

on Monday agreed to recommend the confirmation of all, and during the Executive Session of the same day the nominations were reported back to the Senate and placed on the calendar. As I have already said, the composition of the Commission may not be satisfactory to the "ring." From the fact that President Arthur asked the salary to be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000, it is only natural to presume that he was desirous of securing a superior class of men. Of course, like every other office at the disposal of the Executive, there have been a great many applications for a seat upon the board; but from what I have been told the President appears to have stuck tenaciously to the determination he has expressed ever since the duty of appointing the Utah Commission devolved upon him, namely: that no one should be selected who sought the position. Ignorant of this fact a great many have sought a position on the board; but the President has pleased himself and left the "ring" unrepresented. Good.

Business in Congress is being rushed through at a tremendous rate, and as a consequence some of the most important appropriation bills have been passed, under a suspension of the rules, almost without a word of discussion. For instance, on Monday last, the Pension Appropriation bill, calling for \$100,000,000, was passed by the Republican majority in the House of Representatives in the manner I have indicated. The pension bill, however, is nothing less nor more than a gigantic "job;" for it is well known that two-thirds of the pensions that will be paid under this bill are simply robberies of the Treasury, and this with the sanction of the Republican guardians of the Treasury. Commenting editorially on this extraordinary act of public profligacy, well might the *New York World* exclaim:

One hundred million dollars! Does the reader take in the appalling significance of these figures? It is the labor for a year of two hundred thousand laborers that was yesterday voted without debate! It is the full pay for a year of an army of five hundred and fifty thousand private soldiers that the rules of the House were suspended to distribute among claimants for pensions!

The total pension list of Great Britain, loaded down, as Kiefer and Robeson and Hancock and Dudley would declare it to be with abuses, amounts to—how much, thinks the reader? To \$15,000,000 less than one-sixth of the amount which the majority of the House yesterday voted was not of importance enough to occupy the time of the House with a discussion!

The total pay-roll of the British army, with 180,000 on the active list, was in 1880-81 \$23,500,000. The whole war budget of the German Empire, the military model of the world, with 419,014 men and officers under arms, for the current year is \$79,278,552—less than four-fifths of the pension list of a country whose happiness it is to be relieved of the necessity of supporting an enormous army; and the general pension list and invalid fund of the German Empire together amount to less than \$10,000,000. The whole army budget of France, with an army in active service of 562,000 men, was last year \$14,000,000 more than the sum yesterday tossed away as a bagatelle "without a division" in the American House of Representatives.

Mr. House, (Tenn.) vigorously protested against the passing of the bill without any discussion and without opportunity to amend it. But as has been invariably the case this session, the protest went for nothing, and the bill irrespective of the magnitude of the sum asked to be appropriated, was passed in the manner I have stated. In this way the republican majority of Congress is voting away a hundred of millions of dollars; but surely the time cannot be far off when the people of this nation will discover who are their friends, and by their votes at the polls make the discovery unmistakably known.

A bill of considerable importance to steamship companies has just passed both houses of Congress—I refer to the bill to regulate the traffic in emigrants. The bill provides that 50 cents duty shall be paid for each emigrant to the collector of customs of the port. The money is to be paid into the Treasury, and is to constitute an emigrant fund, and is to be expended under the direction of the Secretary. This tax of 50 cents per head is not to be levied on the emigrant but on the steamship companies. The bill also deals with the space to be allotted to each emigrant, forbids the carrying of emigrants below the second deck, provides for the separation of the sexes, for the arrangement of berths and for ventilation, the quality and quantity of food, and medical attendance, the return of foreign paupers, con-

persons accused of other than political offenses, or insane persons who are a public charge on their arrival, the cost of the return of such persons to be charged to the respective steamships. Most of the great steamship companies opposed the bill, and it appears to me that they did so with very good reason. Granted that the great majority of the emigrants sail from British ports, it is a well known fact that the laws enforced by the British in reference to the carrying of emigrants are very strict, and the steamship which complies with them cannot be said to be carrying passengers at the risk of their lives. It is true the comforts of the steerage are few and far between, and to those who are in the habit of traveling in the first cabin it may appear that the huddling together of so many souls, men, women and children, is attended with great danger, and that health and morals must thereby suffer. Yet in this connection it must be remembered that a vast majority of passengers who travel steerage, live, so to speak, in steerage on shore, and while no one will pretend to uphold the steerage as a place of comfort, yet the deck on which the steerage passengers are to be carried, the berth space, ventilation, separation of the sexes, the food, etc., etc., have to be in accordance with the Board of trade rules of England, and that being the case, it does seem absurd to pass a law on this side of the Atlantic for the sole purpose of providing officers to see that the laws imposed by Johnny Bull have been carried out. The bill which has just passed both Houses of Congress is said to have been prepared by the friends of the emigrants and the Treasury Department; but in the absence of proof that the emigrant traffic is at present being carried on in a reckless manner, dangerous to life, injurious to health, and offensive to modesty, it would seem that the bill in question is somewhat uncalled for. Yet in all likelihood it will be signed by the President and become a law, which law will have the effect of embarrassing the steamship companies; and as for the 50 cents a head, the emigrant will indirectly have to pay it. Yet the laws of "the best government," etc., must be submitted to.

The next important measure which will come up for consideration before the House—probably tomorrow—is one introduced by Representative Kelly to reduce internal revenue taxation. Considerable difference of opinion has existed in reference to this measure, even in the camp of "the great majority" of the House; but at a caucus held last evening, presided over by Manager Robeson, a mode of procedure on the bill was arrived at, namely, that the majority should support the bill with the exception of the sections relating to liquor, cigar dealers, and the proposed repeal of the tax on bank capital. The bill, as amended, provides for the abolition of the internal revenue taxes on bank deposits, bank checks, watches, perfumery, proprietary medicines, etc., and as the treasury has settled what they intended to do with the bill, amendments will be voted down, and the bill will pass. The majority have spoken. So have I.

The question of adjournment *sine die* is still an open one. Personally I think the crowd will adjourn about the 15th of July. An adjournment may be affected later, but present appearances don't indicate that it will be sooner. In addition to the internal revenue bill, to which I have alluded above, the navy bill is still in the back ground; but who knows but even it may be disposed of by a suspension of the rules! Congress, however, must adjourn sometime or other; but "the last day," come when it may, will be an awful one. On that day the lobbyists will be taxed to the uttermost, and yet the "slaughter of the innocents" will be terrible.

Guiteau still lives; but he will take his leave of this earth just as other murderers have done on the 30th of this month. The demand for admission to be present at the execution is enormous. The representatives of the press will be a perfect army of themselves, and in a likelihood there will be some "tall" writing about the departure from this earth of one of the biggest egotists that ever was shut up.

The huge farce called the Star route trial still continues. I dropped into the court yesterday for a few moments, but hard to leave—I couldn't stand it.

Whew! With an atmosphere sufficiently hot to melt the bronze statues in the various parks, I must

be excused from writing more this week. J. I.

P. S. Since finishing my letter, I learn that the tariff commissioners as a whole have been confirmed by the Senate, by the unexpectedly large majority of 31 to 21.

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

COVINGTON, Fountain Co., Ind., June 19, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

The missions of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana were appointed a conference, to be held here on the 17th and 18th inst. Michigan, however, having been visited by Prest. Wm. M. Palmer, had a conference prior to this.

Red Ribbon Hall, 10.30 a.m.

After singing and prayer Elder G. O. Noble, of Ohio, spoke upon the object of missionary labor, bore his testimony, and exhorted all to faithfulness.

Elder M. W. Pratt felt rejoiced that we were engaged in practically carrying out the law of the Bible.

Elder S. R. Marks spoke of the trials of the Elders, but God raised up friends. Also elucidated the first principles of the Gospel and bore testimony to the latter-day work.

Elder J. C. Thatcher gave a synopsis of missionary labor in Ohio, and explained the first principles of the Gospel.

Elder S. Bradford could say he knew that the Gospel plan had been restored. Met many honest people in his travels; desired to do his duty.

Prest. Wm. M. Palmer was pleased with the spirit manifest by those who had spoken. The Elders should be energetic in warning the people of the judgments of God, for wickedness was increasing in the world. Exhorted the Saints to flee to Zion. The Gospel was worth every consideration, and to be prudent in all things. Benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

Elder E. A. Folland gave a synopsis of the labors of the Elders in Indiana. Spoke of the restoration of the Gospel, the necessity of abiding and living in faithfulness; to seek God's spirit and abide its dictates.

Elder C. C. Bartlett, of Ohio, said revelation was the keystone of all truth; showed the difference between God's plan of redemption and the broad road to destruction everywhere prevalent.

Elder N. Hawkes: A good work was yet to be done; how necessary it was to cultivate the spirit of truth, so that our labors may be effectual.

Prest. Palmer: The duties of the Elders are to preach faith, repentance, baptism; and warn mankind to flee from the wrath to come.

7.30 p. m.

Prest. Palmer read from the third chapter of Acts, 20 and 21st verses, showed why the Gospel was restored, and that we lived when all things were restored for the benefit and exaltation of the human family; spoke of the persecution endured by the latter-day Saints.

Elder G. O. Noble said we should prove all things and hold fast to that which is good; could testify to the divinity of the restoration.

Adjourned till Sunday morning.

Sunday, 10.30 a.m.

Prayer and singing.

Elder E. A. Folland read 22nd verse of the 28th chapter of Acts. The prophets had seen our day, and prophesied of the coming forth of the Gospel, and the necessity of revelation to make the plan of redemption complete; bore his testimony to the divinity of the Book of Mormon, and of the judgments to be poured out, and to the truth of the latter-day work.

Elder S. R. Marks spoke of the restoration of the Gospel to Joseph Smith, of the blessings enjoyed by the Saints, and the power of its ordinances; spoke of the difference of existing churches.

Prest. Palmer spoke of the straight and narrow way—urged all to take the straight way, and follow Jesus Christ. Bore testimony to the latter-day work.

Sang, "We thank Thee, O God for a Prophet."

2 p. m.

Prest. Palmer explained the sacredness of the sacrament and its bearing on the Saints.

Elders Marks and Pratt then administered the Lord's Supper.

Prest. Palmer presented the General Authorities of the Church as presented at the General Conference, Salt Lake City, who were unanimously sustained.

E. A. Folland presented the following officers, who received the unanimous approval of the people:

Wm. M. Palmer, as President of the Northwestern States Mission. Eli A. Folland, as President of the Indiana Conference and clerk of this Conference. Eli A. Folland, Sylvester Bradford, Nathan Hawkes, Stephen R. Marks, Moroni W. Pratt, C. C. Bartlett, as Traveling Elders in the Indiana Conference. George O. Noble, John B. Thatcher, as Traveling Elders in the State of Nebraska. John R. Johnson, as President of the Johnsonville branch in the Indiana Conference; Henry N. Johnson as local Elder in the Indiana Conference; Josiah Satherwaite, as local Priest in the Indiana Conference.

Prest. Palmer read from Timothy, chapter I, and gave an excellent discourse on pre-existence.

Adjourned to meet at Oliver Shelby's house.

7.30 p. m.

Prest. Palmer spoke upon the first principles of the Gospel, and bore a strong testimony.

Sang, "We thank thee O God for a Prophet." Prayer by Brother Hawkes. Conference adjourned *sine die*.

The spirit manifested at the Conference was cheering. It was fairly attended by Saints, and but few strangers. The threatening aspect of the weather no doubt kept some from attending.

ELI A. FOLLAND.

Clerk of Conference.

P. S.—Brother C. C. Bartlett has been appointed to labor in Nebraska, in place of G. O. Noble, who will labor in Indiana.

THE UTAH COMMISSION.

BISHOP SHARP'S OPINION.

Bishop John Sharp, one of the most influential Mormon citizens of Utah, the president of the Utah Central Railroad, a director of the Union Pacific Railroad, and a bishop of one of the wards of Salt Lake City, is in the city and will spend a week at the St. Nicholas Hotel. He is a man of fifty, dignified in bearing, deliberate in speech, and with a strong Scotch accent. He has three wives, each of whom has an elegant residence in Salt Lake City, and by each he has several children. He talks with the earnestness and candor of a man who has deep convictions, but more as a man of business than of the Church. When a reporter of the *World* called on him he complimented the *World's* letters from Utah and said that its correspondent had made so fair a report of the condition of both society and politics in the Territory that he thought anything more would be superfluous for the readers of the *World*. The Gentiles, he continued, who went to Utah to be enriched by the political spoils, and who think it graceful and grateful to slander the best citizens of the Territory, have been robbed of their favorite ammunition by the truthful narrative of this special correspondent. But the majority of the Gentiles in Salt Lake City, as well as the Mormons, appreciate the candor and manliness of the *World*.

Bishop Sharp was asked especially about the Utah Commission. He replied with a smile that he did not know what to say; certainly he could not say, as the *Tribune* yesterday reported him, that the commission would cause the Mormons to abandon polygamy. If the contest is brought to such an extreme point that a polygamous Mormon must be disfranchised or give up all his wives but one, there will be no hesitation in accepting disfranchisement. Perhaps 90 per cent. of the Mormons are agriculturists and care little about politics so long as the Government does not interfere with their labor or their homes. And hardly more than one Mormon in four of the men over forty years of age, and very few indeed less than forty years of age have more than one wife. But plurality is not a personal subject. It is a doctrine of the Church, and if the commission succeed in ascertaining who are polygamists and they are disfranchised, disfranchisement will bring with it no disgrace in Utah and only the denial of an insignificant privilege, as most Mormons regard it. That Congress has declared all children who shall be

born in plurality after January 1, 1883, illegitimate, will have no effect whatever. They will be honored by the Church and recognized by society, both Mormon and Gentile, precisely as polygamous children are now recognized—as legitimate. It is important, however, that the commission should hastily reorganize the Territorial Government and make the elective machinery operative before August. As the law now is, Gentiles and Mormons alike are disfranchised.

When asked if the Mormons would be displeased by the presence of the Commissioners, Bishop Sharp said: "Not at all. If they are gentlemen, as doubtless they are, of honor and of intelligence, they will be pleasantly received. Our people have long ago become accustomed to the most erratic freaks of Congress and they really desire to have intelligent and honorable gentlemen visit them and understand them. But officially the Commissioners will be received with indifference. On general principles the citizens of Utah, of course, prefer that no such body of men should be sent there for any purpose of 'investigation' in the criminal sense that the word 'investigation' has come to have politically. But the cause of the dislike may be found rather at Washington than at Salt Lake City. They prefer that Congress should assume any attitude rather than an attitude of hostility. Indeed, they think and have long thought, you know, that Utah ought to be admitted into the Union. That however, is a different question and a question with which, as I understand it, the commission has nothing to do."

"Do you not look, then, for any definite results of the commission's investigation?"

"No results of importance, certainly. By disfranchising Mormons the city government of Salt Lake City will be changed of course. Some citizens may become angry and many more think that they have been unjustly dealt with by the Federal Government; but many think this now. I do not see what results can reasonably be expected."

When asked if he regarded the creation of the commission as a mere political trick, the Bishop replied with some evasion, but very plainly intimated that this and many similar Congressional acts were born of ignorance of Mormonism and of the society of Utah, and perhaps of fanaticism. Certainly his answer to all such questions implied that the Mormons regarded it simply as religious persecution, and they will accept all such hostility as religious persecution.

"There has," he continued, "long been a law against polygamy; but Congress has found it impossible or impracticable to enforce it, and I do not see that the Edmunds bill can reasonably hope for any better fate. One might imagine at this distance that such an enactment would cause the greatest consternation in Utah; but it is not so. Acts of this kind (and some much worse) have been passed by Congress. You know an army was once sent to Utah. But the Mormons have increased more rapidly (with a smile) and become more prosperous than any other agricultural people west of the Missouri. Consequently they have become more and more indifferent to Congress. Yet there is much curiosity to know just what the commission will do and report. They will most likely talk more than they do. Words are cheap, and words against the Mormons seem to be fashionable. Yet, I do not anticipate that the commission, will do anything, indeed can do anything that will cause great bitterness. The people of Utah are not as easily stirred to wrath as people in the east. They are an agricultural and somewhat primitive people and they wait patiently for such a knowledge of their condition and their character to spread abroad as will cause Congress and the citizens of the Union in general to recognize them as fellow citizens and honorable men."

"Doubtless you have learned from the *World* that Dr. Bacon, of Connecticut, is showing up the existence in the east of a system of serial polygamy."

"Yes," said the Bishop, at first smiling, but presently again becoming serious and deliberate in speech, "but we do not have that system in Utah."

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