

The Republican party adopted the following resolution:

"Sixth—We are opposed to the disfranchisement of any citizen except for crime of which he shall have been convicted by due process of law; and we favor the free exercise of the power of amnesty to all citizens disfranchised on account of polygamy or polygamous relations, who will obey and uphold the laws of the United States."

[Here is inserted the "Liberal anti-Mormon" platform.]

#### POWER OF THE COMMISSION QUESTIONED.

The Commission was of the opinion that under the present Territorial law elections for school purposes within the Territory of Utah should be conducted by officers appointed by it. But in May last the corporation of Salt Lake ordered an election upon the question of issuing school bonds. Upon the Commission undertaking to provide the machinery for such an election, a suit was brought against it to enjoin it from in any manner interfering with such election.

The suit was brought in the Third District court of the United States before Judge Anderson, who sustained the views held by the Commission, and the election proceeded under its supervision. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, which by a majority reversed the decision of Judge Anderson. A new election was ordered and was held by officers chosen by the municipal authorities. While the soundness of the decision is doubted by many, the Commission has submitted to the ruling as one which all are bound to respect and obey unless reversed.

#### REAPPORTIONMENT.

By act of Congress of March 3, 1891, the duty was imposed upon the Utah Commission "as soon as practicable, and upon the basis of the census of said Territory taken in the year 1890, to redistrict said Territory and apportion representatives in the same in such manner as to provide as near as may be for an equal representation of the people except Indians not taxed, according to numbers and by districts as nearly compact as possible in the Legislative Assembly, and to the number of members of the Council and House of Representatives thereof, respectively, as now established by law."

In compliance therewith, the Commission met in Salt Lake City on the 10th day of May, 1891, and after due and careful consideration, and after publicly inviting suggestions and plans from all parties and persons interested, reapportioned said Territory and caused such reapportionment to be recorded in the office of the Secretary of the Territory as required by the terms of said act, as set out in the following circular issued to all registration and election officers in the Territory.

But little criticism has been made in regard to the apportionment, and the Commission invites comparison between the apportionment as actually made and the plan submitted to it by the representatives of the People's party, which is as follows:

[Here follows the proposed apportionment offered by R. W. Young and E. A. Smith.]

The one proposed would give an

almost solid Mormon Legislature. The one adopted gives the Gentile population its fair and just representation.

How it would affect the Democratic and Republican parties on the hypothesis of an honest division of the people on National party lines was not inquired into, for the simple reason that nothing then existed which would furnish the basis of such an inquiry.

The order establishing the Council and Representative districts accompanies the report as appendix E.

#### POLYGAMY.

Since the last report of the Commission, there has been an important change in the attitude of the Mormon Church towards this important subject.

Soon after that report was forwarded, on the 24th of September, 1890, there was given to the public, through the columns of the newspapers, the following remarkable manifesto:

#### OFFICIAL DECLARATION.

To Whom it May Concern:

Press dispatches having been sent for political purposes from Salt Lake City, which have been widely published, to the effect that the Utah Commission, in their recent report to the Secretary of the Interior, allege that plural marriages are still being solemnized, and that forty or more such marriages have been contracted in Utah since last June or during the past year; also, that in public discourses the leaders of the Church have taught, encouraged and urged the continuance of the practice of polygamy.

I, therefore, as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, do hereby, in the most solemn manner, declare that these charges are false. We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice, and I deny either that forty or any other number of plural marriages have during that period been solemnized in our temples or in any other place in the Territory.

One case has been reported in which the parties alleged that the marriage was performed in the Endowment House, in Salt Lake City, in the spring of 1889, but I have not been able to learn who performed the ceremony; whatever was done in this matter was without my knowledge. In consequence of this alleged occurrence the Endowment House was, by my instructions, taken down without delay.

Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort. I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise.

There is nothing in my teachings to the Church or in those of my associates, during the time specified, which can reasonably be construed to inculcate or encourage polygamy, and when any Elder of the Church has used language which appeared to convey any such teaching, he has been promptly reproofed. And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land.

#### WILFORD WOODRUFF.

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At the General Conference of the Church, begun October 4th, 1890, the manifesto was submitted and the following proceedings were had, as reported by the organ of the Church:

"President George Q. Cannon said: President Woodruff, as doubtless the

members of the Conference are aware, has felt himself called upon to issue a manifesto concerning certain things connected with our affairs in this Territory, and he is desirous to have this submitted to this Conference, to have their views or their expressions concerning it, and Bishop Whitney will read this document now in your hearing."

After the reading President Lorenzo Snow offered the following:

"I move that, recognizing Wilford Woodruff as the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the only man on the earth at the present time who holds the keys of the sealing ordinances, we consider him fully authorized by virtue of his position to issue the manifesto which has been read in our hearing and which is dated September 24th, 1890, and that as a Church in General Conference assembled, we accept his declaration concerning plural marriages as authoritative and binding."

The vote to sustain the foregoing motion was unanimous."

It is interesting to note the reasons given by those in authority for this declaration. It is also interesting to note that the reasons were not given until the declaration had been sustained by the unanimous vote of the Conference.

President of the Council George Q. Cannon said:

"On the 19th of January, 1841, the Lord gave His servant, Joseph Smith, a revelation, the forty-ninth paragraph of which I will read:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men, to do a work unto My name and those sons of men go with all their might, and with all they have to perform that work, and cease not their diligence, and their enemies come upon them, and hinder them from performing that work, behold it behooveth Me to require that work no more at the hands of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings."

"The Lord says other things connected with this, which I do not think it necessary to read, but the whole revelation is profitable, and can be read by those who desire to do so.

"It is on this basis President Woodruff has felt himself justified in issuing this manifesto.

"So far as I am concerned, I can say that of the men in this Church who have endeavored to maintain this principle of plural marriage, I am one. In public and in private I have avowed my belief in it. I have defended it everywhere and under all circumstances, and when it was necessary said that I considered the command as binding and imperative upon me.

"But a change has taken place. We have, in the first place, endeavored to show that the law which affected this feature of our religion was unconstitutional. We believed for years that the law of July 1, 1862, was in direct conflict with the first amendment to the Constitution, which says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." We rested upon that, and for years continued the practice of plural marriage, believing the law against it to be an unconstitutional one, and that we had the right, under the Constitution, to carry out this principle practically in our lives."

President of the Church Wilford Woodruff said:

"The Lord has required at our hands many things which we have not done, many things which we were prevented from doing. The Lord required us to