

ed, had been met by the High Council, or, in other words, that came to the conclusion as to what the rule was.

Mr. Taylor—Was not his claim that the rule invaded the province of the States?

Senator Smoot—His claim—

Mr. Taylor—Just let me finish the sentence.

Senator Smoot—Yes.

Mr. Taylor—And that when this High Council, in the case of whom was a member of the general authorities of the Church, not of whose authorities the framing of this rule had participated, and of whom was not his inferior, and who was not under the law of the Church, that was binding upon him regardless of his personal opinion about it.

Senator Smoot—I will say that his claim was that that rule applied to everybody in the Church, and I understand it, and that he said that I understood the citizenship of the members of the Church, and at the trial, when made, deciding that it applied only to the higher officers of the Church, and that Moses Thatcher say that that was his contention, and that that was the way I think that that was so shows, while he was testifying before this committee, although I have looked it up. It just came to my mind.

Mr. Taylor—Now, as a matter of fact, was, while a candidate for the United States Senate, threatened by the high officials of the Church, and by the Church organ, with Church influence to defeat him?

Senator Smoot—I do not know as to the Deseret News, but I know the articles, as I remember them, that Moses Thatcher's fight was not around.

Mr. Taylor—And that the Church would interfere to defeat him?

Senator Smoot—I do not remember.

Mr. Taylor—Do you remember what the letter that Councillor Woolley wrote, which was printed by the Deseret News, and introduced here as evidence by Mr. Taylor?

Senator Smoot—I remember a letter to his boys.

Mr. Taylor—And that was published in the pamphlet which contains the Church's side of this controversy, was it not?

Senator Smoot—I remember so.

Mr. Taylor—Which was the one in which he said:

"While there may be a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of the course being pursued by the Deseret News threatening the supporters of Thatcher, the sense of duty in an office of power would rather have an open fight at any time than to be stalling one policy or the outside to hear and pursuing another secret, so that I am willing to stand by him in any and every fight on any principle of right, and at no matter what cost."

Mr. Worthington—From what page do you read?

Mr. Taylor—Page 273. Do you understand that that stated the fact?

Senator Smoot. That stated it as Mr. Woolley understood it.

Mr. Taylor—That was the fact? Did I state the fact?

Senator Smoot—I could not say, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor—Now, respecting this matter, the difficulty which Moses Thatcher had for which he was tried, do you know that this High Council which tried him found that Moses Thatcher had "exhibited an apostate spirit and conduct" in his conduct?"

Senator Smoot—Yes, in several respects, and I was to refer briefly to two or three of them.

Mr. Worthington—What page?

Mr. Taylor—Page 566. In that he charged the authorities of the Church with bad faith in declaring, first, that they could not interfere in politics, and next, that they intended to and would so interfere.

Is not that what they charged him with?

Senator Smoot—If that says so, I could judge so.

Mr. Taylor—Do you have undertaken to tell us what was the trouble. Was not that the trouble?

Senator Smoot—No; I have not undertaken to tell it.

Mr. Taylor—That is, you did here the other day. Do you not know what the trouble was?

Senator Smoot—I know there was trouble between Moses Thatcher and me, and that I had undertaken to settle a number of years before this.

Mr. Taylor—Now I want to call attention to the actual thing for which he was tried. You have undertaken to tell me the particulars of course.

I am not criticizing that—that the trouble for which Moses Thatcher was tried was old, and that it had not brought and trivial relation to the actual national question of the Church's side and to the candidacy for the United States senate.

Senator Smoot—I did not wish to convey that impression at all. I only made statements as to the relation to the having been a feeling—and there had been difficulties for years before between Moses Thatcher and me, and of the quorum of the Twelve, and of the members of their bodies, and I understood, and I so explained, I think, that this question of interference, as he claims, was a part of the complaint and a part of the trouble.

Mr. Taylor—Was he not charged with "an apostate spirit" and with being "unchristianlike in his conduct" because he said:

"I have read the manifesto, as it appeared to me, was in violent antagonism to all I had believed and publicly proclaimed for many years, and I was alarmed for many years, and I was not so and so far have not been able to bring myself to the point where I should yield my political judgment to any set of men, however praiseworthy their intentions."

Senator Smoot—I think, where he said "manifesto," he means the rule of 1890.

Mr. Taylor—Yes, undoubtedly. We are talking about the political manifesto of 1890.

Senator Smoot—And, as I stated, that is his contention—that that applied to all members of the Church, and that is the reason why he felt that it was conducive to good citizenship.

Mr. Taylor (reading): "When the 'manifesto'—"

He continued, and is charged with acting in an unchristianlike way by saying this:

"When the manifesto was presented to me it appeared to my mind as the command on all to recognize the control of the Church authorities in all political concerns, and so far as I was concerned, I have recantation of principles I had for years advocated, and I am exceedingly from the ground I had occupied and above all, it made me feel that I was to be untrue to myself."

And so on.

Senator Smoot—That would be the construction of the rule that had been as he thought it was.

Mr. Taylor—And because he said this, was he charged with being unchristianlike?

"No legislator can keep the rule of office inviolate if he or she allows the officials of an ecclesiastical organization to interfere with his or her convictions of the state."

Senator Smoot—I rather think he said that.

Mr. Taylor—Do you see any criticism properly to be urged against that statement?

Senator Smoot—I do not. If there was any church that that rule would be the action of any legislator it would be the action of any legislator reprehensible.

Mr. Taylor—Why do you understand that he was tried for saying that?

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