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AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 23.—A decision was rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States to-day in the series of five cases known as polygamy suits, brought by certain Mormon citizens of Utah for the purpose of getting a judicial decision as to the power of the Board of Commissioners or Canvassers appointed under the so-called Edmunds Act of March 22nd, 1882, to supervise elections in that Territory. The applicants in these cases are Jesse J. Murphy, Mary Ann Pratt, Mildred E. and Alfred Randall, Ellen C. and Hiram B. Clawson and Jas. M. Barlow. The defendants and appellees are Alex. Ramsey and others, constituting the Federal Board of Commissioners, and certain registration officers appointed by them. The principal question raised by the suits is whether the Board of Commissioners appointed under the Edmunds Act had power to prescribe as a condition of registration of voters a discriminating test oath, requiring the applicant for registration to swear that he or she has not been living in a state of bigamy or polygamy. The court holds that the rules promulgated by the Board, prescribing the form of oath to be exacted of persons offering to register as voters, and which constitute directions under which it is alleged the registration officers acted in the cases here complained of, were without force, and that no effect can be given them. It cannot be alleged, the court holds, that they had the effect in law of preventing the registration of plaintiffs, for the registration officers were not bound nor authorized to obey them, and, if they did so, they did it in their own wrong. There was no relation between the board and the officers appointed by them of principal and agent, so as to make members of the former liable for what the latter may have illegally done under their instructions, and therefore no connection in law between the acts of the board, is charged, and the wrongs complained of. If it be supposed that the board had the power which it seems they claim and exercised, of putting into form as rules for the government of registration officers, their interpretation of the law, and, in that way, published erroneous and illegal restrictions upon the right of suffrage in the Territory, such acts of administration were not ministerial, and cannot be a ground of action. They would be of that class which involve the exercise of judgment and discretion in public officers, and which, even when erroneous, cannot furnish cause of action for damages. In either view, therefore, judgment in favor of the board of commissioners in the court below was rightly rendered. As regards the power and responsibility of registration officers, the court holds they were merely ministerial officers, and if they deprived complainants of their right to be registered as voters in violation of law they are responsible in all action for damages.

The court then takes up and examines the cases separately, and holds the complainants, Mary Ann Pratt and Mildred E. Randall, were clearly deprived of their right to registration without authority of law, since by their allegations they exclude themselves from the disqualifications of the act of 1882. Ellen C. Clawson, Jesse J. Murphy and James M. Barlow, on the other hand, were, the court holds, included in the qualifications of the act, and had no right to registration. In reaching these conclusions, the court, in its opinion, makes an elaborate review of the act of 1882, for the purpose of giving construction to some of its provisions, and showing how they apply to the present cases. By that act the court holds, it is made the duty of registration officers to see that persons offering to register are free from the disqualifications defined therein. In so doing they are required to exercise diligence and good faith in their inquiries, and are responsible in damages for rejections made without reasonable cause, or maliciously. In the cases of Mary Ann Pratt and Mildred E. Randall, above referred to, the allegations of the complaint not only show complainants were legally entitled to be registered as voters, but declare that the refusal of the registration officers to admit them to the list was wrongful and malicious. The demurrers admit the case as thus stated, and should, therefore, have been overruled.

In conclusion, Justice Matthews, who delivers the opinion of the court, says, with reference to the constitutionality of the above-mentioned act: "Counsel for appellants in arguments seemed to question the constitutional power of Congress to pass the act of March 22d, 1882, so far as it abridges the rights of electors in the Territory under previous laws. But that question is, we think, no longer open to discussion. It has passed beyond the stage of controversy into final judgment. The people of the United States as the sovereign power of the National Territories, have supreme power over them and their inhabitants. In the exercise of their sovereign dominion, they are represented by the government of the United States, to whom all the powers of the government over that subject have been delegated, subject only to such restrictions as are expressed in the Constitution or necessarily implied in its terms, or in the purposes and objects of the power itself. In ordaining a government for the Territories and the people who in-

habit them, all discretion which belongs to the legislative power is vested in Congress, and that extends beyond any controversy to determining by law from time to time the form of local government in a particular Territory, and the qualifications of those who shall administer it. It rests with Congress to say whether, in a given case, any of the people resident in a Territory shall participate in the election of its officers, or making its laws, and it may, therefore, take from them any right of suffrage it may previously have conferred, or at any time modify or abridge it as it may deem expedient. The personal and civil rights of inhabitants of Territories are secured to them, as to all other citizens, by the principles of constitutional liberty, which retains all agencies of Government, State and National. Their political rights are franchises, which they hold as privileges in the legislative discretion of the Congress of the United States. If we concede this discretion in Congress is limited by the obvious purposes for which it was conferred, and that those purposes are satisfied by measures which prepare the people of the Territories to become citizens of States in the Union, still the conclusion cannot be averted that the Act of Congress here in question is clearly within that justification: for, certainly no legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary in forming a free, self-governing commonwealth, fit to take rank as one of the co-ordinate States in the Union, than that which seeks to establish it on the basis of the idea of the family, as consisting in, and springing from, the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy state of matrimony; the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guarantee of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement. And to this end no means are more directly and immediately suitable than those provided by this act, which endeavors to withdraw all political influence from those who are practically hostile to its attainment."

The judgment of the court below in the cases of Jesse S. Murphy, Ellen C. and Hiram B. Clawson and J. M. Barlow, are affirmed as to all defendants below, and appellees here. In the cases of Mary Ann M. Pratt and Mildred E. and Alfred Randall, the judgments are affirmed as to all defendants and appellees except E. D. Hoge, John S. Lindsey and Harmel Pratt. As to them, the judgments are reversed, and the cases are remanded, with direction to overrule the demurrers.

Judge Fields dissented from parts of the opinion.

WASHINGTON, 23.—Secretary Manning to-day sent a circular letter to the heads of bureaus and chiefs of divisions of the Treasury Department, requesting them to report to him in writing as soon as practicable, whether in their opinion the force employed in their respective offices can be reduced, and to what extent, without detriment to the public service. They are also requested to report whether the methods of business can be simplified, and in general to make such suggestions and recommendations as may occur to them as to how the efficiency of the service may be improved, business in the Department facilitated, and expenses curtailed.

The report of the expert bookkeepers of the Railroad Commissioner's office on the financial operations of the Union Pacific Railway the past year has been received at the Interior Department. An item of \$50,000 had been disputed by President Adams of the Union Pacific Company, and was referred to the Secretary for settlement. It is understood the Secretary will sustain the position taken by the Department's experts—adverse to the company's claim.

Postmaster-General Vilas to-night confirmed an Associated Press dispatch from Madison, Wis., concerning the appointment of General Bryant, and said he felt it desirable to have at the head of the law department of his bureau those whose political opinions were in consonance with those of the administration. General Bryant is, he said, a democrat and an old personal friend. He is a fine lawyer, and has within a year published a valuable treatise on the judicial system of Wisconsin. Until four years ago, he was Gen. Vilas's law partner, and was associated with him in editing and publishing the first twenty volumes of reports of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. He is about 48 years of age.

Owing to the great pressure for clerkships in the Navy Department, Secretary Whitney has prepared a circular, which will be furnished all applicants, referring them to the civil service commission.

Secretary Lamar has decided to appoint a commission to investigate the workings of the Interior department, with a view of reorganization and rearranging work and force. Chief Clerk Lockwood, and Assistant Secretary Joslyn, Mr. Atkins, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Mr. Montgomery, Commissioner of Patents, are named as likely to compose the commission.

In his said at the White House that the president will take no action in regard to the Postmastership of New York for some time.

Montgomery, the new Commissioner of Patents, to-day took the oath of office.

M. J. Durham, the newly appointed Comptroller of the Treasury, will assume the duties of his office Wednesday.

The Secretary of State is informed

by the United States minister at Stockholm that the Swedish Diet has voted to admit pork, and all grain and meats, into Swedish ports duty free.

Mr. Atkins, the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is expected here tomorrow.

The President to-day received a telegram from B. B. Smalley, of Burlington, Vt., saying: "The democracy of Vermont sincerely thank you for the nomination of Mr. Phelps. It is an appointment worthy of you."

New York, 23.—Three hundred striking operatives of the lace mills of Duden & Co., at Williams Bridge, Westchester County, last night came in collision with a number of hands brought over from France by the firm to take the strikers' places. During the riot a number of men were seriously injured. Frederick Roe, a spectator, it is thought, was fatally hurt. All quiet this morning.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., 23.—There is a strike among the laborers of the Susquehanna Coal Co., Nanticoke, which may extend to all the mines operated by the company.

WINNIPEG, Man., 22.—Advices from Prince Albert and Carlton show that the rising among the Saskatchewan half-breeds is somewhat serious. They have been joined by a large number of Indians, have taken possession of the government stores at Carlton, made prisoners of the officials and threatened the fort there. Over one hundred mounted police have started from Swift Current for the scene of the trouble. Another detachment will leave the same point in a day or two. The squad stationed at Winnipeg start out to-morrow morning. The telegraph line has been cut west of Humboldt, and dispatches have to be brought to that point by messengers.

Artillery, mounted police and volunteers are being hurried forward to Prince Albert and Carlton, to suppress the Saskatchewan half-breed and Indian uprising. Trouble is imminent. News from the scene of the disturbance is meagre to-day.

GRAND HAVEN, Mich., 23.—The steamer *Michigan*, whose loss was reported to-night, left here Feb. 9th, in search of the propeller *Oncida*, which was imprisoned in the ice and short of provisions. She was caught in the ice and has been frozen in since. She sank about 18 or 20 miles off Holland, about 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon last. Her strong iron sides gave way under the tremendous pressure of ice, which piled up around her to a height of from 25 to 35 feet, and nearly tore away or bent in all conceivable shapes her port side, allowing the water to fill her compartment to the extent that soon made it apparent to the commander and crew that her fate was sealed, the steam pumps being insufficient to cope with the increasing volume of water.

However, the men kept to work, hoping to keep the vessel afloat, and with the help of the tug *Arctic*, which was near at hand, to save the valuable propeller; but all was of no avail. Gradually the body of the vessel disappeared between huge icebergs, almost equal to those of the Polar regions, crushing and grinding until at last the crew were compelled to save themselves and abandon the vessel. The lifeboat was swung over the side, and half a dozen half-frozen individuals rapidly pulled it some distance from the sinking propeller, while the rest prepared to follow. Captain Prindle was the last to leave the boat. They got about a quarter of a mile from the propeller when the top masts disappeared in about 400 feet of water.

The trip to the tug *Arctic*, which lay about four miles off, was attended by considerable suffering from cold and danger from getting under the ice, which was moving and continuously piling up under their feet. However, with the exception of slightly frozen ears and fingers, the entire crew reached the tug at night, where they were cared for. Had it not been for the close proximity of the *Arctic* not one of the crew would have reached the shore alive, as all would have perished from cold on the ice during the night, and no one would have been left to tell the tale of the *Michigan's* fate. Nothing of the crew's personal property was saved, and all went down with the propeller. The crew consisted of Captain Prindle, Mate James McMann, Engineer Phillip Roth and ten men.

Early this morning they left the *Arctic* firmly packed in the ice, with no prospects of getting free, and arrived at Holland this afternoon and here this evening. With the exception of being badly worn out from their dangerous trip of 15 miles over the ice, causing sore feet, etc., the entire crew look well. Nothing is known here of the *Wisconsin's* whereabouts, and since the above disaster became known, grave fears are entertained for her safety. The *Michigan* was loaded with a small cargo, but both vessel and freight are believed to be fully insured.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., 23.—A cutting affair occurred here, in which two men were fatally injured. Wm. Dobson, laborer, separated from his wife a short while ago, leaving the children with her. That evening he went to the house on Preston and Main street, to get the children. Since the separation the wife has been living with Pat Murphy, laborer. The two met and got into a quarrel over the affair. Dobson drew a knife and cut Murphy in the head and abdomen. The wife then gave Murphy a hatchet, and he began hacking Dobson over the head, knocking him insensible, chopping his head almost to pieces. When found by the officers, both men were nearly dead from their wounds. They were taken to the hos-

pital and are both expected to die at any moment. Dobson's head was fractured in several places, and the back part almost completely severed.

BALTIMORE, 24.—Monsignor Glorieux will be consecrated Vicar Apostolic of Idaho, the second Sunday after Easter.

WASHINGTON, 24.—Nominations: Henry L. Muldraw, of Mississippi, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Wm. A. J. Sparks, of Illinois, Commissioner General of the Land Office; Daniel McConville, of Ohio, Auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department.

NEW YORK, 24.—3's, 1½; 4's, 11½; 4's 22½; Pacific 6's, 25; Central Pacific, 30%; Burlington, 22%; Northern Pacific 37½; pfd, 40%; Northwestern, 93%; New York Central, 90%; Oregon Navigation, 67%; Trans-continental, 12½; Pacific Mail, 51½; Panama, 98; St. Louis and San Francisco, 18; Texas Pacific, 107½; Union Pacific, 42½; Fargo Express 8; Western Union 57½.

BOSTON, 24.—A summary of the operations of the Union Pacific railroad for the year 1884 has been made public preliminary to the annual meeting to-morrow, is as follows: For the last six months the earnings, excluding the St. Joseph and Western railroad were \$14,738,000; expenses, \$6,807,000; taxes, \$549,000; surplus earnings of the entire system for the last six months of the year 1884 were \$7,381,000. Other receipts from miscellaneous sources make the total income \$7,892,000, as against the total income for the first six months of the year of \$3,849,000. The expenditures for the last six months \$3,795,000. Of this amount \$2,674,000 was paid for interest on bonds. Total surplus of the last six months of the year, \$4,096,000. From this is deducted \$750,000 for the United States.

WASHINGTON, 24.—The report of the Commissioner of Railroads on the Union Pacific railroad, as revealed by the company's books, shows there was due the United States for the year '84, under the Thurman act, \$1,135,220, against which they are credited for government transportation, etc., with \$1,135,173, leaving \$47 due the government for the year. President Adams says the company will pay promptly the \$917,000 adjudged due the government by the Court of Claims.

LA LIBERTAD, San Salvador via Galveston. President Barrios is advancing on San Salvador with 15,000 men.

OTTAWA, 24.—In the House of Commons, Gordon moved for copies of all the correspondence bearing reference to the appointment of a Joint Commission with the United States Government for surveying the boundary line between British Columbia and the United States Territory of Alaska. He stated to-day that the boundary was practically undefined. So long as there were no troubles there, this was all right, but a New York paper had stated recently that the American armed expedition under Lieut. Schwatka, had traveled a thousand miles into British territory east of Alaska, and Lieut. Allen was now conducting an expedition three or four hundred miles into British territory. He could hardly believe their statements true, seeing that on the Pacific Coast, Canadians and Americans lived very harmoniously. He would like to hear from government on this point and would be pleased if assurance could be given that the boundary line would shortly be surveyed.

The minister of public works gives notice that the attention of government would be directed to an article from a New York paper. He had inquired into the truthfulness of the article and found there was no foundation for it. The importance of having the boundary surveyed had received the attention of government. It would not overlook the matter. The motion was carried.

OTTAWA, 24.—No doubt the government received dispatches to-night of very grave importance in connection with the rebellion at Prince Albert. It is reported in the lobbies that the Indians are joining Reil and the half-breeds, and serious trouble is apprehended. A reverend gentleman at Calgary, having influence among the Indians, has been sent on a mission to the chiefs of the Crow and Blackfoot bands, to prevent them joining the rebels.

A conflict between the rebels and the mounted police has already taken place, and several government officials were made prisoners.

Gen. Middleton left to-night for Winnipeg to assume command of the militia and mounted police. There is great excitement at the House.

TUCSON, Arizona, 24.—The announcement was made this morning that the forfeited lands of the Texas Pacific Railroad were opened to entry. This caused a great rush in the U. S. Land Office. The officers have all they can do to make entries. Thousands of acres will be reclaimed.

COFFEYVILLE, Kas., 24.—The Oklahoma colonists of Coffeyville are seeking to get a large force into Oklahoma while Gen. Hatch is busy watching Captain Couch in Arkansas City. The plan is to send men in small squads, and scatter over the country, keeping scouts riding to warn them of the approach of troops. They have received large reinforcements from Texas, and propose to wear out the Ninth cavalry by long marches. Several wagons loaded with supplies for the colonists were started from here on Sunday.

CHICAGO, 25.—The N. K. Fairbank canning company of this city has received, during the last seven days, cable orders for canned beef for the use of the British army, which, coupled with an additional order received this

morning, makes the aggregate amount to be shipped four million pounds. The orders came from the British War Department. It will require two weeks to fill the orders now on hand. The Armour packing company is also in receipt of orders to supply five millions four hundred thousand pounds. These are the largest orders ever received here, and owing to their magnitude the supposition is that they are to meet a war emergency. The canning houses are working day and night in order to meet the demands.

BOSTON, 25.—The *Herald* prints the following private cable dispatch, received in Berlin from a reliable source. It says: Great consternation prevails in London. It is reported that 25,000 of the militia have been called out. Rumors are thick that Russia has rejected English proposals.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Nomination: Samuel S. Cox, of New York, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Turkey.

The oath of office was administered to Senator-elect Berry (Ark.) and the Senate went into executive session.

BOSTON, 25.—The annual meeting of the Union Pacific stockholders was held to-day. The meeting then appointed an inspector, and the election of 15 directors for the ensuing year opened. But one ticket was in the field: Charles Francis Adams, Jr., Frederick L. Ames, Elisha Atkins, Ezra H. Baker, F. Gordon Dexter and M. D. Spaulding, of Boston; Henry H. Cook, Sidney Dillon, David Dows and Andrew H. Green of New York; S. R. Calloway of Omaha, Neb.; Greenville M. Dodge, of Council Bluffs; Hugh Riddle, of Chicago; James A. Rumrill, of Springfield, Mass.; John Sharp, of Salt Lake City. Messrs. Spaulding, Cook and Calloway, the new members of the board, taking the places, respectively of Russell Sage, Jay Gould and S. H. H. Clark.

FOREIGN.

SUAKIM, 23.—The British positions on the road to Tamai from Suakim are all well reinforced and safely held. The Arabs admit they lost 3,000 in Sunday's battle.

Owing to the labor involved, it is decided not to shift Gen. McNeill's zereba. Troops are engaged in dragging the bodies of the slain to leeward of the zereba. Dense heaps of corpses of rebels and native camp followers are mingled with the carcasses of 500 camels. The ground is strewn with rifles, spears and shields.

Gen. Graham began this evening to move his whole force from Suakim to Tamai. The troops under Gen. McNeill left the zereba, where the battle was fought yesterday, and advanced about a mile toward Tamai, where they constructed another zereba, the enemy making no opposition. It was found impossible to encamp near battlefield No. 1, owing to the decomposition of the enemy's dead and the carcasses of camels and horses. At daybreak tomorrow, Gen. Graham will resume his advance.

KORTI, March 23.—Gen. Wolsley has ordered the evacuation of Korti. Cases of typhoid fever, dysentery and sunstroke are increasing among the troops. Heat continues intense. The troops will proceed to the entrenched lines at Debbeh, Aani and Dongola.

SUAKIM, March 23.—British killed in the engagement Sunday: 7 officers and 63 men. Many bodies of boys and women were found on the battlefield after the fight. A hundred and ten Arabs were killed inside the zereba. After the first repulse of the enemy, the chiefs tried, but were unable, to rally the Arabs to a second onslaught.

All the Arabs in the fight yesterday wore the Mahdi's uniform. One banner captured from the rebels was a gift from the Mahdi. Two-thirds of the camels are dead. General Graham sent the Indian troops back to Suakim.

Khorti, 23.—The Mahdi has sentenced many natives to death for not revealing treasure supposed to be hidden at Khartoum.

Many slave women from Khartoum are being sold in the vicinity of Korti at \$100 each.

Gen. Wolsley and staff go to Dongola on Tuesday.

Prince Hassan has left Assouan for Wady Halfa.

LONDON, 23.—The government has withdrawn from the marines the privilege of purchasing their discharge from the service.

The *Post* understands Russian officers on furlough have been ordered to rejoin their regiments.

Alarm over the prospect of war with Russia is renewed on the Stock Exchange. Owing to the reported preparations in India to send troops to Herat, Russian stocks dropped 1½. At Berlin there are still buyers. Some English houses also buy, believing the display in India only a bluster, designed to conciliate the war section of the Liberal party.

A dispatch from Gullian, March 17th, says: Outwardly all is quiet, but it is reported the Russians are concentrating toward Herat. It is proposed to withdraw Col. Ridgeway from Penjdeh and leave Captain Yale there. Measures are being taken for the defense of Herat.

Advices from Calcutta state that the force which is to be sent to Quetta will consist of three divisions, drawn from the three Presidencies, and a reserve body, consisting of 11,000 men, fully equipped, to be drawn from the troops at Rawalpindi. It is proposed to add 2,000 men to every infantry regiment in India, and one squadron to every cavalry regiment.

Calcutta, 23.—There are fifty thou-