

A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Mr. Kem and His Supporters Accept the Test Proposed by His Opponents, and are Willing to Stand or Fall by it.

"What has Kem done, anyway?" This is a favorite question with the critics of Congressman Kem. Their answer is "nothing."

This question is really a challenge to Mr. Kem and his supporters to let him be tried by his record. They willingly accept the test proposed. Mr. Kem, in his speech at Kearney, October 20th, said:

"I stand on my record. If it cannot be shown that I have done as much as any republican congressman from Nebraska, I will resign and retire to private life."

The intelligent voters of the Sixth district are the jury before which this case is to be tried. Let every candid man read this article through carefully and then pass judgment.

First, let us examine the record of work actually done in the present congress. Of all the bills introduced in the present House, only 340 have passed the House. As there are 356 members, this is less than an average of one bill per member. If Kem had got one bill through, he would have done well, but the record shows that Mr. Kem originated and secured the passage through the House of FOUR BILLS. Three of these were measures of public importance.

Of these four measures, two have already passed the senate and become laws, and the other two are almost sure to pass at the short session next winter.

There are ten populists in the House. The other nine only got four bills through the House—exactly as many as Mr. Kem alone got through.

The six members from Nebraska got fifteen bills through the House, of which Kem got four, Meiklejohn four, Mercer and Bryan three each, and Hainer one. Measured by their importance, Kem's bills are far superior to those of the republican members, as will be seen by the following list:

BILLS OF NEBRASKA MEMBERS.

MEIKLEJOHN'S BILLS:

- 1. An act for a charter for the Iowa and Nebraska Pontoon Bridge Company (at Sioux City).
2. An act extending the time of payment to purchasers of lands of the Omaha tribe of Indians in Nebraska, and for other purposes.
3. An act for the relief of Wesley Montgomery.
4. An act authorizing the issue of a patent to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for certain lands on the Omaha Indian Reservation for school purposes (pending in the Senate).

MERCER'S BILLS:

- 1. An act to fix the times and places of holding federal courts in the state and district of Nebraska.
2. An act for the relief of Brig. Gen. John R. Brooks, U. S. Army.
3. An act to remove the charge of desertion standing against John W. Wacker.

BRYAN'S BILLS:

- 1. An act for the relief of Benj. F. Proteot.
2. An act to increase the penalty for embezzlement by directors, officers, or agents of National Banks. (Pending in the Senate.)
3. An act to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate the liens of judgments and decrees of the courts in the U. S." (Pending in the Senate.)

HAINER'S BILL:

- An act granting a pension to Guy W. Gibson. (Pending in the Senate.)

MR. KEM'S MEASURES.

1. A bill granting homesteaders on the Sioux Reservation in Nebraska the right to commute their homesteads after fourteen months' residence.

The history of this matter is interesting. The 51st Congress, over which Czar Reed presided, on the last day of its last session passed a bill granting the right to commute after fourteen months' residence to the settlers on the Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, but not granting the right to homesteaders on the Nebraska side of the line. Nebraska was then represented in the House by Dorsey, Connell, and Laws, and in the Senate by Paddock and Manderson—all republicans. Yet this act of rank discrimination against Nebraska citizens passed without a word of protest from any of them. In fact they do not seem to have known anything about it.

Mr. Kem endeavored to have this wrong rectified during his first term. Mr. Manderson also made an effort. They would have succeeded if Mr. Manderson had shown a spirit of friendly co-operation. As it was, Mr. Kem got the bill favorably reported, but it was crowded out in the rush at the close of the session.

One of the first bills introduced at the extra session, was Kem's bill to rectify this injustice. The committee on Public Lands reported it favorably, and Mr. Kem, himself, wrote the report. Nothing further was necessary but to call the bill up in the House for passage. On October 12th, Mr. Kem being sick and confined to his room, Mr. Meiklejohn called up the bill, had the report read, and it passed without opposition; but he took good care never to mention Kem's name. The next morning a lengthy dispatch appeared in the Omaha Bee giving Mr. Meiklejohn all the credit and denouncing Kem for neglecting his constituents. This false report was, without reasonable doubt, inspired by Meiklejohn for the purpose of injuring Kem. As soon as Mr. Kem was able, he appeared in the House and gave Meiklejohn such a complete dressing down that he has not attempted any such scurrily tricks since. (For a full report of Mr. Kem's remarks see Record of October 18, 1893.)

2. A bill providing for the resurvey of Grant and Hooker counties, Nebraska. The citizens of those counties have suffered great inconvenience on account of

the incorrectness of the original survey. Boundary lines were all in doubt, and many disputes arose. They tried for a long time to secure relief. They wrote to Senator Manderson and others. Finally, they wrote to Mr. Kem. He introduced the bill. In committee a substitute was adopted, slightly modifying the original bill, but it was Mr. Kem's measure, and he did all the work of pushing it through. (See Record of May 11, Page 5540.) Senator Allen got the bill through the senate without delay.

3. A bill permitting any settler who has forfeited, or may hereafter forfeit, his homestead on account of drouth, sickness, or other unavoidable casualty, upon making proof of the facts, to file upon a new claim just as if he had not made a former filing. (See Record of June 22, 1894, Page 7798.)

This is the most important piece of land legislation enacted by the present House. Some carping critics have endeavored to belittle this bill as merely a duplicate of a law already on the statute books. There was a law of somewhat similar import enacted in 1889, but it only gave relief to persons who had forfeited their homestead rights prior to that date. Mr. Kem's measure extends this relief to all who have suffered since that time, and all who may suffer hereafter. It is therefore a measure of wide scope and great importance. The bill is now pending in the Senate, and Senator Allen is confident of getting it through that body.

4. A bill for the relief of Michael Scanlon.

Mr. Scanlon, a Custer county settler, was compelled, through the dishonesty of a land office receiver, to pay out twice on his claim before he could get a patent. This bill simply reimburses him for the \$200 he lost through the receiver's dishonesty. (See record of July 11, 1894, page 8616.)

As will be seen, three of Mr. Kem's bills are measures of public importance, and rank much higher than the bills of republican members from Nebraska.

KEM'S OTHER BILLS.

Mr. Kem has introduced a number of other bills which can only be briefly referred to in this article.

1. First in importance is his government banking bill. This bill provides for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to one; for the coining of the seigniorage, for a uniform legal tender paper currency to be issued by the general government, for an increase of the currency to about \$40 per capita, and for a system of government banks to take the place of the national banks as fast as their charters expire. This measure is of great national importance, but of course failed to receive any consideration in the present congress.

2. "A bill for the relief of the several states of the Union." This bill was introduced in the House July 30, 1894. At the same time Senator Allen introduced the same bill in the Senate. The bill provides for an immediate issue of \$50,000,000 in legal tender treasury notes, to be distributed among the states of the union in proportion to their population.

It provides that this money shall be distributed to the worthy poor. Each state is to give its bonds as security for the repayment of its quota. This bill was intended to give immediate relief to the thousands and millions of worthy persons who are the victims of the present hard times. The immediate passage of this bill would have saved untold suffering during the coming winter. It would have given relief to the drouth sufferers of the West, and the unemployed masses of the cities. But the Wall Street leaders of the old parties would not give it a hearing.

3. A bill to open the abandoned military reservations of Ft. Hartsuff, Ft. Sheridan, and Ft. McPherson to settlement under the homestead law, settlers only to be charged the minimum price under that law—\$1.25 per acre. Mr. Kem labored hard to get this bill through, but failed because the dominant party in the House determined to pursue the policy of selling these lands to the highest bidder.

4. A bill to provide for lighting the public buildings and streets of Washington City. This bill proposed to dethrone the giant gas monopoly which has made untold millions out of this government and the citizens of Washington by charging exorbitant prices for a poor quality of gas, and to supply the city with a first-class electric light plant, owned and operated by the government. When Mr. Kem first introduced a measure of this kind, the republicans tried to make sport of him, but since Senator Manderson introduced a very similar measure, they have had nothing to say.

5. Mr. Kem introduced four bills for the relief of private parties, two being for special pensions. One of these, a bill granting a pension to Isaac D. Gregg, a worthy old soldier, was reported adversely. Mr. Meiklejohn, a member of the committee on invalid pensions, wrote and signed the adverse report. A \$16,000 APPROPRIATION. Republican politicians usually estimate a congressman's success by the appropriations he secures. Here again, Mr. Kem is far ahead of his republican colleagues. He secured an appropriation of \$16,000 for the re-survey of Grant and Hooker counties, and this work will be done and the money paid out in the near future. Senator Allen secured its passage through the Senate.

Only two other appropriations of any size were secured, one of \$7,000 by Sena-

tor Allen, to construct a bridge over the Niobrara in Knox county, and the other by Senator Manderson of \$12,000, to reimburse the state for expense incurred in calling out the militia at the time of the Indian outbreak in South Dakota. In the House, Meiklejohn had charge of the bridge bill, and Bryan had charge of Manderson's bill, but all members of the delegation assisted in putting them through. So the republican members have comparatively nothing to show against the appropriation secured by Mr. Kem.

AT THE POST OF DUTY.

"But," says one, "we've heard that Mr. Kem was never present when the roll was called." Let's see about that. Here is the record of yea and nay votes for the entire long session, beginning December 4, 1893, and ending August 28, 1894:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Votes. Includes Kem (162), McKeighan (138), Hainer (107), Meiklejohn (98), Mercer (82), Bryan (195).

Doesn't look bad for Mr. Kem, does it? But how about the republican members?

Kem Versus Daugherty.

In his speech at Kearney, October 6th, Mr. Daugherty, Kem's opponent, said: "A candidate who makes worthless promises is a demagogue." This is true. Mr. Daugherty and his friends are making a great record in this line. According to their promises, Mr. Daugherty will work wonders if elected. He will repeal laws enacted by his party in former years; he will reverse his party's policy in the settlement of Indian Reservations; he will have postoffices and mail routes established just when and where the people want them. He will do various and sundry other things too numerous to mention. If the claims of his supporters are true, Reed and Burrows and Cannon won't be "in it" when Daugherty gets to congress. They will sink to their proper level, and he will assume the leadership of his party.

Such promises are about on a par with those of the Englishman who promised the voters, if they would elect him to Parliament, he would have a law passed giving each man "three acres and a cow."

Daugherty's platform denounces the striking down of silver at the late extra session as the "crime of '93." (He forgot all about the crime of '73.) If that is correct (and it certainly is), four-fifths of the republicans in both houses of the present congress are criminals, for they voted for that "crime of '93." Does Daugherty propose to reform all those "criminals?"

But as a matter of fact this plank in Mr. Daugherty's platform, like several others, was put in for "buncombe." If he should be elected he will fall into line with his party and fall in very near the foot of the line at that.

The voters of this district are in no humor to be trifled with. Empty promises will catch very few votes. The people of the Sixth District want a representative in congress who is in line with Western sentiment, and in hearty sympathy with the producing masses. Mr. Kem has been tried. His bills, his speeches, and his votes speak for him. All he need say is: "Gentlemen, here is my record. If you see fit to re-elect me, I will go right on working, voting, and speaking as I have done in the past."

We have no desire to eulogize Mr. Kem. He has no need of eulogies. The people of this district know him to be an indefatigable worker for their interests. They know him to be an honest man and a gentleman. They know that in the battle for progress, liberty, and justice, he is a valiant fighter.

The case is made up. We are content to leave the decision with the voters at the polls November 6.

Irrigation.

Kem is in favor of a general system of irrigation under government control and supervision. This does not mean that he is opposed to irrigation by private enterprise. He favors irrigation by any and all feasible means. But he believes the national government should lend a helping hand to the people of the west. He says: "All our people ask is a temporary loan of the government's strength and resources to enable them to establish a system of irrigation which will make them independent of climatic conditions hereafter."

Every voter who is interested in irrigation should send for a copy of Mr. Kem's speech on the subject. Address Jas. Stockham, Kearney, Neb.

Free Sugar.

Mr. Kem is in favor of free sugar, not like we had it under the McKinley Bill with a tax of 60 cents per hundred pounds on refined sugar, for the benefit of the trust, but absolutely free sugar. Mr. Kem never supported or voted for the Gorman sugar schedule.

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MR. KEM AS A SPEAKER.

A List of His Speeches with Extracts Showing Where He Stands on all the Leading Issues.

Though pretending to no distinction as an orator, Mr. Kem has shown himself a good speaker, and a ready debater. On every great question specially involving the principles of his party, Mr. Kem has spoken at length and ably. His speeches show careful thought and research. He expresses his ideas in plain, forcible English. He is heard with attention on the floor of the House.

In his first term he delivered several speeches, the most important of which was in favor of electing United States senators by direct vote of the people.

In the present congress he has made four important speeches:

August 23, 1893, he spoke at length in favor of free silver coinage and against the repeal of the Sherman law. This speech was in answer to a speech delivered by Congressman Hendrix, a gold bug republican from New York. Mr. Kem completely demolished his opponent.

January 31, 1894, he spoke in defense of the income tax, making one of the best speeches in the debate on that subject.

March 4, 1894, he delivered a powerful speech in favor of the government establishing an electric light plant in Washington, and overthrowing the monster gas monopoly which holds the national capital in its clutches.

August 10, 1894, Mr. Kem made a speech on irrigation. This was in all respects the ablest speech in the debate on this subject. Mr. Kem was only allowed a short time in this debate, consequently only the first part of his speech was actually delivered. The speech was printed entire in the Record of August 16th. All his other speeches were delivered in full.

It should be said of Mr. Kem that he has never indulged in the habit so popular with congressmen of getting somebody else to write his speeches. Every speech he has ever delivered was a Kem speech from beginning to end.

The following extracts from Mr. Kem's speeches in congress, though brief, are sufficient to show clearly where he stands on the leading issues:

ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.

The ballot is the American's only safeguard, the only medium through which he can quietly and legally express his desires as a citizen, the only peaceable means by which necessary changes may be brought about on which rest the honor and life of the nation.

The right of the majority to rule is the chief corner stone in the structure of our government. The present mode of electing senators is not only unnecessary, unwise, undemocratic, and un-American, but it is absolutely dangerous, the tendency being to centralize power in the hands of the few.

I believe the time has fully come when the people should be allowed to say whether the present method of electing senators shall continue, or whether they shall be elected as members of the House are elected, and compelled to render an account of their stewardship directly to the people whom they are supposed to serve. I, therefore, support this resolution that seeks to change the system.

THE INCOME TAX.

The People's Party platform adopted at Omaha, July 4, 1892, declared in favor of a graduated income tax. It involves principles of equity and justice in the collection of revenue that cannot be reached in any other way.

Under our present system of collecting revenue, the wealthier men become the less taxes they pay in proportion to their ability. Revenues are now collected from articles of consumption. The man of moderate income who has a family of ten to support may consume ten times as much as the man who has no family to support but is worth a million dollars. So that poor man will contribute ten times as much to the support of the government as the old bachelor millionaire, although the latter receives from the government protection for one thousand times as much property as the former. Should not this burden be shifted from the shoulders of the man who is struggling to feed, clothe, and educate his family, to the shoulders of the financial giant who is more than able to bear it?

A perfect tax is one which distributes the burden among its citizens in proportion to their ability to bear it.

FREE COINAGE OF SILVER.

I am an American bimetallic who believes in this Government making her own laws, and particularly her own money, and sustaining it regardless of what any foreign power may do. When we surrender the right to any nation to dictate the kind of money we shall use, we have surrendered our liberties, and decay and death must ensue. I have unbounded faith in the ability of this Government to maintain her own money system regardless of England, and, if she can't do this, she has no right to a place as an independent government, and had better surrender to the powers of Europe at once, and have them established a protectorate.

The masses of the people want free coinage; they want a greater volume of money, and if I mistake not the signs of the times they will have it in the near future if they have to crush the life out of both old parties to get it.

I am in favor of paying the last cent of our indebtedness, regardless of who may be the creditor, in the same kind of money in which it was contracted, but I protest against paying it in dollars containing 500 grains of silver when the contract calls for dollars containing but 412 2/3 grains. Such a proposition is infamous.

I shall vote in favor of the free coinage of silver on a ratio of 16 to 1, and against the destruction of one-half of our metallic money by the combined efforts of the bondholder and interest-gatherer.

A lack of confidence, is it? Then let us apply the remedy in a common-sense manner by restoring a sufficient amount of legal-tender money to meet the business demands of the country. The moment we do this confidence will be at par, and every avenue of trade opened to its full capacity. We have been doing business so long on confidence with so little real money behind it, it has become threadbare, rotten and worn out; and



FAIRY PLEASE-MYSELF.

I know a little fairy, A naughty little elf, Brimful of tricks and mischief, The "Fairy Please-Myself."

She hides in every nursery, You always know she's there, When little folks are fretting, And then, my dears, beware!

She's very old, this fairy: How old, I cannot tell, But it is very likely That Adam knew her well.

How did I know about her? I'll whisper in your ears: She often called upon me— When I was young, my dears —Youth's Companion

Returning Good for Evil.

Through one of the principal streets of Berlin on a sunny morning, many years ago, a beautiful lady was driving in her carriage. People stopped to gaze after her, and those who recognized the sweet face pointed her out as Henrietta Sontag, the great singer, then at the height of her fame. Suddenly the carriage came to a standstill at an order from its occupant, whose ears had caught the strains of an old familiar ballad. A wee girl of some six or seven summers, accompanied by a blind woman, was singing in the roadway.

Calling the child over to her, Madame Sontag gently inquired her name. "Nannie, gracious lady," was the answer given with an Austrian accent.

"And who, pray, is the woman with you?"

"This is my poor mother, lady. She was once upon a time a famous singer, but she lost her voice, and then afterward she became blind. We have no friends now, and are obliged to beg our way from town to town. I earn a little money by my singing."

"And what is your mother's name, little one?"

"Amelia Steininger," replied the child, who was startled at the look of surprise that came over the questioner's face the next moment. "Amelia Steininger! Well did Madame Sontag remember the name! Years before, in Vienna, when she, Henriette, was unknown to fame, Steininger, jealous of the young opera singer's voice, had raised a storm of opposition, and driven her with hisses from the Austrian capital."

But all this had long been forgiven, and Madame Sontag's heart now ached with pity for the old rival's misfortune. A number of gentlemen had by this time gathered round the carriage, and to them the singer now turned. "Gentlemen," she began, with tears of sympathy glistening in her eyes, "permit me here, on this public place, to take up a collection for an unhappy sister from whom God has seen fit to take His greatest gift—the gift of sight. See, here is my purse for the brave little one; you will not allow it to remain unfiled?"

A score of eager hands were thrust out instantly, and gold and silver coins poured in upon the bewildered little girl, who could not speak her thanks for the sobs in her throat.

"Now, Nannie," continued her benefactress, before driving on, "let me write down where you live; then go and tell your mother that her old friend Henriette Sontag will visit her this afternoon for a chat."

Madame Sontag did not forget her promise, and devoted herself from that time onward to caring for her former enemy. And when at last Amelia Steininger died, poor little orphaned Nannie went to live with the famous queen of song as her adopted daughter.

Frisky Balder.

A certain big dog, whose acquaintance I made two or three years ago, had a very lively sense of humor, and not only liked to play a joke himself, but could appreciate one that was turned on him.

His mistress was of slight figure, weighing less than 100 pounds. In one of his clumsy rushes of delight at being allowed to go to walk with her, he pounced against her, and fairly knocked her down. He seemed to consider it a charming joke, and had no doubt that she enjoyed it as well as he did, for from that day he was always trying to repeat the performance.

If she started for a walk, and wanted his escort through the woods, he was more than ready to go. He came bounding and frolicking about her as though he were a puppy, always vainly aiming to dash against her. She had to dodge him, and finally she did not dare to leave the steps until he had calmed himself a little. All the while he would stand wagging his tail and looking at her with a mischievous expression in his eyes, knowing, just as well as she did that she was afraid of him.

When he saw that she would not go while he behaved so, he quieted down and trotted gravely along beside her, with all the dignity his position of protector called for. But the very next time she made ready for a walk the same performance was repeated, and more than a year later the dog remembered the joke and tried to play it on her again. On others of the family, of whom he was equally fond, but who happened to be of a larger size,

he never tried this particular prank. He would bound and frisk about, to be sure, but he did not throw himself against them, as he did against his little mistress.

Sometimes, however, the tables were turned upon him in a droll way. He was very fond of hunting, and greatly excited over every woodchuck hole he found, always believing that some day he should succeed in digging one out, though he never accomplished that feat. In his daily walks through the woods with his mistress, there were certain well-known retreats of the wily foe that he never passed without a call. One of these was at the further side of a pasture that bordered the woods, where grazed a herd of cows. Whenever the walk led that way Balder slipped under the fence, crossed the field and made his visit to the woodchuck, sniffing eagerly at the hole, and throwing out a peck or so of earth every time.

There were forty or fifty cows in the field, who evidently had their opinion of dogs, and one afternoon when he passed through they all stopped grazing and fixed their eyes upon him. He spent his usual five minutes there, and started back. The cattle, meanwhile, had plainly been considering his case, and when he came along on his usual trot, paying no attention to them, they arrived at a decision. One of them, who had not a vestige of a horn with which to fight, took the lead, lowered his head and started directly for him. Instantly the whole drove, with one accord, lowered their heads and started on a run in the same direction.

The dog understood although he did not seem to look at them. He disdained to run, but he quickened his trot a little, and just a little more till the instant they were upon him he slipped under the fence where he had gone in. Once outside he stopped and looked back at them in silence, then glanced at his mistress with an expressive wag of the tail, which said as plain as words: "Wasn't that a joke?"

This passion for hunting was such that he would attack any animal he met, from a mouse to a grizzly bear, and one unlucky day he found in the edge of the woods a porcupine, and without hesitation flew at him. In a few moments the household, which was not far off, was startled by fearful cries, with barking and signs of warfare, and a man was dispatched to see what was the matter. He rescued the wild beast, (which he had sense enough to know was a friend of the farmer), and the dog came limping home with not only his forepaws, but his mouth full of sharp quills. His tongue and the roof of his mouth were completely covered, and they hung from his mouth like a fringe. Of course he was nearly wild, pawing his mouth and rolling on the ground in his pain.—Sunny Home

Recollections of an Educated Sioux. Our wanderings from place to place afforded us many pleasant experiences as well as many hardships and misfortunes. We had several narrow escapes from death. There were times of plenty and times of scarcity. There were seasons of happiness and seasons of sadness. In savage life the early spring is the "most trying time, and almost all the famines occurred at this period of the year.

The Indians are a patient and clanish people; their love for one another is stronger than that of any civilized people I know. If this were not so, I believe there would have been tribes of cannibals among them. White people have been known to kill and eat their companions in preference to starving; but Indians—never! In times of famine the adults often denied themselves a fair meal in order to make the food last as long as possible for the children, who were not able to bear hunger as well as the old. As a people they can go without food longer than any other nation.

I once passed through one of these hard springs when we had nothing to eat for several days. I well remember the six small birds which constituted the breakfast for six families one morning; and then we had no dinner or supper to follow it. What a relief that was to me—although I had only a small wing of a small bird for my share! Soon after this, we came to a region where buffaloes were plenty, and we soon forgot all the suffering we had just gone through.

Such was the Indians' wild life! When game was plenty and the sun shone graciously upon them they forgot the bitter experiences of the winter before. Little preparation was made for the future. They are children of Nature and occasionally she whips them with the lashes of experience; yet they are forgetful and careless. Much of their suffering might have been prevented by a little calculation. During the summer, when nature was at her best and provided abundantly for the savage, it seemed to me that no life was happier than his! Food was free—lodging free—everything free! All were alike rich in the summer; and, again, all were alike poor in the winter and early spring. Their diseases were fewer, and were not so destructive as now, and the Indians' health was generally good.—St. Nicholas.

Superior Wisdom.

William L., aged five, is his little sister's senior by a year, but imagines himself at least twenty in added wisdom. Not long ago their mother was having some furniture revarnished, and the little girl kept talking of "bolish," meaning varnish, when William L. corrected her. "Baby," he cried, "don't say 'bolish'; it's 'volish!'"

Not a Matter of Arithmetic.

Little Frances was receiving a lesson in arithmetic. "Frances," said mamma, "if you had 15 pears to divide, and there were five little girls in the room, how many pears would each little girl get?" "That would depend on how hungry I was, mamma," replied the small mathematician.—Harper's.