

HENDERSON HAD THE FLOOR

He Used It to Advantage in Scoring Opponents of Pension Legislation.

COMMISSIONER BLACK EXPOSED

River and Harbor Appropriations—The Bitter Spoils Fight—Conkling's Political Future—The Bull Run Exhibition—Capital Notes.

The Copperheads Castigated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—[Special Telegram.]—There were three hours of intense excitement in the senate today when the regular annual pension appropriation bill was being considered, when Colonel Henderson of Iowa, who is a prominent member of the committee on appropriations, called the attention of the house to a recent effort made by Commissioner Black to expose the pension legislation, by addressing a letter to Chairman Randall and publishing throughout the country false statements, Colonel Henderson said he had instantly detected a discrepancy of over \$80,000,000 in the statement made by Commissioner Black, and that there was a discrepancy of \$100,000,000 as large as that.

Then Colonel Henderson opened a broadside on the democrats for their opposition to pensions. He showed how they had defeated legislation enlarging the pension field by intrigue, and yet they escaped the record; how they always left a deficiency in the pension appropriation in the house, and how they up and thereby renew the odium of "extraneous" which democrats on the stump thrust at the republican party. Some one on the democratic side of the house denied that that had any larger per cent of opposition to pensions or enlargement of pension liberality than the other side. Colonel Henderson replied to this by sending to the clerk's desk the record of a vote cast in the house recently on the widows' bill. It showed that of the sixty-four votes cast against the bill, sixty-two were from the south. This elicited tremendous applause, even the people in the galleries responding vociferously.

About this time the excitement began to rise rapidly. Colonel Henderson left his seat and going over among the democrats, rebuked them roundly for their sectionalism, proving despicable acts upon the part of the confederate element in every session of congress for the last thirty years. His statements, amounting though they were to no answers, before he had finished, however, he had every confederate fire-eater and copperhead on the democratic side of the house boiling with rage, and such men as Handall, Morrison, etc., on their feet, yelling epithets and expletives, and explanations. It was a perfect storm of words. When accused of trying to incite a feeling against the south, Colonel Henderson replied that no man would go farther to heal whatever difference there existed in the minds of the southern people in regard to sectionalism in the north than himself; that he was equally opposed to sectionalism in the south, and nothing he was saying was conducive to sectionalism. "But," said he, "I would rather spend an eternity in hell with a confederate than an eternity in heaven with a copperhead." Then he scored the democrats and copperheads for their ingratitude to the president, and for the demagogue if you please, but do not call me unjust or ungrateful," said he.

While Colonel Henderson was on his feet there was a constant roar of applause, and when he sat down he was very heartily congratulated. It was the most brilliant speech delivered in the house during the session, and furnished a basis for debate during the remainder of the afternoon. During all the debate General Weaver sat among the confederates and applauded their utterances with vigor and scorned on those on the opposite side.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL. "How are you getting along with your river and harbor bill?" your correspondent asked of Chairman Willis of the river and harbor committee.

"Well," he said, wearily, "we are getting along probably as well as could be expected. It is slow work though. There is a tremendous pressure for appropriation, and we are under a great deal of pressure, and we find our duties are serious and pressing."

"Is the demand for river and harbor improvements greater than usual?" "Yes, much greater. I believe the people would sanction an appropriation of \$30,000,000 this year for this purpose. I have never in my legislative experience seen any such thing like it. The people seem to be thoroughly awake to the necessity of improvement privileges."

"What will be the size of your bill this year?" "I don't know. We wanted to keep it down to \$11,000,000, but we shall have to do it with the pressure there is from all quarters of the country."

"Do these demands come from any particular section?" "Not especially so. The southern people seem to be feeling the need of the cheap transportation, and the demand from all directions is most strongly marked."

"When do you expect to get your bill into the house?" "Probably sometime in April."

"Do you think the session is likely to run long?" "Yes, I should not be surprised if we should be here until August."

THE FIGHT FOR THE SPOILS. talking with one of the leading republican senators, and one of the shrewdest and wealthiest men in the senate, the conversation fell upon party matters, and as they always know how now, and we are going to capture the presidency next time because of it."

"Do you think so?" "I haven't a doubt of it."

"Who will be your candidate?" "I don't know as to that. We must have some man who is free from sectional alliances and has a clean record. We have plenty of them—Logan, Evans, Edmunds, Sherman. I don't pretend to say who it will be, but if we make such a choice as a party out of power is able to make, we shall have no trouble in capturing the white house again."

CONKLING MAY RETURN TO THE SENATE. It is whispered that the vigor of the senatorial fight in New York may force Roscoe Conkling into politics again. The matter is

being talked of both there and here. It is asserted that Conkling has a hold on certain democratic influences in New York, which his friends could turn to account. The republican strength is divided upon Miller, Cornell, Hiseock and Arthur, with no visible prospect of any one of them securing full control. The democratic governor is strengthening his position in every manner possible. The administration has its supporters, but not among the politicians who constitute the most aggressive element of the democratic party in the state. Conkling's lieutenants, it is claimed, can utilize all the dissatisfied elements of the democratic party and the aggressive wing of the republican party, or at least sufficient to hold the balance of power in the republican legislature. It is possible that Conkling may be again seen in the senate.

PROTEST FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS VETERANS. Mr. Wilson of Iowa, in the senate today, presented resolutions from Post No. 29, Grand Army of the Republic, at Council Bluffs, protesting against the appropriation of the national program of the battle of Bull Run, showing the success of traitors and the defeat of the loyal men; also, demanding "of all loyal members of congress that they pass an act immediately prohibiting the display of treason on American soil, and the national capital. It was referred to the military committee.

At a meeting of a Grand Army post here to-night a spirited debate arose over a resolution condemning this exhibition of the battle of Bull Run. Finally the resolution was defeated, but it was by federal officeholders who were afraid to vote their sentiments lest they offend the federal government, and hence their superior officers, thereby hazarding their positions.

SECURED A FAVORABLE REPORT. A favorable report was today made by the senate committee on Indian affairs on the Dawes bill, allotting lands to such members of the Sac and Fox, or Iowa tribe of Indians, as are not of the Potawatomi tribe, and such Nebraska agencies in Iowa and Nebraska, and as may elect to settle upon a reservation of their respective reservations, in the quantities mentioned recently in these dispatches.

CHADRON WANTS A LAND OFFICE. In the senate to-day Mr. Mansfield presented a memorial of the board of trade of Chadron, asking that a land district be established in the northwestern part of the state with Chadron the point for the land office. The memorialists urged congress to adopt the bill introduced in the house by Mr. Dorsey, and endorsing the boundaries of the district as described in the memorial.

L. F. Parker, a well known Iowan, is in the city. Hon. John W. Akers, superintendent of public instruction of Iowa, read a very able paper to-day before the meeting of public school superintendents. He treated the duties and responsibilities of superintendents in a clear and instructive manner. His expressions brought out a sharp debate and withstood magnificent criticism. Mr. Akers is one of the most popular members of the convention which has closed to-day.

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Edmunds, providing for the inspection of meats for exportation, prohibiting the exportation of adulterated articles of food and drink, and authorizing the president to make a proclamation in certain cases. Mr. Edmunds said that this bill had been reported last year from the committee on foreign relations, and he had been unable to get it passed. It contained, he said, a section giving the president authority whenever he was convinced that the admission of American products into other countries, proclamations or other measures, would be to the injury and protection of the just interests of the United States. In view of what he (Edmunds) had seen in the case of the sugar and molasses in other countries touching American products on the theory that they were supposed to be diseased, when the fact was obvious that the object was to exclude them under any circumstances, he (Edmunds) thought it clear that it was time to introduce such a bill.

By Mr. Logan (by request)—A bill to regulate commerce among the several states, and to modify the laws relating to exchange of gold and other commercial paper.

Mr. Frye, from the committee on commerce, reported favorably the bill authorizing the construction of a canal between the Missouri sound, known as Arthur Kill, and to establish the same as a post road. Placed on the calendar.

The senate, on motion of Mr. Dawes, resumed consideration of the bill to provide allotments of lands in severalty to the Indians.

Mr. Maxey moved to strike out the clause that proposes to make citizens of Indians who do not accept of land in severalty. The motion was rejected.

Mr. Teller offered an amendment providing that the law relating to homestead settlements by citizens of the United States on each alternate quarter section with the Indians, and that for the land so taken by such persons, the United States should be compensated under treaties should be compensated.

The amendment was rejected and the bill passed.

Mr. Hale gave notice that after Mr. Gray's remarks on the education bill, he (Hale) would move for an adjournment of the senate until the 1st of March, and that he would probably occupy the remainder of the day. It is understood that Hale referred to the nomination of Charles A. Smith as the chief of internal revenue respectively at Boston and Portland, which have been reported adjourned.

The education bill was laid before the senate and Mr. George continued his remarks in favor of the bill.

His remarks were also made by Messrs. Edmunds and Hoar.

Mr. Allison suggested an amendment, which was adopted, to the effect that the provision that in each state in which there shall be separate schools for white and colored children, the money appropriated and apportioned and paid out for the support of such white and colored schools in the proportion that the illiteracy of white and colored persons bear to each other, as shown by the census. Mr. Allison thought the bill should be so amended as to be precisely what he intended to be, and there should be no room left for doubt to arise when the provisions of the bill come to be applied in practice. The amendment was adopted.

House. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Mr. Hewitt presented a memorial of 122 savings banks of New York state, representing 1,165,000 depositors, asking for the repeal of the Bland silver act. Referred.

The committee on commerce reported a bill to incorporate the Atlantic & Pacific Ship Railway. Referred to the committee of the whole.

The committee on public lands reported a bill to forfeit the lands granted to the State of Michigan and to aid in the construction of a railroad from Ontonagon to the Wisconsin state line. Placed on the house calendar.

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A SUBSTITUTE REPORTED.

The Atlantic & Pacific Ship Railway

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A substitute for Reagan's bill to incorporate the Atlantic & Pacific Ship Railway company, was reported back to the house to-day. The changes of interest made in the original bill by the committee are as follows: The requirement that the railway shall transport vessels of 4,000 tons burden, instead of 3,000 tons, before the liability of the government begins; a provision that the obligation of the government shall cease unless the company shall keep the road in good repair, which shall be enforced by the government; that a vessel, which, with its cargo, shall weigh not less than 4,000 tons; an amendment making the company liable for the loss of its equivalent, and in case of Mexican vessels transported,