

CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

Republican Hypocrisy Toward Old Soldiers.

BRAVE DEEDS FORGOTTEN.

Humorist of the House Makes a Telling Point.

GOOD ADVICE FOR PATRIOTS.

Some Southern Members Who Are Out of Place in the Republican Party, Which Is Always Sectional, Unjust and Usually Unpatriotic—Favoritism in Passage of Private Claims.

[Special Washington Letter.] In a recent letter I quoted in extenso from a speech of James M. Robinson of Indiana on the pension question in general, but as Robinson is a Democrat Republican...

Now, back of the words I shall quote from Major Pearce and rankling in his heart was the fact that in spite of all the Missouriian congressmen, both Republicans and Democrats—for we all helped him—could do the house out the senate bill giving Mrs. Stephenson, widow of Major General John D. Stephenson, from \$50 per month to \$30. Senator Vest, a Confederate soldier and senator, had passed it through the senate with the aid of Senator Cockrell, who fought his way from a captaincy to a major general in the Confederate army.

Cutting Down Pensions.

Now, Major Pearce had introduced a bill to pay a pension of \$100 per month to the widow of Major General A. J. Smith of Missouri, the man who at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill saved General Banks' entire army from destruction and capture when that redoubtable soldier was advancing into the enemy's country with his wagon trains in front and when Dick Taylor, the son of old Zachary, pounced down upon him unexpectedly.

The invalid pension committee of the house reported the bill, but cut the amount from \$100 to \$30 per month. Major Pearce, having run up against the Republican house in the case of General Stephenson's widow, concluded he would be modest and moderate in his demands, so, instead of moving to restore the \$100 per month as was provided by his bill originally, he only asked for \$50 and did not get that. Among other things he said:

"On the 17th day of January, 1897, congress passed a law granting a pension of \$100 a month to the widow of General John F. Gibben. The year before, in the month of April, congress passed a law giving to the widow of General Abner Doubleday a pension of \$100 a month. On the 8th day of January, 1895, congress passed a law giving to the widow of General N. P. Banks \$100 a month, and in 1894 congress passed a law giving a pension of \$100 a month to the widow of General John M. Curoe. It was because of this legislation that I introduced this bill and asked of congress to give to the widow of this gallant old major general of the United States army a sum corresponding to that which had been granted by congress to the widows of generals of similar rank.

"There is not an instance in 22 years of the legislation of congress when the widow of a major general of the United States army has received a pension of less than \$50 a month.

"General Smith was in the armies of the country for over half a century.

His career began away back in 1838. In the following year he was ordered out upon the western frontier, to what afterward became the territory of Kansas. For more than 22 successive years his service was in that portion of the country, fighting Indians, pioneering new roads of civilization—down through the Mexican war, up through New Mexico and on through California, away up to Oregon and back again over the mountains, over the plains, until he reached Jefferson Barracks again in 1860. Then he was ordered out to San Francisco, where he was located at the time of the outbreak of the war for the Union.

"He was very early commissioned a brigadier general of the United States army and served during the entire war. I regret to find it stated in this report of the committee on invalid pensions that the record of Major General Smith was not a brilliant one. I tell you that there was no more brilliant record of any general of the United States army from the beginning to the end of the war. He was the right hand of Sherman—one of the great division and corps commanders. He saved the command of General Banks, to whose widow you gave \$100 a month only two years ago.

A Hero of the War. "Through all this service of 22 years out upon the frontier, piloting the march of civilization, battling with the Indians and building up this great empire of the west, the widow of this old hero was with him. She camped with him, bivouacked with him, suffered all the hardships of his life with him. Her health is now broken, and she is standing upon the verge of the grave. She has, in the providence of the Almighty, but a year or two more to live.

"She is very nearly 80 years of age. General Smith died a year or two ago, at the age of 82, and can we not ease the pillow of this good old woman a little and do by her what this congress has done by the widow of every major general since the close of the war?"

"General Blunt's widow got \$100. Now, it is only a week or two ago since you voted a pension of \$50 a month to the widow of Commander Cushing, that splendid hero of the navy, whose record stands for gallantry and for heroism beside that of Nelson and Farragut and Porter. No braver man ever trod a ship than Cushing.

"But, gentlemen, his widow, to whom you voted \$50 a month a week ago, did not marry him until 1870, and he died in 1874."

From the foregoing it will be observed that the widow of General Banks of Massachusetts, who led that magnificent army into a trap, is rewarded with \$100 per month, while the widow of General Smith of Missouri, who snatched it from the jaws of death, gets \$30.

To cap the climax at the same sitting of congress a bill was passed granting a pension to John A. Bingham of Ohio, which the committee reported at \$50 per month, but which the house cut to \$25. Let it never be forgotten that Bingham never served a day in the army, but, while a member of congress, acted for seven months as judge advocate general with rank of major—a dangerous position truly! "Consistency, thou art a jewel!"

Wisdom of an Old Saying. "You can't tell from his looks how far a toad can hop" is an old saying full of wisdom. If there is any man in the house that looks less like the ideal humorist than all the others, that man is Hon. Walter Evans of Kentucky. He looks very much like ex-Senator Edmunds of Vermont, and as he is said to greatly resemble St. Jerome it follows that Evans looks like a saint instead of a humorist. But notwithstanding his appearance he belongs to the tribe of Artemus Ward, Mark Twain and Bill Nye.

More than once I have alluded to the fact that while on the surface harmony prevailed among the Republicans down in the bottom of their hearts are many jealousies which occasionally crop out in debate.

Now, the Kentuckian is a courageous animal. Indeed he is foolhardy on that subject. The Kentucky Republican is no exception to that rule. He may be "short" on intelligence, but he's "long" on pluck. He does not propose to let others "hog" his share of the good things of this life.

So it happened that Brother Evans wanted "part of the bacon" for some of his constituents not long since in the shape of war claims. Dingley, having already gobbled \$350,000 for some forgotten harbor up in Maine, concluded suddenly that "the looting of the treasury" should cease. Dingley doesn't believe in "looting" unless it is for the sole benefit and behoof of New England in general and his own district in particular. Even then, according to Uncle Joe Cannon and "Governor" William A. Stone, they have to catch Governor Dingley, throw him down and by main strength thrust the swag into his pocket. Now, Evans may be a credulous sort of person, but when he saw Dingley antagonizing his own effort to break into the treasury and observed Dingley's pockets bulging with loot Walter's danger arose to the danger point, and he relieved his pent up wrath partially as follows, thereby illustrating the "only skin deep harmony" existing among the Republicans. "Mr. Chairman," quoth Evans, the Kentuckian, "I should be exceedingly glad if those members of the house who have shown the most intense opposition to this bill had been present either as soldiers or as citizens for a short time only in the border states during the war." [Applause.]

Not Shot For Dingley. Now, as Evans was a soldier, a Kentucky soldier at that, and ex necessitate a good soldier, that was shot at point blank range at Dingley, Dabell and other patriots who did their fighting with their mouths. Having made such an excellent beginning, Walter followed it up as follows:

"I very much fear, Mr. Chairman, that there is too much of local prejudice or feeling in the treatment of

these questions. I do not charge that any man is influenced by improper motives in these matters, but I do want to call the attention of the house to the fact that every once in awhile, whenever we come to discuss these matters, my distinguished friend from Maine [Mr. Dingley], whom I am proud to call my friend, has paraded before us a phantom camel and has represented the animal as about to go to the treasury of the United States and put in his nose, and my friend has manifested great fear that the camel, if he got his head in, might get his whole body in also.

"That, I say, was a phantom camel, but a few days ago I saw the real article approach the treasury of the United States, and upon his head was marked in plain letters the word 'Maine.' [Applause.] That camel was under the guidance of my distinguished friend from Minnesota [Mr. Tawney], but I thought that I saw near by the features of the distinguished gentleman from Maine himself ready to help, and when the Grant claim—for that is the claim to which I allude—was provided for, when the camel had poked his nose into the treasury and had been supplied with \$78,000, although the claim in that case had been rejected by the court of claims and that rejection had been approved by the supreme court of the United States [applause], and the animal turned to take his flight, I thought I saw my distinguished friend from Pennsylvania [Mr. Dalsell] standing near by [laughter] and possibly winking the other eye at the distinguished chairman.

"He seemed to me to say, 'Mr. Chairman, now that that is over, watch me, and under the operation of those rules that I have helped to make or not to make for this house, as the case may be [laughter], watch me keep these southern Republicans from looting the treasury.' It would not do, you see, to let the southern Republicans 'loot' the treasury, in the language of the gentleman, although the Grant claim was the least defensible ever passed since I have been here, and I am glad I voted against it.

"The Grant claim was rejected by the courts and was paid. Those claims were sustained by the courts, but are met by the sturdy opposition of those who put through the Grant claim."

And much more in the same humorous and caustic strain did Brother Evans utter. Now, a man of his good sense, with his habit, has no business in the Republican party, for it is always sectional, unjust, selfish and generally unpatriotic. He and all like unto him should leave it at once.

Edward Robb of Missouri.

To demonstrate conclusively that Brother Evans was within the shadow of a great truth when he charged favoritism in the passage of private claim bills it is only necessary to state that on Tuesday, April 5, a bill granting nearly one-third of a million dollars to the heirs of John Roach of Pennsylvania passed the house, and, wonderful to tell, the very men who hamstring Br'er Evans stood unswervingly by John Roach. Clearly they are close students of geography. But to the honor of human nature be it said that the John Roach job did not go through without a stubborn fight, which was led by Edward Robb, a new member from Missouri, in which he demonstrated that though modest and one of the youngest men on the floor he is a logician and debater of great promise. His closing remarks are full of truth and sense, but they fell on what Bailey aptly terms "the leaden ears and hardened consciences of the majority." Here they are:

"It is an easy matter for this house to appropriate money, but the house should hesitate a long time before it appropriates money upon any such evidence as that upon which we are now called to act. The power to appropriate the money of the people is one to which should attach the highest sense of individual responsibility. It is a power for which each and every one, whenever and wherever exercising it, should be held to the strictest accountability. It is a power which no one should assume to exercise except for public purposes and in discharge of legitimate, well founded and well established claims against the government.

"Patriotically, promptly and without complaint the people respond to every draft upon their resources that the national honor may be maintained and that the institutions founded by the fathers of the republic may endure forever. Willingly—aye, cheerfully—they give for the maintenance of government economically administered. It is not of this they complain. It is against the reckless extravagance and unblushing profligacy by which their substance is dissipated that they of right protest and in justice should be heard. There is no one who has had the honor of a seat in this house for any time, however long or however short, who should not, in giving or withholding his support to measures appropriating public money, be governed by the rigid rules of economy.

"Will you economize in public expenditures? I address myself to the Republican side of the chamber. If so, begin now. 'How long halt ye between two opinions?' Those of us on this side of the house have heard falling softly and sweetly from some gentlemen on the other side the word 'economy.' It has a pleasing sound to us. Will you join us in practicing it when handling the public purse? If so, begin now. But I fear that those of you who have an honest desire in that direction are in the unfortunate condition of the old lady as expressed in the following lines:

"Once said an old woman of Lyons, 'I'd like to be good if I could, but I don't know where to begin.'"

Champ Clark

SAME OLD GAME.

The festive "lightning rod man" is in this neck of the woods. He has found the usual number of victims. One of these has asked the Journal to say that a Mr. Webb, who pretends to represent the N. A. Company, is a liar and a swindler. Knowing our informant to be truthful, we suggest to the aforesaid Webb that he "leave there." There are honest lightning rod men, but 99 per cent of the craft are in hell. And that is the place for them. They can't "leave there." If our firm friends would show them the beautiful and intricate mechanism of a modern shot gun there would be less rods and less notes, and less profanity and a better sale of prayer books. While it is a fact that as a rule those who are swindled can afford to be, it is no argument that they should be.—Liberty Journal.

WILL PAY HIS WAY.

This week we received a postal card from Mr. Rosewater saying that he is closing up his list of Nebraska newspapers which have favored the exposition with free advertising. He also says that he finds nothing to our credit and requests us to mail our papers regularly to him, so, we suppose, he can see whether we are entitled to a "free" ticket into the exposition or not. Well, we shall do our share toward advertising the exposition, because it is a Nebraska enterprise, but we shall send no paper to Mr. Rosewater unless he pays for the same at the regular rate. If we happen to want to go in and see the show, which we fully intend to do, we shall pay our way like other people, if some kind-hearted Omahan don't furnish us with a ticket. But one thing can be put down as settled, we shall not ask Mr. Rosewater for the privilege of going in "free."—Trenton Register.

AN ABLE MAN.

Notwithstanding the Nation has not yet expressed a choice for governor, and does not now, yet we feel it a duty through courtesy to observe the candidacy of Hon. John O. Yeiser of Omaha, who being an old Red Cloud boy, and having the interests of his part of the state at heart, is receiving some favorable mention. Nor does this mean that the Nation's support is pledged to any one, nor that it may support Mr. Yeiser. It simply means that John O. Yeiser is making a vigorous campaign, and that by reason of his firm stand against plutocracy and corporate combinations of the soulless character he has established himself firmly as a clean, able man. Mr. Yeiser has hosts of friends throughout the state, and prominent among them is the Nation.—Red Cloud Nation.

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