

THOMAS R. CUTLER.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

An essential requirement for success in a pioneer country is adaptability. New conditions must be met, new methods of life adopted, new problems solved. He who possesses this quality and with it the power of application is bound to achieve success. Thomas Robinson Cutler was such a man.

Born June 2, 1844, in Sheffield, England, his parents were Thomas Cutler and Elizabeth Robinson Cutler. His father was also a cutler by trade. Thomas R. received an ordinary education, and at the age of fifteen he entered into the work of his life-business. For a number of years he was a clerk in a foreign shipping house, and then with his family, all of whom had been converted to the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he emigrated to Utah.

He arrived in Salt Lake October 6, 1864, and lived for a year in a little house near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Next year he moved to Lehi and again took up his business career, this time in the employ of the firm of T. and W. Taylor. When this concern later sold out to the Lehi Union Exchange, he arranged for them the terms of the sale. For a number of years he engaged in sheep and cattle raising.

It was when the formation of the Utah Central Railway became a fact that the business acumen of T. R. Cutler made its first step and launched him upon a career which has had few equals in the commercial life of Utah. Recognizing what the railroad would do for Lehi commercially, he conceived the idea of establishing a store near the proposed depot, so in 1871, in connection with James W. and Thomas Taylor, he built a small adobe structure where now stands the Utah Banking Company. For a year he conducted a store here.

When, in 1872, the railroad reached Lehi, the concern was in a position to realize upon their foresight. Accordingly, the People's Cooperative Institution was organized, and Cutler became the manager. This company has prospered since its

establishment, due in no small part to its successful management.

Thomas R. is now the president of the organization. When the Utah Sugar Company was organized in 1890, the promoters experienced no trouble in deciding whom they desired to control the affairs of the new industry; they immediately selected the young man from Lehi who had made so great a success of his business there. He was therefore designated general manager of the Utah Sugar Company.

The success of the beet sugar industry in the West has been due in no small part to Thomas R. Cutler. His foresight, business sagacity, reliable judgment, and untiring industry have enabled him to conduct the company which employs him, from its possession of a single factory in Lehi, to a gigantic corporation which owns eight factories in Utah and Idaho, furnishes employment to thousands of people, and gives to the farmers of the two states immense sums of money each year for their beets. The company is a monument to his success.

But the sugar business is not the only field in which Mr. Cutler has been active. He was one of the promoters of the Lehi Commercial and Savings Bank and the Union Hotel. Other concerns which have benefited Lehi only indirectly, which he has been instrumental in forming, or active in conducting, are the Provo Woolen Mills, and Cutler Brothers Company. In addition he is a director in the Utah State National Bank, president of the Continental Life Insurance Company, and an important member of numerous other companies. He has also engaged to some extent in the mining business.

His public work in Lehi embraces various offices with which the people have honored him. He has been a member of the City Council and city treasurer. In politics he has been a Republican, but in spite of the earnest solicitation of his friends, he has almost universally refused to run for office.

But it is in his ecclesiastical capacity that the people of Lehi will longest remember Thomas R. Cutler. When Bishop David Evans resigned, on September 5, 1879, Thomas R. was the choice of all the people as his successor. For twenty-four years he directed the fortunes of the Lehi Ward, and by his ability to lead, his sympathy

for each of those over whom he presided, his broad-mindedness, and his unbounded charity, he won a permanent place in the hearts of the people.

In 1904 the ever-widening scope of his business compelled him to change his residence to Salt Lake City. It was with intense sorrow that the people accepted his resignation as Bishop and saw him depart for his new home. But always they will claim him; always will they think of him as Bishop Cutler of Lehi.