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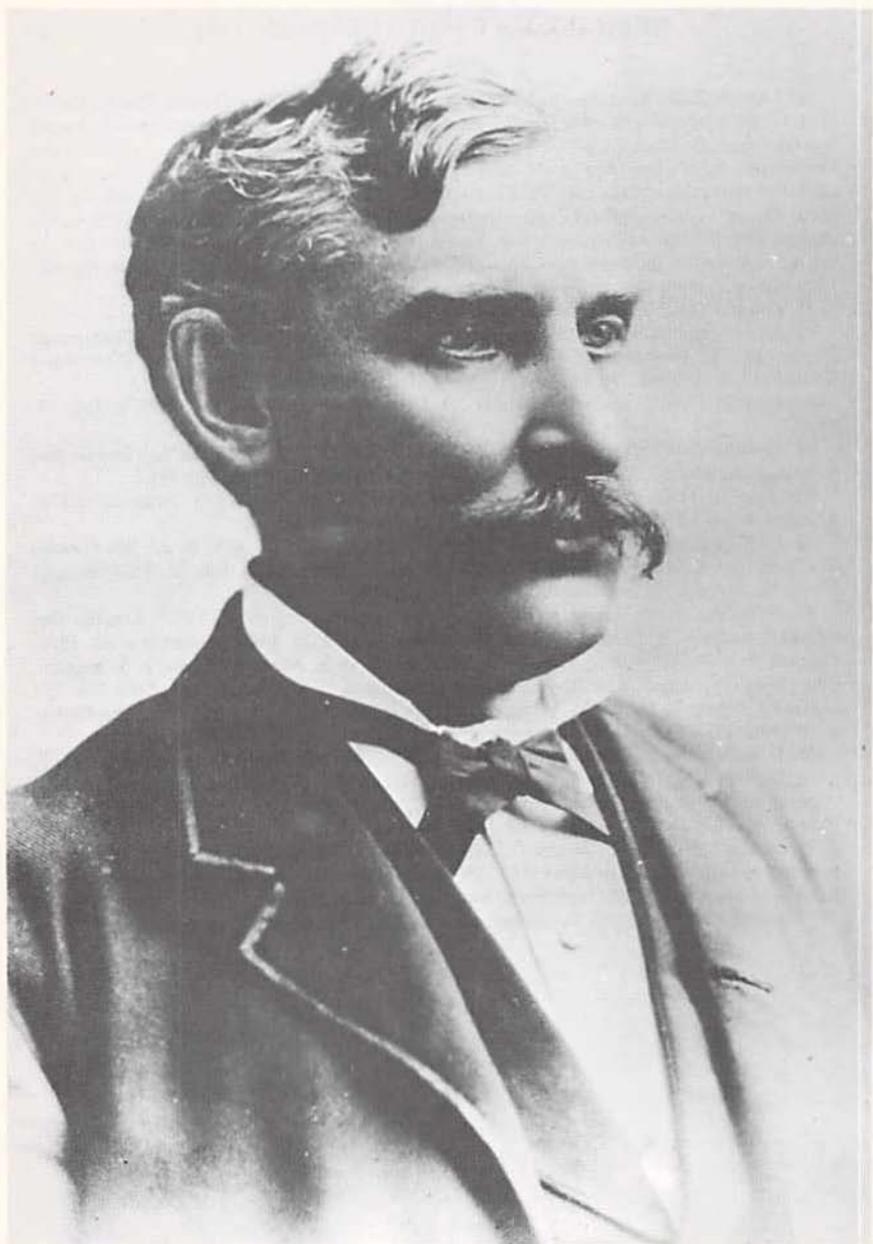
Article Summary: Archibald Jerrard Weaver was the first congressman elected from the 1<sup>st</sup> District when the state's population had so grown that Nebraska became entitled to three representatives in Washington, D.C. His was a brief, intense career in the House of Representatives.

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Photographs / Images: Archibald Jerrard Weaver (1843-1887); the Archibald J Weaver home in Falls City, completed in 1878, razed in 1966; Nebraska Memorial Commission members (1933-1936): Val J Peter, T S Allen, E H Luikart, J P O'Furey, Arthur J Weaver; Church Howe, founder of Auburn



*Archibald Jerrard Weaver (1843-1887).*

## THE CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF ARCHIBALD JERRARD WEAVER, 1882-1887

*By Donald D. Snoddy*

When the name Weaver is mentioned in Nebraska political discussions today, the congressman from the 1st District between 1955 and 1963 is most often recalled—Phil Weaver of Falls City. But he was actually the third in a line of distinguished Falls City Weavers to have served this state.

Few know that his grandfather, Archibald Jerrard Weaver, was the *first* congressman elected from the 1st District when the state's population had so grown that Nebraska became entitled to three representatives in Washington, D.C. Prior to that date Nebraska comprised a single district. The son of Archibald and the father of Phil, Arthur J. Weaver, who served as governor of Nebraska between 1929 and 1931, was the second in the Weaver succession.

It is with the first Weaver—Archibald—and his brief, though intense, career in the House of Representatives that this paper deals.

Archibald Jerrard Weaver was born April 15, 1843, in Dundaff, Pennsylvania. After attending village school he entered Wyoming Seminary at Kingston, Pennsylvania, where he studied for three years, taught for another three years, and then enrolled in Harvard Law School. At the same time he entered the law office of Henry Hoyt in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. In January 1869, he was admitted to the Massachusetts bar, but by April he and Martha, his wife of two years, were settled in Falls City, Nebraska. Weaver entered politics in 1871 as a member of the Nebraska Constitutional Convention, whose work went for naught. In 1872 he was elected district attorney, then served as a

member of the more successful 1875 Constitutional Convention. Weaver was district judge for two terms prior to his election as the first representative of the 1st Congressional District of Nebraska.<sup>1</sup>

Theodore W. Pepoon, editor and owner of the *Falls City Journal*, appointed himself defender and campaign manager of Weaver. He reported that the Lincoln Correspondent of the *Omaha Republican* could not determine whether or not Weaver was a candidate for the Republican nomination for congressman: "Judge Weaver is not of the Church Howe pattern."<sup>2</sup> Church Howe, an early settler of Nebraska and founder of the town of Auburn, was a working politician. He was brash, outspoken, and domineering. He was always willing to take a stand and support it loudly. Although he continued to retain power in the Republican party, few if any politicians or newspaper editors had anything good to say about him. In an editorial in the *Omaha Weekly Bee*, September 9, 1886, Editor Edward Rosewater recapitulated the reasons. He accused Howe of masquerading as a friend of the farmer in 1873, getting elected head of the state Grange, and then selling out to the railroad interests, thus destroying the farm organization. He was also accused of accepting bribes, using blackmail, and swindling the farmers of Nemaha county out of half of a railroad rebate.<sup>3</sup>

The 1st District Republican Congressional Nominating Convention was held September 7, 1882, at Nebraska City. The district, located in the southeast part of the state, comprised the counties of Saunders, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Cass, Otoe, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson. Pepoon predicted that Weaver would be nominated on the third or fourth ballot and said that although Weaver had not solicited the nomination, it was plain that public sentiment was in his favor.<sup>4</sup>

The balloting began about 8:30 p.m. with eleven candidates, one for each county in the district, receiving votes on the first ballot. On the thirty-ninth ballot an attempt was made to push J. L. Mitchell of Nebraska City, but he fell twenty-two votes short of the simple majority vote needed to win.<sup>5</sup> Just before the forty-fifth ballot, under the direction of Church Howe, John M. Thurston of Douglas county and the entire Richardson county delegation held a caucus, and put Nemaha and Douglas county support solidly for Weaver.<sup>6</sup> The *Omaha Republican* reported that Howe had it in his power to prevent the nomination of any

other individual, but gave up personal political honor for the sake of the party.<sup>7</sup>

Weaver's acceptance speech was typical of the grandiose manner of contemporary politicians. He vowed to prevent the flag from trailing in the dust, serve the people, and support the Republican party. The losers were also given an opportunity to say a few words and among those who spoke was Church Howe.<sup>8</sup>

The day after the convention, Robert W. Furnas, former governor of Nebraska from Brownville, wrote:

Accept, please, my sincere congratulations with your success at Nebraska City Convention. For two reasons: The peculiar fitness of the nomination, and the triumph over the greatest political fraud, with which Nebraska was ever afflicted—Church Howe.<sup>9</sup>

This ended the fight for the nomination and began a mudslinging duel between Editor Pepoon's *Journal* and J. Sterling Morton's *Nebraska City News*. The *News* responded to the Republican convention in a rather unusual manner, considering Morton's principal occupation was that of a railroad lobbyist. On September 11 it referred to the delegates as "railroad employees and radical roustabouts." The *News* lifted from context part of Weaver's acceptance speech and commented that it was nice of Weaver to admit that there were greater men than he. "Such goodness and disinterested benevolence brings tears into the eye (I) of every case of type in the *News* office."<sup>10</sup>

Pepoon responded even more strongly in his next issue calling Morton a "low-down blackguard, without the least regard to truth or common decency." For Morton, a paid lobbyist of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, to call farmers and merchants "'railroad employes' is cool enough to freeze ice as hot as it is."<sup>11</sup>

The Democrats held their congressional convention late in September and nominated John I. Redick of Douglas county by acclamation.<sup>12</sup> About the same time the Farmers Alliance and Anti-Monopolists, most of whom had split from the Republican party, nominated John Gilbert of Cass County.<sup>13</sup> The *Weekly Bee* attributed the split in the Republican party to the fact that the railroad bosses controlled the party and that the party had allowed a tax-exempt status to corporate monopolies.<sup>14</sup> Rosewater, a strong anti-monopolist, supported Gilbert.

The October 7 issue of the *News* printed an open letter from Redick to Weaver, challenging him to debate on issues of

protection, prohibition, anti-monopoly and any other issue that was proper.<sup>15</sup> Weaver declined, saying that his time was needed in court. In fact, Weaver never openly campaigned.

The *Omaha Herald* carried the final tabulation of votes in its November 22 issue. Weaver won by a large majority. He tallied 17,022 votes while Redick managed only 12,690 and Gilbert attracted 3,707 voters.<sup>16</sup> It would be over a year before Weaver would leave Nebraska for Washington, for the opening session of the 48th Congress did not begin until December of 1883. Until he left he continued to work as district judge.

While Weaver did succeed in his election, the evidence indicates that he was far from the overwhelming choice of the people that Pepon had predicted. His nomination at the Republican convention was merely a matter of chance, for, after three and one-half hours and forty-five ballots, and jumping from one candidate to another, the delegates finally had settled on Weaver. It could be assumed that Weaver received the nomination more from fatigue on the part of the delegates than from the working of a well-oiled machine. It should be recalled that prior to the convention, Pepon predicted Weaver's nomination on the third or fourth ballot. The fact that he did not need to campaign shows only that a Republican candidate in a Republican state could, without too much effort, successfully carry an election.

The first session of the 48th Congress began December 3, 1883. Weaver was appointed to the standing committees on Private Land Claims and Public Buildings Expenditures. The bill to establish a Bureau of Animal Industry, or the Pleuro-pneumonia Bill, was the first to draw comment from Weaver. This legislation was an attempt to stop the spread of contagious cattle diseases, mostly those diseases spread by Texas herds driven north. In a speech February 26, 1884, Weaver expressed his views. After making some general remarks on the inability of the eastern states to produce enough beef to feed their populations, he rebuked Congressman John Reagan's [R-Texas] theory that while Congress could regulate commerce it was taking over the job of the states by performing this policing function. He concluded by saying that those who opposed the bill would come to the same conclusion that the boy did who, while milking, tied the cow's tail to his leg: "He had made a hell of a mistake." Furthermore, Weaver said, "The great agricultural

interests, which have ever been neglected at the hands of Congress, will not stand much more nonsense."<sup>17</sup> The bill passed the House by twenty-eight votes.

It was four months before Weaver made another speech, this time on the taxation of Pacific railroad lands. On June 17 he spoke against the bill as it was presented, urging a bill with more strength, and with this idea in mind he had prepared a substitute bill. But after conferring with Lewis E. Payson [R-Illinois], who had drafted an amendment to the original bill, Weaver agreed to support Payson. The original bill provided for court action to recover payments due the government. Payson's amendment called for the forfeiture of land grants within ninety days if the railroad failed to pay the cost of surveying, selecting, and conveying the land. Since the beginning of railroad construction, Congress had been granting extensions to the railroad companies to give them time to pay, but they had never provided for enforcement in the event of failure to pay.<sup>18</sup> The Payson amendment passed the House and was sent to the Senate shortly before adjournment. The bill died in committee.

For the most part Weaver voted with the party, and when he did not, there is no indication why. Of the votes examined in the first session, there were only four cases when he did not vote with the majority of the party. He was not alone, for in three of the four votes the party was badly split. The 48th Congress, first session, ended July 7, 1884, without further remarks from Weaver.

The Republican State Convention to select delegates-at-large to the Republican National Convention was held in Lincoln, May 1, 1884. Although Weaver was still in Washington, he was consulted by the 1st District delegates prior to the convention. The only letter of a political nature existing in Weaver's papers that was written by him was sent to Daniel V. Stephenson, of Richardson County, on April 27, 1884. He urged Stephenson to be certain that no jealousy arose within the delegation and not to make any mistakes. Regarding the desire of John M. Thurston to be selected as a delegate-at-large, Weaver wrote that he was a friend of Thurston and should he be nominated, Weaver did not want him defeated. However, Weaver hoped that Thurston would not run, as he was a railroad lawyer for the Union Pacific, and Weaver did not want the monopolies dominating the national convention.<sup>19</sup>



*The Archibald J. Weaver home in Falls City, completed in about 1878, was razed in 1966.*

Despite Weaver's feelings, the state convention selected Thurston, along with Nathan S. Harwood, John Jensen, and George A. Brooks. Nebraska was allowed ten delegates to the national convention, and the remaining six were elected two from each congressional district. These selections were made during the state convention by representatives of the respective districts. The 1st Congressional District selected Eugene L. Reed and Church Howe. Prior to the balloting there was considerable discussion over the admission of the delegates from Gage county. Two different groups, one headed by Leonard W. Colby and the other by Algernon S. Paddock, attempted to gain admittance as the proper delegation. Colby's delegates were admitted and Pepoon wrote Weaver that "he laid Paddock out too dead to skin."<sup>20</sup>

The Nebraska delegation was sent to the convention in Chicago uninstructed and unpledged. Wallace W. Abbey wrote Weaver that he felt most of the delegation would support James G. Blaine if it was obvious that he was to be the nominee.<sup>21</sup> Edward Rosewater felt differently in an editorial in the *Weekly Bee* on May 7: "It is now conceded that two-thirds of the Nebraska delegates were for [Chester A.] Arthur as first choice

[for President] and that all will vote for him after one or two ballots.<sup>22</sup> P. E. Beardsley, clerk of the 1st Judicial District, wrote Weaver prior to the convention that he felt Blaine would not be nominated for President on the first ballot and that would end his chances.<sup>23</sup> A month later he again wrote Weaver that support for Arthur was on the increase.<sup>24</sup>

After the national convention, John Wesley Barnes of Plattsmouth complimented Weaver on his good sense for supporting Blaine and for being the only Nebraska delegate to do so. He wrote that "every Senator, ex-Senator, and Member of Congress that was at the convention from Nebraska knew at the time that the people of Nebraska was [*sic*] for Blaine" but that the politicians favored Arthur.<sup>25</sup> Barnes' letter shows several errors. First, Weaver was not a delegate; and second, eight of the ten delegates supported Blaine on all four ballots. The remaining two delegates got in line with Blaine on the third and fourth ballots. These two lingerers were probably Church Howe and Eugene Reed because they also supported Arthur's candidate for chairman of the convention.<sup>26</sup> In addition, Church Howe was consistently opposed to railroad reform, one of Blaine's strong points.

J. Sterling Morton, still in charge of the Democratic Party, began seeking his third nomination for governor, this time as a candidate of the Fusion Party, composed of Democrats, Anti-Monopolists, and Greenbackers. In letters from his sons Joy and Paul on August 9, 1884, Morton was urged to put in one of his friends for governor and run for Congress from the 1st District. Joy wrote that his father's chances for election were better and there was less need to be anti-monopolist.<sup>27</sup> Apparently, Morton's ego would not allow him to take this step down, so he ran Charles Brown of Omaha for Congressman.

The 1st District Republican Convention was held August 20, 1884, in Beatrice. No issues were discussed, no other nominees were brought forth, and Weaver was nominated by acclamation. Rosewater and the *Bee* came out against Weaver. On October 1 Rosewater wrote that Weaver was forced on the district by the political attorneys of the Union Pacific and Burlington and Missouri railroad (meaning Thurston and Allen Field). He urged the voters to strike out against the efforts of the railroad bosses.<sup>28</sup> A recent student of the election of 1884 has suggested that there were no substantive national issues that year and the

same held true for Nebraska.<sup>29</sup> The Fusionists attempted to make the tariff an issue but failed.

Weaver won the election by a very small majority although early returns indicated that Brown had won. The *Bee* of November 12 reported that Brown proposed to contest the election. By this time Weaver had a 400-vote majority, but there were charges of election fraud.<sup>30</sup> This charge was without apparent support, and the last mention of the election in the November 19 issue of the *Bee* noted that Weaver ran 5,000 votes behind presidential candidate Blaine. However, he still led Brown by 647 votes with Cass and Sarpy yet to report.<sup>31</sup> Although Weaver was opposed to monopolies, he had the backing of the railroads. This, combined with the fact that he was battling a candidate who had the support of three parties, gave him a final count of only 975 more votes than Brown.<sup>32</sup> Certainly this was not a mandate of the people to continue past performances.

After the election Weaver returned to Washington to complete the last half of his first term. It should be remembered that with lameduck sessions still in effect a reelection was complete between two sessions of the same Congress. This was an important session for Weaver, for he now began to voice loudly his support of an interstate commerce bill. In this effort he had the backing of most of the electorate but not of the railroads. Nebraskans had been seeking local control over the railroads for several years, yet in each case when restrictive means were introduced in the state legislature they were voted down.

The discussion surrounding the congressional interstate commerce bills, both carry-overs from the first session, by far overshadowed that of any other legislation. Bills were introduced in both the House and Senate, the House bill coming first. The bill was vigorously supported by Nebraska Senator Charles H. Van Wyck.

Early in the second session John Reagan managed to get discussion of his bill before the House, his ninth attempt at such legislation. He had introduced his bill in the last session, but illness prevented him from carrying it through the House.<sup>33</sup> The Reagan bill was the subject of Weaver's speech on December 9: "I say that we should not attempt to correct any imaginary evils, but strictly to confine our legislation to the correction of evils

that are known to exist." He went on to make a comparison of the committee bill and Reagan's substitute:

It becomes very important. . . to determine whether by the adoption of the committee bill we shall have lent our influence to the adoption of a system by which the alleged evils shall be more readily examined into and corrected or whether we will have placed in the road an ornamental stumbling-block.

Many of the same points were covered in both bills. The committee bill proposed an equal system of rebates and drawbacks, while the Reagan bill favored complete prohibition. According to Weaver both bills were weak on sections regarding payment of damages to an injured party, the committee bill not allowing enough and the substitute allowing three times too much.

Other sections of the substitute prohibited unlawful pooling, stipulated that like products shipped the same distance must be charged the same rate, and required posting of rates with five days notice before change. Regarding the committee bill, Weaver explained the method of obtaining damages, from the petition to the commission through the final work of the court system. All findings of the commission had to be turned over to a district attorney for prosecution, and the court would then reinvestigate the case. He concluded by saying, "If this is not an ornamental board, and of as little use as a fifth wheel in a wagon, I have been unable to understand the provisions of 'the bill.'" He favored Reagan's substitute but wanted to modify the section concerning payment of damages. He noted that should Reagan's bill fail he would support the committee bill despite its sections relating to the commission system.<sup>34</sup>

On December 16 Reagan's bill was brought before the House under the five-minute rule for debate and amendment. At the close of debate, it was accepted to replace the committee bill by a vote of 142 to 98.<sup>35</sup> Later in the day the opposition began its campaign. James O'Hara, Negro representative from North Carolina, introduced an amendment to include passenger service with equal facilities and treatment without regard to race. This amendment passed 134 to 97 before Reagan had a chance to marshal his forces.<sup>36</sup> To combat this Reagan agreed on December 18 to insert a statement in the form of an amendment which provided that "separate accommodations, with equal facilities and equal comforts, at the same charges, shall not be considered discrimination."<sup>37</sup> His amendment passed and,

despite the efforts of the opposition to include other statements regarding discrimination, was the final amendment.

The Reagan bill passed the House January 8, 1885, by a vote of 161 to 75 and was then sent to the Senate. Among other sections the Senate objected to the long-haul, short-haul clause. It had an interstate commerce bill of its own, introduced by Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, and had no intention of passing the House bill. This ended the chances for passage of an interstate commerce bill in the 48th Congress.

During the interim between the 48th and 49th Congresses, agitation on the part of the states for control of the railroads continued. When the 49th Congress convened in December, Reagan began preparations to reintroduce his bills. This he did early in January of 1886. He was again appointed chairman of the Commerce Committee and with this power set the time for discussion of his bill in mid-April.

On the Senate side Cullom too had reintroduced his bill. Just as Reagan's bill came up for discussion in the House, Cullom sent his approved bill to the House for acceptance. The priority of appropriation bills delayed discussion of both bills until almost the close of the session. However, Reagan did get his bill passed July 30 by a substantial vote. This still left the two houses at odds, and, since it was obvious that agreement could not be reached before the close of the session, a conference committee was appointed to prepare a report for the next session. This committee consisted of Senators Cullom and Isham Harris of Tennessee, and Representatives Regan, Weaver, and Charles Crisp of Georgia.

A bill to permit the free and unlimited coinage of silver drew comment from Weaver on February 27, 1886. He pointed out the need for free coinage to keep up with the demands of business and population: "There is no danger to be apprehended from the full and free coinage of silver."<sup>38</sup> Danger or not, the bill was brought out of committee, debated, and rejected.

When the session ended, Weaver returned to Nebraska to prepare for the 1st District Congressional Convention which was to be held September 22, 1886, again at Beatrice. Prior to the convention he had declared himself a candidate for re-election. With this in mind he went to see Edward Rosewater, and in a meeting between these two and Senator Van Wyck, it was learned that Van Wyck was urging Otoe County to support

Orlando Tefft of Cass County instead of Church Howe. The comments made at this meeting for the most part were not disclosed until after the election, when Rosewater included a letter from Van Wyck in an article about the nomination of Church Howe.<sup>39</sup>

Church Howe had been conducting a strong campaign, stumping the district, and virtually overpowering the public with positive statements about victory. No doubt some mention was made of Weaver's support of the interstate commerce bill. By the time the convention was held it was evident that a strong combination would be needed to defeat Howe. Delegations from Douglas, Richardson, Saunders, and Johnson counties united in the attempt, and chose not Weaver but William J. Connell of Omaha. This effort was a lost cause. According to Rosewater, delegates from Otoe County who had pledged to Van Wyck their support of Tefft were kept in a drunken state by Howe until after the balloting. Howe swept the convention on the first ballot in what Rosewater called a "triumph of treachery."<sup>40</sup>

Howe's triumph was short-lived, for in November he was defeated by his Democratic opponent, John McShane of Omaha, 23,296 to 16,373. Howe and Weaver were defeated as a result of the same issue—the interstate commerce legislation. Howe defeated Weaver in the nominating convention because he had railroad influence. McShane defeated Howe in November because the Democrats in Nebraska were supporting the Interstate Commerce Bill, as were the people.<sup>41</sup> The *Nemaha Granger* attributed Howe's defeat to treachery on the part of his supposed friends, liberal use of money by his opponent, and Howe's absence from the county during much of the campaign.<sup>42</sup>

Despite defeat Weaver still held some political power, for the next week in Lincoln at the party convention he was elected chairman of the Republican Central Committee, receiving 469 of slightly more than 500 votes possible.<sup>43</sup>

The conference committee on the bill to regulate commerce did not make its report to the second session of the 49th Congress until January 15, 1887. The committee offered as part of its report a substitute bill embracing parts of both the House and Senate measures. Reagan had to give in and support a commission system appointed by the President and agree to expand the bill to include water transportation and passenger

service. Cullom agreed to the long- and short-haul clause, avoided the race question by providing proper and "equal facilities," and the more stringent section on the posting of rates.<sup>44</sup>

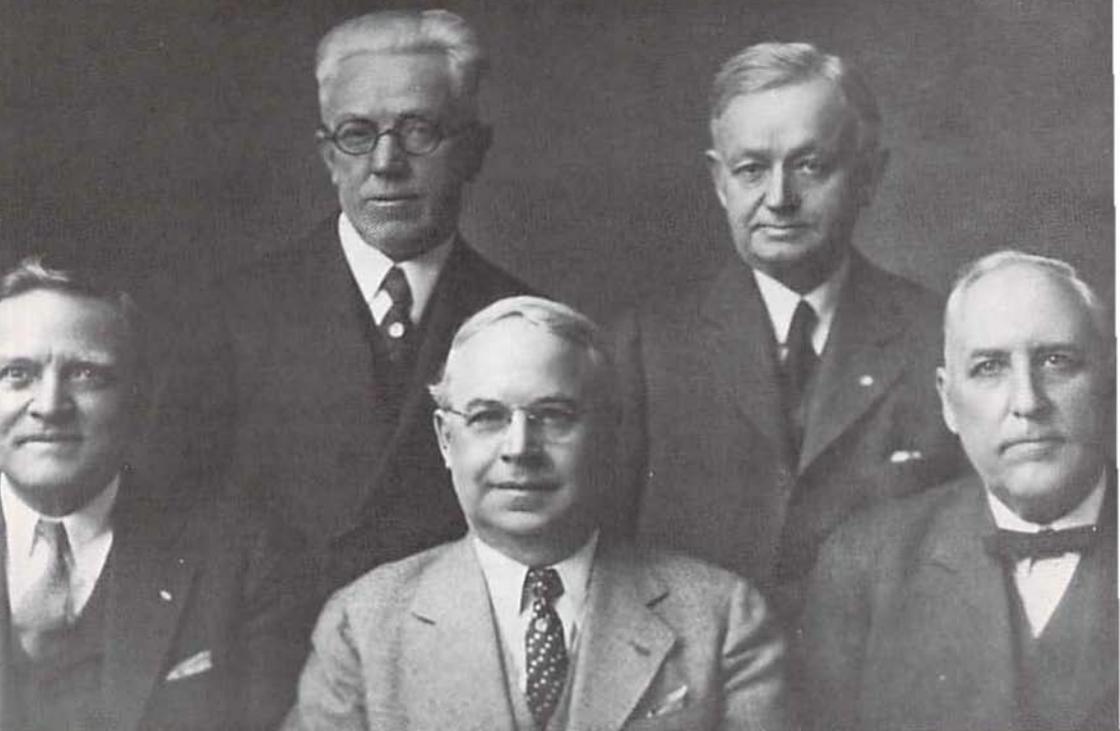
As a part of the report the members from the House were required to explain what the differences were between the House bill and the conference bill. The conference bill did not instill that much power with the commission; however, it did give them more power than had earlier legislation. Under the new bill the commission could require agents to testify and could also require the production of all documents relating to the investigation. It was necessary to take the carrier to court only for failure to obey the provisions of the act or the orders of the commission. It was up to the court to impose fines, subject to the provisions of the bill.<sup>45</sup>

The conference bill was accepted by both houses without further change and was signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur February 7, 1887. It is interesting to note that Reagan was not on hand for the final vote<sup>46</sup> and neither was Weaver.

Weaver's speech in 1884 had favored Reagan over a commission system. At some time he must have changed his position for in an undated, unpublished manuscript he said he favored the creation of a commission system with the absolute power to fix rates, rates that would be fair to both the railroad and to the people.<sup>47</sup> It is implied in the manuscript that this was written after 1884, but the date is not obtainable.

Almost at the same time as the conference report was being discussed in the House, the Nebraska State Legislature was meeting to elect a U.S. Senator. Among the Republicans in contention were Weaver, A. S. Paddock, and Senator Van Wyck. John McShane was the Democratic nominee.

According to the *Journal*, Weaver spent no money, had no lobby, and was opposed by the whole railroad "machine."<sup>48</sup> There is no doubt why the railroads opposed Weaver now after having supported him in 1884. His support of the Interstate Commerce Act tells the whole story. Balloting began on January 20 and continued through the 21st. With some fluctuation, Van Wyck, Paddock and Weaver were running one, two, three with others trailing behind. Just before the fifteenth ballot, on January 21, all the supporters of Van Wyck, Weaver, Thurston, and Amasa Cobb, a judge on the Supreme Court, caucused and



*Nebraska Memorial Commission (1933-1936) members (left to right): Val J. Peter, T. S. Allen, E. H. Luikart, J. P. O'Furey, Arthur J. Weaver. The commission's purpose was placement of statues of William Jennings Bryan and J. Sterling Morton in Statuary Hall in the nation's capitol.*



*Church Howe,  
founder of Auburn*

agreed to support their second choice, Paddock. The final vote was Paddock 93, McShane 32, and Van Wyck 4. Rosewater, who had been a Van Wyck supporter for many years, wrote that the people of Nebraska and Van Wyck had been sold out by the Legislature for some political advantage.<sup>49</sup> Again the railroads bought out Nebraska politicians and defeated a supporter of railroad regulation.

Pepoon reported the election of Paddock as a great triumph for the Republican party, stating that there was no more loyal Republican in the state. He felt Van Wyck's party loyalty was shaky.<sup>50</sup> This seems like a strange statement coming from Pepoon, since during Weaver's career Pepoon always mentioned Weaver's anti-monopoly feelings. Just two years before he had written Weaver telling him what a great victory had been won over Paddock. His mention of Weaver as being opposed by the whole railroad influence might indicate he should have supported Van Wyck as well.

With the fifteenth ballot on January 21, Archibald Weaver's political career came to a close. When Congress adjourned on March 3, 1887, Weaver returned to his law practice in Falls City. In mid-April he went to Lincoln to prepare to move and establish his practice there. While in Lincoln he contracted a cold, which soon turned into pneumonia. He returned to Falls City, where he died April 18, 1887.

The entire city turned out to pay tribute. All flags were at half-mast and both public and private business closed the day of the funeral. A very severe storm prohibited much road travel and in some cases prevented the railroads from sending special trains. Three trains were sent however, one each from Lincoln, Beatrice, and Wymore. These trains brought in large numbers of Masons, Knights Templar, and Knights of Pythias. These orders in their magnificent uniforms, along with the Falls City Cornet Band, provided the pageantry. The hearse was drawn by six black horses, each mounted by a leader from the Falls City Masonic Lodge.

Theodore W. Pepoon, in writing a memorial editorial for his *Falls City Journal*, said of Weaver, "(He was) kind hearted, generous, public spirited, and true to his friends. His hand was always open to relieve distress."<sup>51</sup>

The congressional career of Archibald Weaver was not exceptional. Yet, Weaver seems to have gained some measure of

respect from his colleagues, as is evidenced by his selection to the conference committee on the bill to regulate commerce.

His voting record indicates that he was, for the most part, a party man. When he did bolt the party majority, he was not always alone, and in only one case is it evident why he did so. This was on the vote for the free coinage of silver, and his speech in favor of free coinage shows why he voted for it. The remainder of the time there is nothing to indicate why he voted against the party. There are no known memorandums or correspondence written by Weaver and no newspaper editorials to give an insight into Weaver's political motivations. His political support in Nebraska seemed to fluctuate from year to year, with the opposition being on the increase.

Until additional material in the form of outgoing correspondence, notes, or diaries, if any, are discovered, a thorough analysis of Archibald Jerrard Weaver's political career will be left undone.

## NOTES

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