

When Fremont was running for President, one of the planks in the republican party platform was to get rid of the "two evils of Polygamy and slavery".

Anti bigamy laws were passed, but ^{were} not strong enough to really put give the Mormon Polygamists that much trouble. But when the Edmund-Tucker law was passed in 1887 it had provisions that proved disastrous for the church.

The church was disenfranchised (overruled)

All church property over 50,000 ^{dollars} was seized. Fines and prison terms were enforced and Utah was flooded with Federal marshalls tracking down Polygamists.

The men who had plural wives were required to give up all save one wife. The right to not testify against your husband was denied to 2nd or other wives because they were not

considered "legal" wives. Husbands placed their wives in widely separated areas.

The church took the case clear to the supreme court ⁽¹⁸⁹⁰⁾ which declared that while the constitution guaranteed freedom of worship, it did not guarantee that a Church could live a practice that was not acceptable (abhorrent?) to the society.

Many men took their families to Mexico and Canada. It was a religious principle & they were determined to obey God and not man.

Because this seizure of church properties threatened to destroy the church, Wilford Woodruff issued the manifesto saying that from thence on the practice would be stopped and the church would obey the law of the land.