

QUOTES ABOUT GEORGE Q. CANNON
(Mostly taken from the Cannon Family Historical Treasury)

1. His life encompassed the most dramatic events in the history of the Church.
2. Orson Whitney in the "History of Utah" : "Had he (Geo. Q. Cannon) remained in his native land he might well have become a peer of the great parliamentary leaders, Gladstone and Disraeli".
- (A) 3. When challenged by his parents for his decision to leave school and go to work at the age of 13 years, he replied that "learning is not a matter of going to school; it is the result of an inner hunger."
4. When he arrived in Nauvoo by boat on the Mississippi River with a group of emigrants in early 1843 and saw the Prophet Joseph Smith among the crowd of Saints waiting at the pier, he later wrote the following about that event:
"When my eyes fell upon the Prophet, without a word from anyone to point him out, I knew him instantly. There was that about him which distinguished him from all the men I had ever seen."
- (B) 5. He was present at the meeting in August, 1844, after the martyrdom of the Prophet in which Sidney Rigdon tried to establish his claim to the leadership of the Church. He later wrote: "After speaking for a short time Sidney Rigdon sat down and Brigham Young arose and addressed the people. If Joseph had risen from the dead and again spoken, the effect could not have been more startling. It was the voice of Joseph himself, and not only was it the voice of Joseph which was heard, but it seemed in the eyes of the people as though it was the very person of Joseph which stood before them."
6. He was ordained a Seventy at the age of 18 years.
7. He migrated to the Great Salt Lake Valley with the John Taylor company, the first group which followed Brigham Young's party, arriving in the valley in Oct. 1847.
8. While in Congress, President Garfield on one occasion introduced him with these words, "Mr. Cannon is the most remarkable man in Congress in some respects. He has a speaking acquaintance with nearly all of the diplomats and with every man in Congress and the Senate, and knows the district from which he comes. He never forgets a name or a face worth remembering."
~~Source~~
- (C) 9. In reference to one bill to make polygamous delegates to Congress ineligible, Geo. Q. Cannon ironically suggested an amendment that would include the ineligibility clause, "also those guilty of adultery or fornication!" The idea was rejected with the amused comment that such an amendment would strike directly at the congressman who proposed the bill!
On the same subject, the Chicago Times commented: "were the congressmen to be consistent in their moral scruples it would thin the House below a quorum. If it is wrong to sit with a man who has more than one wife, will it not be wrong also to sit with a congressman who, having a wife, has a mistress as well?"
10. The Edmunds Act, voted into law 100 years ago (March, 1882), provided that persons living in polygamy could not hold office, could not vote, and that persons believing in the principle could be challenged as jurors, that unlawful co-habitation should be punished by fine and imprisonment, and that all election officers be named by a commission named by the President of the United States.
11. Quote from the Washington Post during the hearings on whether or not Geo. Q. Cannon should be barred from representing the Utah Territory: "Mr. Cannon has represented his people for many years, and aside from his peculiar views on religion, he has been and is universally respected."
- (D) 12. In 1877 his large family increased from 15 to 18 with the arrival of Joseph J., Sylvester Q., and Willard T. Cannon, all born in a 30 day period. Geo. Q. Cannon frequently told of going into the best cutlery shop in London and ordering three of their finest Sheffield steel razors for his three sons who were turning 21 years of age that month. "Triplets!" exclaimed the astonished clerk. "Why no, indeed" was the bland reply, "They were born several days apart throughout the month."

QUOTES (Cont.)

13. Geo. Q. Cannon conducted the funeral services for Brigham Young and acted as chief executor of his estate. This was a very difficult probate because Church property was so inextricably mixed up in Brigham Young's personal property due to the federal threats of confiscation of all Church properties.
14. He developed a very unique community for his large family in the southwest part of Salt Lake City where he built four large homes for his four wives in 1878, together with a school house, central dining hall, stores, ice house, tennis court, and other miscellaneous structures and facilities needed for almost complete independence from the outside world.
15. In 1882, while he was heavily involved in fighting the enactment of the Edmunds Act in Congress, his beloved first wife, Elizabeth Hoagland, passed away and he was unable to be in attendance at her funeral service.
16. At his passing in 1901, the historian, Orson F. Whitney, commented: "No man in Utah, after the passing of Brigham Young, wielded with all classes so great an influence as Pres. Geo. Q. Cannon."
Bryant S. Hinckley wrote of him, "Geo. Q. Cannon attained a fame that spread far beyond the confines of the community in which he was one of the most illustrious leaders; being reckoned among America's greatest statesmen and holding even an international prominence in reputation."
The Salt Lake Tribune editorialized, "for 25 years Mr. Cannon has been the practical man of the Church. He was abroad more and in better touch with the leading men of the country."