

PRAISE FOR A NEW SENATOR

Oklahoma's Senior Senator Displays Marked Ability in Speech on the Noted Aldrich Financial Bill

In speaking of the Oklahoma delegations in congress a recent Washington special has the following concerning the senior senator from the 46th state:

"Senator Robert L. Owen, were he a republican, would from the outset be one of the men of great influence in the United States senate. As it is he stands well up among the democrats, but of course is handicapped as he must stand with the minority instead of the majority part in congress. That he is an exceptional first member is indicated by the press notices he is receiving. The latest issue of 'Brickbats and Bouquets' says:

"A new star has arisen in the grand old southwest in the person of Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma. His speech the other day on the Aldrich financial bill was a masterpiece. It showed him a thorough master of the subject and of the English language, and that he knew how to take good care of himself in a running debate. In fact he invited interruption, and when a few of the old ones flew into him they retired with a few tail feathers lacking and were wiser men. There usually is a sneer on the faces of the older senators when a youngster, in his first term and session, gets to his feet and essays to say something on pending legislation, but there were no sneers for Mr. Owen.

"He is one of the ablest men who has come to the senate for many years and I predict for him a brilliant future. I congratulate Mr. Owen and the young state of Oklahoma on sending us the best the first dash out of the box. Bully for the southwest!"

The New York Times of Sunday March 1, also says:

"When Robert Latham Owen, senator from the new state of Oklahoma, entered the senate chamber two brief months ago he was regarded as merely an interesting addition to the greatest deliberative body in the world. He is a Cherokee Indian, or, rather, the blood of Cherokee ancestors courses in his veins, and the chief task the senate good-naturedly condescended to give him was that of keeping Senator Curtis, of Kansas, a member of the Kaw tribe, from growing lonesome.

"He was not expected to do anything out of the ordinary. The Senate has its traditions, and the most cherished of these is the one that frowns upon a new Senator making himself conspicuous during his first session. Jeff Davis tried it with disastrous results. This warning, the Senate thought, had made its impression on the square-jawed, black-eyed, lithe man from the West. Through two months of decorous silence the idea grew into conviction. Owen was a 'good Indian'."

"Suddenly something happened. In the course of three days last week the senator not only galvanized the senate into astonishment, but he managed to upset whole racks of senatorial traditions. He jumped into the arena, shied his castor and invited any there to try issue with him. Some did. They are regretting it.

"The senator's voice is his most potent asset. Liquid and soft in quality when he is talking dispassionately, it is as harsh and rasping as a file when he is aroused. He has a manner of reply that is brusque to the point of rudeness and so blunt at times as to be almost insulting."