

ment to enact such laws that will insure the speedy segregation of all arid and timber land by the United States Congress.

Mr. Shelton of Oregon spoke briefly favoring the relegation of the public lands to the States and Territories.

Mr. C. C. Goodwin was called for and spoke very humorously at some length on his experiences in Nevada and California. His dry good nature kept the assembly in a roar of merriment.

MR. IRISH

then offered a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That this convention is in favor of granting in trust to the States and Territories needful of irrigation all lands now a part of the public domain within such States and Territories, excepting mineral lands, for the purpose of developing irrigation to render lands, now arid, fertile and capable of supporting a population.

Resolved, That said grant of land should be made by the United States so conditioned that the States receiving the benefit shall use the funds received from the sale of such lands to invest in irrigation securities or the construction of irrigation works.

Resolved that the trust so created shall be so conditioned to secure the ownership of land to actual cultivators in small holdings not exceeding 320 acres, secured against extortion in the use of water rights.

Gentlemen, believing as I have listened carefully today and with pleasure every moment to the discussion and to the expression of opinion that these resolutions when briefly explained embody the sentiment of the convention, it is my purpose to move that this committee, at the close of my remarks, rise and report these resolutions to the convention as the sense of the committee. Then they come before the convention itself for its action. Now, we have heard today of all the different varieties of lands yet a part of the public domain within these States and Territories discussed. We are dealing, gentlemen, in its essence, not with a new question. We are dealing with a question in this convention as old as the appearance of the Anglo-Saxon race in the earliest American colony. We are dealing with a question of increase by immigration of the population of a section of our country. Every nation that has a civilization and a government that partakes of its sentiment is today, either in one form or the other, dealing with precisely the same question that has called us together, the question of population. Those that are overcrowded are offering bounties to their people to migrate—to go to some storage land, and those to whom the reception of these strange people is not tasteful are taking measures by legislation and by executive action to restrict the coming of these strangers that are sent from abroad. In one form or other every civilized people on earth is dealing in its statesmanship and its legislation with this same question of population, which is the essence of the issue that has called us together. Now the resolutions that I have read embody the dealing with the forest lands, with the grazing lands and with the arid lands. Within the scope of that first resolution there is room for a policy agreeable to the people concerned, touching the final disposition and devotion to human use of each of these varieties of land. How

best can we persuade the Congress of this republic to give us the opportunity for this separate and useful dealing with these three varieties of land that make up the public domain within the States and Territories that we represent? Shall we ask it as a donation outright? Shall we ask it as a gift? Shall we ask between the United States and these States and territories the relation of donor and donee without condition. In my own judgment to prefer that request would be unwise, because I do not believe that the Congress of the United States can ever be so moved upon as to grant it. Then shall we ask it as an alternative? Shall we ask the creation between the nation and those States and territories of the relation of trustor and trustee? For my own part (and I have given some study and what judgment I have to a consideration of our relations to the federal government as they may affect this question) I believe that the relation of trustor and trustee is that which we should seek, under such conditions as shall protect the rights of the individual citizen. For I beg to say to you now, men—you are Americans—that unless now, at the very beginning, and in the continuance of the forcing of this issue upon public attention, and in its final conclusion, at each step and process of the work that we have in hand, we have in view all the time the fact that out of our work should issue what? The right of the American citizen, the husband of a wife and the father of a family to acquire without exertion land upon which to build his home. Unless we consider the interests of the actual settler as against the selfish interests of all the rest of the world, then all that we do here today will have been done in vanity and its result will be vexation of spirit. [Applause.] Then in order that we may preserve by the best possible means the right of the actual settler, to make himself a home and by his own fireside to rear an American family that we may throw around him every protection, let us place his rights within that relation of trustor and trustee, so that if the State, the trustee, nearest in relation to him, shall forget his rights, there is an appeal to be made by him to the sense of justice, which from the first Congress that met in the city of Philadelphia under the Constitution of 1786 until this hour has never been appealed to in vain, earnestly in the Congress of the United States. [Applause.] Then let us seek the relation of trustor and trustee.

Mr. Irish then moved that the committee arise and report favorably on the resolution.

This was objected to by Mr. Newlands, and a stormy debate followed.

Senator Warren was called for and said he did not intend to impose upon their attention at so late an hour, but as he had witnessed the great changes in this region during the quarter of a century past, he could bear witness of the wonders irrigation had wrought. As to the best methods, he would defer to California or Colorado, in fact he had come to listen, not teach. The transformation in Utah which he alone had witnessed was proof that more of the human family could be cared for in an irrigating country than any other. The garden of Eden

was in an arid region, and the life drops of water were turned on to make it bloom. Small holdings with high state of cultivation was now the policy. If twenty acres would support a family, this region would yet outnumber the east.

As to the ideas to be focussed, he could see an advantage in selecting a point of attack and pressing it. The east must be treated cautiously, for one or two States had more power in congress than all which were represented in this body. Be just but valiant in our demands, imitate California by a dash and persistency which have made her famous and success would crown the efforts of this convention.

AGREEMENT REACHED.

The following was then agreed on: That the committee rise and request the congress to order the committee on resolutions to report at the morning session, and that the committee of the whole be discharged.

A vote of thanks was tendered for the large irrigation map presented by Prof. Bailey, and Senator Stewart was requested to have the same conspicuously displayed at the national capital.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The congress resumed session at 9 o'clock, and Mr. Irish for the committee on resolutions offered the following amended report:

Resolved, That this congress is in favor of granting in trust to the States and Territories needful of irrigation all lands now a part of the public domain within such States and Territories, excepting mineral lands, for the purpose of developing irrigation to render the lands now arid, fertile and capable of supporting a population.

Resolved, That said grant of lands should be made by the United States, so conditioned that the State or Territory receiving the benefit shall use the funds derived from the sale or lease of such lands to promote the reclamation of arid lands, any surplus remaining to be added to the school fund of the State or Territory in which such surplus occurs.

Resolved, That the trust so created shall be so conditioned as to secure the ownership of irrigable land to actual settlers in suitable holdings.

The committee of the whole was resumed and Mr. Mills of California took the floor in advocacy of the report. The speaker made an eloquent appeal which was listened to with the most rigorous attention, but did not win over Mr. Newlands, who despite the apparent favor created for the report offered a minority report on the third provision.

Mr. Hollister moved to amend the first resolution, by adding the words "and for the support of public schools and for such other purposes as the said States and territories shall determine."

Mr. Irish opposed the Utah amendment. We want, said he, population first. If after the devotion of every dollar necessary for irrigation there is something left for schools, then let them have it. Without population you need no schools. We are here to promote irrigation first and exclusively till it is disposed of. In the second resolution we have gone as far as we can in diverting the funds from the direct course of irrigation.

Mr. King—I wish to oppose the previous speaker. I believe the sentiment of the West has always been on the side of education. We wish to