

# The Deseret Weekly.

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Saturday, . . . November 16, 1899.

## THE WORK HAS BEGUN.

THE registration of voters and the revision of the lists preparatory to the municipal election in February next, commenced Nov. 4. It is to be presumed that the officers appointed to perform this duty will be impartial, thorough and diligent, so that the people of this city may depend upon the expurgation from the lists of the names of all persons who have died or removed or who have in any other way become disqualified from voting, and the placing upon the lists of the names of all persons in the respective precincts who are legally qualified to vote. We hope the facts will prove to be in accordance with this presumption.

Every male citizen over twenty-one years of age, who has resided in this Territory six months and in the precinct where he lives at present one month before registration, and who can take the oath prescribed in relation to offenses under the Edmunds-Tucker Act, is entitled to register and vote. It is the duty of the registration officers to use due diligence to the end that all such persons shall be duly registered.

It is also the duty of every good citizen to assist in the carrying out of the laws relating to registration and election, for the purpose of protecting resident citizens in their rights, securing a full and correct registration and a free and fair election. Therefore the names of persons who have died or removed from the respective city precincts should be furnished to the registration officers, so that they may not have it to say they were not informed as to the facts. Also if persons attempt to register who are not lawfully entitled to do so, the registration officers should be posted concerning them.

No one should attempt to register who cannot in good faith take the oath prescribed by Act of Congress. Residence in this city and Territory must be *bona fide*. It matters not where a citizen has previously resided. That cuts no

figure in the registration. There is nothing about that in the law, either local or national. It is the present status and residence of the citizen that are material.

There are many persons who have recently come into this city from places outside of the Territory. It is believed and with good reason that some of these intend to register and vote at the coming election. Every one of them is liable to criminal prosecution, and every person, official or otherwise, who aids and abets or induces them to register illegally, is liable to a thousand dollars' fine and a year's imprisonment.

There are others who have resided in the Territory the prescribed time, and who have come here from mining camps and other places for a temporary sojourn, and who have no intention, after their board bills are paid by certain parties and the election is over, to remain here as residents and who are not really residents but only visitors today. They have no right to register, and in attempting to do so will expose themselves to the danger of a similar penalty.

But men who have resided here for the statutory period, and whose intention is to live here, whose residence is actual, not a sham, if they can take the prescribed oath, have a legal and moral right to register and vote, no matter where they formerly resided. And it is nobody's business where they came from or what may be their creed, or politics or party.

There should be nothing done in this campaign that will tend to vitiate the election. Either party will have cause to regret connection with illegal acts. The struggle should be conducted within the lines of the law. We are satisfied that the People's Party managers intend to do everything that is legal and right, in order to maintain the control of municipal affairs in the interest of honesty, economy and consistent progress, and to countenance nothing that is illegitimate, fraudulent and wrong. We wish we could say the same for their opponents with similar confidence.

As the registration has commenced, all diligence should be exercised by the active members of the People's Party to have every voting citizen's name of their party on the registration list before the registration closes; also to see that false registration is not successful. Every case of a new arrival in the Territory who attempts to register

should be reported to the Central Committee, who will endeavor to make it interesting for him.

All the club officers and their aids should be alive and awake and active. And every man who desires the welfare of the city and the perpetuation of good government, and who, being able to register, has not done so before, should now step forward and come to the help of his friends and of the cause, and cast his vote and influence where it is needed. The neutrality of such individuals might prove fatal to that cause and place the responsibility for it on their dilatory souls. Let us have a complete, thorough, fair and legal registration.

## THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL REPORT

THE official report of the Governor of Utah will be found in full in our issue of Saturday, November ninth. In some respects it is an able paper. In treating of the population, products, resources, progress and material prospects of the Territory, Governor Thomas has presented such facts and figures as are warranted by the best attainable information. So far as we know they are reliable and fairly given. They will prove of great value to people abroad as well as our citizens at home.

It is only when dilating upon the doctrines, teachings and influence of the "Mormon" Church, that the Governor strays from the line of exactness and falls into the sloughs of error and folly which engulfed so many of his predecessors. In this part of his report he becomes a partizan. He repeats the stories invented by so-called "Liberals," with whose aims and schemes he shows himself to be associated. Much of what he offers here is anti-"Mormon" gossip. He does not cite facts, but tells what is said by persons who spend much of their time in misrepresenting everything "Mormon." This is unworthy of so prominent an official and so intelligent a compiler of valuable material information. His bias in these particulars cannot fail to strike every unprejudiced reader.

The first place in the report where this becomes obvious is in the part devoted to schools. The movement lately inaugurated in this Territory for the establishment of schools under the direction of the "Mormon" Church is grossly misrepresented. The Governor says:

"It is very plain that the Church has decided to take its place as an enemy