

# SMOOT WOULD NOT TELL OF ENDOWMENT SECRETS

## The Senate Committee Vainly Questioned the Witness.

### OTHER WITNESSES BALKY

#### Utah Senator Said It Wasn't His Business to Prosecute President Smith for Violating the Law.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Senator Reed Smoot to-day absolutely refused to answer questions regarding the ceremonies of the Endowment House, as did also several other witnesses. He also asserted that it was not his business to call to account President Smith of the Mormon Church because Mr. Smith had admitted to the committee that he was living in violation of the laws of the land.

The investigation will be closed this week. The cross-examination of the respondent terminated earlier than expected, and several other witnesses for the defense were examined. It was announced just before adjournment that only a few more witnesses would be put on the stand.

When the inquiry was resumed to-day Judge Taylor asked Senator Smoot about the statement of Apostle Moses Thatcher that the Church was getting beyond its proper functions in interfering with matters of State.

"I do not think there was any charge that the Church was trying to influence the action of the Legislature," answered Senator Smoot. "That would be wrong, and most reprehensible."

Senator Burrows thus interrogated Senator Smoot regarding the details of the endowment ceremony:

Q.—How long did it take to perform this ceremony? A.—From the beginning to the end, about three or four hours.

Q.—How many went through with you? A.—Thirty or forty.

Q.—State what you are able to recall of it? A.—I would very much prefer not to.

Q.—Why not? A.—For conscientious reasons. I made a vow that I would keep these endowment ceremonies sacred, and not reveal them to anybody, and I have kept that vow all my life, and if I went out of the Church to-morrow I would never feel that it was my duty to divulge what little I remember of them.

The Senator was asked a number of other questions regarding the ceremony, which he said he preferred not to answer.

"Do you know why the oath of secrecy was imposed?" he was asked.

"It is purely a religious ordinance—refers absolutely to a man's hereafter, and has nothing whatever to do with anything other than man's relation to his God, and I suppose that it is an ordinance in the Church, and the rule is that it be not revealed."

"Do you know how much money is paid into the Church annually in tithes?" asked Senator Overman. "I could not say, except as a guess."

"As much as \$1,000,000?" "Some years more, and some years less, I understand."

"How is the money expended?" "Well, there is about \$140,000 for educational interests, about \$100,000 for the feeding of the poor, a great deal for the expenses of missionaries."

Chairman Burrows then inquired of the witness: "You heard the testimony of President Smith that he is living in defiance of the laws of the land?" "Yes, Sir."

Q.—And that he is also living in defiance of the divine law? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—Has the Church proceeded against him because of his violations of the laws? A.—It has not.

Q.—Has there been any attempt to try him because he is living in polygamy? A.—There has not.

Q.—You have not sought to bring him to trial in any manner? (asked the Chairman.) A.—I have not.

Q.—Do you intend to? A.—I do not.

Q.—With full knowledge of his testimony you voted to sustain him at the conference last October? A.—I did.

"Do you intend to continue sustaining Smith in his commission of crimes against the law of the land?" Senator Smoot again said that he was not sustaining Smith, except as President of the Church, and that it was not his duty as an officer of the law to bring action against Smith.

Maroni Gillespie, a policeman of Salt Lake, Utah, in reply to Chairman Burrows, refused to divulge the endowment oath. John M. Whittaker gave unimportant testimony, and also declined to answer about endowment ceremonies.

## SNAKE-LOVING HUSBAND WINS

### Gets Divorce from Wife Who Sued Him on Account of Pets.

Justice Gaynor of the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, granted a divorce to Harold Livingston Burnett from Carolina Cary Hull Burnett yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Burnett left her husband's home nearly two years ago, and brought a suit for separation on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment, alleging that her husband kept an assortment of snakes and lizards in the house as pets.

The suit was dismissed, and she brought another action which she afterward dropped. She also had her husband in court on charges of non-support, but this action, too, was decided against her. Finally Mr. Burnett brought the action for an absolute divorce, which was decided yesterday.

## EXAMINER HARRIS REMOVED.

### Was Criticised by Glass Manufacturers and Tariff League.

It was learned yesterday at the Appraiser's Stores that W. S. Harris, who since 1899 had been examiner of glassware at this port, was summarily removed from the service last week by Secretary Shaw. The reason was not made public, but it is understood that Harris has been sharply criticised for more than a year by the domestic glassware manufacturers and the American Protective Tariff League. Many complaints as to his attitude toward certain importers were sent to Washington.

The most conspicuous case in which Harris was involved was that of Fonderville & Van Iderstine last Summer, when 140 cases of glassware belonging to this firm, which had passed, were ordered back into Public Stores for re-examination by Collector Stranahan, on orders from Washington. The invoice values of the goods were advanced 40 per cent.

Harris was appointed by Wilbur F. Wakeman, who as Secretary of the Protective Tariff League has conducted the fight for his removal. Mr. Wakeman said yesterday that when he appointed Harris he had fullest confidence in him, but events caused a change of opinion within a year.

Examiner Fitzpatrick, who has been handling allied lines, has been assigned to Harris's place.