

vict. Not all the acquittals are had upon the ground of innocence, but in many cases because the plural wife and the evidence is spirited away, or can not be produced in court.

The Commission has reports of fifteen male persons who are believed to have entered into polygamous marriages during the past year, and of more than three hundred persons who are known or believed to be now living in polygamous relations. Some of these are stated to be high dignitaries in the Church, and none are believed to have lost standing in the Church by reason of their polygamous practices.

Cases that have come to the judicial knowledge of the United States court since last report:

COURTS,	Total.	Unlawful co-habitation.	Polygamy.	Adultery.
First District, Provo.....	74	24	24	26
First District, Ogden.....	48	20	6	22
Second District, Beaver.....	6	6	0	0
Third District, Salt Lake City.....	26	14	1	11
Total.....	154	64	31	59

COURT.	Total.	Indecent.	Unlawful co-habitation.	Adultery.
First District, Provo.....	16	16	0	0
First District, Ogden.....	37	16	1	20
Second District, Beaver.....	4	4	0	0
Third District, Salt Lake City.....	26	14	1	11
Total.....	83	50	1	32

COURT.	Total.	Indecent.	Unlawful co-habitation.	Adultery.
First District, Provo.....	118	118	0	0
First District, Ogden.....	27	27	0	0
Second District, Beaver.....	17	17	0	0
Third District, Salt Lake City.....	169	169	0	0
Total.....	231	231	0	0

COURT.	Total.	Indecent.	Unlawful co-habitation.	Adultery.	Polygamy and Bigamy.
First District, Provo.....	57	33	17	7	0
First District, Ogden.....	40	17	17	6	0
Second District, Beaver.....	11	11	0	0	0
Third District, Salt Lake City.....	11	11	0	0	0
Total.....	115	72	34	13	0

Cases involving sexual offenses by the United States Commissioners:

Total.	Indecent.	Unlawful co-habitation.	Adultery.	Polygamy and Bigamy.
Complaints.....	179	179	0	0
Held to Answer.....	108	108	0	0
Dismissed.....	63	63	0	0
Total.....	350	350	0	0

ATTACKS UPON THE COMMISSION.

During the HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES of the Senate and House of Represent-

tatives last winter, the Commission were violently assailed, and without opportunity for defense, as no resolution of Congress required an investigation of the acts of the Commission, nor was it invited to appear and answer to the attacks made upon it. In fact, when it addressed a respectfully worded communication, enclosing marked copies of its official reports for the years 1889 and 1890, and asked that the marked portions be brought to the attention of the committee and be made a part of its record, as the answer of the Commission to the wholesale charges which were being made before them, and published to the world, no attention was paid to the request, so far as the record shows.

The marked portions of these reports contain what the Commission deem a complete answer to and refutation of many of the stale and unfounded slanders then being rehearsed before the congressional committees, and need not be repeated here, but a few points thus met are deemed proper to be noticed.

In the memorial of the Utah Legislature to Congress is found the following:

The most vicious interference with the vestige remaining of our local liberties is in the maintenance and action of the Utah Commission, who, in the appointment of registration officers, have often selected corrupt and irresponsible persons. These have filled the registration lists with fictitious names and resorted to other devices by which repeating and other frauds might be successfully perpetrated at elections.

In the statement of Mr. C. C. Richards before the Senate committee, he said:

In the selection of the deputy registrar for each precinct, care is taken in all the important precincts that an irresponsible, and in many instances, disreputable electors are chosen. Men who would as soon be engaged in fraudulently striking off and adding names to the list of voters as to be employed in some honorable pursuit, are selected to hear and determine objections to the rights of electors to vote. * * * The judges of election are appointed the same way, and to a considerable extent from the same class of people.

[It may be noted that this gentleman has frequently been appointed by the Commission as judge of election. He should know of what he speaks.]

The same gentleman appeared before the House committee and elaborated his charges to a much greater extent than before the committee of the Senate. In one case he becomes specific, and states:

We have often called the attention of the Commissioners to such appointments and protested against them, but to no purpose; they continue the creatures in power. For some time the deputy registrar for the precinct in which I lived in Ogden has been a man who for many years has had a public and notorious reputation of being a gambler, saloon man, and proprietor of low dives. He makes up the list of voters, keeps the affidavits for registration and bears all objections to the right to vote of persons registered. That ward is the key to the political situation locally, as the hotels, boarding-houses, saloons and dives are all in that ward. The opportunities for crime are there, and are utilized. Do you suppose that the Commission are ignorant of the fact? Certainly the people of Ogden do not think they are.

Mr. Franklin S. Richards (a brother

of the last named) was more conservative in his statement before the Senate Committee, but stated as to appointments made by the Commission that they were:

Men who were irresponsible, who could not be made to respond in damages for anything that they might do, and in some instances corrupt men. That is true. * * * I say that class of men has been selected, and in some cases repeatedly.

Q.—After protest? A.—Yes, sir, after protest. I know whereof I speak in this matter. * * * The Commission have appointed men known to be professional gamblers, without any pecuniary responsibility, and whose word would scarcely be taken on oath.

These are

CHARGES OF A VERY SERIOUS NATURE, and were there any truth in them, the Commission would freely admit that its duties had not been well performed. Their weakness lies in their absolute falsity.

It is true that in some instances complaints have been made to the Commission of the acts of its appointees. It is not true that these complaints or protests have been unheeded. In every instance investigation has been promptly made, and if wrong was found, it has been righted as far as the power of the Commission could go. In many instances complaints were, on investigation, found to be unwarranted by the facts. In one notable instance the vice-chairman and secretary of the People's or Mormon party, to which both Messrs. Richard belonged, preferred charges in writing which were of so serious character that the chairman called the Commission to meet in special session in Salt Lake city to investigate them. This was in December, 1889. The Commission sat for nine days hearing evidence upon the charges preferred, and came to the unanimous conclusion that they were

UNFOUNDED AND FRIVOLOUS.

A full report of the charges, hearing and finding was made in the report of the Commission to the Secretary of the Interior for 1890. It is not true that the Commission has ever selected "a corrupt man," a "known gambler" or a "disreputable character" for registration or election officer knowingly, and if by chance such a person has been appointed, it has not yet been brought to the knowledge of the Commission.

The Commission has, since its organization, acted uniformly upon the rule of selecting for county registrar, one of the best and most intelligent of the citizens of the county who would accept the position. He has always been called upon to nominate for deputy registrars, a competent and reputable elector of the precinct to be registered, and the appointments for the deputies for those precincts have generally been appointed on the county registrar's recommendation. The exception has been, when some objection has been made to the person thus recommended, in which case investigation has always been made, and some other person appointed, if the objection proved to be well founded.

Referring to the specific charge of Mr. C. C. Richards that in his precinct in Ogden, "the registrar for many years has had a public and notorious reputation of being a gambler, saloon man, and proprietor of