

WASHINGTON CITY LETTER.

Colloquy in Congress on the Admission of Washington Territory.

It is Plainly Shown Who They Are Who Keep the Territories Out of the Union—Other Matters of Interest at the Capital.

[Special Correspondence of The Oregonian.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—There must be an election coming off in Washington territory ere long. So thought every one who heard the biennial effort of Delegate Voorhees the other day in behalf of the admission of that commonwealth to the privileges of statehood in the Union. The deficiency bill was under consideration, but Voorhees wisely concluded that his party was deficient in its efforts to do the people of the territories justice, and so arraigned them at the bar of public opinion. I am afraid, after looking over this long-winded oration of the young man who represents the northwestern extremity of what the man presents as the United States, with Alaska left out, that he is not destined to go down in history as one of the great public speakers of the world. John Bright became famous because he spoke in simple language to the people, never choosing a word that was of more than one syllable when such a one could be used. Horatio Seymour was likewise anxious to avoid long and cumbersome words, so it has always been with great orators. Now, listen to the young man from Washington territory:

"Mr. Chairman—Amongst the many topics of legislation which demand the attention of congress there are none which so comprehensively embody all the elements of a broad and enlightened statesmanship as that which contemplates the investiture of American citizens with the blessings of constitutional government."

He was proceeding to show how neglectful congress was of the wants of the territories, when Symes of Colorado interrupted him with a question:

"Does the gentleman know that the five members of the territorial committee belonging to the republican party have actively urged upon the committee and the house the admission of Washington territory, both in the Forty-ninth and in this congress?"

Voorhees said he was discussing the question as a citizen and not as a democrat, but in the next breath he proceeded to claim that every democratic member showed as much interest in the matter as did the republicans, but Symes again interrupted him.

"Does not the gentleman know," asked he, "that the democratic members tied it [the Washington territory bill] up with other territories in an omnibus bill?"

"Mr. Chairman—I do not want to be taken in this way from the line in which I have seen fit to present this question," was all the reply that Voorhees could make. In his peroration he gave utterance to a demand that justice be done his people in this particular, getting off something that must have added greatly to the gas bill of his boarding-house landlady, from the amount of time he gave to its preparation.

Symes was loaded for the "son of his father" and launched out at him in this style:

"I say to my friend from Washington territory, if you have a little influence on the democratic side of this house, if you will influence about eight or ten of your democratic friends to help you out of this condition of territorial vassalage which you now describe to us, you can get up a bill here tomorrow for the admission of Washington territory, a bill for the admission of Montana territory, a bill for the admission of Southern Dakota, and for the organization of Northern Dakota into such a territory as will become a state at the next session of congress. [Applause on the republican side.] Washington territory can be admitted within forty-eight hours if you can influence the leading democratic members of this house. Not a republican on this side, not a republican on the committee will do anything but urge, as they have all done for the last three years, the admission of that great and prosperous territory into the Union.

"There is not a republican on that committee, not a republican in this house, who will not aid in admitting that great territory of Montana into this Union, with all her varied material resources and with a people as well fitted for home government as ever existed upon the face of the earth. They will aid in the admission of Washington territory and the admission of South and North Dakota, and of any territory fitted for admission, when the people ask for it.

"But, sir, it is the policy of the democratic party in the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth congress that has wrongfully kept these great territories out of the Union." [Applause on the republican side.]

The effect of Voorhees's speech was all lost. He could only sit down and meditate. He had nothing further to say.

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS COURT.

The bill for the creation of a commission to try claims for Indian depredations will be radically amended in the senate. The effect of the amendments, however, will be such only as to strengthen the measure. The house is such a peculiar body that the friends of a bill are often forced to surrender some of the most vital features it possesses in order to secure favorable consideration, basing all hope upon the good judgment of the senate to straighten the matter up and correct any mistakes which the lower house may make. Among the amendments is one that will style the proposed organization a court instead of a commission and its members will be called judges instead of commissioners. Representative Hermann expresses himself as well pleased with the outlook for the bill. The secretary of the interior, or some of his subordinates prepared it and, as might be expected, he heartily indorsed it when called upon by the senate committee on Indian affairs to say how it suited him.

TAKING A NEEDED REST.

Senator Dolph went away some days ago for Martha's Vineyard, as was announced in a recent letter, and is there with his family enjoying a brief respite from his senatorial labors. These have been as arduous ever since the opening of the session as the most hard-worked member of the senate, Mr. Dolph being an active member of four important committees, consequently his physical condition was such that a rest was absolutely needed to secure him from serious illness resulting from overwork. He is expected back very soon. Reports from Martha's Vineyard are to the effect that the senator and his family are having a pleasant time, and that Mrs. Nixon, the senator's daughter, is recovering from the illness from which she has been suffering for several weeks.

THE WASHINGTON TERRITORY BILL.

Senator Stewart and the senators from Oregon have made efforts of late to get up the Washington territory admission bill in the senate, but thus far have not met with decided success. One or two days have been given to debate of the question, but the fisheries treaty, the appropriation bills, and the tariff question are now engrossing the attention of everybody as matters that cannot be postponed, hence it is that the territorial bill has been informally laid aside, the action in this particular being suggested also by the fact that the democratic majority of the house is determined that no admission bill shall be put through the present congress.

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