

The Daily Morning Astorian.

VOL. XXIII, NO. 61.

ASTORIA, OREGON, THURSDAY MARCH 12, 1885.

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THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.
A Confederate Debate in the Arkansas Legislature.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 2. A very animated and at times angry discussion took place in the house to-day over what is known as the "wood-en-leg bill," a measure from the senate to provide for furnishing limbs to resident soldiers who lost their limbs during the rebellion. A motion to table was lost by a vote of 40 to 41. The bill excepts from the benefits of the bill those heretofore supplied with artificial limbs, virtually leaving federal soldiers out in the cold.

Mr. McMillan said: "This bill is an effort on the part of Arkansas to comply with a precedent set by the United States and already followed by several of the states. Whether a man wore the gray or the blue the friends of the measure wish to compliment him and not to extend charity. As an ex-confederate, I am just as anxious to give legs to the honest one-legged union soldiers who live with us. Down in my county there is an old union soldier, a gallant, noble fellow who is on one leg and a stump. I honor him for his devotion to his own cause, and for his pluck in coming down here to live among us. I want this house to say whether it is willing to put a leg to the one-legged man whether he wore the blue or the gray."

Mr. Harrod - It is just because this bill won't come up to the idea just advanced that we don't like it, and won't support it. The bill provides that the soldier who has been supplied already with a leg shall not have any under this act. We can't afford to so stultify ourselves. We can't afford to say we will give legs to the confederate soldier and that the union soldier shall have none. I tell you we can't afford to do it.

Mr. Bridwell - Don't these union soldiers get pensions which you and I help to pay?

Mr. Harrod - They do.

Mr. Bridwell - Is there a single wounded man an ex-confederate soldier who gets a pension?

Mr. Harrod - Not one; but that's not the question. I claim to be as good a Democrat as there is in the state, but that's not the question. We can't afford to do this, I repeat.

Mr. Baxter - It is true that this question was brought up in the Democratic convention, and some of those who feared to do what was right whistled that the north would begin to call out "bloody shirt."

Mr. Copeland - I am sorry, indeed, that this question of distinction between the blue and the gray has been raised. It's true that this bill does distinguish and discriminate between the two. I recognize the fact that many who wore the blue are now in the Democratic ranks. I recognize that to them we owe the election of the man whom we will place in the presidential chair to-morrow. I recognize all this, and I repeat that we cannot afford to discriminate in favor of the confederate. I soldiered long and hard, and I wore the gray, too, but I've got none of the principles now which made me go into the war.

Mr. Avera - Don't the government favor the union soldier all the time? Don't they give them legs, and pensions, and everything?

Mr. Copeland - Yes, and what then?

Mr. Avera - Well, what does the confederate soldier get?

Mr. Copeland - We got licked; we got licked, sir, that's what we got; we got well licked.

Mr. Bridwell - No, we didn't. I say we were overpowered but not whipped.

Mr. Copeland - Yes, we did; and we've got enough of it.

Mr. Bridwell - We were not licked.

Mr. Copeland - If you had gone where I and the chair went during the war, you would have been licked, too.

Mr. Bridwell - I was with Joe Johnston all through the war. I was with him when he surrendered, and I say we were not whipped.

Mr. Copeland - Well, I was licked, but perhaps you never got licked. I am glad, however, that I'm one of those men who know when I'm licked. I know how to holler when I've got enough. We cannot, I repeat, afford to do this thing, and I hope the bill will be postponed.

Mr. Halliburton - I am a man of unflinching Democratic principles, and from the moment the confederacy was proposed I was a confederate, heart and soul. I would be ashamed to apologize for anything I did then or for the principles which actuated me to support the confederate government. Yet to-day I am a supporter of the union. There is no man more heartily in support of this government under which we live. You will never find a truer supporter of the union than the old man who stands before you in gray to-day. [Cheers.] This bill, however, proposes to make a distinction which I cannot favor, however much I loved the cause I fought for, however much I feel for my brothers in arms who have lost their limbs in conflict. The federal government has supplied its soldiers with legs, and shall we say that the confederate soldier shall have a leg and the union soldier whose leg is worn out shall have none? I want to see it put in such a shape that all the soldiers, white or black, federal or confederate, shall have legs when needed. If this could be done, then I would favor the bill.

Mr. Copeland (thumping his desk)

So would I, sir. [Cheers.] Mr. Yarkin - I yield to no man a superiority over me in respect and reverence to those gallant sons of the south who bravely bared their bosoms to the cold northern steel. They fought their fight, and I love and honor them for their bravery and devotion. They lost their cause, and the consequence fell upon their own heads. What a sight was that: bowed down, but not broken; the south preserving its bravery and its gallantry, has gloriously risen above the overpowering circumstances which surrounded her. Phoenix-like, the south has surmounted the surrounding fires of a lost cause and to-day is beginning to assume a proud position which shall command for her the respect and admiration of the whole world. This is not the time, gentlemen, for us to perform an action which shall in the slightest degree tend to place an obstacle in her way or do any act which shall in the least hinder her progress toward that end which I am sure all true Southerners and all true men loyal to the Union, hope to see her attain. The days of war and blood should be forgotten, and side by side with her sister states of the north the south should march on as she has begun to do, actuated by friendly feeling only. We can not afford to do, and we ought not to do, anything here which will break the concord or mar the harmony which now prevails.

Mr. Thornburgh - Gentlemen: All this bluster and all this argument is unequalled for and unnecessary. The bill before you is one which is not in the least calculated to do any harm and should not occasion all this disturbance. If it does not meet with the views of the house, why, then, let it be amended.

Mr. Harrod - Did you favor its amendment when it was before the committee?

Mr. Thornburgh - No, but if it was amended would you then support it yourself?

Mr. Harrod - I shall support it in my own way.

Mr. Thornburgh - I thought so, in your own way. Gentlemen, I am getting tired of this bill. Are we continually to be thus harassed? When the Fishback amendment to the constitution was before us the greater bugaboo which was brought up against it was that the north would think this and the north would think that. I want to see the time when the state of Arkansas can step out into the bright sunlight of freedom and do as she pleases without fear as to the construction which the north will put upon her action. Will the time never come when the south can recognize the merits of her brave sons? Shall we never be allowed to show to them that appreciation which we feel for their gallantry and their bravery? The state of South Carolina and other states have passed a similar bill to this.

Mr. Copeland - What has South Carolina always been doing? What did Jackson do for South Carolina?

Mr. Thornburgh - The bill, I say, can be remedied if it is wrong, but I claim that the provision regarding the non-supply of soldiers who have already had legs given them does not apply to federal soldiers exclusively. If a confederate supplied with a leg in South Carolina comes here the provision would apply to him too. I hope the motion to postpone will not prevail.

The roll was called and the motion to postpone until March 12 was lost - yeas 35, nays 47.

The Famous Kissing Case.

This was to decide whether a girl who had been married in fun was really the wife of the youth with whom she had stood up to perform the mock marriage. Several hundred pages of testimony were taken, and the justice spent more in having it copied than he received for his fees. The whole thing, which began in joke, proved at last a very serious business. It is serious business, too, when a human system runs down, down, down, until life has no charms, and the grave seems a blessing. In this state of affairs take Brown's Iron Bitters, and be lifted into life and hope and strength.

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