

learn. The Saints have been hitherto guided by men who were at once spiritual and temporal authorities, that is, they were the leading men naturally of the community, and it was natural to look to them as guides in all matters. Now their leaders are uniting with the Democratic and Republican parties, and they are trying to make each man a guide to himself. This action on the part of the leading Mormons is as significant and as sacred as though made in church under religious formularies.

There is one omission apparent in the party platform adopted thus far; that is there, has been no clear, incisive declaration in favor of the absolute freedom of suffrage from any kind of dictation or corrupt influence, whether from a religious teacher, a boodler or any other character that would infringe upon the purity of the ballot. Both parties set out by endeavoring to tell the Mormons how good their own party has been to them and how bad the other has been. Republican speakers tell them how the Democrats killed the prophets and made war upon them; and Democrats tell them how the Republicans have always prosecuted them and imprisoned them on account of polygamy. All such pandering to passion and prejudice is wrong; and it is to be hoped that Mormons themselves will have perception enough to discern it and courage enough to rebuke it. What we need is a fair, square campaign of education and good will. We want platforms, Democratic and Republican, that will mean Americanism pure and simple. No evasion, or pandering or parasitism. When Mormons of character and respectability, like those who have come to the front, put their hands to such a platform, it means something, and we can take it as a declaration of independence and a pledge of fealty.

Being a Republican myself, I can but feel that the progress of the party in Utah is greatly handicapped by the unwavering suspicions on the part of leading Liberals. They seem to swim in a sea of distrust. The most conscientious and honest emperors of ancient Rome were the bitterest persecutors of Christians; and many of the most heartless fiends of the inquisition were the most devout and scrupulous; but in view of the fact that this is an age of progress, that changes are rapidly drawing upon us, that the Republican party is daily falling behind in this campaign of education, I would be willing to record the wish that some of the leading spirits in the Liberal party were not so uncharitably upright and conscientious. Respectfully,

CALVIN REASONER.

SALT LAKE, June 12, 1891.

THE BEHRING SEA TROUBLE.

WASHINGTON, June 15.—The President today issued a proclamation stating that an agreement for a *modus vivendi* between the government of the United States and the government of her Britannic majesty in relation to the fur seal fisheries in Behring sea was concluded on the 15th day of last June. It reads:

"For the purpose of avoiding irritation, differences, and with a view to promote a friendly settlement of the questions pending between the two

governments touching their respective rights in Behring sea, and for the preservation of the seal species, the following agreement is made without prejudice to the rights or claims of either party.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

will prohibit until May next seal killing in that part of Behring sea lying eastward of the line of demarcation described in article No. 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and will promptly use its best efforts to insure the observance of this prohibition by British subjects and vessels.

"2—The United States government will prohibit seal killing for the same period in the same part of Behring sea and on the shores and islands thereof, the property of the United States (in excess of 7500 to be taken on the islands for the subsistence of the natives), and will promptly use its best efforts to insure the observance of this prohibition by United States citizens and vessels.

"3—Every vessel or person offending against this prohibition in the waters of the Behring sea outside of the ordinary territorial limits of the United States may be seized and detained by naval or other duly commissioned officers of either of the high contracting parties, but they shall be handed over as soon as practicable to the authorities of the nation to which they respectively belong, who shall alone have jurisdiction to try the offense and impose penalties for the same. The witnesses and proofs necessary to establish the offense shall also be sent with them.

"4—In order to facilitate such proper inquiries as her majesty's government may desire to make with a view to the presentation of the case that an agreement for arbitration may be arrived at, it is agreed that suitable persons, designated by Great Britain, will be permitted at any time, upon application, to visit or remain upon the seal islands during the present sealing season for that purpose.

"Signed and sealed in duplicate at Washington this 15th day of June, 1891, on behalf of their respective governments by William F. Wharton, acting secretary of state of the United States, and Sir Julian Pauncefote, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

"Now, therefore, be it known that I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused said agreement to be made public to the end that the same and every part thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States of America and the citizens thereof.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed."

THE ARRANGEMENT

indicated in the above proclamation was carried to completion with a degree of speed without precedent in the history of the state department, and the cable has been relied upon to an unwonted extent. The agreement was signed this morning by Sir Julian Pauncefote and Wharton, and the presidential proclamation followed as quickly as it could be prepared.

The navy department has been advised of the progress and necessity of

the case and orders are now in preparation for the immediate dispatch of probably two naval vessels from San Francisco to Alaska, where they will assist the three revenue cutters in the task of driving off poaching sealing vessels.

It will be noticed the agreement authorizes the United States vessels

TO SEIZE OFFENDING BRITISH VESSELS, which, however, are to be turned over to the British authorities for trial, and this feature of the agreement is expected to prove of great value in the pressing emergency that is held to exist of clearing out law-breaking vessels before irreparable damage can be done to the seal fisheries.

The department of state this afternoon made public the latest correspondence on the subject. It begins with a note of June 3, from Sir Julian Pauncefote in reply to Secretary Blaine's letter of May 4, replying to those propositions. Sir Julian replied with an amended draft of the agreement, which differs from the one signed today.

In reply the President offered a proposition suggesting such changes as would give to the *modus vivendi* the same territory in extent as the pending proposal for arbitration and so that the stipulation for the prohibition of killing upon the lands of the United States might rest upon its own order, and that the obligations of the respective governments to give prompt and vigorous effect to the agreement might be more clearly apparent. The President stated no British consular functions could be exercised on Behring Sea island, but reasonable facilities might be extended to Great Britain for investigating at the islands any fact involved in the controversy to be arbitrated. The bringing of

RUSSIA INTO THE AFFAIR

at this time would prove simply prohibitive of the agreement on a *modus vivendi* and could not be granted by the United States.

On this point the official communication says that the fourth clause of the proposal of Her Majesty's government limiting the taking effect of the *modus vivendi* upon the assent of Russia presents what seems to the President an insuperable difficulty, and the adherence to that suggestion by Her Majesty's government would, in his opinion, prevent the conclusion of any agreement and would inevitably cause such delay as to thwart the purpose which he must suppose both governments have had in view. He is surprised that this result did not suggest itself to Lord Salisbury and does not doubt that it will be apparent to him on re-examination.

"I am also directed to remind you," he continues, "that the contention of the United States and Great Britain has been limited to that part of Behring sea eastward of the line of demarcation described in our convention with Russia, to which reference has already been made, and that Russia never asserted any rights in these waters affecting the subject matter of this contention and cannot therefore be a necessary party to these negotiations if they are not now improperly expanded.

"Under the statutes of the United States the President is authorized to

PROHIBIT SEALING

In Behring sea within the limits de-