

Leaves From an Old Diary

RESCUE OF THE CREW AND PASSENGERS OF THE SLOOP "GEORGIANNA" FROM THEIR CAPTIVITY ON QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLAND, 1851-2.

(From The Washington Standard for May 23, 1868.)

Governor Work's letter certainly contained sufficient to demand immediate action for the relief of the shipwrecked captives. Yet in one



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miles from the wreck where we were to remain during captivity. After the elapse of 18 days and after much evasion the Indians consented to send a canoe with one of our number and three of the crew to Simpson to negotiate for our release. I was selected for the mission and authorized to make all necessary terms and conditions with Captain McNeil, then in charge of the Hudson Bay Company's post, Fort Simpson.

"Accompanied by Captain McEwin, late first mate of the sloop, Ben Gibbs, a sailor, Tamoree, the Kanaka cook, and a crew of seven Hgqah Indians, we set out for that post and safely reached it after a voyage of five days in dead of winter and without blankets. The arrival of such a party at such a time and in such a condition created quite an excitement among both whites and the natives.

"We were at once furnished something to eat and a change of clothing and felt that our suffering companions were soon to be relieved, but in this we were sadly disappointed. We remained at Simpson about four weeks. We implored Captain McNeil at all fitting opportunities to send assistance to our unfortunate comrades, who invariably promised to send canoes for them but never made the slightest attempt at keeping his word.

"When we were ultimately relieved by the arrival at Fort Simpson of the 'Damaris Cove,' there was not one of the party who entertained the slightest belief that it ever was the intention of Captain McNeil to send for us without pay for his services or certainty thereof being secured. This was the more galling to us from the fact that Captain McNeil claims to have been born in Boston. He even required us, while waiting for him to dispatch relief to the captives, to stand guard at night as a return for the blankets and subsistence we received at the fort.

Objected to Order.

"When that kind gentleman, John Work, Jr., whom we shall always remember with gratitude, communicated to us this order of McNeil, that we must earn these blankets by standing guard, we told him we did not object to making ourselves useful in any manner while there, but did not like the compulsion of exacting service as a compensation for the necessities to preserve us from the winter's cold or starvation.

"With the exception of Captain McNeil, all the servants and employes of the company treated us with great kindness and attention and we gratefully acquit the companionship of any censures for McNeil's failure to display the feelings of a Christian or a gentleman; and further we have no doubt that had any other officer been in charge, the necessary steps would have been promptly taken to render assistance and terminate the captivity and suffering of our comrades."

Colonel Moses having resolved to act upon the recommendation of Governor Work as the only efficient means to secure the relief so pressing demanded, "chartered the American schooner 'Damaris Cove,' mounted with four pieces of cannon," and requested, December 16th, Captain Hill's co-operation, suggesting the detail of an officer and as many men as could be spared. To which invitation Captain Hill responded December 18th:

"As Queen Charlotte's Island is the territory of Great Britain, I do not feel at liberty to send there the soldiers of the United States, except on the most urgent necessity, which does not appear by your letter of the 16th instant, and in case their necessity is made apparent to me, the party of citizens together with the detachment must be under the command of the military officer who is sent and to whose prudence and judgment must be intrusted the negotiations with the Indians."

The correspondence continued between Colonel Moses and Captain Hill which resulted in Lieutenant Dement, U. S. A., accompanying the expedition to whom a letter of credit was given by the collector to enable him to purchase blankets, etc., of the Hudson Bay Company's posts to ransom the captives. The "Damaris Cove" sailed on the 19th of December and effected the release of all the prisoners.

Treasury Refuses Aid.

On the 20th of March, 1852, Hon. Thomas Corwin, secretary of the treasury, writes to Collector Moses a letter from which the following is extracted:

"Sir:
"I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd December last with its accompanying documents, relative to the expense of fitting out on your own authority a military expedition for the rescue of the captain, crew and passengers of the sloop 'Georgianna,' held prisoners by the Indians of Queen Charlotte's Island in the British territory where the said vessel had been wrecked; but the department does not, nor has it the power to recognize, an act by which you constituted yourself the representative of the government of the United States in such an emergency; and whatever may have been the motives which prompted the formation of such an unauthorized military expedition, it cannot be sanctioned by the payment of the expense referred to in your letter.
"In all such cases armed movements belong to the powers and duties of the authorities of the Territory of Oregon, or to the officers of the army and navy stationed there and not to the officers of the revenue whose duties are of a more limited and defined character."
At the first session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Washington an earnest memorial was addressed to the Congress of the United States praying that the expenses incurred in this expedition might be recognized. Captain Balch was then a member of the Council; Samuel D. Howe, one of the relieved sufferers, was a member of the House. That memorial was heard and though justice was delayed Congress did upon the 4th of August, 1854, appropriate a \$15,000 or so much thereof as might be necessary to enable the State Department to pay that debt.
Need we add that this tardy act of justice was one of the first fruits realized by the erection of a separate Territory north of the Columbia river?
(To be continued.)

DEMOCRATS SURE TO HOLD CONGRESS

The Democratic party will be retained in power in both houses of congress in the fall elections without any question, in the opinion of W. W. Jermene, Washington correspondent of the Seattle Times. Discussing the repeated reports that President Wilson is contemplating a speaking trip to the Pacific Coast this fall during the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, Mr. Jermene said in a recent article: "The one serious objection to the trip is the fact that a political campaign will then be at its height, giving the opposition an opportunity here and there to pour into the ears more or less willing the statement that the trip was designed to have an indirect influence upon the November elections. But if the president goes he will have no thought of partisanship in his mind.
(Note: Since this was written an official announcement has been made that the president has given up plans for such a trip.)
"It is already as certain as anything can be in politics that the Democrats will emerge victorious from the 1918 contest. They will retain their control over both houses of congress, not only because of a desire locally to uphold the administration in its conduct of the war, but for the more important reason that a party reversal in November would not be understood in Europe.
"It is the opinion of a great multitude of high-minded, able and patriotic public men, many of whom are Republicans, that every argument that can be presented at this time de-

mands the continuation in power of the Democratic party.

"There are political scores to be settled, no doubt, and plenty of partisan campaign issues, but the war situation demands now, just as it did in 1862 and 1864, that nothing be done to interfere with the war work that is under such good headway. By 1920, perhaps, the war then being over, there will be a political campaign that will be a rouser. The present generation will have seen nothing like it. The nearest approach to the general interest that will then be aroused was in 1869, when free silver was making its first and most enticing bid for popular approval.

"Republican leaders of national prominence have told the Times correspondent that it would be little short of a crime to throw a monkey wrench into the government war machinery at this time. These leaders are patiently biding their time. They have expert agents who are patiently gathering up everything upon which a political issue in 1920 can be based, but this information is being pigeon-holed for the present.
"All the Republicans really expect to do is to maintain their organization, hold their own in a general way and bring the factions of 1912 and 1914 back into the party fold. They do not look for a Democratic landslide, and yet a landslide is entirely possible, owing to the war spirit of the people. But even if there should be a landslide, it is predicted that it will mean nothing with respect to 1920.

"The house is now Democratic by a small margin, and the conservative opinion is that it will be increased somewhat. The wider Democratic lead in the senate may be cut down slightly. In other words, the election will be controlled by the war and mean nothing in particular so far as partisan approval of the Democratic party is concerned. That is the way these Republican leaders are talking."

ABANDONS SENIORITY RULE.

War Department Adopts New Policy in Selecting Officers.

Definite abandonment of the rule of seniority in favor of the policy of selection in the appointment and commissioning of the officers is announced in a general order by the war department.

The order states that the future officer material will come from the ranks, enlisted men showing exceptional ability being sent to training schools maintained for that purpose, at which commissions for the grade of second lieutenant will be issued to successful candidates.

Gallantry in action and demonstrated fitness, the order says, may earn commissions for enlisted men in exceptional cases. Vacancies in all grades from first lieutenant to colonel will be filled wherever possible by the appointment of officers from the next lower grade.

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