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EXIT OF SENATOR TIPTON.

Omaha Bee.

The death last week of ex-Senator Thomas Weston Tipton at Washington City, as told in press dispatches, adds another chapter to the early political history of Nebraska and recalls many stirring incidents in the eventful career of the deceased.

Senator Tipton and General John M. Thayer were the first two United States senators from Nebraska. They were elected soon after statehood had been declared.

The story of Senator Tipton's life is the story of a man who rose to a seat in the United States senate and who, in the shifting of fortune, found himself in his declining years content to hold an unimportant clerical position.

Senator Tipton was born at Cadiz, O., August 5, 1817. In 1845 he served one term in the Ohio legislature. In 1858 he located in Nebraska and at once made himself known. He was a chaplain in the federal army during the civil war, having prepared himself for the ministry prior to his removal to this state. He was also a lawyer, but on account of his devotion to politics and preaching he never attracted attention in the legal profession.

Draws Straws with General Thayer.

When Tipton and Thayer were elected to the senate it was a question which should have the long term. Both were starting in at the beginning of statehood; there had been no Nebraska senators before them, and it was a perplexing issue for which no legal provision had been made.

It was suggested that the two senators cast lots to determine who should have the long term. After some little parleying the statesmen agreed to draw straws. The short straw meant the short term. Tipton drew the short straw and went to the senate for two years, while General Thayer went for six years. They entered the senate in 1867. At the end of Tipton's term he was re-elected for the full term of six years after a sharp contest with Nebraska's first state governor, David Butler, of Pawnee county. Governor Butler, of course, had the state house machinery to aid him in his cause, but despite that support Tipton secured the caucus nomination by a narrow margin.

Trouble with General Grant.

Prior to and through the civil war Senator Tipton was an out-and-out, radical abolitionist. After serving in the army as chaplain of a Nebraska regiment he returned to the state and made a close canvass. The statehood proposition was then before the people. The democrats and Johnsonite republicans were opposed to entering the union, while the regular republicans favored it. Statehood won, and then came Tipton and Thayer as candidates for the senate.

During his second term as senator Tipton had trouble with General Grant, then president. The difficulty arose over a consular appointment to which Senator Tipton's son was an aspirant. The senator was of a decidedly positive nature and his falling out with the president led him to make war upon him. He took mortal offense at a selection for a consular position and joined a coterie of senators arrayed against the president under the banner of "liberal" republicans. This combination included Charles Sumner, Lyman Trumbull, B. Gratz Brown, Carl Schurz and Thomas W. Tipton. During the congressional session of 1870-1 they laid the foundation for the uprising against General Grant which culminated in the nomination of Horace Greeley and B. Gratz Brown in Cincinnati.

It is a singular fact that while Senator Tipton was not on friendly terms with President Grant, and at the very time he was most bitter toward the chief executive, Henry Atkinson, a son-in-law of the senator, was appointed by Grant commissioner of pensions. Atkinson declined to concur with his father-in-law in fighting the administration. He declared his loyalty to the president, and stood by him throughout the unpleasantness.

On leaving the pension commissionership Atkinson was appointed surveyor general of New Mexico, which position he retained until his death. It is said that Atkinson's firm stand in favor of the president, and in direct opposition to his father-in-law, made a deep impression upon General Grant and he felt a personal interest in him.

Senator Tipton attracted wid espread attention by his sarcastic, trenchant utterances and antics, and he was for some time the subject of much caricature. Thomas Nast of Harper's Weekly devoted a great deal of his talent to the peppery senator from Nebraska during that memorable campaign. After the Cincinnati convention Tipton returned to Nebraska and organized the liberal republicans. He was joined by a few bright men like General Estabrook and Oliver P. Mason, but the movement fell flat in Nebraska, and after the reselection of General Grant in the fall of '72 Senator Tipton dropped into the rear and was no longer a political factor in Nebraska.

He Goes Down the Scale.

At the close of his six-year term in the senate Senator Tipton went into retirement. He was not again heard from until he joined the democratic party and was appointed receiver of the Bloomington land office by President Cleveland. From that comparatively small position he retired during the administration of President Harrison, and, having already reached an advanced age, he was content to take a minor clerical position in Washington.

For some time prior to his death Senator Tipton had been writing a history of pioneer politics in Nebraska, and the work lacked but little of completion. In his speeches he was vitriolic and at one time he was talked all over the union something after the manner in which Senator Tillman of South Carolina was discussed a few years ago.

It is related that he found it difficult to keep politics out of his sermons when he was a preacher. During the Fremont campaign he was pastor of a church in Ohio. Excitement was running high and the parson was deeply interested. It is said that he once proclaimed from his pulpit, "While I occupy this place you will have a free preacher, and all my words shall be free speech, and when you cannot endure this you must install a slave in my stead and substitute the books of Mormon or Koran of Mohammed for the bible."

Wounds His Pride.

Senator Tipton was of a highly sensitive nature and his exit from Nebraska politics was a most bitter experience. After joining the democratic ranks he might have attained further prominence but for his advanced age. It is a singular coincidence that Senator Tipton and the late Governor Alvin Saunders were very near the same age, were prominently identified with Nebraska's affairs throughout the same period and both died within a short period of each other. Governor Saunders was born July 12, 1817, and Senator Tipton was born August 5 of the same year; Governor Saunders died November 1 and Senator Tipton died November 27 of the same year.

Among the other public places held by Senator Tipton, aside from his senatorial seat, was the internal revenue assessorship for the territory of Nebraska and a territorial senatorship several years prior to statehood. While Senator Tipton was a citizen of Nebraska he resided in Nemaha county.

Considered in the aggregate the deceased was one of the most unique characters who ever took part in frontier politics in this or any state. It is said that he was absolutely fearless, shrinking from neither man nor devil, and that he would speak his sentiments no matter what sacrifice might be entailed. He had no diplomacy, and valued his enemies, it is said, as highly as he did his friends.

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It is certainly gratifying to the public to know of one concern in the land who are not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds have given away over ten million trial bottles of this great medicine; and have the satisfaction of knowing it has absolutely cured thousands of hopeless cases. Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness and all diseases of the Throat, Chest and Lungs are surely cured by it. Call on Keeling the druggist and get a free trial bottle. Regular size 50c and $1. Every bottle guaranteed or price refunded.

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