

COL. VISSCHER IN POLITICS

He is Now a Republican Though Formerly a Democrat.

Expansion is His Hobby and He Makes Strong Points on It—Visscher is Wholly American.

All old Washingtonians will remember Col. Will L. Visscher, the newspaper writer, poet and lecturer, who resided in Tacoma, also Fairhaven, in the halcyon days of Puget sound when everything was booming and everybody, including Visscher, rolled high. For the past eight years Visscher has made his home in Chicago, but of late he has been making Republican speeches in Washington, where he formerly talked Republicanism and printed the same in his paper, but invariably voted the Democratic ticket, which he will also probably do this year. A late issue of the Tacoma News contains the following regarding the versatile southern colonel:

At the Republican meetings held in Tacoma this week Col. Will L. Visscher has been one of the principal speakers. His old friends have given him a hearty welcome. From his speeches the following extracts on the subject of imperialism and expansion indicate the drift of his argument:

"These Demo-Pops do not hesitate to declare that the American soldier contends to become a traitor and support an empire and an emperor.

"I have in all our armies at home, abroad, in Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines and China, and manning forts and arsenals at home, 65,000 soldiers and 35,000 volunteers—less than one man to the thousand—and this is the dreadful monster that threatens us with 'imperialism.'

"Still we have upon our ticket two of those dangerous American soldiers, of whom won his spurs at Antietam and the other at San Juan hill, and they are leading yet.

"Now, the only thing in the way of imperialism that the nuttiest loon living would dare to attempt under Old Glory is the sort of imperialism that is implied by the trite and ancient yell: 'Westward the star of empire takes its way.'

"Nearly half a century ago, in the senate of the United States, grand old Tom Benton of Missouri—who, by the way, was a Democrat, and a real one, not the spurious discounting kind—when advocating a Pacific transcontinental railroad, pointed dramatically toward the west and roared:

"There lies the east. There lies Asia. 'He was then advocating the only imperialism ever thought of by the government and the Republican party, an expansion and imperialism that have made room for millions of the oppressed of other nations, and that will give homes and wealth and happiness, freedom and the rights of man to untold millions yet to come, foreign and to the manor born.

"Expansion began in this country when Columbus went before Ferdinand and Isabella asking for ships to sail to the new world, and that splendid woman offered her magnificent jewels toward the scheme of the great sailor.

"When the pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock and the settlers at Jamestown, expansion was getting a good start. When, in 1803, under President Jefferson, the greatest of all Democrats, the Louisiana purchase was made, expansion was taking steps that reached from the Gulf of Mexico to British Columbia, and from the Mississippi to the Rocky mountains, and the 'consent of the governed' would have been a large joke.

"When the war with Mexico resulted in the acquisition of the vast area in the southwest from Colorado to California, expansion was just spreading herself. The only 'consent of the governed' then asked was from the mouths of Bragg's, and Scott's and Taylor's guns, at Buena Vista, Monterey and Chapultepec. It was expansion that gave to this republic this glorious state of Washington and our neighbor, Oregon, of which I can remember as a boy the song:

"Rise in the morn
And sound you horn,
For Washington
And Oregon.

"The guns of Dewey and America considered expansion at Manila and Little Old Joe Wheeler and Fitzhugh Lee, side by side with Miles and Grant and Roosevelt, in Cuba and Porto Rico, were doing a grandly glorious work of expansion when, leading the blue and the gray, they swept away that crim-

son scar on the face of Columbia, Mason and Dixon's line, by the loyalty and heroism of the young men of this generation now doing the work of the world.

"Other nations rose slowly out of the mist of the dark ages. America sprang forth into the focal glare of civilization, full panoplied, as did Minerva from Jove's imperial head.

"America was born civilized and born expanding. The world is growing better because it is becoming more American.

"Wherever the American idea takes root man becomes freer and more intelligent. And if this be true, why should the boundary lines of our country be restricted?

"Is there any man so shameless as to say that there is enough enlightenment in the world; that there should be no further expansion of ideas?

"Every great movement has been opposed by the narrow-minded. All great discoveries in science have been combated by the ultra conservative.

"Nations must grow or diminish. A nation that cannot extend its trade relations must ultimately sink.

"Progress is expansion; new blood; new life. To argue against it is to argue against human enlightenment and the liberty of man."

Mausers and Lee-Enfields.

The chief distinction between the Mauser and the Lee-Enfield is this—that while the Lee-Enfield has a magazine which is inserted underneath the body through the trigger guard and secured by a catch and is provided with what is called a "cut off" to prevent the cartridge from rising, so that it can be used as a simple breechloader for single firing until the magazine, which contains ten cartridges, is ordered to be used, the Mauser has a magazine which, though not absolutely fixed, is only intended to be taken off for cleaning. It does not need a "cut off" to use as a single loader.

The magazine contains five cartridges, but whereas the cartridges for the Lee-Enfield have, when the magazine is charged, to be each put in separately, the magazine of the Mauser is filled at once by placing against the face of the magazine a set of five cartridges held in a clip which falls off when the cartridges have been inserted in the magazine.

Thus if each weapon were at the beginning of a fight empty, the Mauser would permit of more rapid fire because it could be loaded five cartridges at a time, while the Lee-Enfield would take, cartridge by cartridge, as long to load as a single breechloader. On the other hand, the times when a very rapid discharge of fire is desirable are not numerous, and for these the Lee-Enfield has ten cartridges ready against the Mauser's five.—Nineteenth Century.

Get Your Measure Taken.

George Brewitt, the well known merchant tailor has returned to Dawson with the most complete line of tailorings ever brought into this city. He has remodelled his shop opposite the brick building on Second street, to make room for his goods and is now prepared to supply the most fastidious dresser with suitings equal in style, workmanship and material to any of the fashionable tailors in any city. It will be found of interest to examine the variety of worsteds, chevots, birds-eye and broadcloth, as well as other high class suitings which are now on display at that establishment.

Snow Storm General.

The snow, storm which has prevailed here at intervals all day, was general at all points above as far as Bennett. There was also a unanimity of temperature, the mercury varying only four degrees between here and Bennett. Reports from up-river points are that much more snow has already fallen than is usual at this season of the year and, as one result, high water such as the country never experienced except in the early days of the earliest prospector, is predicted for next spring, provided the snow continues to fall at intervals during the remainder of the winter.

How They Get Fire.

Various savages have different methods of kindling fire. In New Holland a pointed stick is twirled between the palms of the hand until the wood on which it stands begins to smoke, and at last breaks into flame. Other savages obtain a spark by sticking one bit of wood upright in the earth, cutting a slit in it lengthwise, in which they rub another bit of wood with a protruding piece until it flames.

The most ingenious method is, however, that followed by the inhabitants of western Madagascar. These use a string of animal hide, by which they twirl the upright stick rapidly and hasten the fire lighting. To us who have merely to strike a match under the mantlepiece the value of fire is little appreciated, but suppose that we were

caught in the wilderness without a match, how would we go about lighting the fire to warm ourselves or cook our food? Perhaps the savage will point the way, especially as every boy of any account has a piece of twine in his pocket.—Washington Post.

Hepburn Not a Gambler.

Congressman Hepburn, of Iowa, was sitting in a group of public men the other day listening to talk of stocks and bonds and speculation, relates a Washington correspondent. "Do you know," he said when a lull came, "that I never bought or sold a share of stock of any kind in my life?"

The others had been discussing deals in which they were interested and there was a general expression of surprise. Mr. Hepburn smiled and repeated that he had yet to go through his first experience in speculation of any kind. Three times a delegate to Republican national conventions, 14 years a member of congress, solicitor of the treasury through one administration, a lawyer for 46 years, he knew no more by actual contact with the stock market than a child. And then this veteran practitioner and politician told another thing which made the listeners marvel.

"I have never seen the time," he said, "when I had as much as \$3000 in money."—Star.

No New Cases.

So far as known no new cases of smallpox have developed in Dawson or on any of the creeks for several days. All the patients at all the points quarantined are reported as doing well. On Chechako Hill the one patient is almost well and unless some new cases develop within the next four days, the quarantine at that particular place will be lifted. As yet there have been no deaths from the disease which fact stamps it as a very mild type.

Road to Hunker.

It is stated that the road leading up the Klondike to Hunker creek has been repaired at the Bear creek buff and is now passable for anything from foot passengers to six-horse teams. For some time this part of the Hunker road has been impassable.

For watch repairing see Lindemann.

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