

"DOLLAR-A-DAY PENSIONS"

Democrats For—Taft Opposed

ALL the politicians are now frantically bidding for the vote of the Old Soldier. Naturally they would, for there are enough of them, should they stand together, to name the next president of the United States. In a former issue of this magazine it was fully set forth what the present Democratic Congress had done for these "Defenders of the Union." A long list of pension legislation, cited from the Congressional Record, was published. The history of the famous "Dollar-A-Day Pension Bill," introduced by Geh. Sherwood, of Ohio, was given also to show how it was butchered by the Republican Senate.

Every Old Soldier knows that the recent increase in their pensions was due entirely to the generous support given it by a Democratic Congress. To confirm this statement we take the following extract from an article published in the October number of *McClure's Magazine*, entitled, "Pursuing the President," in which the work of the last Congress is ably reviewed by George Kibbe Turner and Arthur Wallace Dun. In referring to Pension legislation it says:

THE CAMPAIGN OF THE VETERANS

"November 8, 1910—the Day of Wrath! The solid political firmament resolved into lambent flames; Aldrich consumed; Cannon blown to pieces; Congress torn from the old control! Only one old landmark still remaining—the Presidency. Alone in the White House stood William Howard Taft—the man who accidentally set fire to the Republican party.

"The Democrats, chosen agents of an angry people, moved at once to organize a House of Representatives suited to a free republic. Cannon, that violent patriarch, had been deposed forever; and the wreckage of his cunningly devised machine lay around him. No Speaker would again be given that sovereign power to appoint the House committees, and thus create a Congress after his own image.

"The great tumultuous movement of revolt in 1910 had been against the Payne-Aldrich tariff; but back of that, silent, unadvertised, but looming large for every politician in the land, had been another movement—the great campaign for the dollar-a-day pension. Exactly as the eyes of the farmer and the consumer had fixed themselves upon Taft for his tariff views, so had the eyes of the organized veterans of the country fixed themselves upon him in this matter of the pensions. In 1910 the House had passed one type of dollar-a-day pension bill; it died, strangled with technicalities, in the Republican Senate. AND TAFT, it was well known, had ENCOURAGED AND AIDED ITS DESTRUCTION."

"Two thousand pensioned veterans vote, on the average, in every Congressional district in the North; in Indiana there are more than four thousand to the district. And throughout the North, especially in those States just north of the Ohio River, veterans had lately tended—stung by indifference—to turn from the Republican party, into which they had been born, to the Democratic party, which had been their old hereditary foe. The veterans held, quite clearly, enough strength to throw the election in almost any Congressional district from one party to another; and, in such States as Indiana and Ohio, there was little doubt in the minds of practi-

cal politicians that they had done so in 1910. The first insistence of the newly elected Democratic Congressmen from the Middle West had been the satisfaction of their obligations in that measure which, as a delicate recognition of the veterans' claims, had been given by a Democratic House, the position of House Bill Number 1.

TWENTY-EIGHT STATES HAD ENDORSED IT

"Cyrus Sulloway, the giant statesman from New Hampshire, had introduced and fought through, as the Republican chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, the generous new pension bill of 1910 which bore his name. Twenty-eight State legislatures had endorsed it. It bore an increase of some \$45,000,000 a year to the \$150,000,000 annual expenditures of the national government for war pensions.

"Bill Number 1 of the Democratic House was championed by General Isaac R. Sherwood, of Ohio, a veteran of forty-five battles in the Civil War. It raised the Republican offer of more pensions—according to the experts' estimates—by \$30,000,000 a year, to a total additional annual expenditure of \$75,000,000. The original plan of pensions, years ago, had been that veterans of the war who had been injured or incapacitated through service should be pensioned by the government. The new idea was that any man who had seen service in the Civil War should be paid a monthly stipend by the government, regardless of wounds or injury. And under this last Sherwood bill more than three-quarters of the living veterans of the war would be entitled to receive their dollar a day.

"The House of Representatives—Democrats and Republicans alike—flamed forth in oratory, under the stimulus of the Sherwood bill, for well toward a week—hundreds of thousands of ringing words. Sulloway and Sherwood engaged in a duel of generosity. That veteran cynic, ex-Speaker Cannon, whose district includes a soldiers' home, spoke warmly for this Democratic measure; man after man exclaimed at the contemptibility of counting the cost in such a cause; and James M. Curley, Boston's greatest Democratic orator, stated without contradiction on the floor the remarkable biological theory that the veteran was "a living flag, starred and scarred." Overwhelmingly, the House—Republicans and Democrats—voted the \$75,000,000 pension increase for the Civil War veterans.

REPUBLICAN SENATE BUTCHERED THE BILL

"There was no stopping of the measure this time; but the influences that had killed it in 1910 modified it now. The Senate—backed quite openly by Taft—cut down the annual increase to \$30,000,000, under a new bill. The veterans had lost \$45,000,000, by this repression. Everywhere in the United States, the two thousand veterans in the Congressional district, and all their friends and relatives, are remembering this, and holding in their hearts the attitude of William Howard Taft. The scar remains, as every practical politician reports in Washington.

The first great matter of national business having been taken up and so fortunately disposed of by the Democratic House, attention turned, on the very next day, to the call of the Hebrew voters of New York. The treaty under which Russia was excluding Jewish citizens of the

United States from the privilege of passports in that country must be abrogated. * * *

"To-day the Democrats—that great party of foiled and thwarted generosity to all mankind—cry aloud from the stump



RECEIVES RECOGNITION