

homesteaders means much. Without railroads, away from markets, and, in most cases, starting with but little, it is difficult enough to make a living, let alone raising \$200 to pay for the farm. Over 700 homesteaders have already settled on these lands. This bill means \$140,000 to them, and \$200 saved to each future settler. From all I can learn, the opening of this land to settlement has had a most excellent effect upon the Indians, and we hope to secure the opening of the south half in the near future. Mr. Jones introduced a bill for this purpose this session, but we did not accomplish much, as it was necessary to secure the passage of the other act first.

WASHINGTON-BRITISH COLUMBIA BOUNDARY.

"The sundry civil bill just passed carries an appropriation of \$100,000 for establishing the boundary between the state of Washington and Idaho and British Columbia. The establishment of the boundary north of Mount Baker was taken up by me about eighteen months ago, and after a conference with the state department and the department of the interior, a joint surveying party, made up of members of the coast and geodetic survey, of the treasury department, and the geological survey, of the interior department, was sent into the field to determine the boundary, in order that there might be no conflict or bloodshed between the American and Canadian miners in the Mount Baker district. The \$100,000 appropriated is to be used for completing this work.

INDIAN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

"During the Fifty-seventh Congress a total of over \$60,000 was appropriated for Indian school buildings in the state of Washington, \$50,000 being set aside for the Puyallup reservation, and a like amount for the Tulalip reservation. At the latter place most of the buildings were destroyed by fire.

PLATTERY LIFE-SAVING STATION.

"The establishment of a life-saving station near Cape Plattery was brought before Congress over a year ago. The bill was not originally approved by the treasury department, on the ground that, although the commerce of Puget Sound was large and growing, the number of wrecks in the vicinity of Cape Plattery did not warrant the establishment of a life-saving station at that point. These few remarks delivered at Philadelphia, before the New England Society of Pennsylvania, I referred to the peculiar condition of affairs on Puget Sound, claiming that there was not a similar case in the United States where the total exports amounted to three million dollars per month, and where hundreds of vessels were coming and going, without the government having established a single life-saving station. Subsequently a favorable report was secured, and the bill passed the senate, and was, also, favorably reported in the house.

MORE FISH WANTED.

"The many streams and lakes both inside and outside forest reserves should be stocked with fish. United States Fish Commissioner Bowers has promised that he will visit the state of Washington again during the coming summer. His visit there last summer was not satisfactory, as he did not meet the sportsmen of the state and remained there only a short time. He has agreed to prolong his visit the next time.

INDIAN WAR VETERANS.

"The legislation secured on behalf of the survivors of the Indian wars in Washington and Oregon has excited much interest and has resulted in the issuance of a number of pensions. The records of the Indian wars, showing the names of those who participated, have been reclaimed from among the dusty archives of the pension bureau, and will be transferred to the war department, in order that the survivors of the battles with the Indians can have their records straightened out and approved

while applying for pensions. One of the most interesting cases among the survivors of Indian wars in Washington is that of Sergeant Robert Williams, who, with a small number of companions, defended a blockhouse at the Cascades of the Columbia river when the Indians were on the warpath and had massacred a large number of whites. The territorial legislature of 1857 recognized Sergeant Williams' bravery by memorializing Congress to grant him a certificate of merit. From time to time an effort has been made to secure him the coveted certificate through executive order or congressional act. All of the details of Sergeant Williams' service, both in the regular army and fighting the Indians, have been placed before the president and the war department, and a bill authorizing a certificate of merit, which carries with it a pension of two dollars per month from the date of the service, will probably be passed at the next session.

OTHER LOCAL LEGISLATION.

"We secured the passage of several acts of a local character; one extending the time of making final proof in desert land entries in Yakima county, one granting to the county of Chelan a small tract of land for county purposes, one providing for the building of a railroad bridge across the Columbia river at Vancouver, one granting the bonding privileges of the immediate transportation act to Tacoma and Seattle, one confirming certain grants to the state and one for the relief of shipping on Puget Sound, besides quite a number of exceptionally deserving pension bills.

"To start the work of improving Mount Rainier park \$2,000 was set aside last year, and to this \$10,000 was added in the sundry civil bill just passed. A bill assigning troops to the park has also just passed the senate. Another bill which was passed authorized the state to select lieu lands where settlers have taken up school lands. The bill was favored by the state land commission. For modernizing the United States

penitentiary at McNeil's island it was exceedingly difficult to place \$30,000 in the sundry civil bill in the senate, owing to adverse reports made by a government official sent to inspect the site. Our military posts and forts have been well provided for.

"There were two or three bills of a local character that had passed the senate which we hoped to get up in the house during the last days, but on account of the filibustering by our democratic friends we were unable to do so.

"Although this has been the short session of Congress, and but little is usually done except to pass the general appropriation bills, several important measures have been passed. Foremost of these, of course, are the anti-trust measures, which, though not as stringent as some may desire, are a long step in the right direction. We make haste by moving slowly in matters of this character. A liberal appropriation was made for prosecuting and expediting pending cases under the Sherman act. A bill was passed prohibiting rebates, and this I consider one of the most important and most effective acts passed. A department of commerce and labor was created, with authority to investigate corporations and compel them to furnish such information as may be of benefit in regulating and controlling them.

"A currency system for the Philippine islands, the anti-sabotage law, amendments to the bankruptcy law, a more stringent immigration act, extension of the Chinese exclusion act, the Dick militia reorganization bill, increasing the navy and repeal of the war tax are among the important items of general legislation enacted."

(From The Tacoma New Herald, March 14, 1903.)

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Senator Foster Gives Interesting Summary of Washington Delegation's Good Work—Five Million Dollars of Appropriations for This State and Alaska—And Millions More to Come.

(New Herald Special Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"Our delegation has accomplished a great deal of work," said Senator Foster today, in a summary of the work of the Fifty-seventh Congress. "We have secured from the thousand and one little matters that have been passed after our resignation the way of actual legislation will secure favorably with that of other delegations. The demands of our state are great and varied, and at every form of legislation is asked for by our constituents. Some of it is of a private character, some of it local in its nature, and much of it general. There is scarcely an appropriation bill in which we have no interest. All carry something for us, and we have usually gotten our share.

"Four items included in the appropriations secured for the state of Washington and Alaska aggregate, approximately, five million dollars:

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| Alaska to commerce in state of | |
| Washington | \$1,149,225 |
| Puget Sound Naval Stations | 1,470,500 |
| Postoffice buildings and sites | 1,150,000 |
| Alaskan lighthouses and cables | 811,000 |

AIDS TO COMMERCE.

"The aids to commerce in the state of Washington include \$71,200 for lighthouses. We have secured by separate acts appropriations for three more lighthouses in Washington, one at Blaine \$25,000, one at Mukilteo, near Everett, \$22,000, and one at Burrows island \$15,000. Others were provided for by amending appropriation bills.

"The other aids to commerce include river and harbor appropriations as follows: Olympia harbor, \$25,000; Tacoma harbor, \$175,000; Wharcom harbor, \$25,000; Seattle harbor, \$100,000; Columbia river at the Cascades, \$30,000; at The Dalles and Willits (conditionally), \$100,000; at Vancouver, \$2,000; Upper Columbia and Snake rivers, \$40,250; Cowlitz river, \$5,000; Puget Sound tributaries, including \$10,000 for the mouth of the Nooksack river, \$35,000; Swinomish Slough, \$30,000; Okanogan and Peaslee rivers, \$22,500; Grays Harbor jetty work, \$15,775; inner harbor, \$50,000; Everett harbor, \$117,000.

ONE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

"It has been the custom for many years to pass but one river and harbor bill during each congress, and, consequently, we have none this session, not even for surveys. We were well cared for in the bill passed last session, not so well, by far, however, leaving out the \$100,000 for the Lake Union canal at Seattle, as in the bill of the preceding or fifty-sixth congress, as the same was agreed to in conference. We had much more in that bill for Tacoma, Wharcom, Vancouver and some of our rivers than in the bill which passed the first session of the Congress just closed. The commission provided for to report regarding the improvement of the Columbia river at The Dalles is still at work and will present its findings during the summer. We were much disappointed at securing no more than \$2,000 for the improvement of the Columbia at Vancouver. A provision for a survey was inserted, and the survey

has been made. It is to be regretted that the report is adverse. With another million-dollar expenditure just ordered for the mouth of the river, there should certainly be a further improvement at this point, and we propose to secure a provision for the same in the next bill or know the reason why. The Snake and Upper Columbia need caring for. Considerable work should be done above Wenatchee, and we hope to secure appropriations for this purpose.

NAVY YARD.

"We have made special efforts to develop our navy yard. We believe that we have the best location in the country. The fact is now recognized by the most influential men in Congress, and our appropriations have been most liberal. The yard is now in such shape as almost to take care of itself. Last session we secured for it over \$1,100,000, and this year we secure nearly \$400,000. We get far more in proportion to the estimates than any other yard in the country.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

"We consider ourselves specially fortunate in the matter of public buildings. Last session we secured appropriations for the purchase of sites in Tacoma and Spokane at \$100,000 each. This session we secure appropriations of \$400,000 for buildings at each place. In both instances this sum is considered entirely inadequate, and increases will be made at the next session of Congress. It is difficult for the departmental people to appreciate the wonderful and stupendous growth of the giant young cities of the Pacific Northwest, but statistics which have already been filed with the treasury department will, it is believed, convince Secretary Shaw and Supervising Architect Taylor of the wisdom of increasing the appropriations for both Tacoma and Spokane. Seattle, for instance, started with an appropriation of \$300,000, but the amount was increased until the total appro-

priation reached \$800,000, \$165,000 of which was paid for a site. As soon as the larger cities are provided with public buildings it is intended that structures of suitable dimensions will be provided for the smaller cities.

BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

"In the construction of public buildings in the state of Washington, it is better to delay the preparation of plans until a definite idea can be formed as to the future needs of the now rapidly growing cities than to accept insufficient appropriations. For instance, if a public building had been built at Seattle on the basis of the first appropriation of \$300,000 it would have been an almost useless waste of money. The building would not have been of sufficient size to accommodate half the business of the city even at the present time.

ALASKA ITEMS.

"The Alaska items of request include \$485,000 for a submarine cable to connect the state of Washington with Alaska, in addition to the Skagway-Juneau cable, and \$325,000 for Alaska lighthouses and fog signals. When I first entered the senate, shortly after having visited Alaska with Senator Fairbanks and party, I felt keenly the necessity of providing lighthouses and fog signal stations. Many lives have been imperiled and much damage to structures has resulted from the lack of proper aids to commerce. I accordingly asked for an appropriation of \$500,000.

"The senate allowed \$300,000. We secured a favorable report in the House, but were unable to secure consideration. Finally the speaker and Mr. Cannon were prevailed upon to have a provision inserted in the sundry civil bill for lighthouses in Alaska, and during the last Congress we secured \$125,000, and this session \$275,000, making a total of \$625,000, and it is so arranged that the item goes into the appropriation bill as a continuing work and whatever the department asks for is

put in. We have been striving to get better land laws, but it is hard work. We believe that a pretty fair homestead law has been passed now, and we had much to do with it. Mr. Cashman's delegate bill passed the house, but failed to pass the senate. Instead of encouraging the development of Alaska, many of the Eastern senators and representatives seem to be anxious to make it as difficult as possible. Many of the land laws have already been extended to Alaska, but are inoperative because of a lack of surveys. We secured \$75,000 this year for surveys in addition to securing a provision in the homestead and coal land laws by which the title can be secured without the regular surveys. A large part of the Alaska license money will ultimately go to assist the schools of the territory.

IRRIGATION.

"Of course, we took a great interest in the irrigation movement. Mr. Jones was a member of the committee of seventeen that reported the bill which finally passed. We were disappointed from it. Large sections of our state will eventually be reclaimed under it. Work will be slow, however. The department will have to move very slowly and will need the hearty co-operation of all those interested. They propose to select, as far as possible, the very best projects, and those that will best demonstrate the worth of the law and dispel the fears of its opponents. Work that can be and likely will be undertaken by private capital will not be taken up. No project has been definitely decided upon, as yet. One great difficulty is the securing of competent and practical engineers to put in the field for investigation.

IMPORTANCE OF TIMBER TESTS.

"For conducting tests of American woods and, particularly, of Washington fir, much effort was necessary to secure a total of \$17,500. These tests have been conducted at the Puget Sound naval station, and are being carried on at this time at the Uni-

versity of California. It is desirable to collect data showing that fir is stronger and more durable than any other wood in the United States for merchantable purposes, and to have all the facts published in a small pamphlet or book for distribution throughout the country among the consumers of Washington timber. To aid this good work I have urged the lumbermen of Washington and Alaska to furnish suitable sticks to Prof. Harte, who is now conducting the tests at the University of California. The sticks should be of the harder grades of fir cut from the uplands.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

"We have much departmental work. Every mail contains requests of some kind requiring visits to one or more departments. Our interests and resources are so varied that every department of the government demands our attention. The question of forest reserves has been a burning one ever since we have been down here. We have spent more time and done more work in trying to eliminate lands from forest reserves and in trying to keep lands from being placed in forest reserves than on any other one thing. Just at the present time our people are very much worked up over proposed extensions in Wharcom, Skagit and other counties. In view of the strong protests we have made and presented the department has practically assured us that but few, if any, of these extensions will be made, and none until a very thorough examination has been made and the people interested have had a chance to present their side of the matter.

NORTH HALF OF THE COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION.

"We are specially pleased at securing the passage of legislation relieving the homesteaders on the north half of the Colville Indian reservation from paying the \$1.50 per acre for their lands, as provided in the bill opening the reservation for settlement. While this payment seems to be a small item, \$200 to one of these hardy