

of familiarity with it, Mr. Sprieger asked him: "Do you endorse a measure to disfranchise every member of the Mormon Church?"

He answered that in his opinion this would not do so.

Delegate Caine then nailed the question down: "Do you give your official endorsement to a measure to disfranchise me and every other member of the Mormon Church merely for our belief?"

Saunders answered "No." Then after a few moments of hesitation he said: "I am opposed to polygamy; and if this would abolish it I do not know but I would favor it." He said further: "I felt very hopeful at one time that further legislation would not be necessary to accomplish the work we have in view out there, because we were led to believe that many of the stronger Mormons were ready to split on their party and vote at the election. We afterwards learned [he did not state how] that they all voted solid and that not one of them voted with us."

Delegate Caine interposed: "Is it then because they would not vote with you that you are anxious to have them all disfranchised?"

At this point Chairman Struble had the committee adjourned, it being very evident that Senator Saunders was not affording much aid to the cause of disfranchisement. Governor Thomas did not appear before the committee, as he had threatened to do, but had very judiciously sent his message by Chairman Struble. The committee meet again Monday to consider the bill.

THE UTAH COMMISSION.

Washington, April 23.—At a late hour last evening and after a long conversation with the President, Postmaster-General Wanamaker decided to appoint Irving A. Benton as postmaster at Salt Lake to succeed Mr. Barratt, the present incumbent. The reason given by Mr. Wanamaker for the selection of Mr. Benton is that the office has been under Democratic control for the past four years and three months, and under the circumstances there was no impropriety in making the change. It may be doubted, however, if the administration would have reached this conclusion but for the persistent efforts of the several members of the Utah commission now in the city. No later than yesterday these gentlemen called upon Mr. Wanamaker and assured him that Mr. Barratt expected to go; that he wanted to go, and that it would be, in short, a personal favor to him to be permitted to step down and out. The postmaster-general knew the commissioners to be truthful men, and he believed them, and so today Mr. Benton's nomination was sent to the Senate, and he will no doubt be promptly confirmed. It may be said in passing that there is no truth in the statement that the report of the inspector who recently visited Salt Lake severely censures Mr. Barratt's management of the office. The report, I am assured, contains no reflection upon Mr. Barrett that

would in the remotest degree furnish a pretext for his enforced withdrawal from the service.—*Herald*.

The idea that Mr. Barratt would consider it "a personal favor to be allowed to step down and out," and would signify his desire to the republican members of the Utah Commission, was too absurd for those who know Mr. Barratt to believe. If he wanted to retire, he would have pursued the method he has followed through life, and would have presented his resignation. He is willing to accept in good feeling the changes of the wheel of fortune, but hardly cares to be given credit for what is not his. With a view to ascertaining how trustworthy are the members of the Utah Commission who are said to be known to the Postmaster General as truthful men, Mr. Barratt was asked by a NEWS reporter April 25 what foundation there was for such an assertion on their part. Here is his reply:

"The quotation you have read me from the *Herald's* dispatch seems to state the matter very plainly; and yet Colonel Page assures me that the Commission have persistently declined to join in petitions or meddle in matters of the character in question. I do not know Mr. Saunders. Messrs. Godfrey and Robertson have seen considerable of the office and certainly know something of the disadvantages under which I have labored. But no word has ever passed between us to justify the statement attributed to them. If they are quoted aright," added Mr. Barratt, ironically, "I should, I suppose, be greatly obliged for their delicate consideration and thoughtfulness in snatching the time from their own duties to enter this plea for an over-worked fellow official. But a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

"What I most care to have the public understand, is that it is not the change I object to so much as the manner in which it is made. It was not necessary to invent excuses or telegraph over the country vague and loose insinuations, which no official report on the office would in the least sustain. If the President or Postmaster General desired to take up my commission at the end of two years instead of running to its full extent of four, they might at least have made their wishes known. I should not have driven them to the necessity of a tangled and difficult mathematical calculation."

Now it will be in order for the three Commissioners named to "explain" their conduct.

THE MASS MEETING.

On April 21st there was a mass meeting held at the Federal court house, at the call of the Chamber of Commerce. A number of new members were announced as having joined the chamber, and Secretary Gillespie made a partial report of the organization's labors. He reported that the Chamber of Commerce and Real Estate Exchange had made a contract with the Emigration and Investors' Bureau

of Chicago, to advertise Salt Lake City for a term of one year, for \$1800. A large amount of other advertising had also been arranged for, and the Chamber had ex-Governor West and Governor Thomas working in Washington for a government building appropriation of \$500,000 and \$100,000 for parking a portion of the Fort Douglas reservation. The Chamber was also laboring to have here the annual encampment of the soldiers of the department of the Platte, and a grand inter-mountain exhibition and carnival, to last two weeks, and to begin about October 1st.

H. W. Lawrence advocated the encouragement of home enterprise, and gave his views on what should be done for the permanent improvement of the city.

Judge E. F. Colborn made a speech in which he expressed himself as favoring Sunday concerts and the like. He thought it took all classes to make up a city, not excepting gamblers and saloon keepers.

Wm. H. C. Lett spoke of the development of the resources of the county.

Judge O. W. Powers said he believed in being good, but not too good. While conducting the recent campaign for the "Liberals" he had conferred with the gamblers, the saloon men and the preachers. He had said to the gamblers that their business should not be prohibited. He was in favor of regulating them, and of having gambling conducted by men who were responsible. If an attempt was made to prohibit it, then men would engage in it on the sly, and the waves of public opinion would drive them out of the city. He thought men would drink and gamble, and as it couldn't be prevented it should be regulated. All elements would come into the city.

L. E. Hall thought the worst elements would come without any special encouragement. He believed the City Council was operating as rapidly in making improvements, and as fairly as anybody could.

The following resolution was introduced by G. F. Culmer, and passed:

Resolved, That it is the unanimous sense of this meeting that the joint city and county building be pushed to completion with all possible diligence, and that the citizens of Salt Lake City and county will view with emphatic disapprobation any attempt to locate said building on any other site than that already selected and paid for.

O. M. Ricketts introduced the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the earnest desire of the citizens here assembled that our city government grant street car franchises, so far as consistent, to competitive companies, and that no tax be placed on one company not borne equally by another.

Resolved, That wherever necessary, franchises be granted to parallel lines within the business portion of the city.

J. E. Dooley's motion to strike out