

TARIFF BILL DISCUSSED

Republicans Now Stand Where They Always Stood.

BILL JUSTIFIED BY HISTORY

Senator Depew Affirms That The Right of Congress to Legislate for Our New Possession is Only Limited by Constitutional Prohibitions.

In the senate Monday Senator Depew, speaking on the Puerto Rican tariff bill said:

"The Republican party stands upon the action of Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Pierce and Seward, that congress has the power to govern these acquisitions, subject only to the prohibition of the constitution. I recall for the consideration and admonition of our Democratic friends, that story of General Jackson's governorship of Florida, to which he was appointed by President Monroe, under the act of congress of March 3, 1821, providing that all military, civil and judicial powers shall be vested in such person and persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct." He claimed and exercised the executive, legislative and judicial functions of government under this commission, and was sustained in them all. As the legislative, he enacted laws which brought him, as governor, in conflict with the ex-Governor under Spain. As governor, he promptly arrested and imprisoned that ex-official, and, as Judge, he proceeded to punish for contempt the federal district judge, who had issued a writ of habeas corpus for the Spaniard's release. It was after all this that he became and has since continued to be claimed as leader, counsellor and inspiration for the Democratic party.

"Under this power we can and will provide both for the development of our new possessions and the protection of industries and employment within the United States. As time and experience demonstrate the necessity for new laws and changes of existing laws, they will be enacted, but always with intent to maintain the high standard of American citizenship and the scale of American wages. Preferential tariffs will promote trade between the United States and all these islands. Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, Tutuila and the Philippines are to be held and governed by the United States with an imperative duty on our part to their inhabitants for this civilization, for the encouragement of enterprises which will utilize their resources, and for their constantly increasing participation in their local and general governments, and also for their and our commercial progress and growth. I do not believe that we will incorporate the alien races and civilized, semicivilized, barbarous and savage people of these islands into our body politic as states of our Union.

"Order, law, justice and liberty will stimulate and develop our new professions. Their inhabitants will grow with the responsibility of governing themselves, constantly increasing with their intelligence into conditions of prosperity and happiness beyond their wildest dreams as the results of that self-government they now so vaguely understand, while the United States, in the increasing demand for the surplus of our farms and factories in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines, and in the tremendous advantages of position from Manila for reaching the limitless markets of the Orient, can view without apprehension and with hopeful pride the inevitable expansion of our population and productions."

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Special to THE CHRONICLE.]

It is so near the presidential election that Democracy is looking for campaign material and willing to pick up anything to howl about, which accounts for the howl about the Puerto Rico bill. They have only lately discovered where the constitution was violated by the tariff, and two years ago permitted Hawaii to be annexed, to pay the full tariff on all business with the United States, and now go frantic when it is proposed to charge Puerto Rico fifteen per cent of the amount; that, too, when all collections go back to Puerto Rico to pay the expense of running the island, and the arrangement is only temporary. "Consistency is a jewel" that Democracy does not take much stock in.

Representative Moody, although a new member, is working and getting results like a veteran. As a member of the committee on public lands, he has obtained favorable reports on two bills since the first of the month.

On March 5th he reported Tongue's bill, H. R. 2976, to create the Crater lake park, embracing 249 square miles, and submitted an excellent report, which has been printed. He also secured a favorable report on Senator McBride's Double-Minimum Land bill, for the repayment of \$1.25 per acre to settlers on forfeited railroad land grants, who were required to pay \$2.50 per acre for their lands. Mr. Moody had introduced an identical bill in the house, but Senator McBride's bill having passed the senate was substituted for it. A large proportion of the settlers of Oregon to be benefited by this bill reside in Mr. Moody's district, and it is estimated that the amount to be paid to Oregon settlers under the bill, if it passes, will exceed \$250,000.

Mr. Moody has also secured a favora-

ble report from the committee on Ways and Means, on McBride's bill making Astoria a port for immediate transportation of dutiable goods, which means that such goods may be shipped in bond to and from Astoria, as they are from the principal ports of the United States. In addition to legislative work, Mr. Moody has been busy about the departments in the interest of his constituents. At his request the second assistant postmaster general will hereafter insert in all star route contracts let or renewed, in Moody's district, a proviso making it the duty of the mail carriers on star routes to deliver mail into boxes erected along the lines of those routes, to persons or people living along the line of star routes, where settlement is so sparse that the free delivery system cannot lawfully be established. This arrangement will be a great convenience to many settlers, who will give due credit to their energetic representative for placing such additional mail facilities at their service.

Senator McBride has been working with his usual diligence, and since the date of my last letter, March 16th, has obtained the passage of three of his bills through the senate. Senate bill 373, for the relief of Avery Babcock and wife, whose donation land claim was used as a military post, called Fort Yamhill, and as part of the Grande Ronde Indian reservation for ten or twelve years. Senate bill 1400, granting a pension of \$12 a month to William Lyman Chittenden, who served as a member of Captain L. J. Powell's company in 1856. Senate bill 3107, granting a pension to Dr. Arthur I. Nicklin, late surgeon of Benjamin Hayden's company, Captain B. F. Burch's company, and Captain Marion Goff's company Oregon Volunteers, in the Indian war of 1856, and also surgeon for the U. S. army in the Modoc war. The passage of these three bills makes a total of nine of Mr. McBride's bills that have passed the senate during the month

of March, and a total of sixteen of his bills that have passed the senate during the session. Although this exceeds the average for an entire session of congress, it is evident that Mr. McBride does not intend to stop here, for he has in the last two weeks obtained favorable reports on the two bills following: Senate bill 374, for the relief of Wm. A. Starkweather, on account of money paid out by him for clerk hire during the years 1861 and 1865. It seems that additional clerical aid was made necessary during that period, mainly on account of applications for patents under the Donation Land law, and the government has never repaid Mr. Starkweather. Senate bill 420, for the relief of the legal representatives of Chauncey M. Lockwood. Mr. McBride got this bill thro' the senate in the last congress, as a part of the Omnibus Claim bill, but it was thrown out in conference, owing to the opposition of the house conference.

Senator McBride has taken a great deal of interest in Pettigrew's senate bill 2746, to aid certain states to support schools of mines. The bill provides that each state shall receive one half of all money paid the United States for mineral lands, in such states, provided the amount so paid in any year shall not exceed the amount annually expended by the state for the support of a school of mines. The senator says this will aid the University of Oregon, which now has a School of Mines, and which will be entitled to the money coming to the state under the bill. He supported the bill in the committee on public lands, and thinks it will pass the house.

Within two weeks Representative Tongue has secured a favorable report from Public Lands committee, of which he is a member, in favor of his resolution to reserve 249 square miles of the Cascade range as the "Crater Lake Reservation," where game and fish will be preserved and timber protected, and Oregon will have, or the United States will have, one of the most delightful mountain parks in all the world.

The committee on Public Lands has also reported in favor of issuing patents to lands owned by deceased Indians on the Siletz reservation, as per bill Mr. Tongue introduced. Its passage will open considerable good land to settlement, as many Indians have died whose lands lie idle and unoccupied. As patents do not issue for twenty years, they will remain so unoccupied for many years to come, unless they can be put on sale, and make homes for newcomers.

In war time long ago Henry Judge, of Ashland, furnished saddles to Oregon Volunteers at the request of Col. Maury, but was never paid. It was claimed that Maury had no authority to make the request. At the solicitation of Mr. Tongue, the house committee on claims will recommend that it be submitted to the U. S. court of claims to investigate and decide what is right and proper, so the claim will probably be paid in due time.

In a former letter I mentioned Senator Simon's introduction of a bill to permit persons engaged in mining in Oregon, Washington and California to fell and use timber on the public lands for mining purposes, as has been authorized by law in other mining states since that time. Senator Simon has obtained a favorable report on his bill from the committee on Mines and Mining, of which he is a member, and has also secured the passage of the bill through the senate. As this bill simply secures to miners in those three states like privileges to those granted in other states, it is hoped it will not be objected to in the house of representatives.

As an Oregonian I am proud of the fact that Oregon has now, as it had in the past, an industrious and influential delegation in congress; men who accomplish things.
S. A. CLARKE.

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