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OREGON AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS

What Our Senators and Representatives Are Doing.

MITCHELL AND TONGUE ARE ACTIVE

Succeeded in Getting the Indian War Veteran Pension Bill Through.

United States Senator John H. Mitchell addressed the Senate, Thursday of last week, on his amendment to the pending bill to place certain articles entering the United States from the Philippines on the free list; to levy a tariff of 50 per cent of the Dingley rates upon articles not admitted to the free list, and to eliminate that portion of section three of the bill which provides that the same tonnage tax shall be levied on all vessels coming from our insular possessions as is levied on vessels coming from foreign countries.

Mitchell stated that it was neither expedient nor right to apply to our insular possessions the same rule respecting tonnage as is applied to foreign vessels. Speaking of the proposition of granting trade concessions to Cuba, Mr. Mitchell said: "That we have as a nation given a pledge that stable government shall be established and maintained in Cuba is conceded. This must be done and this is being done. But this pledge does not, I admit, impose upon us a duty to make trade concessions to the planters and producers of Cuba which will militate materially against the planters, agriculturists and producers of our own country. Such a concession is not an obligation resting upon us, either expressly or by implication. Of course, if a reciprocity arrangement can be made with Cuba which will be to the advantage of our people, or which will not seriously affect adversely any American interest or American labor, and which may be of benefit to Cuban interests, then by all means let us have it."

Continuing, Mitchell said: "I submit further that if the policy enforced in the last Congress of permitting the products of Porto Rico to come to the United States at 55 per cent reduction of the rates of duty imposed by the Dingley act, and later on entirely free, and this all largely in the interests of the trade and commerce of the people of the Atlantic States, as well as the people of Porto Rico, be right, then, upon what principle of right or justice or equity must the people of the Pacific Coast States pay the same rates on Philippine products coming into this country that are imposed by the Dingley act? Why impose one rule on our insular possessions in the the Atlantic Ocean and another on our possessions in the Pacific Ocean? What occult force, if any, is operating on the Congress of the United States, and this, too, with Congress seemingly being conscious of the act, which seems to compel the Nation's parliament to arrive at such absolutely contradictory conclusions. "We should give the Filipinos," he urged, "concessions in trade which will justify into their minds encouragement, confidence and hope; which will cause them to realize the wide difference between the iron and hateful rule of the Spaniard and the beneficent and helpful rule of the American."

Protect the Sugar Beet.

Of the sugar beet question he said: "Let Congress strike out boldly against the manufacturing industries which have ripened the gigantic trusts and which have brought and are bringing to their owners princely individual wealth, but let Congress hesitate to strike down in its infancy an agricultural industry like that of the sugar beet. The sugar trust, and certain other formidable combinations that might be mentioned are able to stand alone. The beet sugar industry is not. The former do not need protection, the latter does."

Senator Mitchell observed that the way for the United States to hold its share of Oriental trade was to get control of the great transportation lines. Representative Tongue introduced a measure in the House, Saturday, providing for an irrigation fund from the sales of public lands. One half of this fund is to be at the disposal of the Secretary of the Interior for use in examinations and surveys to ascertain the extent to which arid lands may be reclaimed, location of reservoir sites, available amount of water and the gauge flow of rivers. The other half of the fund is to be placed at the disposal of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct investigations of irrigation laws and investigate methods by which water may be conserved, distributed and used.

Senator Mitchell introduced a bill Friday ratifying the agreement with the Kathlamet band of Chinook Indians, whereby they cede a tract of their Oregon land to the government.

Representative Tongue introduced a bill authorizing adult Indian heirs to sell inherited lands. He also introduced a bill appropriating \$35,000 to pay the Tillamook Indians for lands relinquished to the government.

Senator Mitchell has presented to the Senate a memorial to the legislature of Oregon, praying for an appropriation of \$44,000 to relieve Curry county from indebtedness incurred in building a post road along the Pacific coast, from the Northern to Southern boundary of the county.

Senator Mitchell has presented to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and to Miss Susan B. Anthony, his credentials as a duly accredited delegate to that convention from the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association, signed by Abigail Scott Duniway, as president, and Ida H. Blaine, as secretary pro tem, of said Oregon state association, and he has been duly admitted as a delegate to a seat in the convention.

Hiram E. Mitchell, son of Senator Mitchell, an Oregonian, has been appointed at large, to be First Lieutenant of Artillery. Hiram Mitchell was captain and quartermaster during the Spanish war, and was for a considerable time in charge of the transport Buford, which ran between New York and the West Indies.

At Tuesday's session of the senate Senator Mitchell took advantage of a favorable opportunity and succeeded in having the Indian War Veteran Pension Bill passed. T. A. Wood, of Portland, grand commander of the Indian War Veterans is greatly elated over the passage of the bill by the senate, and is hopeful that the house will also pass the measure. He says:

"Now that Senator Mitchell has secured the passage of our pension bill in the senate I have full confidence in Congressman Tongue, who has charge of the bill, being able to get it passed by the house of representatives."

"Last session our congressmen worked very hard to secure a favorable report from the house committee on pensions. They succeeded, but when the report was presented the original bill was so changed that it left out all of the Washington and Oregon war veterans. As they had not been mustered into the United States service it reckoned them as simply territorial militia. The report thus obtained paralyzed our congressmen for a time; it looked to them as though nothing could be done to pension these old veterans."

"Mr. Loudenslager, chairman of the pension committee, said, however, 'If you can amend my bill so as to let your Oregon and Washington veterans in and not admit other state and territorial militia, I will favor its passage.' To find some way out of the difficulty Congressman Tongue wrote to the United States Treasurer to find whether or not Oregon and Washington volunteers had been recognized by the government and paid. The reply was that the government had paid them, and as these were the only state and territorial volunteers who had been recognized in this way and made United States volunteers by an act of congress, and who had been paid as United States volunteers, it set at rest the apprehensions of the pension committee. The letter from the United States Treasurer was filed with the papers in the pension committee's office to be used this session in connection with this bill."

"Senate bill 640, which has just passed the senate, is a copy of Chairman Loudenslager's pension committee bill with the amendment in substance that if they were paid by the United States then they were United States volunteers."

"The interview I had with the honorable speaker of the house of representatives when in Washington D. C. last winter was so encouraging, though he made no promises, I am justified in saying that he will permit the senate bill to come before the house of representatives for approval this session."

Senator Mitchell has given notice of his intention to offer an amendment to the Sundry Civil Bill, appropriating \$20,000 for additional improvements to the Quarantine station at Astoria.

Improve Harbors.

Senator Mitchell has also given notice of several amendments he is going to offer to the River and Harbor bill unless the House inserts the amendments before the measure reaches the Senate. One of the amendments appropriates \$600,000 for the improvement of the mouth of the Columbia, the work to be done on the continuing contract system, the total cost of which shall be \$2,000,000. The lower Willamette and Columbia below Portland gets \$250,000, \$175,000 of which is to be used in the construction of a dredge. Other amounts carried are: Columbia, between Vancouver and the mouth of the Willamette, \$20,000; Columbia at Cascades, \$30,000, a portion to be used in removing the rocks in the rapids near Cascade Locks; Upper Columbia and Snake, \$28,000; for procuring the right of way for a ship canal between

CITIZENS HOLD CALLED MEETING

Decide to Put County Ticket In the Field.

DEMOCRATIC WARHORSES BOLTED

Robert A. Miller, Chairman, Authorized to Name Campaign Committee of Nine Members.

A meeting of about fifty "citizens," representing all the political parties that have from time to time come up before the people of Clackamas county in recent years, except perhaps the Prohibition party, was held in Oregon City Tuesday, in response to a call issued by the party leaders. After nearly an all-day session it was finally decided that a "citizen's" ticket should be put in the field at the coming June election. Robert A. Miller, chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee was the chairman and O. W. Robbins, Democrat, was secretary of the meeting. Both officers were chosen as temporary incumbents at the morning session which was held at the county court room. This session adjourned at 12 o'clock, after numerous speeches had been made by C. D. Latourette, (dem.) O. W. Eastham, (rep.) and other democrats and populists complaining about the various county burdens thrust upon the people by the powers that be, and adjourned till 1 o'clock a. m.

The afternoon session was held in Willamette hall. The question of a name was one of considerable discussion. There were a goodly number of Populists present and while they did not object to the name "citizen," the Democrats, some of them, like Mr. Ganong and Dave Caufield, wanted to stay by their party name. When finally Mr. J. P. Lovett's motion that it is the sense of this meeting that a citizen's ticket be put in the field at the coming June elections, carried, by about 40 to 10, Messrs. Caufield, Dribble, Vaughn and others of the old liners, bolted the ball. An attempt was made to detain them by explaining the why and wherefor, but they wouldn't see it that way, and left the building. A motion was then made by Dr. J. W. Powell that the chair be authorized to appoint a campaign committee of seven to formulate an address to the voters of the county; to call a "Citizen's convention and to apportion delegates to the same." Harvey Cross, who during the noon hour had prepared a set of resolutions looking to the same end, read his document to the assemblage. His differed from Dr. Powell's motion only in a few minor details, substituting a committee of "nine" instead of "seven" and with the consent of the doctor, Mr. Cross's resolutions, after being pruned down some, were adopted.

Chairman Robert A. Miller did not appoint the campaign committee at that time, but stated that he would take the matter up carefully and arrange the personnel of the committee to suit all the political faiths represented. During the meeting Democratic War Horse Ganong, who a' the way through was stoutly against giving up the name "Democrat," asked the chairman a stumper. He said: "How is it Mr. Chairman, can you, as Chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, call a meeting of that organization, and also act in the capacity of Chairman of the Citizen's party, and make a call for a county convention?" Mr. Miller confessed that he was in a rather delicate position, but congratulated himself that he was not out for any office, and thought he would come out all right in the end. Mr. Ganong was still unable to get through his head what was going to come of the Democratic party, and exclaimed in a loud voice: "Why, it is utterly impossible to do away with the Democratic party; the party that stands and has always stood at the foundation of the

(Continued on page 8.)

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