THE INDEPENDENT.

ROSEBURG, SATURDAY, AUG. 19

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS.

Congress, which has been in session since last December, adjourned on the 8th. It was in session for a long time and as a result of its labors succeeded in raising the taxes, in depleting the treasury, in injuring our commerce, and in releasing the National banks from supporting the revenue. When it assembled it found a large surplus of coin in the treasury, which had accumulated by reason of the exorbitant revenue, and the funding of the National debt, thus preventing the further reduction of that National curse by this accumulated treasure.

The old and experienced lobbyists who had worked with the former Congress for the passage of the funding bill, knowing well the result of that corrupt measure, were on hand at the opening of Congress, with their appetites whetted and scent as keen as the jackal, ready to prey upon the coffers of our National capitol. How it was raided can only be conjectured from the general result. The surplus in the treasury of $150,000,000 have disappeared, and provisions for the expenditure of over $400,000,000 more during the year 1883, have been appropriated, which, it is estimated, will be collected off the people during that time. That the extravagance has been very great may be shown by a tabular comparison of the fourteen regular appropriation items passed by the present and preceding Congress for the years ending June 30, 1883, and June 30, 1882, respectively, viz:

	1883	1882.
Legislative, Executive and Judicial	$ 20,209,200	$ 18,132,807
Sundry Civil (as reported by Senate Committee)	25,764,000	23,761,008
Army	27,258,000	26,687,800
Navy (as it passed House)	15,353,000	14,566,037
Indians	5,217,009	4,587,863
River and Harbor	18,743,875	11,451,300
Fortification	380,000	575,000
Military Academy	335,000	323,435
Postoffice	44,643,900	40,057,432
Pensions	100,000,000	68,202,596
Consular and Diplomatic	1,256,655	1,191,455
Miscellaneous	4,600,000	11,208,000
Deficiencies (including $16,000,000 for pensions)	20.000,000	5,110,832
District of Columbia	1,695,000	.....
Totals	$294,513,639	$216,694,338

A very careful and moderate Republican paper, the New York "Mail and Express," follows up this exhibit by saying that an increase of nearly $78,000,000 in one year is enough to awaken the most apathetic taxpayer to a growth of Congressional extravagance that, unless checked, will certainly grow until it corrupts the federal government, debauches our politics and brings our institutions into grave perils.

MITCHELL.

The Legislature is soon to assemble and the first and most important question that will be before them is the election of a United States Senator. The Democrats are hopelessly in the minority and cannot elect, but they can at least be true to themselves and the party that elected them, by being consistent and voting solid for a representative Democrat. The Republicans are in a muddle and are not at all harmonious, their greatest division being over the loaves and fishes. There is also a well grounded opposition with a respectable following, against reinstating the great bigamist Mitchell, that will wreck his chances and overthrow the schemes of the monopolists for whom he has been lobbying during the last session of Congress, and who are now pressing his claims on the people of Oregon that they may have their hired attorney in the United States Senate, clothed with the power and influence of a member of that august body. Unless the Stalwart wing of the party get some votes from Democratic members they will not be able to elect the great lobbyist. Whether the Republicans will be able to harmonize on any other person can be only a matter of conjecture, but it would be better for the interests and standing of the State that it should fail to elect than to return an individual who is known to be the pliant tool of corporations.

It is without precedent for the members of the party who are in the minority to take sides or vote with either wing or faction of the majority in electing a United States Senator.

A rumor comes to us that certain members of our present Legislature have expressed themselves to the effect that as there is no chance to elect a Democrat, for their part they intend to vote for Mitchell. We sincerely trust that these rumors are unfounded, and for the standing of the parties implicated, if they have made any such statement, that they will reconsider so rash a resolve. It is well known that large sums of money were used to secure his former election, and what the influences are which are now urging his claims. Any Democrat who would at this time step aside from the usual and honorable course in this contest to vote for this pliant tool, (who during the six years he occupied the position showed by his actions that he cared more for the money of Stanford & Co. than he did for the interests of Oregon,) will be looked upon with more than suspicion as being susceptible to monetary influences, and his opportunities for having been reached will be carefully noted and unrelentingly commented upon by those whose confidence he has abused and the party he has so basely betrayed.

WHAT THE PEOPLE AND PRESS THINK OF MITCHELL.

(From the Oregonian of the 12th.)

Congress having adjourned and there being no further reason for J. H. Mitchell to remain in Washington as a lobbyist for railway corporations, he is returning to Oregon, his claequers say to become a candidate for the United States Senate. It was a right good thing for the Republican party that he was not in the State to pull the wires for this object before the June election. In that case there would be a Democratic Senator to elect next month. While he was Senator Mitchell did his best for the Union and Central Pacific monopoly by trying to divide the Northern Pacific land grant and destroy its value. But his opportunity to serve the enemies of the Northern Pacific having passed away, he sought at once and has been since engaged upon a salary as a lobbyist to help protect the land grant which he had before attacked and striven to render valreless. Of late he has found no fault with the company which, when it was trying to protect itself against his hostility as chairman of the Senate committee on railroads, he denounced with vehemence, declaring that it was manifesting the "insatiate greed of corporate power" in struggling to save the grant against his machinations—the grant which he has since been helping to defend. In all this there is a lesson upon "insatiate greed" of another kind, and some other things.

(From the Plaindealer of last week.)

We venture to say that were the contest between two men, both Republicans, to be decided by the voice of the people of Oregon, John H. Mitchell would be elected as Grover's successor by an overwhelming majority.

(From the Oregonian of the 14th.)

Certain "Republican" papers are quoted as favoring the election of Mitchell. In every case it will be found that these organs are mercenary members of the guild of mendicant journalism. They are cheap, too, as they are mecenary. A small donation of money, which most of them received before the June election, sufficed to hold them to their fealty for that occasion; and it carried with it the additional stipulation that the agreement was to include their services through the Senatorial election. But apart from this, they would take to Mitchell on instinct, since they see in their hope of his election sundry promises of participation in the profits of jobs and contracts and campaign dividends, which not a few of them have enjoyed heretofore. They disgrace the name of journalism, and are so held in contempt by the public that not one of them receives legitimate patronage enough to keep it alive. Their dependence is prey and plunder, and they are for Mitchell because it is a part of his system of politics to secure their praises by ministration to their needs and greeds.

(From the Philadelphia Record. Aug.7.)

John H. Mitchell, who once was United States Senator from Oregon, from 1873 to 1879, and George H. Williams, Senator from 1865 to 1871, are both candidates now for the place of Senator Grover, with the odds perhaps in favor of Mitchell. It is to be hoped that some better man than either will be elected. The Legislature of a great State ought to be competent to do better work than merely to decide between the claims of several self-nominated candidates and old political stagers who crowd themselves forward whenever there is a vacancy, or even when one is only expected. Both of these men are politicians of the small-potato order, and unfit to do credit to the State or to the United States. Williams was once Attorney General under Grant, and while in office got the nickname of "Landaulet" Williams, because, as was charged, he managed to squeeze a landaulet out of the Government in some tricky way. His progress in wealth was said to be much like Robeson's, though one Washington man explained it on the theory that "he had a very econominal wife." Mitchell, on the other hand, was charged with having one or two more wives than the law allows, but he managed to get through with it somehow. In spite of a spotted reputation, one of these worthies will probably be in the next Senate to air his virtue in helping river and harbor bills to pass.

When a Republican Congress wanted to put Congressional elections under the surveillance of United States officers, a Congressman was considered a federal officer; but when a Republican Congressional Committee wanted to levy a tax upon the clerks in the departments and their various outposts through the country, to save the members of that committee from punishment under the law and to bring the pockets of the clerks within reach of their hands, a Congressman was declared by the Attorney General not to be a United States official. Verily the "party of great moral ideas" bends to its illicit desires in any direction.

Senator Benjamin H. Hill, of Georgia, died on the 16th inst., of cancer in the mouth. The other day he said to his son: "I am going to a better land, Charles; don't you wish you could come along, too? These are the happiest days of my life.

BARGAINS AT FLOED'S.

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