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A Bit of National History Recalled by Its Anniversary.

NEBRASKA FORTY YEARS OLD

DECORATION DAY AN INTERESTING EPOCH

May 30, 1854, the Nebraska and Kansas Bill, that Did So Much to Bring on the Civil War, Was Approved.

Besides being the annual Decoration day, next Wednesday is the fortieth anniversary of the approval of the Nebraska and Kansas bill of 1854 and the organization of the territory of Nebraska. A moment's reflection will show the appropriateness of the coincidence, especially when the legislative and political history of the bill is taken into consideration. The Nebraska and Kansas bill not only conferred territorial government upon a large portion of the northwest, but occasioned a most vindictive struggle between the friends of slavery in the south, and the almost unanimous north. While the victory was with the south, the preliminary skirmish more firmly united the enemies of slavery, and prepared them for the civil war it hastened on. Further, the effects of that bill are to be felt even in the present day, for it was the first of a series of legislative events in which party lines were drawn along sectional lines, and which made the south the "solid south."

In 1803 Louisiana, the largest peaceful acquisition of any country of any was ceded to the United by France What was after-States ward called the "Nebraska country" formed a comparatively small portion of this im-mense purchase. Yet the Nebraska country was larger than Texas and California comwas larger that the southern boundary of the purchase, thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, to the northern boundary of the United States on the forty-ninth parallel, and om the Missouri river and the state of

Missouri to the Rocky mountains. The settlement of the Nebraska country was slow. In 1810, seven years after the purchase of Louisiana, John Jacob Astor's American Fur company established a trading post at Bellevue, making the first settle-ment in Nebraska. When the Indian trading post at Fort Calhoun was removed to Belli vue a dozen years later, Hellevue became a place of some considerable importance. The Indian tribes for hundreds of miles made it market for their furs and pelts, and in Bellevue obtained arms and ammunition, and the liquor and trinkets so dear to the red-skin heart. At Bellevue was located the first mission in Nebraska, and there the first postmaster served as the first editor and the first schoolmaster of the country. Bellevue was the commercial, social, religious and educational metropolis.

TERRITORY FOR TRESPASSERS.

As early as 1844 petitions were presented to congress asking the organization of a ter-ritory west of the Missouri. Though under the patronage of no less a man than Senator Stephen A. Douglass, the petitions were scarcely given a passing thought. Aside from the little settlement at Bellevue, the country had but few white inhabitants, and they were, in the strict letter of the law. treepassers on the reservations of the In-dians. Of the interior the little that was was not favorable for the organiza tion of the territory. Congress was not apt organize a territory for the benefit of handful of trespassers squatting on the land that belonged to the Indian.

But with the growth of the country came more favorable reception for the proposi-At each successive congress the matter was presented, but for years failed to pass the committee stage. In 1849 came the discovery of gold in California, and the mad race to the west. Many a weary tenderfoot involuntarily settled on the prairies of Ne-braska in 1849 and 1850, and in the despera-

tion of his extremity undertook the appar-ently hopeless task of forcing a living from the soil of the Great American Desert. To his astonishment and delight he found land fertile and easily cultivated, and that he could "tickle the earth with a hoe, and it laughs with the harvest." Then settlers multiplied along the rivers; the possibili ties of the country were better known, and

the propositions for the organization of a territory more respectfully received. In the second session of the Thirty-second congress Representative Willard P. Hall of Missouri introduced a bill for the organization of the territory of the Platte, com-prising all of the Louisiana purchase between the Missouri river and the Rockies. Nearly two months' consideration was given the bill by the committee, which then re ported it back as a "Bill for the Organiza-tion of the Territory of Nebraska," there being no important changes except in the name. No reference was made in any way to slavery, but by implication the bill would follow the Missouri compromise of 1820. That compromise provided that Missouri might be admitted as a slave state, but for ever prohibited slavery in the rest of the purchase north of the line of 36 degrees Nebraska territory, as scribed in the committee's bill, was within the prescribed area, and therefore when admitted would come in as a free state.

OPPOSED BY THE SOUTH.

The bill met the bitterest opposition of the southern members, who were unani mously opposed to the organization of fur unanither free soil territory. A stormy session of the whole house closed with a recom-mendation for the rejettion of the bill, but awful in some way its defeat at that stage was pre-The bill was passed by a vote of vented. to 43, but when sent to the senate it met an opposition strongly organized to secure its defeat. The bill was referred to the committee on terriories, of which Senator Douglass was chairman. Though a strong minority of the comheaded by Douglass, is said to mittee. favored the bill, no report was obtainable from the committee. As the session drew near to a close the friends of the Nebraska bill made a strenuous though futile effort to obtain a In the closing hours they became report. almost frantic. On the last day of the ses sion but one a motion to take the bill up was defeated by a vote of 25 to 20. next day a similar motion resulted in the motion being tabled for the few hours left of the session by the solid vote of the southern senators.

On the following day Franklin Pierce was inaugurated president. Mr. Pierce was a New Hampshire democrat who had been riumphantly elected over General Scott, the whig candidate. The campaign had been one of personalities alone; the national platforms of the two great parties being almost identical on the vital question of the daydavery.

Mr. Pierce in his inaugural address congratulated the country on the successful termination of the Mexican war. Though the acquisition of new territory had brought new responsibilities they had been faithfully met, and the ever disturbing slavery ques-tion, as far as concerned the Mexican accession, settled by the compromise measures of These he regarded as a final settle ment of the questions they contained, and it was his intention, he declared, by every means in his power to prevent any shock to the repose of the country by a renewal avidity

1850.

slavery agitation. Mr. Pierce was but reiterating the resolu tions contained in the democratic and whig national platforms of the year previous. A majority of the members of congress had been elected on the strength of their pledges to prevent a renewal of the slavery agita It would have been impossible to have more emphatically or officially declared the conflict at an end. The Thirty-third congress assembled on Monday, December 5, following the inauguration. Tuesday Presi-dent Pierce submitted his annual message, In the strongest language he again promises to regard the compromises of 1850 an end of the discussion and denounced any attempt to shock the repose of the confederacy.

PRESIDENT SWITCHED.

But on the day previous Senator Augustus C. Dodge of Iowa had given notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the organiza tion of the territory of Nebraska, and Dodge's bill later on radically changed the

president's position. On the 14th Dodge introduced the bill, which, on examination, was found to be practicaly identical with the unfortunate measure of the preceding ses-sion. After the first and second readings it was referred to Senator Douglass' committee on territories.

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DOUGLASS' SPEECH.

Tacticians and generals whose sheer weight bore all before them; skirmishers and ponderous artillery; guerrillas and plodding

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The next day it was reported back with a number of amendments, which were received with surprise not unmingled with doubt. number of northern senators expressed their surprise at some of the amendments, which seemed to operate as a repeal of the Missouri compromise. On January 4, 1851, the committee made a special report in ex-planation of the amendments which divested the bill of any ambiguity of meaning. The compromise of 1820, the committee said, was no longer operative, it having been repealed by the passage of the compromises of 1850, with which it was inconsistent. Congress had no right to interfere with the domestic institutions of the states. As each sovereign state was said to have the power of controlling slavery within its own boundaries the territory of Nebraska was, on organizafree soil or proslavery, as jority of the voters might choose at the first election. The issue, the committee claimed, was "The great principles of self-government, that the people should be allowed to decide the questions of their domestic inment.

stitutions for themselves." The people of the north were first counded; then as the full conception of the ffects of the bill dawned upon them, for the

repeal of the Missouri compromise there was indignation, for "squatter sovereignty" bitter sarcasm. The south was also surprised, for the proposal to give slavery another opportunity obtain additional territory came unexpectedly and gratuitously from northern sources. The proffer was as quickly accepted as made. Indeed the south was in desperate straits. Slavery could no longer control the senate if the north would unitedly oppose the insti-If the north would unitedly oppose the insti-tution. Unless Texas could be divided, an unlikely contingency, the south could not add one new state. The north still had the vast unorganized portion of the Louisiana from the Atlantic to the Pacific. To this the slavocracy was willing to give purchase to form into states in which the Missouri compromise prohibited slavery, and many of which would be physically unfitted for the institution. The Nebraska country was the unorganized portion of the purchase delegations united in recommending best adapted for the slave. For reasons the south coveted Nebraska. these The conditions were now changed. Those who had been the friends of the bill now became its most unrelenting foes, and those who in he last session secured the defeat of the inoperative as the report of the 4th of Jan-Hall bill now were most eager to secure the uary. passage of the committee's bill.

To account for the sudden change of front various theories have been advanced. It seems highly probable that two elements compelled the embodiment of the repeal of the Missouri compromise. The journals of the time openly charged that a conspiracy had been formed in the Thirty-second congress to give the slave power additional territory, and the investigation of later times tends to confirm this statement. It certainly appears strange that on the day before the inaugura-tion of the Thirty-third congress, known to be of pro-slavery views, a bill to organize the territory of Nebraska under the Missouri compromise should have been killed by the unanimous vote of the slave-holding tors, and then that the Thirty-third sena gress should have received the same bill, modified to please the slavocracy, with great

SENATOR DOUGLASS' AMBITION.

Again, Senator Douglass was known to Again, Senator Douglass was known to cherish an ambition for the presidency that was all but overpowering. With the south he rightly believed himself popular. It is thought that he used his tremendous influence as chairman of the committee on ter-ritories and his glowing eloquence to more certainly secure the favor of the south while appeasing the north by engineering anothe compromise with insatiable slavery. Havin, Having ommitted himself, and having found that his course was not popular in the north, bent his whole energies toward accomplishing his original plan. The combination of these two motives will account for the trend of the bill.

On the second day after the special re-port Senator Archibald Dixon, a Kentucky whig, gave notice of his intention to amend the Nebraska bill when it should come be fore the senate by inserting a clause re-pealing the Missouri compromise. Dixon was a man of marked influence and charac-

compromise line through the Texas acces-He had served as governor of Kension in 1845, and who refused to carry the tucky until sent to the senate to fill the line through to the Pacific in 1848, and yet were so zealous in keeping unprofaned the vacancy occasioned by the death of Henry Mr. Dixon was a representative of the first element named; the element which compromise they maligned for a third of a must have formed the conspiracy against century. Senator Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, afterthe first Nebraska bill if such a conspiracy ward appointed to the supreme bench, opened on behalf of the opponents of the He was a pronounced pro-slavery man, and had the frankness to announce that by the repeal of the Missouri

bill. Mr. Chase began by moving to strike out of the bill a clause which declared the promise he sped "the citizens of the various states shall be at liberty to take and compromise of 1820 inoperative, leaving the committee's bill an unconditional repeal of the compromise. It was his intention, if hold their slaves within any of the territories." Clay had been "honorabiy identi-fied" with the compromise of 1820; his sucthe motion carried, to then move to strike out the whole clause, leaving the bill cessor in the senate was the first to openly commit a breach of the old compact. no reference to the compromise of 1820. The statement that the omnibus measures of 1850 superseded the Missouri compromise Before the commencement of the debate proper on the bill a delegation appointed by he promised to "demonstrate to be without any foundation in fact or history," and his nominal inhabitants of the Nebraska country arrived in Washington and waited masterly speech he directed at this point. Mr. Chase represented another class of on congress. They made two requests-that the southern boundary be fixed at the Thirty-seventh parallel, and that the Nebraska senators-men whose love of liberty or hatred of slavery, or whose deferance to the expressed wishes of their constituencies led country be divided along the Fortieth par-allel into Nebraska in the north and Kanthem to fight the bill. There was anoth r sas in the south. The first suggestion was made to avoid a division of the Cherokee lass, small and unimportant, who regarded territorial organizations west of the Miscountry, the boundary line being placed thirty miles north of the original Missouri sourl as unnecessary, in bad faith with the Indian tribes who occupied the land, and compromise line, the first boundary pro as altogether too costly luxuries. But where The reason for the second principle was at stake mercenary motive tion was not readily apparent, but it was intimated that there were more ulterior mo-tives than the gratification of local pride could not long be the issue, and this class was compelled to join Chase, and Sumner, and Seward, and Fessenden, in opposition For Nebraska the slavery element cared but little; its climate was thought too vigto the bill. Just so the Douglass element coalesced with Dixon's following, and fought tion for profitable slave holding. Then Ne-braska was bordered by Iowa, a free state, under a pro-slavery banner against abolitionism.

MADE IT DEMOCRATIC.

and Minnesota, Washington and Oregon ter-ritories, all free soil, so if finally obtained The discussion had not progressed for slavery it would be isolated from other slavery states. Kansas was thought to be before the administration adopted the measure, and made it a democratic, as well as southern bill. Many northern democratis still refused to support the bill, protesting that they could not, with honor to themwarmer and more fertile, and then it was warmer and more tertile, and then it was nearer to Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, all slave states. If Kansas could be made a slave state the south would have one more link in the chain of such states, reaching selves, disregard their pledges made in the campaign preceding. Then, many northern congressmen opposed the bill on account of To gain the effects the Missouri compromise would have in opening additional territory slavery. The whig party was unharmonio north Nebraska, that it cared little for, thinking that such generosity would make when the discussion opened, and the debate completed the demoralization of the party. Kansas. However, the Missouri and Iowa The democrats were much stronger in the south than ever before, but were much weakened by rebellion and desertion in the changes, and the committee on territories reported a bill to the senate providing for north. The northern whigs were badly divided; in the south they no longer had an the organization of the territories of Nebraska and Kansas, and which was as em organized existence. phatic in declaring the compromise of 1820

For over four months the debate pro-ceeded. The mercurial public opinion fluctuated from one extreme to the other. As bill neared a final vote in the senate the excitement became intense. The last formalities of the senate were watched with Senator Douglass opened the debate. It was a battle of giants. The master minds of the nation engaged in the terrible combat. feverial anxiety. The issue at stake was nominally the organization of two frontier territories: really it was the extension or limitation of slavery. The northern sena-tors met their first defeat in the rejection of Chase's amendment. Then the commit-tee's substitute for the original Dodge bill was adopted, and an amendment prop by Clayton of Delaware disfranchising signers who had taken out only their first oppers and making them ineligible for office n the two territories was incorporated The bill passed by a vote of 37 to 14.

logic with desperation here change in the history of the country. Mr. Douglass' opening speech brings to view the second element—not at all radical on slavery questions, but standing on techni-calities, like a quilbling lawyer who is unwilling to go into the merits of his case. Senator Douglass's argument was highly ingenious. In 1848, just after the acquisi-A week after the senate committee had divided the Nebraska country into Nebraska ingenious. In 1848, just after the acquisi-tion of a large amount of territory from Mexico, the senate amended a bill before it and Kansas, Representative William Richardson of Illinois, chairman of house committee on territories, reported a by extending the compromise line of 36-3 to the Pacific. In this amendment the house did not concur. By defeating the senate amendment Mr. Douglass claimed the Mis bill for the organization of the territory of Nebraska, which had been recommended by a majority of the committee. The Richardson bill soon became the subject of a much debate as the matter had received in souri compromise had been abandoned. This compromise ended and no longer operative the senate. The public mind in the mean-time, was incredibly inflamed. "Town-meetings, conventions, state legislatures, denounced the repeal of the Missouri comcompromise ended and no longer operative a new discussion arcset in 1850 and closed with fresh compromise measures whose lead-ing feature was the doctrine of noninter-vention by congress in the domestic institu-tions of the territories. The measures of denounced the repeat of the Missouri con-promise." Three thousand New England clergymen, "in the name of Almighty God, and in His presence," protected against the extension of the institution of slavery. Mass meetings and private citizens poured 1850 were of universal application, the old line of 36-36 being entirely disregarded. The effect of the Nebraska and Kansas remonstrances into congress. But the pro-greas of the debate in the house in a meas-ure allayed the excitement caused by the bill, said Douglass, was neither to legislate slavery into or out of the territories, but to leave their inhabitants free to act as they enate debate, as amendments were tacked to the bill which seemed too unpopular to permit its passage. Then the nation was states which recognized slavery at the adop again tranquil

constitution had abolished th On the 8th of May Mr. Richardson offered institution. If there was any bad faith manifested it was on the part of the abolitionists, who opposed the compromise of 1820, who opposed the continuation of the an amendment to the house bill, making the latter almost identical with the bill passed by the senate. Public interest im-

mediately re-awakened. The debates in the house were much more violent than the discussion in the senate-even marked with malignity of feeling. The sessions were unusually prolonged. Once the house remained in session thirty-six consecutive hours in discussion over the bill. The debate lasted but two weeks, yet the suspense was awful. No other theme was publicly discussed. Business suffered in the general stagnation. May 22 the house took up its amended bill for action, and the efforts of the opponents of the bill to prevent a vote were even reckless in the height of their despair. It was well known that the vote

would be very close; both sides used every exertion. Twenty-nine roll calls were or-dered in a twelve-hour session. Just before midnight the clerk called the roll for the last time, and the house passed its amended bill by a vote of 113 to 100. The house bill omitted the Clayton amendment to the sen-ate bill which disfranchised allens who had declared their intentions but had not com-

pleted naturalization. On Saturday, the 25th of May, the senate took up the house substitute. The upper house was known to be strongly in favor of the bill, and the opponents of the measure of course saw how useless further attempts to delay its passage would be. The closing therefore, devoted to solemn hours were. warnings of the results to follow the pas sage of the bill, and the scene was memorable as Sumner rose to close the debate just before midnight.

SUMNER'S WARNING.

"Sir," he said, "the bill which you are about to pass is at once the worst and the best bill on which congress ever acted. It is the worst bill, for it is a present victory of slavery. In a Christian land and in an age of civilization a time honored statute of fre dom is struck down, opening the way to all the countless woes and wrongs of human bondage. Among the crimes of history a new one is about to be recorded, which, in better days, will be read with universal shan The tea tax and stamp act which aroused the patriot rage of our fathers were virtues by the side of this enormity; nor would it be easy to imagine at this day any measure which more openly defied every senti of justice, humanity and Christianity. sentimen Am I not right then in calling it the worst bill on which congress ever acted? But there is another side to which I gladly turn. Sir, i is the best bill on which congress ever acted for it prepares the way for that 'All hai hereafter' when slavery must disappear. It annu's all past compromizes with slavery, and makes all future compromises imposs ble. Thus it puts freedom and slavery face to face and bids them grapple. Who can doubt the result? It opens wide the door of the future, when at last there will really be a north, and the slave power will be broken, when this wretched despotism will cease to dominate over our government, impressing itself upon all that it does at home and abroad; when the national government shall be divorced in every way from slavery, and, be divorced in every way from slavery, and, according to the true intent of our fathers, freedom shall be established by congress everywhere, at least beyond the local limits of the states. Thus, sir, now standing at the very grave of freedom in Kansas and Nebraska, I find assurances of that happy resurrection by which freedom will be ac

resurrection by which freedom will be se cured hereafter, not only in these torritories but everywhere under the national govern ment. More clearly than ever before, I not see the 'beginning of the end' of slavery. Am I not right, then, in calling this measure the best bill on which congress ever acted

Sorrowfully I bend before the wrong you are about to perpetrate. Joyfully I welcome promises of the future." Just after 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, the 26th, the bill was finally passed. Mr. Summer called for the yeas and mays, but a chorus of "Oh, there is no necessity for that," prevented the call from being put, that, prevented the call from being put. The senate stood, however, just about as at the passage of the Dodge bill, 35 yeas, 13 nays. Thursday, the 30th of May, 1854, just forty years ago, President Pierce ap-proved the bill, and Nebraska and Kansas entered upon their history as organized com-

monwealths. The effects of the passage of the bill were The effects of the passage of the bin were tremendous. The indignation shown in the north was only equalled by the joy mani-fested in the south. The first effect was the widening of the sectional breach between the north and south. Douglass had hoped to reach the presidency by the ald of the bill, but he had no political following in New England, the middle and western states

now. His aspirations for the highest post of honor in the nation were completely frus-trated. The second effect, then, was the removal of Douglass as a candidate. The whig party, in the third place, was com pletely destroyed. Fourth, the democracy of the north melted away, but made gains in the south until it was the only party having any perceptible influence. Then after a short period of political unrest the nants of the whig and democratic parties who opposed the Nebraska bill were compelled to unite in a new permanent party whose chief tenet was opposition to slavery. C. B. A.

CONNUBLALITIES.

He-Well, what sort of a mood are you in this evening? She-Well, as I have squeezed your hand and let you kiss me I hink I'm in my indicative mood.

"Two men fought for a wife in Oregon," remarked Mrs. Knags, looking up from the paper. "Which had to Mr. Knags sarcastically. "Which had to take her?" asked

Calloe-Women have mighty queer ways, don't you think, Uncle Si? Uncle SI-I kain't say thet I know much about women. Uncle SI-T I only been married four times.

The formal announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Hope Goddard, the only daughter of Colonel and Mrs. William Goddard of Providence, R. I., to C. Oliver Iselin of New York city.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stransberry, the oldest married couple in Stark county, Ohio, elebrated the sixty-fifth anniversary of their marriage last Tuesday. They are both in good health, he being 88 years old and she 87. They have eleven children and have lived on the same farm since their marriage.

President Carnot has signed a decree forbidding members of the consular or diploma tic corps to marry without first asking the consent, not only of the young lady and of her papa, of the prospective mother-in-law and of a minister of the gospel, but of the minister of foreign affairs as well.

A Cincinnati man recently presented his wife with a plano lamp, which she said she would call after him. On asking her the reason she replied: "Well dear, it has a good deal of brass about it, it is handsome to look at, it is not remarkably brilliant, re-quires a good deal of attention, is sometimes unsteady on its legs, liable to explode when half full, flares up occasionally, is always out at bedtime and is bound to smoke."

"Who is that young man standing over there by the door?" inquired the lady in black. "Let me see," replied the modern black. and advanced girl, observing the young man critically through her lorgnette. "His face s familiar. Why, I believe that that's the young man I'm engaged to."

When a man points out to his wife a other woman who dresses, as he says, just the way he would like to see her dress, she can usually get her revenge by telling him how much the other woman's clothes must

COSt Another elopement of a beautiful and accomplished white girl with a Stoux Indian is to be recorded. The girl this time is Miss Alice Tucker, a daughter of prominent people living at Niobrara, Neb., and the Sioux, known by the adopted name of John Lauman, belonging to Rosebud agency. Miss Tucker is 16.

At the marriage of the eldest son of Babu Raj Kuma Roy, Zemindar of Narall, recently, the procession was a most imposing one, the bridegroom party alone consisting of 1,200 to 1,500 men. A notable innovation in the shape of an Indian female string band, which drove with the procession in a wagonette, attracted a great deal of attention.

The silver wedding of the emperor and empress of Japan, according to foreign papers, was celebrated with great pomp a few weeks ago. There was a review of the soldiers in the afternoon, and in the evening there was a gala dinner, to which all the prominent of-ficials and their wives and foreigners were invited. Afterwards there was a reception invited. Alterwards there was a reception and dance in the throne room. Male danc-ers produced the famous "Banzairaku," a dance which was composed by the emperor Yomei 1.300 years ago; the "Taiheiraku," which was the fashion 1.037 years ago, and the "Bairo," a dance brought from India about the year 600, which, in its various evolutions, represents the subjection of all ene-mies of the state. All the guests received silver mementoes of the celebration.