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SENATOR KERN ON PENSIONS
(Continued from Page 7.)

of the government. This extraordinary statement, coming from the pension office, was based upon computations shown to have been utterly without merit. It has been satisfactorily demonstrated by Gen. Sherwood, by computations made from the official records of the war department, that the total increase of expense resulting from the Sherwood bill as passed by the house of representatives could not exceed \$45,000,000, while under the provisions of the original bill as introduced in the house, denying the benefit of its provisions to soldiers having an income of \$1,000 per year, the increase of expenditure would not exceed thirty-five millions.

MISPLACED ECONOMY

The chief objection to the Sherwood bill is based upon the charge that it calls for an extravagant expenditure of public money and violates the promise of economy in the administration of the government.

I have not been greatly interested in the discussion as to what this or that bill will cost. It is a reflection upon the integrity, the honor, and the financial ability of this nation to consider a question of that kind in that light.

Sir, I have already shown that to pay an honest debt, or to follow the common instincts of humanity by caring for the defenders of the republic in their old age, is not an extravagance and violates no pledge of economy in government.

But, sir, this cry of economy in governmental expenditures has a new and strange sound. It has been seldom heard during the past 12 years, while the expenses of government have nearly doubled and climbed up to the enormous figure of a thousand million dollars a year.

It was not heard in connection with the appropriation of hundreds of millions of dollars for the Panama canal, nor has it been insisted upon during the time that the taxpayers of the nation have been contributing a half billion dollars or more in carrying out the work of subjugating the Philippine Islands and benevolently assimilating the Filipino people.

It was not urged while 200,000 new offices were being created or while the salaries of all the principal officeholders in the United States were being largely increased because of the high cost of living.

It is a cry that is only heard when the proposition is made to care for the soldiers of the nation and is only heard then because they have grown too old to hold official station and because it is thought that on account of old age and decrepitude they can no longer exert great influence in the political affairs of the country.

Distinguished senators here have, with great labor, added up all the miserable pittances received by each of these old veterans during the past 47 years, and with a horror-stricken air hold up before us the enormous total of nearly \$4,000,000,000. When the proposition was made to double the salary of the president of the United States and then add \$25,000 per annum for traveling expenses, did anyone take the time to give to the public the total sum of all the moneys paid to all the presidents since the formation of the government?

Or when the proposition was made a few years ago to increase the salaries of senators and congressmen, was any computation exhibited of the total amount paid to the members of the two houses during the century and a quarter of our national life?

The salaries of the postmasters throughout the country are in-

creased steadily year by year, yet we have heard from no source the vast amount of money that has been paid to these patriotic, self-sacrificing officials during the years of the past.

When pork-barrel appropriations are asked and made for costly public buildings at crossroads and county seats and for the improvement of streams too small for flatboat navigation, no senator has ever thought of undertaking the mathematical feat of calculating the enormous amount of public money that has been thus wasted during the last half century.

These mathematical prodigies of the senate never let loose their restrained energies except when the heroes of Gettysburg and Antietam, Chancellorsville and Lookout call the attention of the government to its broken pledges and its inexcusable ingratitude to the men who saved its life.

Mr. President, in the course of the debate here on yesterday, while senators were suggesting economy in other departments of government as a means of providing sufficient revenue for liberal pensions, something was said in the way of jest about the free barber shop and free baths in marble rooms provided for senators.

These are trifling matters, and I shall not consume any time in discussing them. But, sir, when the old soldier and his wife read in the newspapers that senators and congressmen are complaining that they can not live respectably in Washington on salaries of more than \$20 a day, with free barber shops, free baths, free Apollinaris water, and free office rent—when they read of the senators riding in free government automobiles between their offices and the capitol, only a square in distance, they can not but marvel at the claim made by some of these same gentlemen that the soldier's request for a pension of a paltry dollar a day is an impertinent demand, to grant which would be gross and intolerable extravagance.

The old soldier, who must pay house rent, pay exorbitant prices for everything he eats and wears, and pay for all out of a pension of \$15 or \$20 per month, with fond remembrance of the beefsteak now only a memory, must sympathize deeply with his unfortunate representatives in Washington, who are compelled to eke out a miserable existence on \$625 per month, with all the little accessories furnished by an unsympathetic government. The distinguished senator from Ohio impressed us all yesterday with his fervid declaration that he would be rejoiced to support a measure giving the old soldier a dollar a day if this poor government could only afford it. How natural it will be for him as a patriotic American to cover back into the treasury a part of his next month's salary to aid an impoverished nation in its struggle with adversity.

It is said that our pension list is larger than that of any nation in the world. I have not examined the statistics, but I hope it is. It ought to be. There was no such war in modern times, and no war ever accomplished such beneficent results.

There is no nation in the world so rich as this, nor has any nation so patriotic a people, nor a people so ready and willing to rally to their country's standard in time of danger, or to make sacrifices, if need be, to contribute of their substance for the care and support of its defenders when by reason of service or age they need such care and support.

The American soldier, who has periled life and sacrificed health for his country, and who can no longer earn a livelihood, still deserves to live—not as an Italian or French or

Russian or Turkish peasant, but as an American citizen—and in caring for these veterans we should have in mind the American standard of living, and not that of European or Asiatic countries. Surely those patriotic gentlemen who are clamoring for palatial residences for our ministers and ambassadors abroad, that they maintain our national dignity and prestige, would not advocate a policy respecting the soldiers of the republic which would place them upon a par with the half-fed and poorly clad people of the world's poorest nations.

Mr. President, I hope I may be permitted to address some words to my brethren of the south, who represent their several states in this body with such distinguished ability.

AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

I know how you venerate the memories of the great leaders of the confederacy, who with the great leaders of the army of the union have crossed the great river and are fraternizing on the farther shore. The differences of the past are happily ended—settled on the basis of fraternity and perpetual union—never more to recur. A common hope, a common destiny, and a common country, with a single flag, bind us in the ties of a common brotherhood.

Your interests are the same as the interests of those of us born under northern skies, and I would subject you to no penalties or burdens which I would not willingly share. My ancestors, even to the first American generation, were born in old Virginia. My father having removed to the north long before the civil war, was a Douglas democrat and for the union, and yet, after the war was over, he so longed for the mountains and valleys of his

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