

The Butler Weekly Times.

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NO. 14

Table No. Pacific R. R.

(LAWYERS & SOUTHERN BRANCH.)
 Commencing Sunday, May 10th, and
 will further notice, trains will leave
 Butler as follows:
GOING NORTH.
 123—Texas Express.....4:52 A M
 125—K. C. Express.....7:55 P M
 133—Accommodation.....1:30 P M
GOING SOUTH.
 124—Texas Express.....9:14 P M
 126—K. C. Express.....8:15 A M
 130—Accommodation.....9:55 A M
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 Miami Chapter Royal Arch Masons,
 No. 76, meets second Thursday in each
 month.
 Gouley Commandery Knights Templar
 meets the first Tuesday in each month.

I. O. O. FELLOWS.
 Bates Lodge No. 180 meets every Mon-
 day night.
 Butler Encampment No. 76 meets the
 1st and 4th Wednesdays in each month.

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 City, and in the Supreme Court at Jeffers-
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Notary - Public -
 Office with Judge John D. Parkinson,
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THE RIGHT DOCTRINE.

Congressman Bragg Deals Out Plain Facts on the Pension Bill.

The President's Veto Sustained by a Good Vote.

OLD SOLDIERS NOT PAUPERS.

In the debate in the House on the pauper pension act, Congressman Bragg, of Wisconsin, an ex-federal officer, made the following eloquent and forcible speech in support of the president's veto. It is fraught with good, sound sense, and should voice the sentiment of every true American:

Mr. Bragg of Wisconsin said that the time had arrived when the pension question should receive more than a casual consideration. It was time for the members of the house to get out from the roseate bubble in which they lived in Washington, prepared for them by claim agents, and look after the interests of the real soldier and the business interests of the country. They had drifted along impelled by a species of sympathetic impulse, regardless of reason or judgment, until the period was reached which had culminated in the presentation and passage of one of the most scandalous bills which had ever been sent to a president for his signature. The people of the country, without regard to party, had every reason to be thankful that this bill had been presented to an executive who had had backbone enough to meet the situation.

In a few years, the speaker said, the soldiers of the country (not the bummers) would have arrived at an age when they could come to congress and demand as a right—not ask as a charity—that provision be made for them. Congress should not bankrupt the treasury before that time arrived by yielding to the demands of deserters, coffee coolers and bounty jumpers. If the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Bayne) would read the National Tribune, published in Washington by men who received from \$25,000 to \$45,000 a month as fees from pensioners—blood money taken from the soldiers whom they pretended to love—he would find in every column some abuse of the president and of those who thought differently from them as to the propriety of this measure. Such newspapers as that, which professed to be the friend of the soldiers, were such friends as vultures were the friends of dead bodies—because they fed and fattened on them. It had been charged that he was not a friend of the soldier. To that he replied that no man who had served with his troops in the field for four years, who had followed the starry flag in fifty or sixty pitched battles, would forget them. It was for that class of soldiers that he stood here to-day—to defend them against the imputation cast upon them by the passage of a pauper pension bill.

FACTS PLAINLY SPOKEN.

No man, the speaker said, who had enjoyed the exquisite delight of riding down a line that was wavering and breaking in the presence of the enemy and heard the cheer of the three times three go up—a cheer of confidence and joy that a leader had come—could ever forget his comrades. No one that had ever seen those men rushing into battle, thoughtless of themselves and of their homes, ready to lay down their lives for their country, could ever forget them or would be willing that they should be classed as paupers and placed on the roll with the coffee coolers of the army. The men who advocated this bill were not the friends of the soldier. They advocated this bill—many of them—simply because the men could vote,

whom they expected to buy by this bill.

Mr. Henderson of Iowa broke in: "For one, I pronounce that false." [Applause on the republican side and in the galleries.]

Mr. Bragg answered: "I say that this is the substratum upon which all this action is based. If these men whom they call paupers were to call on them individually for aid, they would say to them: 'You good for nothing scoundrels, you are as competent to work as we are.'" [Laughter and applause on the republican side.]

This bill, Mr. Bragg continued, would grant pensions to the men who had served from December, 1864, to June, 1865. Those men were the scum of the earth. They were the scum—aye, and the dregs. They stayed in their homes until they were bought—bought by men who speculated in blood; paid from \$100 to \$800, with the private assurance that they were physically so defective that all they had to do was to go to the hospital and not endanger their precious carcasses.

NOT BRAVE SOLDIERS AT ALL.

Gentlemen, the speaker continued, talk about soldiers being in alms houses. The men who were found there were the men who had come from them and who, when they left the army, had lapsed into their old condition. No true, brave soldier need go to the poor house. The men who went there were native there. They had no self-respect, no character; they lay down and opened their mouths for a teat to suck.

Mr. Steele of Indiana interjected a remark and Mr. Bragg said that he knew that the gentleman who had just interrupted him, if he dared vote his convictions, would vote as he (Mr. Bragg) did. He knew gentlemen who had committed themselves day after day in opposition to the principles of the bill and were grateful for the veto.

In answer to cries of "Who are they?" Mr. Bragg cried: "I know what I am talking about. I have heard them—[Repeated cries of "Name them!" "Name your men?" "You can't do it!" and much noise and confusion.]

"The republican congressmen, all of them," was Mr. Bragg's reply, which was greeted with mingled applause, laughter and jeers.

The spectators, who filled the galleries to their utmost capacity and who listened eagerly to all that was said on the floor, now took part in the demonstrations of disapproval and approval, and though, without adding to the noise and confusion sufficiently to justify the speaker in ordering the clearing of the galleries, gave vent to their feelings until the close of the debate by frequent applause.

Mr. Bragg declared that the press of the country was opposed to the bill. These gentlemen who sat up aloft (pointing to the press gallery) might some time or other, turn this big pension boom into a much larger boomerang—in some gentleman's district. [Applause.]

"We have fared as well in our district as the gentleman has in his," exclaimed Mr. Henderson of Iowa, and this allusion to Mr. Bragg's failure to secure a renomination was greeted with loud and continued laughter on the republican side.

THE PRESIDENT WELL BACKED.

Mr. Bragg repeated that the press was opposed to the bill. The great republican paper of his state stood by the president. The great republican papers of Ohio sustained the president. The great republican papers of Pennsylvania stood side by side with the president. The papers of New York, almost without distinction of party, stood by the president. The gallant soldier, the

governor of Maine, Chamberlain, stood by the president.

"Yes," cried Mr. Boutelle, "and he stands alone in Maine. [Applause on the republican side.] I speak for Maine." [Jeers of the democrats and cries of "sorry for Maine."]

Mr. Bragg continuing said that the great soldier, Patmer, of Illinois, stood by the president; Governor Cox of Ohio stood by the president. Old Dan Sickles of the Third army corps said that the veto was a most glorious deed. Brave men of all parties stood by the president. It was only the little minds that went buzzing about like insects that opposed him.

Mr. Henderson of Iowa broke in contemptuously: "You stand by the president?"

Mr. Bragg retorted fittingly: "No staff commissary can ever excite me. I am speaking for what I consider the soldiers' interest. The largest Grand Army post in my state voted not to ask members of congress to go against the president. It is only the class of gentlemen who hang around the Grand Army posts who crowd themselves in to get \$5 a week and to live upon their comrades who are making this grand hue and cry.

EFFECT OF RECKLESS PENSIONING.

"The soldier preters to stand by his record and asks not that congress shall mark him as a beggar. He wants to have it understood that he is in private life, as he was in the army, a soldier fighting for the maintenance of the union, loving his country and not asking to be supported by it. Why, look at the effect. The confederate soldiers, without hope, are toiling, day by day, and exhibiting a thrift, industry and energy never expected of them, while the northern man, the independent, the self reliant, the industrious, the energetic and the enterprising, lags behind into idleness. Why? Because he is waiting for a stipend to come from the government and when that stipend comes it is spent quickly, and if he comes from a poor house he lapses back into that position and waits for another stipend. Humanity only needs to be encouraged to do nothing. We are all liable to drop into a do-nothing policy if we can get somebody to support us, and it is not good public policy for us to legislate to encourage vagabondism whether among our soldiers or citizens."

Mr. Steele of Indiana, asked: "How about the Mexican pension bill?"

Mr. Bragg answered: "I have said that I wished she president had vetoed it. It is intimated that the bill passed because it benefits confederates. I ask any one of you, bigoted as you may be, if you did not get some of the pork. You all voted for the bill and now you have discovered that it is a monstrosity."

Mr. Warner of Ohio declared that the bill set a premium on pauperism and improvidence.

MEMBERS CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

Mr. Outhwaite of Ohio said that he had voted for the bill, but now felt justified in reversing that action. According to the construction placed upon the bill by the committee on invalid claims, no distinction was made between deserving and undeserving poverty.

Mr. Morrison of Illinois remarked: "I voted for the bill. I am satisfied that it does not contain what its friends claim for it and that it is fairly subject to the objections urged against it in the veto. Besides, the veto is so far above the high water mark of ordinary executive independence and official manhood that I feel like sharing and taking my little part of the responsibility." [Applause on the democratic side.]

Mr. Springer of Illinois thought the president would have been false to a sacred trust if he had not called attention to the ambiguities of the bill and the misconstruction which might be placed upon it.

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