

A.W. BELKNAP
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Whatever tends to promote the well-being of his fellows and the permanent welfare of his community and church are matters of deep interest to A. W. Belknap, the gentleman whose name heads this review, and his influence and means are freely used in religious causes. He is a true son of the West, as his whole life has been passed amid its primitive scenes and activities, and none of his inhabitants are more genuinely concerned in its prosperity and high standing. He possesses the energetic, progressive spirit which always brings success, and the patriotism and high sense of religious duty which mark the representative, broad minded citizen. He was born on March 25, 1860, at Ogden, Utah, a son of Gilbert and Adaline (Knight) Belknap, his father's birth occurring at Port Hope in the province of Ontario, Canada, and coming to the United States when a young man and becoming a resident of Illinois for many years, whence he crossed the plains with an ox team in a body of his fellow Mormons, locating in Ogden, Utah, there following farming principally until 1869, when he made his residence in Hooper, where, at the age of seventy-seven years, his earthly career was closed in 1900.

Gilbert Belknap was a man of more than ordinary ability and executive powers, holding a number of offices as a consistent Democrat, among them being those of selectman, assessor and collector, prosecuting attorney and sheriff. He was held in high regard in the Mormon church for his deeply religious character and mental powers, and held with great ability the distinguished position of bishop of Hooper ward. His parents were Rosel and Jane (Richmond) Belknap, and his wife, whom he married in Kirtland, Ohio, was a native of the state of New York. She accompanied her husband to Utah, where she is now passing the evening of her eminently useful life at Hooper, Utah, having more than rounded out the allotted three score and ten rears of life. She was a daughter of Vincent and Martha (McBride) Knight, her father dying at Nauvoo, Ill., and her mother coming to Utah, being the mother of thirteen children, and making her permanent home at Hooper, Utah, where her death occurred.

Mr. A. W. Belknap, after a thoroughly practical education at the public schools and parental homestead of his parents, identified himself with his father's operations until he attained the age of twenty-six years, then, becoming a farmer on his own account, he continued to follow this employment with satisfactory results until 1888, when he removed his home to Fremont county, here becoming a pioneer settler of Salem, where he took up a homestead of 160 acres, which year by year he has seen develop, as the logical result of his indefatigable energy and unremitting labor, into a substantial and valuable farm, suitably improved, with proper irrigation, having a convenient residence and suitable outbuildings to satisfy the demands of the exacting departments of agricultural life of which this is the animated headquarters.

Mr. Belknap has given great attention and much thought to the problem of irrigation and the success of the system operating in this section is largely due to his untiring efforts, and he has held the office of president of the Salem Union Canal Co. nearly all of the time since its organization. In political relations he is aligned with the Democratic Party, in which he thoroughly believes. On November 3, 1896, he was selected justice of the peace, and he was reelected in 1898, but his private interests demand so much of his time that he leaves the seeking of office entirely to others. In his church his activity is much in evidence, and he has held the place of alternate member of the high council for a term of years with conceded ability, and in 1891 he was chosen second counselor to Bishop Harris, from which he was released in 1900 and chosen to his present position, being held in high esteem by his religious associates.

On April 21, 1886, Miss Mary Read, a native of Utah, and a daughter of Thomas and Jane (Rawley) Read, early pioneers of Weber County, Utah, became the wife of Mr. Belknap and to this union have come a bright, intelligent family of children, as follows: Augustus R., Charles W., Thomas G., deceased, George, Earl, John, deceased, Joseph F., Ezra L., and Elmer D.