

THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

Lively Debate Over a Resolution
Concerning Political Topics.

H. B. WHITTEMORE SELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION.

St. Louis Chosen as the Next Place of Meeting—Resolutions Relating to the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors and for the Building of Restraining Dams, That Hydraulic Mining May Be Resumed, Adopted.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—This morning's session of the Transmississippi Congress was not a quiet one. The Committee on Resolutions was to have made a general report, but instead of doing so it presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The convention is a representation of all political parties, and the discussion of purely partisan subjects would tend to weaken its unity and the influence of its action without serving any useful purpose; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this congress that it is inexpedient that formal action be taken on any body upon any purely partisan question.

The introduction of this resolution caused a division in the convention. A number of members stated that if the congress decided any questions which affected their political party, they would not abide by the decision. Others expressed opposite views, and after a running debate of an hour or two, the resolution was laid on the table.

The Committee on Permanent Organization then reported, and made the following recommendations:

For President, Harry B. Whittemore of Missouri.

For Vice-Presidents, delegates from the following States: Arizona, J. W. van Derveber; Colorado, Colonel A. C. Fisk; California, A. E. Castle; Idaho, J. A. Finch; Iowa, Henry B. W. Young; Oregon, H. B. Whittemore; New Mexico, L. B. Prince; Utah, George M. Scott; Wyoming, Judge Knight; Missouri, M. L. Gray; Montana, H. L. Frank; South Dakota, C. F. Foster; Texas, John P. Pryor. The delegates of other States and Territories will name their respective Vice-Presidents.

The report was adopted unanimously, and the chair declared Mr. Whittemore elected President of the Congress.

On being escorted to the chair Mr. Whittemore was greeted with prolonged applause. He said he had been in earnest in his declaration of the honor, but he recognized the duty to accept the responsibility which the congress had placed upon him, and would aim to discharge it to the best of his ability. He declared the congress open for business under permanent organization.

On motion of Governor Prince of New Mexico the thanks of the congress were tendered to the retiring President by a rising vote, and Governor Prince of New Mexico made a suitable acknowledgment, saying that he had discharged his duties to the best of his ability.

The congress then adjourned to 2 p. m. At the opening of the afternoon session Julian Sonntag of San Francisco was elected Secretary to serve during the present convention.

When the matter of selecting the meeting place of the next congress came up, the cities of St. Louis, Denver and Boise City were put in nomination. At the request of the Colorado delegation Denver was withdrawn, and the contest between St. Louis and Boise City.

St. Louis was then declared the unanimous choice of the convention.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was received, and the following resolutions submitted:

Memorializing Congress for such appropriations for the improvement of rivers of California as will permit hydraulic mining to be prosecuted without hindrance to navigation. Adopted.

Recommendation of the passage of the Carnett bill for the improvement of navigable rivers in California under special contract system. Adopted.

Memorializing Congress for a liberal and sufficient appropriation for the improvement of rivers and harbors in the Columbia River, Olympia Harbor and for building a ship canal connecting Lakes Washington and Union with Puget Sound.

Memorializing Congress to push to a speedy completion improvements now under way on the Columbia River. Adopted.

Memorializing Congress for a liberal appropriation for the completion of improvements at Oakland harbor, and that Oakland be made a port of entry. Adopted.

Memorializing Congress for appropriations for improvement of Port Harford, to meet the commercial demands and afford a harbor of refuge for deep-sea vessels. Adopted.

Memorializing Congress for an appropriation for the permanent and complete improvement of the Mississippi River from its source to the jetties. Adopted.

A lively discussion was provoked by the committee's resolution memorializing Congress for necessary appropriations to insure the construction and completion in the shortest time possible of a deep-water harbor at such point on the coast of Southern California near the city of Los Angeles as may be deemed most favorable for such harbor by the United States Government.

William M. Cubery offered an amendment declaring it the sense of the convention that such improvements be made on San Pedro harbor. He argued that the resolution should be definite, inasmuch as the Government engineering boards had repeatedly decided in favor of San Pedro harbor.

W. L. Merry of San Francisco stoutly opposed the amendment, which finally prevailed by a large majority vote. That the resolution as amended was then passed.

A resolution was also adopted memorializing Congress for appropriations for adequate coast defenses on Puget Sound and requesting one or more war vessels to be stationed there.

The most spirited debate of the session then followed on the Nicaragua canal question. The Committee on Resolutions reported a memorial asking the prompt construction of the Nicaragua Canal under such conditions as provided in the Morgan bill or under any other measure that will insure to the United States the speedy completion of the enterprise.

This resolution was the one favored by Captain W. L. Merry, a delegate who is a stockholder in the present canal company.

J. Thompson of San Francisco moved that the clause referring to the Morgan bill be stricken out and the insertion of the following words: "That the canal be constructed, owned and operated by the United States without the intervention of any private corporation."

The convention was unable to reach an agreement, and the matter was made a special order for to-morrow morning.

A recess was then taken till evening. EVENING SESSION.

When the convention reassembled in

the evening a report was received from the special committee appointed to consider the silver question. The committee reported a resolution demanding the reopening of the United States mints for the coinage of silver, as they were now open to the coinage of gold, at a ratio of sixteen to one. The reading of the resolution was the signal for tremendous applause.

After it had been agreed that a vote be taken on the silver question to-morrow morning, Delegate Bruner of Idaho proceeded to address the convention on the resolution reported by the committee. The speaker painted a dreary picture of the industrial decline in Idaho as the result of legislation adverse to the silver mining industry, and made an impassioned appeal for the free coinage of the white metal.

Hugh Craig of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce followed with an address in favor of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands and the construction of a Pacific cable.

Delegate Leete of Nevada also spoke in favor of the unlimited coinage of silver. The convention then adjourned till to-morrow morning.

TOOK CARBOLIC ACID.

A Leading Lady of a Theatrical Company Commits Suicide.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—May Brooklyn, one of the leading ladies of the Baldwin Theater, committed suicide to-night by taking poison. She played the part of Mistress Page in "Alabama."

Miss Brooklyn was found dead in her room at the Langham Hotel at 7 o'clock this evening. She had taken a dose of carbolie acid, with suicidal intent. No cause is known for the deed, but it is said grief over the death of a friend prompted the actress to take her own life. She was 31 years old, a native of England, and at one time was married to a man named Rossy, from whom she obtained a divorce.

LATER—It has been ascertained that the cause of the suicide was grief over the death of Miss Brooklyn's lover, Frederick A. Rossy. The latter, who was Secretary of the Coney Island Jockey Club and Manager of Palmer's New York Theater, committed suicide last October by taking carbolie acid and shooting himself. Miss Brooklyn, although she is supposed to be a member of the company, Her money, \$19, she directed to be invested for "Mary." It is not known who the latter is.

She left a will, scribbled on an envelope, leaving her clothing to "Buttons," who is supposed to be a member of the company. Her money, \$19, she directed to be invested for "Mary." It is not known who the latter is.

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HAWAIIAN CONTROVERSY.

No Material Change in the Political Situation at Honolulu.

THE PEOPLE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

President Dole's Reply to the Demand of Minister Willis for "Specifications" in Support of Statements Made by the Hawaiian Executive in Earlier Correspondence Made Public—Mystery Surrounding the Object of the Revenue Cutter Corwin's Visit.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

HONOLULU, Feb. 8.—The political situation on the islands virtually remains the same as reported in my last letter. The people, however, are still in a state of expectancy, and awaiting with anxiety further news from the United States Government.

President Dole's reply to the demands of Minister Willis for "Specifications" in support of statements made by the Hawaiian Executive in earlier correspondence has been made public.

The reply is very lengthy, and goes into details of many incidents transpiring since the arrival of Willis in Honolulu. Among other things, President Dole says: "On December 14th the United States dispatch boat Corwin arrived in Honolulu from San Francisco, bringing dispatches to yourself. No mail was allowed to be brought ashore, and the press of Honolulu obtained from persons on board of her, and published, the above extract from the President's message. But for such accidental information no information would have been known to the Hawaiian Executive until the arrival of the Alameda on December 2d."

Up to the time of the arrival of the Corwin the United States naval officers in port were in the habit of coming ashore in citizen's dress. The crews received the usual liberty on shore, and no unusual warlike preparations were visible on board.

"Immediately upon the arrival of the Corwin the liberty of the crews was stopped, and so was that of most of the officers. Those who were on shore were in service uniform. Rifles were stacked, cartridge belts were filled with ball cartridges and knapsacks packed for immediate use were conspicuous on the decks of the ships and the crews were ordered to be in uniform, in reply to inquiry as to the meaning of such preparations, were informed by the officers that they were ready to land at a moment's notice."

When asked if the landing would be to fight us, the reply of the officers of the Philadelphia was that no one on board knew what orders would be received.

It was also known at this time that several of the wives of the United States naval officers temporarily in Honolulu were packing up their baggage preparatory for immediate removal, in view of possible hostilities.

It was also known that you were in frequent communication with the ex-Queen, and leading Royalists were constantly reiterating that you were going to inaugurate the Queen by force.

"As a sample of the innumerable assertions of this character is the following, made by J. O. Carter, the ex-Queen's most trusted confidant, and who was in consultation with you and with the ex-Queen, and who appears as the attesting witness, to the exclusion of the former members of the cabinet, and the receipt of amnesty herunder referred to."

"Mr. Carter warned his nephew, C. L. Carter, a supporter of the Provisional Government, that restoration was certain; that you would be used by the United States for that purpose and that he ought to resist the rights of his family and not risk his life in opposing the inevitable."

"The information was from one of the sources from which numerous prophecies of future action on the part of the United States had emanated with almost invariable correctness."

"It is almost well-nigh universal belief in this city and your family belief in the city that you were about to attempt to land the naval forces of the United States to enforce the execution of the President's policy."

"In anticipation thereof, for a number of days the wharves were lined with crowds of people, among them prominent Royalists, waiting to see the United States troops disembark, and the ex-Queen, who for Germany, called upon P. Glade, Consul for Hawaii, called upon you and in substance asked if you could not speak out and relieve the public from the state of extreme anxiety which they were in, which was becoming unbearable, to which you replied in substance that you were aware of the conditions and were making every effort to bring the matter to a speedy termination and would act within forty-eight hours."

"On December 13th, it being reported that the Corwin was at an early date to return to Honolulu, you were informed by a general called upon you, stating that there would be no regular mail for nearly three weeks, and asked permission to forward Hawaiian Government dispatches in his private capacity, which you stated, stating that your instructions would not permit it."

"On December 18th last, I addressed to you a communication containing the following words: 'I am informed that you are in communication with Liliuokalani, the ex-Queen, with a view of re-establishing the monarchy in the Hawaiian Islands and of supporting her pretensions to the throne. I am informed that you are if this report is true, or if you are acting in any way hostile to this Government?' You will pardon me for pressing you for an immediate answer."

"Up to the time of sending you my communication of December 27th no further communication had been received by me from you, and no assurance had been received that force was not to be used nor what your further intentions were concerning this Government."

"During your nearly two months' residence in this city and your family have declined the customary courtesies usually extended to those occupying your official position, on the specified ground that it was not in accordance with the circumstances to accept such civilities."

"I do not for a moment intimate that such a course is improper or that it is a subject for criticism. It is simply referred to by me as an existing fact bearing upon your relations to this Government and germane in considering the question of our attitude thereto. It would not have been referred to by me except in response to your inquiry."

"In the absence of specific, definite information as to the intentions of your Government, the foregoing are some of the reasons why you have been obliged to infer what such intentions were, and which considered as a whole, constitute the 'attitude' toward this Government."

"It may be that proper logical deduction and inference from the foregoing facts is that the 'attitude' of the United States and its representatives toward the Provisional Government is and has been essentially and designedly expressive of peace. It will give me the greatest

pleasure to receive assurance to this effect; but I submit that under the circumstances, and in the absence of such assurances, they are capable of another construction, to a sufficient extent at least to warrant the question which I have asked you in my communication of December 27th."

"You finally ask my 'careful consideration' of the foregoing statement contained in my letter:

"Your action has unfortunately aroused the passions of all parties and made it probable that disturbances may be provoked by a sufficient extent at least to warrant the question which I have asked you in my communication of December 27th."

"I have no objection to your action and I have no objection to your signature to such extraordinary declaration."

"I have no objection to your signature to such extraordinary declaration."

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FIRE UPON BY REBELS.

Three Shots Sent After a Launch of the U. S. Warship Newark.

FORTUNATELY THE GUNNERS COULD NOT HIT THE MARK.

The Commander of the Insurgent Vessel Claims That He Did Not Know the Launch Belonged to a Man-of-War—Admiral Da Gama, Who Was Wounded in the Battle Near Rio on the Ninth Instant, in a Critical Condition—His Death Believed to be Near at Hand.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—A Herald's special from Rio says: The rebel warship Marte, lying in the bay, fired three shots at one of the launches of the United States man-of-war Newark last Tuesday night as the launch was returning to the Newark from shore. Fortunately the Marte's gunners were unable to hit the target, and no harm was done. The Captain of the Marte says he didn't know the launch belonged to a man-of-war, or to any American ship.

The commander of Fort Santa Cruz has been placed under arrest by order of Peixoto, who suspects him of being in reality a spy for Admiral Mello. The easy manner in which the rebel ships slipped past the Fort of Santa Cruz and out of the harbor had much to do with directing suspicion toward him.

The State of Parana is now in the hands of the rebels, and disaffection toward Peixoto's Government is rife in the State of Parana, so great has the fear become that the principal garrisons have recently been changed, new men being put in the place of old ones. Several newspapers published by foreigners in Sao Paulo have been suppressed.

Admiral Mello, on the Republic, is now cruising up and down before Santos Harbor, which is well defended.

Peixoto's officers commanding the Balna have refused to serve with the rebels, and are marching on her were suspected and ordered ashore, and replaced by soldiers.

DA GAMA NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE.

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RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 15.—Minister of War Galvao has resigned on account of differences with Peixoto on the treatment of political prisoners.

The rebels have possession of the State of Parana, San Paulo, the Capital of the State of Parana, against which the rebels have been marching, was reported ready to join the insurgents, and the garrison there has been replaced by reliable troops, so the rebel advance was changed, and is now said to be marching directly on Rio Janeiro. The Government has sent troops to meet them and a battle is imminent.

It is reported the State of Alagoas has joined the rebels.

Mello is said to have recovered and is now in active command and preparing an attack on Santos.

Da Gama is worse to-day and will probably die of the wounds he received in the battle of Armacao.

CHILDREN OF PRINCESS COLONNA.

The Father Appointed Guardian by the French Court.

PARIS, Feb. 15.—The French Civil Chamber declared the French Courts incompetent to try the suit of Princess Colonna against her husband for a legal separation and the custody of her children, and the chamber made an order giving the children, provisionally, into the custody of the father.

The court says in a suit of this kind the Prince is actionable only in Naples, and it will be left to the courts in that city to settle