

FIGHTING A MONOPOLY.

War of the Refiners Against the Standard Oil Company.

Philadelphia Coming to the Front as an Oil-Shipping Port.

Philadelphia Press, Sept. 26.

About a month ago a number of independent refiners of petroleum, that is, those outside the Standard Oil Company, met in Pittsburgh for the purpose of forming an organization for their mutual protection. They afterward met in Cleveland and the association is now in working order. Most of those who compose it are prominent refiners of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo, Oil City, and the object of their combining was to assist each other in the trade by keeping well informed as to prices and the movements of oil in different parts of the country. This movement, unimportant as it may seem, is another step toward the creation of a healthy, business-like trade in oil. For years, as is well known, the whole business of producing oil has been under the control of the Standard Oil Company, a giant concern which has in a few years, by fair means or foul, succeeded in completely monopolizing the trade of one of the world's most important commodities. Two years ago every refiner and every producer of petroleum was compelled to pay tribute to the Standard. No man could ship a barrel of oil from the wells to the seaboard over any of the railroads, except upon the terms made by the Standard, which amounted to almost an entire prohibition of business. For years the oil men fought the Company, which grew into a close and grinding monopoly. Thousands of small dealers were forced to give up their business or were ruined by fatal competition, until the Standard monopolized the petroleum trade of the world. A few producers and refiners who could not be driven or squeezed out of the business remained to oppose the Company, and the effects of the battle are just beginning to be felt.

CARRYING OIL TO THE SEABOARD. The great problem was to get to the seaboard. Every avenue was under the control of the Standard, and it seemed as if the difficulty was insurmountable. However, a few men, willing to risk their fortunes further in the fight before giving it up, met and determined to build a pipe line to Williamsport, where communication could be had with the Reading railroad—a company which was not under the domination of the Standard Oil Company. Subsequently a fight was made in the legislature for a free-pipe bill, under the leadership of Senator Lewis Emery, jr., and others who were interested in free and fair trade in oil. The bill was not heartily supported by Philadelphia members and it failed. The Tidewater Pipe Company soon became an important institution. It bought its rights of way through the great wilderness of the northwestern portion of the state and laid its pipes over the spurs of the Alleghenies and under the rivers that feed the broad Susquehanna. The Standard fought the new company at every point and purchased thousands of acres of land to prevent the line reaching Williamsport. The Tidewater pipe company ran fine lines and did work away from their true line to deceive the Standard. During the past year steps have been taken by refiners and railroads which have somewhat limited the power and privileges of the Standard. Under the management of President Roberts of the Pennsylvania railroad, the odious system of drawbacks, through which the Standard company profited at the expense of legitimate trade in petroleum, has been abolished. New refineries have sprung up at the tidewater notably in the vicinity of this city, and they are able to get their crude oil outside of the lines and machinery controlled by the Standard company. All this is looked on as healthy for the trade in all parts of the world, and it is thought that the restrictions of former days in this great business are impossible.

NATURAL TANKS OF PETROLEUM. The question of the production of petroleum has always been an important one. The great natural tanks from which it is drawn are unseen by man and the supply is necessarily unknown. The trade has seen the best promising fields described, and in the course of a few years, unless new discoveries are made, the production of petroleum will be reduced to its minimum. At present the great source of supply is the Bradford region, in McKean County, which is now pumping 60,000 barrels daily. During the month of August a noticeable diminution of this supply has been apparent, and during this month a loss of 2,500 barrels per day will be shown. It is evident that, like all the other oil regions, the Bradford is beginning to fall off, and that in the near future the whole supply will be exhausted. New fields have been opened, but they are small, and the trade looks forward with interest to the discovery of oil territory which will keep up the supply which the markets of the world demand.

The world-wide trading in this product of Pennsylvania is tremendous. The production of petroleum is almost wholly confined to the United States, and, indeed, to this state. Philadelphia is growing to be one of the largest shipping ports. Just now there are fifty-nine vessels loading and chartered to load at this port, with a capacity of 341,400 barrels and 415,000 cases of oil. From January 1, 1881, to September 23, there were 61,659,576 gallons of refined oil shipped from Philadelphia to European ports, an increase over the corresponding period of last year of 25,569,865 gallons refined oil. The shipment of crude and naphtha were also very heavy. The total exports from all American ports for the year to September 23 were 335,000,000

gallons; same time last year, 232,000,000 gallons.

Reminiscences of Garfield. Ben. Perley Poore, the veteran Washington journalist, contributes the following interesting reminiscences of Garfield's congressional career and early life in Washington to the Boston Journal: In the early winter of 1863, Maj. Gen. Garfield, then chief of the staff to Gen. Rosecrans, commander of the Army of the Cumberland, came to Washington to make a confidential report on the condition of the only recently won laurels at the battle of Chickamauga, but he had been elected to congress by a vote of some 13,000 over 6,000 given to his democratic opponent, in the Western Reserve district of Ohio—a reading, thinking, praying community, of New England descent. Appreciating this civil honor, he was disposed to decline it that he might remain at the front with the Forty-second Ohio infantry, which he had recruited and which was officered by those who had been his fellow-students at his college.

But President Lincoln said no. He had an abundant supply of brave generals, but his administration lacked defenders in the House of Representatives who understood the wants of the army and navy; who could secure the necessary appropriations of money; who could keep the treasury replenished by taxation, tariffs, and the emission of paper money, and who, above everything else, were sound upon the great question of union, then being forced upon the country by the southern secessionists as a war measure. Others seconded the president in his request that Gen. Garfield resign and take his seat in Congress, among them his personal friend, Whitlaw Reid (now editor of the New York Tribune), who had been with him on several campaigns as the war correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette. Mr. Reid had been transferred from field service to the Washington news bureau of that journal, and he was also clerk to the house committee on military affairs. His arguments had great weight in persuading Gen. Garfield to resign his military commission and to take his seat in the House of Representatives at the opening of the first session of the thirty-eighth Congress, on Monday, the 4th of December, 1863.

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ACTION. Emerson Etheridge, of Tennessee, the clerk of the preceding house, had undertaken to exclude a considerable number of members-elect, on the ground that their seats were contested. To admit these gentlemen was the first act of the republican majority, and Gen. Garfield moved that the name of John McBride, who had credentials as the representative from Oregon, be placed upon the roll. Demanding the previous question, the resolution was passed, and the mover then clinched it by moving to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was adopted, and also to lay the resolution to consider upon the table. He acquired a knowledge of parliamentary rules in the legislature of Ohio.

Schuyler Colfax was elected speaker, receiving 101 of 181 votes. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia were unrepresented. In the appointment of committees Gen. Garfield was named in the fourth place on the committee on military affairs, of which Gen. Schenck was chairman, and his friend Whitlaw Reid acted again as clerk until he was appointed librarian of the house. In the drawing for seats Gen. Garfield was fortunate enough to secure one on the center aisle in the second row from the front. He had at his right hand Mr. Donnelly, of Minnesota, and before him sat Mr. Baldwin, of Worcester, who had taken Ames at his right hand. Mr. Marvin, of New York, sat directly behind him, and Mr. Alley a few seats back, while across the aisle, on the democratic side, sat General Ward, of New York. Gen. Garfield was not accompanied by his wife, and he boarded at the Metropolitan hotel, with Allen of Illinois, Coffroth, Dennison, and Stiles of Pennsylvania, George H. Pendleton of Ohio, and the gifted but unfortunate military hero, Mr. Blaine took his seat in the house for the first time, but it was Mr. Windom's third congress. Massachusetts was ably represented by Messrs. Alley, Ames, Baldwin, Boutwell, Dawes, Eliot, Godch, Hooper, Rice and Washburn.

Gen. Garfield early in the session, introduced a resolution ordering 10,000 extra copies of Gen. Rosecrans' official reports published, and he stood gallantly up for his old commander when it was proposed to pass him by in silence and to thank Gen. Thomas for gallant services at Chickamauga. Narrating the campaign, but modestly omitting any reference to his own participation in it he said: "And who is this Gen. Rosecrans? The history of the country tells you, and your children know it by heart. It is he who fought battles and won victories in Western Virginia under the shadow of another's name. When the poetic pretender claimed the honor and received the reward as the author of Virgil's stanza in praise of Cæsar, the great Martian wrote on the walls of the imperial palace—

"Hos ego versiculos feci, tulit alter honores." So might the hero of Rich Mountain say: "I won this battle, but another has won the laurels."

"From Western Virginia he went to Mississippi, and there won the battles of Pickett and Corinth, which have aided materially to exalt the fame of that general upon whom this house has been in such haste to confer the proud rank of lieutenant-general of the army of the United States, but who was not upon either of these battlefields."

This sharp rap at Gen. Grant was the beginning of an opposition to him on the part of Gen. Garfield, which culminated in the national republican convention at Chicago. A PLECKY PERSONAL EXPLANATION. When the Jenckes bankrupt bill came before the house, Gen. Garfield objected to it, because in his opinion it did not provide that the estates of rebels in arms should not escape the operation of the law. He also showed that money was being raised to secure the enactment of the bill, and Mr. Spaulding, of the Cleveland district, was prompted by Mr.

Jenckes to "sit-down on him." But Gen. Garfield was not to be silenced easily, and quite a scene ensued. The next day Gen. Garfield rose to a personal explanation, and said: "I made no personal reference whatever; I assailed no gentlemen; I called no man's honor in question. My colleague from the Cleveland district (Mr. Spaulding) rose and asked if I had read the bill. I answered him, I believe, in courteous language and manner, that I had read it; and immediately on my statement to that effect he said in his place in the house, and it has gone on the record, that he did not believe I had read it; in other words, that he believed that I had lied, in the presence of my peers in this house. I felt, under such circumstances, that it would not be becoming my self-respect, nor the respect I owe to the house, to continue a colloquy with any gentleman who had thus impeached my veracity, and I said so.

"It pains me very much that a gentleman of venerable age, who was in full maturity of life when I was a child, should have taken occasion here in his place to use language so uncalculated for so ungenerous, so unjust to me, and disgraceful to himself. I have borne with the ill-nature and bad blood of that gentleman, as many others in this house have, out of respect to his years; but no immunity of age shall shield him or any man from my denunciation who is lacking in the proprieties of this place as to guilty of such parliamentary and personal indecency as the house has witnessed on his part. I had hoped that before this time he would have acknowledged to me the impropriety and unjustifiableness of his conduct and apologized for the insult. But he has not seen fit to take that course. I leave him to his own reflections, and his conduct to the judgment of the house."

This little episode convinced the house that Gen. Garfield was not to be snubbed or insulted with impunity, and before the close of the first congress he had come forward into the ranks of the select few who control the proceedings of the house, the representatives merely voting "aye" or "no." He could not compare with some of his colleagues in oratory or the graces of the forum, but he was never weakened, as some of them were, by the vanity and lack of sincerity. There were more astute lawyers, keener satirists, more subtle politicians, and abler rhetoricians in the house than James A. Garfield, but no representative carried more conviction in his words, than he did.

Gen. Garfield used to take pleasure in conversing with the "old stagers" in the reporters' gallery about the leading statesmen of the past. In his opinion, often expressed, the men of sound judgment, like Washington, had made a more enduring impression upon the character and history of our institutions than the brilliant men. Hamilton, he said, was master of a brilliant style, clear and bold in conception and decisive in execution; Jefferson was profoundly imbued with a philosophic spirit; but whether in the camp or in the cabinet, the quality that rose above all the other great gifts of the period was the comprehensive and unerring judgment of Washington. He used to express his regret that there were no special training-schools for statesmanship, as for the other professions, and cite John Quincy Adams as the only American youth ever trained with special reference to the political service of his country. Entering the great field of statesmanship, Gen. Garfield endeavored to qualify himself for its highest honors, and he succeeded.

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Call for Republican State Convention.

The Republican electors of the State of Nebraska are hereby called to send delegates from the several counties, to meet at State Convention at Lincoln, on Wednesday, October 5th, 1881, at 3:30 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for the following named offices, viz:

Table listing candidates for various offices including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Legislature. Columns include County, Name, and Votes.

It is recommended that no proxies be admitted to the convention except such as are held by persons residing in the counties from which the proxies are given.

Second. That no delegate shall represent an absent member of his delegation unless he be clothed with authority from the county convention or is in possession of proxies from regularly elected delegates thereof.

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