

# RIVERS AND HARBORS.

Congressman Kem Discusses the River And Harbor Appropriation Bill.

The Character and History of the Bill Briefly Stated Mr. Kem Gives His own Record on the Measure.

### An Interesting Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7, 1892.

I cheerfully respond to your request that I write a short article on the much-abused, little-understood river and harbor bill. I think it is a very important subject and one which should be more thoroughly discussed and generally understood by the people. If I can throw any light on the subject or increase popular interest in it, I shall feel that I have accomplished my chief object in writing this article.

In the first place let me say that no measure has passed this house which has been more persistently misrepresented by the press than this river and harbor bill. In view of this fact, I feel that I owe it to my constituents to state why I supported this bill.

In the discussion of this subject, there are two questions to be considered:

1st. Is the appropriation of money by the general government for the improvement of rivers and harbors, in accord with sound principles and wise policy? 2nd. Was this particular bill deserving of support?

□ If the first question is answered in the negative, it is useless to discuss the second.

Of all the powers exercised by congress under the constitution, there is none more important than the control and improvement of our harbors and rivers. The rivers are the national highways of internal commerce. They belong to the whole people. Any person who has a suitable craft may enter them without money and without price. They are the only tracks of commerce upon which the monopolist has not laid his greedy fingers. They are the only real lines of transportation with which the railroads have to compete. But for the action of the government in building canals, and keeping the channels of our rivers open for navigation, we would be wholly at the mercy of the railroad corporations, and the cost of getting our produce to the seaboard would be greatly enhanced.

Water transportation is the cheapest in the world, and every year millions of tons are carried on the natural and artificial waterways of the country.

If the general government did not control and improve our rivers and harbors, it would have to be left either to private corporations, or to the various states. The former is not to be thought of, and the latter would prove very unsuccessful and unsatisfactory. Therefore if our rivers and harbors are to be improved at all it must be done by the general government.

The principle and policy of government control over the rivers and harbors of the nation have been endorsed and defended by nearly every American statesman of any note.

I certainly believe no independent will question the principle involved. An independent who advocates government ownership of railroads would make himself ridiculous by opposing government control and improvement of rivers and harbors.

It appeared to me a matter of importance that the representatives of the new party should put themselves on record as favoring the principle of the river and harbor bill, if they could without compromising themselves by voting for a bad bill. A majority of the Alliance members held the same view, and supported the bill which passed the house June 10th.

The next question to be determined is: Was that bill worthy of support? Was the amount it carried excessive? This we can only determine by conditions and comparisons. The statements made by the press that the bill as passed by the house June 10th aggregated more by millions than the one passed by the 51st congress, is a most flagrant violation of the truth, as will be shown by the report of the committee having the bill in charge. This report shows the bill to carry in the aggregate as it left the house, \$21,290,975, while the river and harbor bill of the previous session carried \$24,981,295, making a difference in favor of the present bill of \$3,690,320. The government engineers had favorably recommended to the committee having charge of this bill, projects for river and harbor improvement, the estimated cost of which exceeded sixty-nine millions of dollars. But the committee reported a bill carrying less than one-third that amount.

It is true that the bill I am discussing provides for the making of contracts requiring future appropriations which exceed those provided for in the previous bill. But it provides for a period running three times as long as the contracts provided for in the previous bill. By extending these contracts, it is claimed and demonstrated by government experts that there will be a saving of about four millions. Taking this into account, this bill for the present fiscal year carried in the neighborhood of seven and one half millions less than the bill for the last fiscal year carried.

Regarding the details of the bill, I will say that it is not within the power of any living man to become acquainted with the whole territory covered by such a bill sufficiently to judge of the merit or demerit of all the proposed improvements. The members of the house committee having charge of the present bill spent nearly all their time for three months. They had before them the reports of the government engineers regarding the feasibility and merit of the various projects. They called witnesses and took a great amount of testimony regarding each particular project.

In the discussion of the measure in the house not a particle of evidence was introduced to show that there were any steals embodied in the bill. If there had been a particle of evidence to that effect, I should have opposed the bill. I believed the appropriation was larger than it ought to, but I was powerless to reduce it. But inasmuch as I felt sure a large majority of the improvements provided for were meritorious, and a failure to pass the bill would occasion a loss of millions to the government in the case of improvements that are under way, but not finished, I voted for the bill with some reluctance.

In a speech on the sundry civil bill, which was published in the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT not long ago, I referred to the charges made after the passage of the measure, to the effect that it contained steals, and declared my opinion that a heroic remedy should be applied to prevent the possibility of any steals being embodied in future bills, and to restore the popular confidence in such legislation. And the remedy I proposed was that the house "should absolutely refuse to pass any appropriation bills until they had been thoroughly investigated," and all possible

steals eliminated. I am convinced that only such heroic treatment will ever cure the evil, and I am ready to apply it.

Yesterday, July 6th, the river and harbor bill came back to the house for final action after passing through the hands of a conference committee of the house and senate. The conference added to the amount carried under the time contract feature of the bill from six to twelve millions, according to different estimates. Hence I voted against its final passage, as did every independent voting, with one exception.

These are the facts in regard to the character and history of this bill, as plainly as I can state them in a brief newspaper article.

As I said in the beginning I write this article in the hope of adding to the popular knowledge of the subject, and for the especial information of the people I represent whose right and duty it is to inquire into the record made by their representative.

Yours for success in the coming campaign,  
O. M. KEM.

### Condolence.

Eureka Alliance, N o. 2039, Ceda County sends resolutions of condolence on the death of a member, Sister Oliver, and extends sympathy to the bereaved family. Signed,

H. A. IRWIN,  
H. C. THOMAS,  
J. L. GRANT.

## OUR CAMPAIGN SONGS

FOR THE

# PEOPLE'S PARTY.

NEW WORDS

WEDDED TO NEW HARMONIES.

## The Voice of the Industrial Classes.

Powerfully voicing our rights and wrongs, our needs and demands.

Melting and mirthful, sarcastic and truthful, flashing and forceful.

Our national leaders are welcoming the "Songs of the People" most heartily and declare "Music more than anything else will sweep victory to our door."

"With glee clubs formed all over the west and south, I would have no doubt as to the outcome of this present contest," says B. O. Flower, the editor of the *Arena*. Our "Songs of the People" are to be reviewed in the August number of this great magazine. They are pronounced admirable by our great *literateur* and party leader, Hon. Ignatius Donnelly. At our recent national convention they were sold and carried into all the states, from Maine to California.

Hon. James G. Field, our candidate for vice-president, says of them:

"They are indeed the voice of the people's party and industrial classes. They contain the pure gospel of industrial salvation and are calculated to move the people mightily."

Order at once and awaken enthusiasm with these songs of freedom. Additional songs will soon be ready, including "Timothy Hayseed," "The Money Power Arraigned," "A Politician Here You See," etc.

- The Workers' Battle Hymn of Freedom..... .25
- Right Shall Reign..... .25
- The Weakest Must Go to the Wall..... .25
- The Taxpayers Settle the Bills..... .35
- Sons of America..... .35
- Get Off the Earth..... .35
- The Flag of Liberty..... .35
- The Coal Baron's Song..... .35
- Truth's Approaching Triumph..... .30
- God Save the People..... .30
- We Have the Tariff Yet..... .35
- The Alarm Beat..... .35
- The Millennium Army..... .35
- That 'Honest Dollar'..... .35
- Losses and Lies..... .35

Address all orders to the Alliance Publishing Company, Lincoln, Nebraska.

### Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Disease

Are very common in this climate. The general all around doctor, is not prepared to treat these cases. If he is interested in his patients, as he should be, he would advise them to consult a specialist in this line of work. Among those who treat all forms of catarrhal diseases of the eyes, ears, nose and throat, none are more successful than Drs. Moore and Dennis, Catarrh Specialists of Lincoln Neb. Graduates of the best medical colleges in America they are thoroughly prepared to treat all cases of polypus of the nose, obstructed breathing, deafness, sore eyes, chronic cold of the head, hay fever, asthma and bronchial and lung troubles, all results of nasal catarrh. Come and see us. A consultation will cost you nothing.

Several hundred people have been successfully treated in Lincoln during the past year. All classes, trades and professions, ladies and children are represented by those who have been, or are being cured by our treatment.

DRS. MOORE & DENNIS  
Office Cor. O & 10th Sts.

Get up a club under our campaign offer.

Agents wanted, to sell the People's Party Badges, in gold and silk. Send 10 cents for sample and terms. Circulars free. Big money and quick sales. Address Geo. Bignell, 616-32nd street, Denver, Colo. Patented. 65t

WANTED:—Reliable men to sell our choice varieties of nursery stock; outfit free. Address, ALLEN NURSERY CO., Rochester N. Y.

## A. J. RIGBY & CO.,

### REAL ESTATE,

Loans, Law and Collections.

J. L. MACK, Att'y & Mg'r.

1025 O Street, Lincoln, Neb.

### MONEY AT LOWEST RATES,

On City and Farm property. Make your loans or renewals through us and save all necessary delay and red tape. If you desire to sell, buy or exchange property of any kind list it with us and get the best service. Collections of any kind made anywhere in the United States. Special bargains in western and other land. City property to exchange for farms.

CUNNINGHAM & MARY Attorneys.  
Room 35 Richard's B'k, Lincoln, Neb.

### FARMERS' ALLIANCE.



EMBLEM PIN  
AND  
RECALL BADGE  
Complete, 65c.  
Lodge Seal.

PRICE, 50 CENTS EACH.  
[UNDER NEW AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT.]  
The above is a true representation of our new Alliance Emblem Pin, which represents a plow and is applicable to every state in the Union. For regalia we furnish a neatly printed ribbon and fringe, which can be attached to the Emblem in during lodge services, showing each officer in his regular order, with name and number of the Alliance. After lodge services the pin may be detached and worn as an every day Emblem Pin.  
THE BRADLEY MFG. CO.,  
Fort Worth Texas.

## The LAIDLAW BALE-TIE CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
ADJUSTABLE WIRE BALE-TIES.

Headquarters for this Class of Goods

WRITE FOR PRICES.

Station A, Kansas City, Mo.

**WIRE FENCING**  
WIRE ROPE SELVAGE  
RABBIT & POULTRY FENCING  
Freight Paid, McMULLEN WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., CHICAGO