

LIFE

BUY
WAR
BONDS



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POLYGAMY

Utah jails 15 "Fundamentalists"

And God said unto him [Israel], *I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins.*

A too-literal belief in this text from the 35th chapter of Genesis by last week had brought sorrow and prison sentences to 15 families in Salt Lake City. The men in the back row in the picture above have been con-

victed of polygamy by the state of Utah and sentenced to prison terms of one to four years. The rest of the people are their wives and their children, including the wives and children of two more men who do not appear in the picture. The 15 defendants were convicted on state charges of unlawful cohabitation with 55 wives. Among them they have a total of 283 children.

These polygamists regard themselves as "Fundamentalists" members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). The Mormon Church, however, regards them as nothing of the kind and has excommunicated them for plural marriages. In 1890, when Utah was seeking statehood and polygamy then was the principal barrier, the Mormon Church officially

and irrevocably abolished the practice as part of its religious tenets. Since then Mormons, with the exception of the "Fundamentalists," have refrained from polygamy.

The pictures below show the home life of Joseph Lyman Jessop, his three wives and his 25 children. A farmer and carpenter, he has been living in plural mar-

riage since 1924. His home is a large, old-fashioned, two-story house in a farm area just south of Salt Lake City. There he lives with all his wives and children, each wife having her own kitchen and living room. As in all polygamous homes the wives work together and help each other. Malingering is an unforgivable sin. Mr. Jessop spends one day with each of his families.



Goodnights are said to Beth's children as their mother bundles them into bed. "Fundamentalists" never smoke, drink or gamble. Many claim descent from Charles the Great.



Jessop is sentenced to one to four years in jail. "Justice has not been done," he tells judge. Said another polygamist, "God will not change the laws of celestial marriage."



Jessop and his three wives spend quiet evening together in their front room. Winnie is playing the piano while Maleta looks at a magazine and Beth reads the paper aloud.



All three wives get together to do dishes after dinner. Here Winnie (*left*) and Maleta (*right*), who are cousins, do the drying. Scene takes place in the kitchen of Beth (*center*).





The kids are washed in the house's one bathtub. Here Maleta scrubs while Beth dries. Polygamous kids are clean, healthy, happy. They are taught "Fundamentalist" doctrines.



The kids line up for a goodnight kiss from their father. He has already told them a bedtime story. On "family night" the father leads the Bible discussion, prayer and singing.



One man's family sits down to dinner, while Jessop at head of table says grace. Seated are three wives, 21 of his children. All "Fundamentalist" families are deeply religious.