

lowances for officers and men discharged in the insular possessions at 4 cents a mile was adopted.

Extra Pay for Volunteers. A committee amendment was also adopted striking out the last paragraph of the bill and inserting the following: "That the act approved January 12, 1899, granting extra pay to officers and enlisted men of the United States volunteers shall extend to all officers and enlisted men of the volunteer organizations who have served honestly and faithfully in the volunteer arm of the United States during the war with Spain, and have been honorably discharged prior to January 12, 1899, with their organizations, without further reason than that their services being no longer required, or at any time by reason of wounds received or disability contracted in the service and in the line of duty, and who have not received the extra pay granted in said act or subsequent acts of congress supplemental thereto."

Berry's Anti-Trust Proposal. Berry offered the following amendment: "The quartermaster's department, in making contracts and purchases of articles and supplies for the military service, shall give preference, all other things being equal, to the manufacturer, producer or grower of the United States, and as between the producers, manufacturers, merchants and dealers of the United States, preference shall be given, all other things being equal, to those producers, manufacturers, merchants and dealers who are not members or in any way connected with any trust or combine formed to produce, manufacture or sell the articles which are being contracted for and purchased by the quartermaster's department for the military service."

Sewell on the Trusts. Sewell inquired what he meant by a trust. What were commonly known as trusts, he said, in many instances had proved to be public benefactors. He designated the Standard Oil Company and the American Sugar Refining Company as two combinations of capital which had cheapened their products to the people. "This 'Populist sentiment' about trusts, he said, was the adoption of the small ways of the past of transacting business, and was not in any respect based upon good sense. Berry replied he had not expected Sewell to be in sympathy with any effort to curtail or destroy the power of great combinations of capital. He knew, he said, that the leaders of the Republican party were not in favor of trusts, and pointed out that the Republicans of Ohio only last week adopted a platform condemning trusts.

"Of course," said Berry, "the plank was a feeble one, but it was a plank." Hawley opposed the amendment, on the ground that the officers of the army had no option but to accept the lowest bid for supplies.

Stewart Opposes Crazy Legislation. Stewart said most of the legislative efforts against trusts had been "perfectly wild and crazy," and the proposed amendment was one of a comedy of errors on the subject.

Pettigrew attacked Sewell's statement that the Standard Oil Company and the American Sugar Refining Company were benefactors of the people, and had cheapened their products. He produced figures, of which he maintained showed that neither of the companies mentioned had cheapened their products, their action at all times being directed toward the crushing of their own profits.

Stewart maintained that the only remedy for trusts was competition. If a legislative remedy could be found he favored it. There were combinations of capital that were bad and others that were good.

Teller—"Will the senator tell us what is the difference between bad trusts and good trusts?" "The senate of the United States is a trust," replied Stewart, "and, I believe, a good one." (Laughter.)

Some of the trusts, he said, were monopolies, and they were bad. "Leave competition untrammelled and the people will rid themselves of all bad trusts. Of course we cannot in any way stop the overproduced industry of hawking against trusts simply to win votes to get offices."

Teller's Views on the Subject. Teller believed the trust question was immensely important and one that must be met squarely and handled. It was desirable, he thought, that it should be dealt with by the states, but the difficulty was that many legislatures were controlled by the trusts themselves. National legislation of a kind that could or would be enforced was therefore out of the question.

"If the Sherman law were enforced," said he, "as it ought to be, there would not be the cry there is now against trusts. If the law should be enacted providing that the officers of any trust or combination should be imprisoned for contributing to the fund of any political party, a stop would soon be put to an alliance between trusts and political matters."

Teller said that he was a delicate one, as it was desirable that proper corporations should not be made to suffer.

Berry's Amendment Defeated. The amendment offered by Berry was defeated, 19 to 29, as follows: Year—Bacon, Bate, Berry, Butler, Clay, Davis, Harris, Heitfeld, Jones (Ark.), Kenney, McEnery, Money, Pettigrew, Tostus, Tallaferra, Teller, Turner, Wellington—19.

Nays—Aldrich, Bard, Carter, Chandler, Binks, Fairbanks, Frazier, Frye, Gallinger, Hawley, Hoar, Jones (Nev.), Lodge, McBride, McCombs, Penrose, Perkins, Platt (Conn.), Proctor, Ross, Scott, Sewell, Shoup, Simon, Stewart, Warren, Wetmore, Wolcott—29.

An amendment offered by Foraker, extending the contract surgeons the provisions of the act enabling volunteer soldiers to draw one month's extra pay if they served in the army during the Spanish war within this country and two months if they served in Cuba, Puerto Rico or the Philippines, was adopted.

Military Telegraph Line to Alaska. Lodge offered the following amendment: "For the purpose of establishing military telegraph and cable lines in Alaska, \$50,000 is provided further, that no telegraph or cable lines owned wholly or in part operated or controlled by persons not citizens of the United States or by any foreign corporation shall be established or permitted to enter Alaska."

He said his amendment did not bind the government to any route, but left the subject open to be adjusted in conference.

Seattle Agency for Hawkes Rich Cut Glass. GRAHAM & MOORE, Jewelers and Diamond Merchants, 703 Second Avenue.

Interesting Fact:

More people have been cured of their aches and pains by drinking Bartlett Mineral Water than by all of the other Pacific Coast Mineral Waters put together. Cheaper than medicine. Sold at all drug stores, Hotels, Restaurants, Saloons, Drug Stores all over the Pacific Coast sell it.

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He said it was important that the United States should control the telegraph lines in Alaska, and it was important, too, that cable lines entering Alaska should be under the control of the American government. The idea of his proposition was to prevent any foreign government or corporation from entering Alaska with either telegraph or cable lines. A Canadian company was now constructing a telegraph line with the idea of crossing Alaska and entering Canada from the Alaskan coast across the Pacific ocean to China. It ought not to be permitted to land its cable on the Alaskan coast. Carter said he could see no reason why more cable lines should not be constructed across the Pacific. Lodge's amendment was agreed to. Without completing the bill, the senate, at 5:15 p. m., adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE.

First Day of Nicaragua Debate—Strong Opposition to the Bill Being Manifested.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—For the first time in the history of the canal project for the construction of an interoceanic canal, the house of representatives today entered upon consideration of a measure to authorize the construction of a canal. Many time prior questions bearing upon the subject have been before the house, but this was the first time positive action can be predicted. Tomorrow the bill will be voted upon before adjournment. The debate today was memorable because of the unexpectedly powerful opposition it developed.

Strong Opposition Develops.

Burton, chairman of the river and harbor committee, and Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, threw the weight of their influence against it, not because they were opposed to the building of the canal, but because they considered that the time for authorizing the construction of the canal was not ripe. Cannon quoted Admiral Walker, chairman of the isthmian commission, as saying the commission was not yet prepared to say which was the best route. Cannon contended that the authorization of the construction of the canal over the Nicaraguan route at this time would delay its building for years and cost the government \$50,000,000.

The debate also developed other lines of opposition. Some of the Democrats insisted that the amendments striking out the words "defend" and "fortifications" from the bill were not in the spirit of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and that it is therefore objectionable, and Shackelford desired the bill amended so that if the treaty is ratified, the bill will not go into effect.

The anomalous situation is therefore presented of a bill which is opposed on the floor by the friends of the canal and yet of powerful opposition arrayed against it on various grounds. The bill was met and vigorously championed by Chairman Hepburn, of the interstate commerce committee; Lovering, Ransdell and Fletcher.

Fletcher was the only member of the commerce committee who opposed the passage of any bill at this session. During the debate today ex-Secretary of State Sherman was one of the interested listeners on the floor, and Admiral Walker followed the proceedings from a seat in the reserved gallery.

On assembling the speaker announced the order of business, and the bill on the irrigation committee. The Nicaraguan canal bill was then called up, and Hepburn offered the amendments of the committee striking the word "defend" from "defend" and the words "provision for defense" instead of "fortifications for defense."

Hepburn Opens the Debate.

Hepburn, opening the debate, said it was now almost exactly fifty-four years since the present object of an interoceanic canal was first proposed, but this was the first day a bill to carry such a project into effect had received the attention of the house of representatives. "There had always been some way to defeat action," he said, "and now again today, he continued, 'we see some gentlemen, notably the gentleman who has twice before defeated action, standing here, protesting that this is not the auspicious moment.'"

Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

Speaking of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, he declared, amid a general outburst of applause, that the interest of the Americans in the canal had become so great that they would refuse to be bound with a barrier imposed by another generation half a century ago. Regarding existing franchises, Hepburn said that whenever the territories of Nicaragua and Costa Rica were low these countries sold franchises. In 1850, twenty-seven had been granted during the last fifty years. This bill recognized and dealt with none of them. As to the Panama canal, he expressed the opinion that it would never be feasible for the United States.

"I want," he said, "and I think the American people want an American canal, which can, if necessary, discriminate in favor of our own people, giving our commerce the advantage over the commerce of other countries. (Applause.) We are entering upon the most intense contest in the history of times, and it is the intention of the American people that they shall have their full share of the world's commerce." (Renewed applause.)

"I do not think the changes the committee contended to make in the interests of harmony, as we suppose, made any radical differences in the bill," responded Hepburn.

"Do you think the Clayton-Bulwer treaty can be abrogated by an act of congress?" asked Mr. DeBeverly.

"I doubt it would be better were the abrogation to be arranged through the state department, but I entertain no doubt of our power to abrogate it by legislation in congress."

Shackelford's Reason for Opposing. Shackelford, who made the minority report in favor of an additional section providing that the canal should not be built if the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was not first abrogated, said he was earnestly in favor of the canal, but great as its benefits to the American people would be, there was a question as to whether it was in the American interest to depart from that doctrine, which would always be our shield against foreign encroachments. If England was to have the benefits of the canal, why should it be built with our money?

Arguments for the Canal.

Lovering said the time for discussion had passed. The desire of the American people for the canal was unanimous, and the feasibility of the project, as shown by the events showed the necessity of immediate construction that we might reach 80,000,000 people in the Orient cheaply.

Ransdell made a general argument in favor of the immediate construction of a canal and was followed by Fletcher in opposition.

The commission appointed by the last congress, he said, had made an exhaustive investigation and had reported in favor of the construction of the canal. The findings of the commission should be followed. He and his constituents favored the canal, and he would support a resolution that the next session, when the commission's report was before congress, action should be taken for the building of an American canal.

Burton's Reasons for Opposing.

Burton, who was one of the leaders of the opposition, said: "It gives me no pleasure in my desire for the early connection of the two oceans by an isthmian canal, but this measure does not provide the business methods of accomplishing it. It incurs solemn treaties. It commits us to one route when the advantages of all routes should be considered and compared. It is a businesslike way. It is a definite commitment to the Nicaraguan route. It is an extortionate price for right-of-way and nonconcessions."

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