The Manchester Democrat.

VOL. XXXV. | Entered at Post Office at Manchester, Iowa, as Second-Class Matter. | MANCHESTER IOWA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1909. | NO. 19

MORE BANK TALK

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SENATOR ALLISON'S RECOLLECTIONS OF PUBLIC MEN.

By Arthur Wallace Dunn, in the Review of Reviews.

[Had Senator William B. Allison been in better health during the latter part of his life the country might have been able to read reminiscences of a most interesting kind. He had determined to write of the most interesting epochs of his long public career, but never had the time. His last days were spent in an effort to regain the health which had been broken under the continuous strain of a busy life. Several months before his death I had a chat with him about the great men of the past and present whom he had known. I have here set down the comments he made, quoting him directly when his remarks were most pertinent. The story was submitted to Senator Allison for revision, and he desired to change a few words here and there because he feared, in the kindness of his heart, that they might offend some living person, but he never felt well enough to make such changes. With such exceptions the article had his approval. No changes have been made since, save a few of a verbal character made necessary on account of the senator's death.—A. W. D.]

"I have been intimately acquainted with ten different presidents of the United States, and during their incumbencies of the presidential office I was a member of the senate or house of representatives. I entered congress a member from Iowa in 1863 in the midst of the civil war. I served eight years in the house and entered the senate in 1873, and have been a member of that body continuously since that time. The presidents I have known were Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley and Roosevelt."

With these words the late Senator Allison entered upon an interesting reminiscence when asked about public men he had known in his long career. The senator had then achieved a record which eclipsed all others which may not soon be equaled. He had been a member of the senate continuously for thirty-five years, and he was serving his sixth consecutive term. Other men had been elected for six terms—one of them, the late Senator Morgan of Alabama, had entered upon his sixth consecutive term when he died—but Allison had five years more service. At the time of his death he had been chosen by a state primary for a seventh consecutive term, and if he could have lived to the age of a number of senators who have died in harness he would have had forty-two years of continuous service in the senate. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont was for more than thirty years a member of the senate, but he only lived a little more than a year after entering upon his sixth term. John Sherman of Ohio was longer in actual service than Morrill, having thirty-two years to his credit, but his service was interrupted by four years' vacancy when he was secretary of the treasury under President Hayes.

Pathetic Reminiscence of Buchanan.

"I did not know President Buchanan personally," said Senator Allison, "but I saw him at the time of Lincoln's first inauguration. I remember particularly his departure. He was driving to the Baltimore & Ohio station with his bags piled upon the driver's seat. It was an old, white, haggard face that peered out of the window, and no one gave it a friendly greeting. There was no escort and seemingly no regret at his departure from the capital where he had been chief magistrate. There may have been some person in the carriage with him, but apparently he was alone. It was a pathetic picture of the sad closing of a career. Buchanan had struggled twenty years for the presidency, and was an old man when finally elected. He was constantly over a political volcano while in the White House. Pledges and promises of twenty years were brought to him for redemption, and there were not places for one-fourth of those who presented their political promissory notes. His term closed with a divided nation, with his own party disrupted, and himself blamed for conditions absolutey beyond his control. At this distance, and in the light of knowledge and experience, the picture of Buchanan on that March day in 1861 looks more pitiful to me than it then seemed."

Lincoln and Nasby.

During the first part of President Lincoln's administration Senator Allison had been active in organizing and dispatching Iowa troops to the front, and naturally when he came to Washington as a member of the house of representatives he was well known to the president by reputation.

"I well remember one of my early interviews with Lincoln. I had not talked very long before he said:

" 'Allison have you read Nasby's book?'

"I had read Petroleum V. Nasby's 'Confedrit X Roads' letters, but did not know they had been published in book form, and I replied 'no.'

" 'Not to have read Nasby proclaims am an an ignoramus,' said Lincoln. 'Listen to this,' and he read a selection from one of the letters.

"I then explained that I had read the letters, but did not quite understand the president's reference when he asked the question. I was acquitted of being 'an ignoramus,' and during the remainder of Lincoln's life in the White House we were the best friends. He became to me a greater man day by day, and has grown as the years pass, until he has become one of the greatest figures of American history."

Leaders in "Reconstruction" Era.

Mr. Allison was a member of the house during the whole of Johnson's administration and the first two years of Grant's first term. Those were the stormy days of "reconstruction," the days when old Ben Wade was leader of the senate and Thaddeus Stevens was a leader in the house. Schuyler Colfax of Indiana was speaker; James G. Blaine was being groomed as his successor. Among other members famous then and since were Roscoe Conkling, John A. Logan, George F. Hoar, James A. Garfield, Robert Schenck, "Sunset" Cox, William D. Kelley, Samuel J. Randall, Proctor Knott, Eugene Hale, Elihu Washburne, Henry Winter Davis, George S. Boutwell, Oakes Ames, Ignatius Donnelly, Francis P. Blair, George H. Pendleton, John A. Kasson, Benjamin F. Butler, Rutherford B. Hayes, and others of lesser note. Many of those members Senator Allison afterward met as colleagues in the senate. Two of them he saw elevated to the White house, and several have served as cabinet officers or on foreign missions.

"Thad Stevens was the master," said Senator Allison. "He was the absolute ruler of the house. His strong personality and ability gave him the command. In those days the ways and means committees handled the appropriations. During my service in the house the committee was divided, the appropriations committee being created. Stevens went with the appropriations committee and Schenck became chairman of ways and means, but Stevens continued as leader. His power was not diminished in the least, and while he remained in the house he was master.

"Stevens did not hesitate to use strong measures to accomplish his purposes, and often keen wit served his turn as well as argument. I remember one day when the Indian appriation bill was under consideration and Maynard of Tennessee opposed a provision in it which was supported by Stevens. Maynard wore long hair, and as he was dark, he looked something like an Indian. In fact, it was said he had Indian blood in his veins. He spoke earnestly and vigorously against the provision in the bill to which he was opposed, closing with quite a long Latin quotation, Stevens replied by saying that 'so far as the gentleman spoke in English I cannot agree with him and I am not familiar with his Choctaw, and therefore cannot indorse it.' There was a hearty laugh at Maynard's expense, and his motion was promptly voted down. Next to Stevens Schenck was the strongest man in the house. He was a strong partisan and supported the drastic policy of Stevens against the Johnson administration.

"My own personal relations with President Johnson were the best, though not very extensive. In those days congress was constantly at war with the president and deprived him of power wherever it was possible to do so.

"Elihu Washburne was a forceful man. He assayed the role of defender and sponsor for General Grant while Grant was in command of the army, and afterward when he became president. Washburne rather claimed the credit of discovering Grant, and was his most faithful friend in the house. He was also a great stickler for economy and carefully scrutinized the appropriation bills.

"Garfield and Hayes were both in the house while I was a member. Garfield was always a commanding figure and a man of considerable prominence, but did not reach the stage of leadership while I was in the house. In the '70's he came to the front. As old leaders of war time and reconstruction days passed away among them were Blaine, Garfield, Hoar, Kelley and Kasson on the republican side, and Morrison, Julian, Holman and Voorhees on the democratic side. The days of the 'brigadiers' in the house were after my time. They came when the democrats of the southern states regained control and, naturally, prominent men of the confederacy were sent to congress.

"Mr. Hayes was always regarded as a solid, substantial man in the house, but never took the rank of a leader. No one ever suspected that he had the making of a president in him when he was in the house. In fact, no one ever considered Garfield a possibility in those days. I think both can be considered typical 'dark horses' of which so much is said about the time a national convention is about to assemble."

The Electoral Commission: Hayes-Tilden Dispute.

The Hayes-Tilden contest for the presidency was one of the most exciting periods in the history of the country, ranking next to the civil war. In fact, civil war was narrowly averted. Senator Allison, though comparatively a new member of the senate, took an active part in that celebrated case. As it afterward proved, his own political fortunes were linked with the contest and, had Tilden been seated, it is altogether probable that Allison's senatorial career would have been cut short with one term.

When the dispute over the election became acute McCrary of Iowa introduced a resolution looking to a settlement of the controversy. Out of this resolution grew the electoral commission. But it was with many misgivings that certain republicans consented to the commission. The matter was in dispute many days between the two houses. Senator Allison supported McCrary in his movement for the commission. McCrary was a member of the conference committee between the two houses, and frequently consulted Allison. "Don't agree to anything until the republicans in the senate can unite," Allison told McCrary, and as the republicans were divided, it looked as if an agreement might never be reached. The dispute was over the method in which the justices of the supreme court were to be selected, the order being very important. Taking them in the order of seniority, two republicans and two democrats would be chosen and the fifth would be David Davis, who had been appointed by Lincoln, and had since become an independent. But Davis was to be elected to the senate in Illinois, and the next justice was then Bradley, a republican. At the time of the agreement, however, it was not absolutely known that Davis would not be a member of the commission. Senator Morton of Indiana would not sign the report which was finally presented, but consented to it with the reservation tha he should oppose it in the senate.

The night before the report was presented there was a dinner at Senator Allison's house and Blaine and Kasson were both there, with several others. They then agreed that the commission scheme was the best that could be framed. The next day Morton spoke against it. John Sherman declared it to be a device to prevent Hayes from being seated as president. Then Blaine vigorously opposed it in the house.

"And there is where Blaine fell down," remarked Senator Allison. "Kasson supported him. They had figured it out that the commission would seat Tilden. Already the republican papers of Iowa were declaring that the republicans had been trapped by the democrats and Tilden would be seated. Kasson was understood to be a candidate for my seat in the senate, and if the electoral commission, which I advised and supported, had seated Tilden instead of Hayes, Kasson would have defeated me for the senate. As it was, the people forgot all about it when the elections came around. It was not mentioned in the campaign. I never understood why Blaine changed his mind unless it was on account of the strong opposition that developed among a number of republican leaders. The democrats have always claimed they were cheated in that contention. But Hayes made a good president. He was not a brilliant president, he was not a brilliant man, but was honest, conscientious, and firm."

Garfield, Blaine and Arthur.

Garfield was not president long enough for senators to take his measure as chief executive, and all the talk of his brief career in the White house was centered around the bitter controversy between himself and the New York senators, Conkling and Platt.

Garfield took two men out of the senate who were in a measure rivals of Senator Allison. Blaine he made secretary of state and William Windom of Minnesota he made secretary of the treasury. Blaine was an aggressive, dictatorial man. His six years in the speaker's chair and short minority leadership in the house, together with the fact that in two national conventions, 1876 and 1880, he had nearly carried off the nomination, tended to increase the natural dominance of his character. Beyond question had Blaine remained long in the senate he and Allison would have clashed, because their natures were so different and because Allison, with his natural conservatism, would never have followed Blaine in his more vigorous, not to say rash, policies. Windom was chairman of the committee on appropriations, and when he went into the cabinet, Allison, who was the ranking republican member, succeeded to the place, a position he held until his death, with the exception of two years, 1893-95, when the democrats controlled the senate. Windom was like Allison in the matter of being a man of facts and figures, but gave more attention to transportation problems.

Of Chester A. Arthur, who succeeded Garfield after his tragic death, Senator Allison said: "He was punctilious in his promises, always a courteous gentleman, and considerate to a degree. President Arthur was a man of ability, but he left much to his cabinet officers. In his administration the cabinet minister transacted all the business pertaining to his department unless it was a matter of great importance. Arthur believed in having competent men as cabinet officers and holding them responsible for the management of their departments."

Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley.

Senator Allison did not care to discuss the careers of presidents then living, one of whom was Grover Cleveland. "My relations with Mr. Cleveland and all the members of his cabinet," he said, "were cordial and friendly at all times. As chairman of the committee on appropriations I was brought into close relations with Mr. Cleveland and his administration, and, although we belonged to different parties, we always maintained the best personal relations.

"Benjamin Harrison served six years in the senate, but was in private life when nominated and elected president. He has often been described as a cold, hard man, but those who knew him well have no such impression. He was retiring and had a way of keeping within himself which some of the newspaper writers have described as 'drawing into his shell like a turtle.' But when once acquainted with him, he was genial and pleasant. His administration was very successful and a credit to the country.

"Although I never served in the house with President McKinley, I was intimately associated with him during the consideration of the McKinley tariff bill. He was chairman of the ways and means committee of the house, and I a member of the finance committee of the senate. We were both on the conference committee where the bill, as it became a law, was agreed upon. When he became president our relations were not only cordial, but intimate, and I, with others, was in frequent consultation with the president. This was especially true before and during the Spanish war period. I learned to know him as the kindly, courteous gentleman that he was, and one who desired only the best interests of his country."

In the Counsels of Roosevelt.

Senator Allison was one of the most trusted advisers of President Roosevelt. He knew the president when he was civil service commissioner, also when he was assistant secretary of the navy. Mr. Roosevelt presided over the senate only for a short time in 1901, when the senate held a short session to inaugurate the new administration and confirm the nominations. When Mr. Roosevelt became president he turned to Senator Allison as one of the men whom he could consult on all important questions. It was Senator Allison who finally suggested changes in the railroad rate bill which enabled the president and the majority of the republican senators to reach an agreement by which that measure was passed. Senator Allison would not discuss or comment upon an administration which had not been completed, and with which he was so intimately associated.

Thirty-Five Years in the Senate.

There were strong men in the senate when Mr. Allison became a member, thirty-six years ago. Of those who were members of that body at that time or took their seats when he did only nine are now living, and none of them in public life. He was at the time of his death eight years the senior of any man then a member of the senate, and ante-dated by two years any man now in congress in the commencement of service. Senator Cullom of Illinois entered the house two years after Allison. He was out for a number of years and governor of his state six years. Cullom was Allison's junior in the senate by ten years. Among the men whom Allison found in the senate when he entered that body were the following:

Powell Clayton and Stephen W. Dorsey of Arkansas (Clayton is still living, and until recently was ambassador to Mexico; Dorsey is also living); Thomas F. Bayard and Eli Saulsbury of Delaware, John A. Logan and Richard Oglesby of Illinois, Oliver P. Morton of Indiana, John James Ingalls of Kansas, Hannibal Hamlin and Lot M. Morrill of Maine, Charles Sumner and George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts, Zach Chandler and Thomas W. Ferry of Michigan, Alexander Ramsey and William Windom of Minnesota, Lewis V. Bogy and Carl Shurz of Missouri, John P. Jones and William M. Stewart of Nevada (Jones now living), Frederick T. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, Roscoe Conkling and Reuben Fenton of New York, John Sherman and Allen G. Thurman of Ohio, Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, Henry B. Anthony and William Sprague of Rhode Island (the latter still living), William G. (Parson) Brownlow of Tennessee, George F. Edmunds and Justin Morrill of Vermont (Edmunds is still living), Henry G. Davis of West Virginia (who is still living and was a democratic candidate for Vice president in 1904), Mathew H. Carpenter and Timothy O. Howe of Wisconsin.

In 1876, three years later, Colorado was admitted and Henry M. Teller came to the senate. He held the seat until March 4, of the present year, save four years passed in Arthur's cabinet. Blaine succeeded Morrill of Maine. William Pinkney White was elected from Maryland, taking his seat two years later than Allison. After a long interval he was again a senator, serving the unexpired term of the late Senator Gorman. Other men of prominence who entered the senate while Allison was yet a young member of that body were Francis M. Cockrell of Missouri; John T. Morgan of Alabama; David Davis of Illinois; James B. Beck of Kentucky; L. Q. C. Lamar of Mississippi; M. C. Butler and Wade Hampton of South Carolina; Orville H. Platt and Joseph R. Hawley of Connecticut; Henry L. Dawes and George F. Hoar of Massachusetts; George G. Vest of Missouri; Eugene Hale and William P. Frye of Main; George H. Pendleton of Ohio; Isham G. Harris of Tennessee, Arthur P. Gorman of Maryland.

Strong Personalities.

Commenting upon some of these men, Senator Allison said: "Morton of Indiana, intellectually, was the peer of any man of his time. He became feeble in health in his later years, but his mind remained strong and unclouded. Owing to his health, he made his speeches while sitting in his chair, a courtesy the senate cheerfully accorded him. Matt Carpenter was one of the most brilliant men and ablest lawyers I ever knew. Thurman was another great lawyer and so also, was Edmunds. Zach Chandler was a strong able man, and as intense a partisan as ever existed. Senator Cockrell was one of the best legislators ever in the senate. While a partisan on party issues, he was an American at all times. He aided greatly in the settlement of Cuban difficulties, and we owe much to him in securing the reorganization of the army after the Spanish war. Mr. Cockrell belonged to the later generation rather than those who were prominent when I first entered the senate. With him were Beck of Kentucky and Gorman of Maryland, the latter succeeding Beck as the democratic leader. But Gorman soon became the actual leader of his party after he came to the senate, and therefore he succeeded Beck. He achieved his greatest triumph in the defeat of the elections bill in the Fifty-first congress. The way he handled that bill fixed his status. In many ways Gorman was the greatest judge of character that was ever in the senate. I always found him fair-minded, and at all times he was a valuable senator."

MEMORIES.

I've been thinking today of the past.
The past with its shadow and shine;
And I'd barter position and wealth
If again those old days could be mine!

Mine—as I once fondly throught them—
So bright with love, beauty and gold;
Mine to live and to love, to trust and to learn in,
Mine with joy once again to enfold.

I am sighing tonight for the old times,
The days when, a light-hearted boy,
My faith never faltered in loved ones,
And hope filled each day with rare joy.

I sigh for the home of my childhood,
The orchard and garden, the path to the spring;
For its treasures of warm, loving kindness;
The rest and contentment they only can bring.

It is true I hold them in memory,
And in fancy roam back at will;
But my heart craves the real, not the fancied;
The old scenes and the voices now still.

Dear memory! how gracious a boon—
Its clouds all transmitted to gold—
But how can the past days suffice me
If their joys I no longer behold?

Days dear to memory, now vanished,
I linger to work, to remember, to pray;
Hope whispers, Once more you shall
taste of their sweetness
And enjoy them forever and aye."

—Wilford E. Mann.

THE QUEST.

We seek for Truth on heights far, far away,
Thinking that of his life she is no part;
We find her where we least thought she might stay—
Low in the chambers of a human heart.

We hear the call of duty from afar,
And answer, seeking her in distant lands;
We find at last our noblest duties are
The lowly ones found lying at our hands.

Thus are we like that seeker of the Grail,
Who in the quest did travel all the earth,
Who sought in many climes without avail
For that which lowly lay at his own hearth.

—Ann J. Roberts in the Chicago Record-Herald.

PROBABLY SUGGESTED BY SENATOR CULLOM'S CONDUCT.

(From the Chicago Record-Herald.)

The people of Iowa are to be congratulated. They have some senators who are not mere puppets on a string.

He Forged.

Trotter—When young Biffkins left college a few years ago, he declared he was going to forge his way to the front. Did he make good? Homer—As a forger—yes. He's now occupying a front row cell in the penitentiary.—Chicago News.

His Experience.

Spector—Your new house doesn't look much like the architect's original design. Victome—No, but it looks more like it than the cost looks like his original estimate.—Smart Set.

If no fight, no victory; no victory, no crown.—Savonarola.

Awkward.

A pretty schoolteacher, noticing one of her little charges idle, said sharply: "John, the devil always finds something for idle hands to do. Come up here and let me give you some work."—Judge's Library.

A New Sensation.

Mrs. Bullion—I wish I knew something to do that would provide me with an absolutely new sensation. Mr. Bullion—Go out and pay cash for something.—Life.

Windmills.

Windmills were invented and used by the Saracens.

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Mattresses *look* very much alike, but there is the greatest difference between them.

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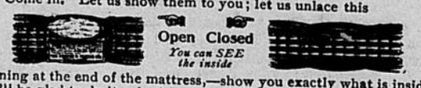
Many mattresses sold as the best cotton-felts, are made from short-fibre cotton that has no life at all.

It is the quality of the cotton, the long, strong fibres, and the special "web-process" of laying them, that give Stearns & Foster Mattresses their perfect comfort and wonderful life—the reason why there are more sold than any other made.

They never lump; never need remaking. They are made in four grades—a mattress to suit every purse.

Come in. Let us show them to you; let us unlace this



opening at the end of the mattress,—show you exactly what is inside. We'll be glad to do it, whether you are ready to buy or not.

This mattress is just another example of the excellence of our stock throughout. New goods are arriving daily.

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