the temporary government of the territory acquired by the United States from the republic of Panama by the terms of the treaty ratified on the 28th day of February, 1804, be sooner made by Congress, all the military, civil and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government of the said territory or granted by the terms of said treaty, to the United States shall be vested in such person or persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct for the government of said territory and for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants thereof in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion."

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