

A. C. Botkin; Kansas, J. W. Gregory; Idaho, A. W. Hogar; Colorado, Hon. Platt Rogers; California, Col. John P. Irish.

The vice presidents at this point were invited to take their seats on the platform.

The question of a committee to memorialize Congress came up at the instance of Mr. Irish, of California, and provoked considerable humorous debate. Mr. Estee, of California, wanted to hear some remarks on the subject then and there. Mr. Mills of the same State had discovered that the time for adjournment was at hand and preferred to take up the question later on.

Mr. Irish was also for an adjournment, but a member from Sanpete evidently did not get the point of Mr. Mills' remarks, and with a flood of heated oratory convulsed the house with laughter while Mr. Irish was still on his feet with his mouth open. The speaker declared himself in favor of hearing from the old men who had made the ditches and who knew what irrigation was.

"That's right," says Mr. Irish, "we want to hear from the old men and the old maids, too, before the convention is over. I am in favor of free discussion. But the day is used up."

The point was carried and the house adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The congress assembled at the Exposition building at 9:30 a.m. A full house was in attendance. Mr. C. C. Wright called the meeting to order, and the minutes of yesterday were read and Mr. Irish, chairman of the committee on resolutions, reported the following:

Resolved, That the committee on resolutions recommend to the convention the discussion of the following topics:

- 1—Should Congress donate lands outright to the States and Territories?
- 2—Should Congress instead make grants in trust?
- 3—Should such donation or grant in trust be of the arid lands only or include the entire public domain within the States and Territories to be benefited, or should it be limited to the number of acres of both or either?
- 4—Upon what conditions and with what restrictions should a grant in trust be made?
- 5—What may be imposed upon the States and Territories benefited in the form of federal action to compel the preservation of water sources by protecting the forests which guard them?
- 6—Instead of such grant or donation of land is it advisable that the federal government should retain the public domain and itself enter upon the work of reclamation of the arid land and then transfer to actual settlers?

The report was referred to the committee of the whole, with Senator William M. Stewart, of Nevada, in the chair.

The following letter was read from Secretary Noble:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, Sept. 9, 1891.

Hon. Arthur L. Thomas, Governor, Salt Lake City, Utah:

My Dear Sir—Yours of the 31st ultimo has been received on behalf of the committee on general arrangement, inviting me to be present at the session of the Irrigation Congress to be held in Salt Lake City on September 15th, 16th and 17th.

It would indeed give me very great pleasure to be with this congress. The question of irrigation of the public domain, the preservation of reservoirs at this time, and what future disposition should be made of the system are of the utmost importance and pressing for solution, but my official duties are so urgent and the distance so great that I cannot promise myself the pleasure of attending this congress.

You will confer upon me a personal favor if you will bring these questions in particular to the attention of the congress and have transmitted to me their proceedings in relation to the same. One of the questions that interests me greatly is whether, if the reservoirs are made a' the head of the streams in one State or Territory, they should be left entirely to the control of that particular State or Territory by the government of the United States, and even if transferred to it whether the government should still keep control in order that the States or Territories lower down on the stream may not be utterly deprived of water; that is, whether the Government should not keep its hand, as it were, upon the water to control, in case of necessity.

Yours truly,

JOHN W. NOBLE, Secretary.

The congress was addressed by Mr. Newlands, of Nevada. In a brief but impressive speech he made it clear to at least some in the assembly that Western men should look after Western interests, and after talking briefly on western irrigation, western silver, etc., infringed a little upon the non-political character of the congress by suggesting that these questions should be carried into the national political conventions, and as western men could accomplish it, a president of the United States be nominated who is not only a silver man, but a western man thoroughly identified with western interests.

This brought Mr. Estee to the floor, whose earnest protest against anything that looked like politics being introduced into the congress reacted more or less vigorously upon the political side of Mr. Newlands' remarks.

At this point the following resolution was offered by Col. O. J. Hollister:

Resolved—That inasmuch as the arable irrigable lands in the arid region that are so situated as to be easily watered have been already disposed of to settlers, and those remaining unsold are worthless without water, and the available water has in the main also been appropriated, and consequently those lands cannot be reclaimed without great outlay, and both land and water unappropriated are very limited in extent; and inasmuch as the grazing lands of said arid regions are a sort of general commons to which no one can secure title, and yield no revenue to any government, and have no care or police, and should be brought within some sort of administration;

And inasmuch as the timber lands of said region are under no supervision worthy of the name, are being devastated by fires and cut off at the head of streams, endangering the limited water supply, and ought to be brought under a closer police, and rendered available to the people in some of the States and Territories;

And inasmuch as from their nearness to the people most concerned the government of these arid States and Territories will more effectively and speedily and judiciously administer such trust, if granted to them, than the general government can or will, that to assume the contrary is to asperse popular government itself; and for other valid reasons not necessary to enumerate here, it is the sense of this body that all the unsold

public lands in the arid region, with such restrictions as to mineral lands as may be found wise and practicable by congress, and the control of the public waters in said region, be granted outright to the States and Territories respectively within which these lands and waters are situated, in trust for the people of said States and Territories.

Resolution by Mr. Huntington of Oregon:

Resolved, That this congress will ask no legislation and urge no policy which will result in acquiring of title, by any corporation, syndicate, or person, of more than 320 acres of arid land.

Mr. Fulton of Nevada handed in the following amendment to Mr. Huntington's resolution:

Provided, That nothing shall be done to prevent the donation by the State or Territory to water storage or irrigation districts formed of land suitable for irrigation of lands within the lines of its district, to be made the basis of a system of reclamation, either by subdivision and sale in lots not exceeding 320 acres to each settler or by the issue of bonds upon it, or both.

Resolution by Mr. Sutherland of Montana:

Resolved, That Congress be asked to pass a law providing for the issue of \$150,000,000 two per cent arid land bonds to run thirty years, the proceeds from the sale thereof to be advanced to the arid land States and Territories for the purpose of boring artesian wells, constructing reservoirs and canals under such laws as the States and Territories may enact, the interest and principal of the bonds to be paid by the States from the proceeds of sale of water for irrigation purposes; the act to also provide for the free issue of water coupons by the district courts to settlers, having decreed water rights, which shall be good for thirty years.

Other resolutions were introduced as follows, all of which were referred to the committee:

Resolved, (1) That the protection of the forests of the western half of the United States and the re-forestation of large areas are matters of great concern to all the people who are directly interested in the reclamation of the arid lands and are, in fact, matters of great moment to the country at large, and we do most earnestly insist that the Congress of the United States shall provide adequate means for such protection and extension of the forests.

2. That the representatives of all the States and Territories of the United States which are immediately concerned with the subject of irrigation urge upon Congress the necessity of providing, without delay, such legislation as may be necessary to afford the means of settling justly and amicably all inter-state questions growing out of the system of irrigation.

3. The representatives of the States and Territories which are concerned with the subject of reclamation of arid lands, for the uses of agriculture, hereby recommend the following:

1. That the States and Territories shall ascertain by accurate survey what lands are susceptible of irrigation, public or private, together with the resources for water supply, and shall divide such lands into irrigation districts.

2. That such States may issue upon such lands long term bonds bearing low rate of interest to such an amount per acre as may be necessary to reclaim all such lands at an expense within practicable limits, the interest being guaranteed.

3. Upon the issue and negotiation of such bonds, and depositing of same with the Treasurer of the United States, he shall issue thereon to the States so depos-