

Congressman Hayden on Amendment Abolishing Surveyor General's Office

On February 27th abolishing the offices of Surveyors General in the 12 Western States and Alaska, Congressman Carl Hayden of Arizona said in part:

Mr. Hayden. Mr. Chairman, I am heartily in favor of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. French). Congress should not attempt to change a long-established policy of this Government at this time, as has been proposed by the Committee on Appropriations. The law now provides for an orderly way in which the offices of surveyors general shall be dispensed with. When the survey of the lands in any State is completed the Secretary of the Interior has authority to then abolish the office and transfer such duties as may remain to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. This summary proposal, when there yet remain in the Western States vast areas of land to be surveyed, is premature, untimely, and in the end will not be economical for the Government.

The total area of vacant public land in Arizona on July 1, 1919, was 20,714,785 acres, of which 13,572,200 acres was unsurveyed. Last year, 1,762,639 acres were surveyed in my State. At that rate, it will take nearly eight years to survey the remaining public domain, but surveying must proceed at least that fast to meet the demand for land by settlers.

The Indian reservations in Arizona comprise 21,884,682 acres, of which less than 3,000,000 acres have been surveyed. The Indian country must in time be surveyed by section and township, and Congress is annually appropriating money for that purpose, which is expended under the direct supervision of the surveyors general. It is evident that there are many years' work ahead in surveying the Indian lands in Arizona alone.

That is not all, however, for there are 12,076,769 acres in forest reserves in Arizona, only about one-half of which has been surveyed. In order to prevent quantities of merchantable timber from being acquired under the homestead laws many forest homestead entries must be surveyed by metes and bounds which, like all other surveys, must be approved by the surveyor general. Arizona was granted 10,489,236 acres of public land, in aid of the common schools and for other purposes by the act admitting the State into the Union. None of this land can be selected until it is surveyed and the State land commission is continually filing applications for new surveys in order that title to the lands donated by Congress may pass to the State.

Another uncompleted work of the surveyor general of Arizona is the remainder of the 3,218,469 acres granted by Congress in alternate sections to encourage the construction of the Atlantic & Pacific—now the Santa Fe Pacific—Railroad. The railway company deposits money for such surveys which are now in progress. Mining claims must also be surveyed prior to patent at the expense of the claimant and the recent regulations governing mineral leases on Indian reservations require all such claims to be regularly surveyed before a lease will be granted. Owing to the value of the mining properties involved, the supervision of mineral surveys constitutes a very important part of the duties of the surveyor general, the proper performance of which is of vital interest to the great mining regions of the West.

I have gone into details with respect to the situation in Arizona, in order to demonstrate the inconvenience, expense, and hardship which will be imposed on large numbers of people representing many and varied interests if this new method of conducting the survey of the public lands is adopted. At the close of the last fiscal year the total area of unsurveyed land in Arizona was 31,028,155 acres, which is 7,500,000 acres greater than the entire area of Indiana.

The State of Indiana was once an unsurveyed wilderness, but the Congress of the United States brought order out of chaos by having the entire State surveyed and every acre of it has passed into private ownership. In 1796 a surveyor general was provided for the territory northwest of the Ohio River for the convenience of those who were seeking homes on what was then the frontier. This surveyor general's office was maintained until 1857, when every township in

Ohio and Indiana had been surveyed. It is my contention that the people of Arizona are entitled to the same service and the same consideration as was given to the people of Indiana under similar circumstances.

How can the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Wood), who is in charge of this great appropriation bill, justify the proposal he has made? It has been demonstrated that no real economy will be effected. It has been proven that the service will be impaired. It has been shown beyond a doubt that all those who desire surveys to be made will suffer greater inconvenience and expense. The existing law contemplates that in due course of time, when all of the land in any State is surveyed, the office of surveyor general will be discontinued. Until that time comes, why should the people of Arizona and the West be denied the same advantages which have heretofore been provided for every other public land State? (Applause.)

The enactment of legislation abolishing the offices of surveyor general is but another step in the direction of centralization in Washington of business which experience has demonstrated should be supervised in the field. When the office of surveyor general was first established in 1879 it was recognized by Congress that the settlers on the public domain were entitled to prompt service in the surveys of their entries which could only be given by an official in the vicinity clothed with authority to act. The Ohio and Mississippi Valleys and the Great Plains region were successfully populated by this demand. If the people of Ohio and Indiana and Illinois and Iowa and Kansas enjoyed this advantage so long as there was public land to be surveyed in those States, why should the people of Arizona and California and New Mexico and Colorado and all the West be now deprived of equally good service and compelled to look to an official in Washington for relief?

The West is now suffering from too much control by the executive departments. Instead of further concentration of power at the seat of government many activities should be decentralized. Instead of attempting to coordinate and standardize every activity by arbitrary revolving-chair regulators with the resulting formality and crystallization there should be a greater dispersion of initiative and responsibility. By this method alone can the reign of bureaucracy be curbed and the perplexing and paralyzing effect of official obstacles and red tape be obviated. (Applause.)

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News is the end of a story. The beginning seldom is printed. —Ashland (Mo.) Bugle.

Around The Town

Jimmie Humphrey left Saturday for Needles.

W. A. Brooks was over from Oatman Tuesday.

Roscoe Stephens was a Kingman visitor this week.

G. W. Toennies was in from Stockton Hill Wednesday attending to some business.

Mrs. T. R. White of Needles spent a couple of days visiting in Kingman this week.

E. Hedburg came in from Cerbat Wednesday and spent a couple of days in Kingman.

M. J. Aubineau of Phoenix arrived in Kingman Monday. He is travelling for Quaker Oats.

Mrs. Lear Staten and son Dallas returned last Saturday after several weeks in California.

Mrs. Wm. Neagle who has been very ill in Kingman is reported as being much improved.

His friends were glad to see Senator Herndon out again this week after his illness of last week.

Ellison Newberry is able to take his place at the Garage after being confined to his home with influenza.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Goodwin are leaving for Riverside, California, where they will make their home.

"Doc" Swisher, had no bad effects from the "flu" and was able to wield a tennis racket last Sunday morning.

Mrs. Bettly Rogers, who spent the past six weeks in Kingman, left Friday for her home in Glendale, Arizona.

John W. Gerritt has been appointed plant inspector for Mohave County following the resignation of D. T. Price.

Tommy Hayes will be here this spring to try out for the baseball team as he has taken his old job at the Beale.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cole, who visited a short time in Kingman, left the early part of the week for San Francisco.

W. K. Ridenour, general manager of the United American, accompanied by Dr. George, was a visitor in Kingman Thursday last.

Mrs. J. A. Tarr and little daughter arrived Monday from Long Beach to spend a short time with relatives and friends in Kingman.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lighthall and family, who have been in Kingman a short time, left this morning for their home in Lindsay, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rice are leaving the Hackberry and will move to Jerome. Agnes Kelly, their niece, will remain here for the time being.

Mrs. Jim Dower, of Oatman, was a Kingman visitor this week and her friends state she is full of optimism concerning Oatman's possibilities, as usual.

Friends of Mrs. Thomas McGraw will be glad to know that she will be home next Monday from Los Angeles where she has been ill for several months.

Mrs. W. M. Casteel and daughter Ruth returned to Kingman Monday after three months in Los Angeles. They are both greatly improved in health.

Maud Campiell of Los Angeles arrived in Kingman Sunday to visit a short time with relatives. Miss Campiell is the sister of Mr. Walter Jones.

Mrs. F. E. Baldes arrived in Kingman Friday evening from Ludlow, and will spend a couple of days with relatives, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Cagle and family.

Mrs. John Piper spent a couple of days in Kingman with relatives the early part of this week. Mrs. Piper is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Russell.

S. H. Beecher received word from the Chevrolet factory the first of the month that the price on all Chevrolets is advanced approximately \$100 per car.

Mrs. R. S. Prosser and children came up from the Ruola Ranch the early part of this week to spend a few days with relatives and friends in Kingman.

Mrs. G. P. Lawrence of Los Angeles has been visiting in Kingman with relatives the past week. Mrs. Lawrence is the cousin of Mrs. J. N. Cohenour.

Mrs. F. W. Phillips accompanied by her sister M. A. Sawyer returned to Kingman Tuesday from Los Angeles. Mrs. Phillips was formerly Fannie Sawyer.

Mrs. J. B. Seaton of Los Angeles accompanied by Mrs. Wm. Hudgins and daughter Marion of Needles are spending the week end with Mrs. J. W. Cornelius of Kingman.

Levi Anderson returned yesterday from the coast where he has spent the past three weeks with his family. Mrs. Anderson and the children will remain in Los Angeles.

An enjoyable afternoon was spent by Kingman women at the home of Mrs. I. C. Stricker Friday afternoon. The house was beautifully decorated with poppies, and about forty guests enjoyed the afternoon at bridge. There were several out of town guests present.

W. J. Cook and wife and R. C. Ferguson and wife, of Chloride, were visitors in Kingman last Thursday. The gentlemen are heavily interested in mining in the lead camp.

Kean St. Charles accompanied by his brother, John St. Charles, of Chloride, left for Oatman Tuesday, where they expect to remain a short time. Later Kean will return to Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davis are in Kingman this week visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carr. While here Mr. Davis is looking after business in connection with the Hudspeth Sheep Company.

Persistent rumor on the streets of Oatman has it that there is a merger under way of the Sam Bayless and Kettelson interests, following the example set by other large companies in that section.

Mrs. A. S. Coon, of Fresno, left Sunday evening for Albuquerque where she will visit with relatives. Mrs. Coon will return to Kingman again and spend sometime with her sister Mrs. J. N. Cohenour.

Mrs. Edith McCormick will leave early next week for Holbrook where she and Mr. McCormick will make their headquarters. When the weather is better she will accompany Mr. McCormick on his trips through the state.

William Caudle returned from the coast the latter part of last week, where he has been having some dental work done, and this week started to work for the Central Commercial Company in the mens' clothing and furnishings department.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Buckle who have spent a part of the winter with Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Lewis left this morning for Los Angeles and San Diego. They will return March 20th and on the 23rd will leave Kingman for their home in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. John Russell and little son, who were taken with the "flu" shortly after their arrival here from Prescott for a visit with C. W. Herndon, Mrs. Russell's brother, are all reported well again.



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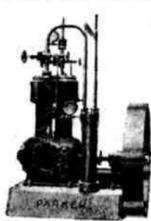
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