

\_\_\_Kansas Pacific Railway Co. \_\_\_

SENATORIAL EXCURSION PARTY  
over the Union Pacific Railway . . .

## THE PACIFIC RAIL ROAD QUESTION

1867

Excerpts



Railroad bridge across the Kansas River near Lawrence, Kansas, 323 miles west of St. Louis, 1867

### SPEECH OF SENATOR CAMERON, of PENNSYLVANIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

For the last four or five days we have been traveling through a country so magnificent, passing through Missouri and Kansas, that I scarcely know how to speak in terms strong enough, of this Western country. We are now about fifteen hundred miles from the Atlantic Ocean, and for some days we have been passing through what used to be called the Far West; so far, indeed, that within the last few years, this region, now so full of the evidences of mighty progress, was considered far beyond the limits of civilization—only fit for the home of the savage Indian, and his proper companion, the wild buffalo. And yet, here we have come over an excellent railroad, in the same cars in which we started from the banks of the Delaware; almost within hearing of the sound of the waves of the Eastern Ocean. We have traveled through this long distance scarcely aware that we have left our homes. Everywhere we have been welcomed by the evidences of the most refined civilization, and entertained with the most lavish hospitality. We have slept well and regularly; we have dined at tables, furnished not only with delicious viands, equal to the best hotel tables of the East, but replete with every kind of luxury, and served to us in the most inviting forms.

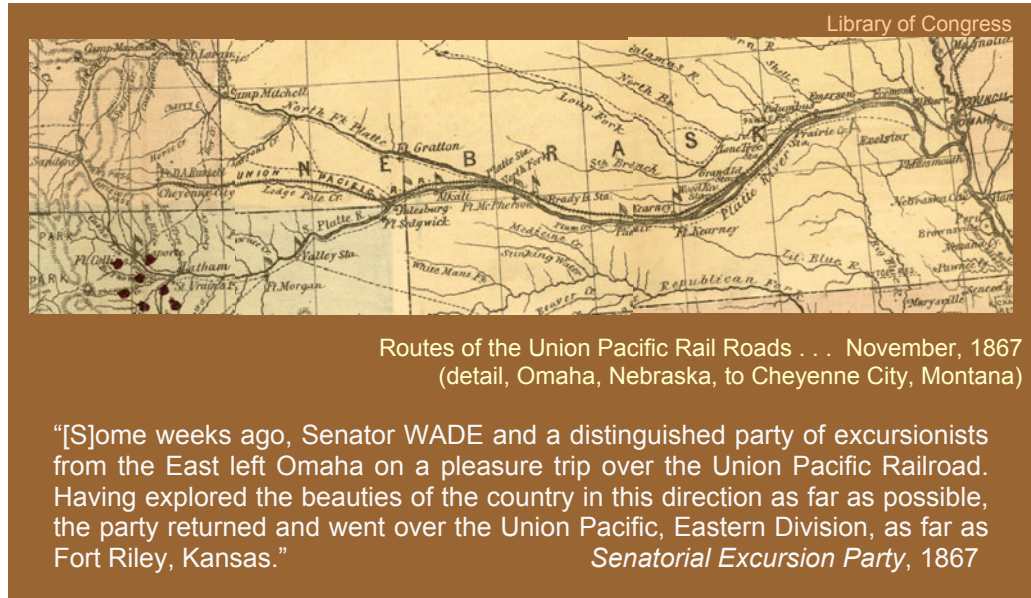
The cities which we have seen, some of them the growth of weeks only, are crowded with business, and so bear the marks of years of industry, under the magic of enterprise and self-reliance. When we return to our homes, and tell of what we have seen, we shall be told that we have asserted the traveler's privilege, and drawn on our imagination for our facts. . . .

## SPEECH OF SENATOR TRUMBULL, of ILLINOIS

MR. PRESIDENT:—<sup>1</sup> . . . Within the last

three weeks we have passed through the great States of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri—five States covering more territory twice over than the whole empire of France, and I think I may say a more fertile country, and one capable of sustaining a greater population. . . .

. . . We have all been astonished at what we have seen, and doubtless those who are to follow after me will be as much astonished as we have been. We have lived in extraordinary times—the most



extraordinary the world has ever seen. The great war is over. The great evil in our system of government has been wiped away forever . . . .

Peace has come upon our country once more. That portion of it which was in hostility to the Government is being reorganized, and I trust it will be speedily accomplished. This organization I want to see at an early day—at the earliest practical moment that it can be done with safety to the Union. I want it done by putting the power into the hands of men true to the Union. I want also all these States restored to their former position. I want to see trade and commerce opened with the South. This city wants to see it, the whole nation wants to see it. Let the energy of this country, which astonished the world when engaged in war, be now turned to improvements in time of peace, and to the developing of the great resources of this nation. (Cheers.)

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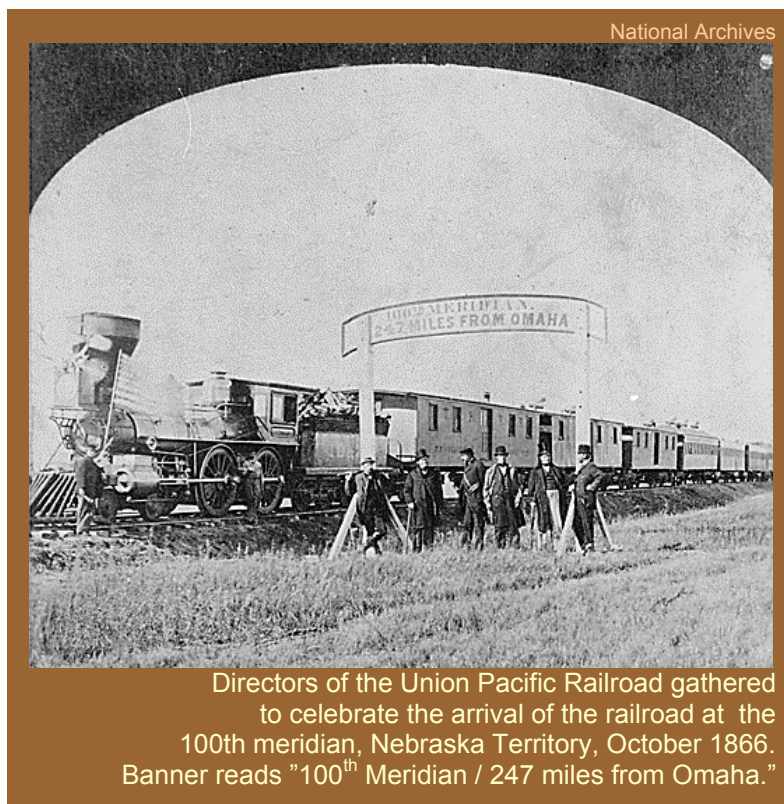
<sup>1</sup> Mr. President: Charles L. Tucker, president of the St. Louis Union Merchants' Exchange, one of the official hosts of a reception held June 14, 1867, for the excursionists in St. Louis, during which several of these speeches were delivered.

## SPEECH OF HON. C. D. HUBBARD, of WEST VIRGINIA

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE UNION,  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

STATES THAT NOW ARE, AND OF THE STATES THAT ARE YET TO BE:— . . . Standing, as I do to-day, in the centre of the great Republic of North America,<sup>2</sup> and by consequence in the centre of the world, it were no great stretch of fancy to imagine that we feel the eternal currents of the trade winds; that we hear the restless roar of the Ocean tides; or, that we can behold the grand procession of the centuries. We do behold, in reality, the progression of the noblest and the grandest work mankind has ever seen—the Union Pacific Railway—a work of untold benefit to our country and the world.

Mr. Chairman,<sup>3</sup> we have often heard of “Young America,” the young man for whom the world has been waiting these nearly 6,000 years. I am glad to say, sir, the young man is here to-day, and I propose that here, on the virgin soil of this young State, we plant a second garden of Eden, and place this young man in possession, for its culture and development. And the help-meet for this young man, I am proud to say, the young woman, is here, also; [cheers,] and I am satisfied that with fifty-nine centuries experience of sour apples, she will prove no unworthy help-meet in working out the glorious future, which we believe is now dawning on our race. This is the proper place where she should be installed in her true position; here, on the soil of Kansas, where, ere another year, she is to be allowed to take her share, and exercise her right, in the control and power of the Government; thus being restored to that position assigned her by the Creator, when he gave, not him, but “them,” dominion over all the earth.” . . .



<sup>2</sup> Speech delivered at a meeting of the excursionists near Fort Harker, Kansas, at the western end of the track of the Union Pacific Railway, June 7-8, 1867.

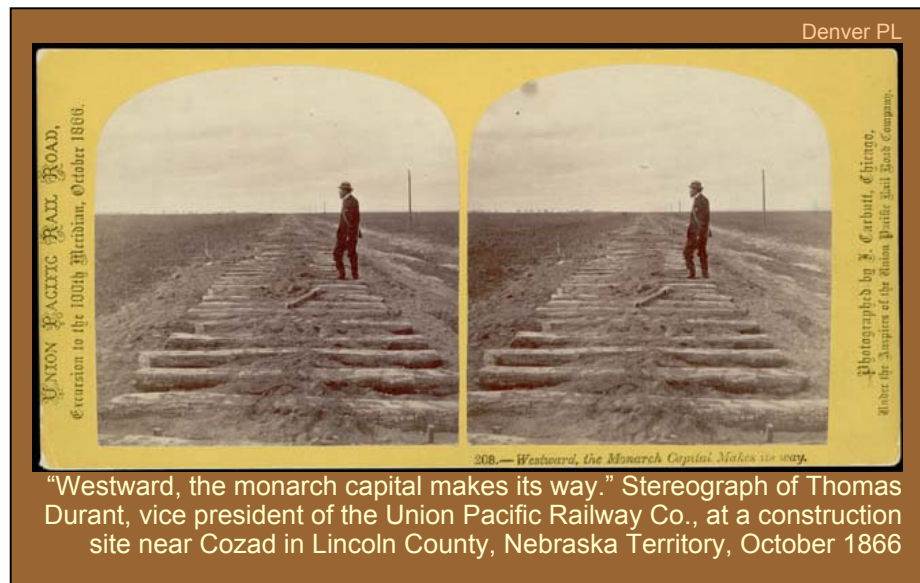
<sup>3</sup> Mr. Chairman: chair of the committee appointed by the excursionists to “draft resolutions expressive of the views of the excursionists.”

**SPEECH OF HON. JOHN A. J. CRESWELL, of MARYLAND**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN:— . . . Gentlemen of the West! you are a great people, to be sure, but you are not all the people in the universe. [Laughter.] Remember that there is still an East, and that, without that East—or rather, without it and the rest of the Union—you cannot complete your great railroad system. . . . You cannot rejoice more in your prosperity than we do; because it is as much our work as yours. . . . I have been forced to the conclusion, that this valley of the Mississippi has been prepared by God for the centre of the great Republic of Freedom. [Great applause.] . . .

. . . The men who control the Union Pacific line are endowed with superhuman energy. They will conquer the snowy mountains as certainly as they have conquered the wide prairie. They will go through, or over, or under any barrier that may present itself. They will either excavate it, or bridge it, or tunnel it. This nation will not wait because the timid fear a storm in the Rocky



“Westward, the monarch capital makes its way.” Stereograph of Thomas Durant, vice president of the Union Pacific Railway Co., at a construction site near Cozad in Lincoln County, Nebraska Territory, October 1866

Mountains. In short, you must succeed by your courage and enterprise. We of the East will help you all we can; and no man, who considers what we have done in the past, can doubt the sincerity with which we proffer you our assistance in the future. (Applause.)

These Continental Railroads, when completed, will bind together this Republic with their iron ligaments. No political convulsion will ever be strong enough to separate the East from the West. Hundreds of millions of treasure will appeal to the interests of the people in unison with the dictates of patriotism. The telegraph and the railroad—the one far outstripping, and the other rivaling, the speed of the flying hours—will more effectually consolidate our Union than all the enginery of “grim visaged war” combined. Hence, I advocate the speedy construction of these roads, in order that the meridians—which stretch from the equator, northward to the pole—may be bound together by iron parallels of latitude, so strong as to render disruption impossible.

Men of Missouri! recent events have wedded you more closely to us of Maryland. Our States have learned to love each other more dearly, because of the bloody ordeal through which they have lately



been required to pass. We know, now, full well, the value of the Union, and the fearful results which would flow from its destruction. Having learned our duty in the same severe school, let us swear this night then, when these roads shall have linked the Atlantic to the Pacific, and their iron girders shall have spanned nearly one-eighth of the earth's circumference, they shall never be severed by the division lines of hostile States. (Immense applause.)

**SPEECH OF HON. G. S. ORTH, of INDIANA**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:— We have reached

the western limit of our excursion [near Fort Harker, Kansas], and will soon retrace our footsteps. . . .

So rapidly have we passed from the more densely populated portions of our country; from its cities teeming with all the evidences of advanced civilization; from its rivers and its railroads, busy with the travel and the commerce of millions of our countrymen, to this edge of the “American Desert;” and so new and varied has been our experience, like the shifting scenes of a beautiful panorama, that our minds are almost bewildered, while our hearts are full of the emotions that all this, too, is part and parcel of “our own, our native land.” . . .

Our good “Uncle Sam” has come here, and he brings with him science and civilization, and he intends to plant permanently a part of his great family; for he is

now founding empires, and his mission will not be fulfilled on this continent until every foot of its soil will acknowledge his dominion and his power. (Applause.)

Less than twenty years ago, the project of a railroad uniting the Atlantic with the Pacific was regarded by our most practical business men as chimerical, while to-day we look with amazement, even in this fast age, when scarcely anything amazes us, upon the rapidity with which this great work approaches completion. *The Pacific Railroad has become a political necessity*, and our Government, even if such a thought were harbored, cannot now recede from lending such material aid as will, under wise and judicious management, accomplish its completion at the earliest practicable period. . . .



The wild Indian, who stands in the pathway of civilization, must adopt the habits and pursuits of civilized life, or cease to exist. These vast and beautiful fertile plains can no longer remain mere waste places, on which the savage is to indulge his slothful ease, or gratify his baser passions; these plains are part of God's footstool, and subject to the divine command to man "to replenish it and subdue it."

These plains and valleys and yonder mountain sides are to be the abodes of industry, of law and order, and of science and civilization. They are to be dotted over with happy

homes, teeming fields and busy marts of commerce. This wilderness shall soon blossom as the rose and the days of war-whoop and scalping-knife, of Indian treaties, broken as rapidly as made; the days of illicit Indian traffic, of swindling Indian agents and agencies, of civilized robbers and barbaric murder, shall cease, and every good man will say Amen! (Loud applause.)



### SPEECH OF SENATOR CHANDLER, of MICHIGAN

MR. PRESIDENT:— . . . I have read

most of the works that have been written about this Western country, but I never crossed the Mississippi river but once. I never traveled into the interior of this country but once, and that was in the fall of 1861. I thought I understood the resources of this country west of the Mississippi, but, Mr. President, this whole journey has been to me a continual astonishment. . . .

Mr. President, we have passed through such a conflict as the world never saw before, and I suppose it was necessary for us to pass through that conflict. I believe, sir, that God Almighty intended that this nation, this continent, and this identical people—I believe, sir, in the wisdom of Omnipotence, that this Government was preserved to demonstrate the problem now being wrought—the capability of man for self-government. The late war was not a war between the North and South. That was not the issue to be settled in this terrible war that has taken place during the last seven years. We were to decide whether man was capable of self-government—whether man could govern himself or was a

thing to be governed; whether he was born to rule or to be ruled. That was the issue, and that has been settled, and the problem has been wrought out.

### SPEECH OF SENATOR YATES, of ILLINOIS

MR. PRESIDENT:— . . . I never was west of the Mississippi river three miles before this journey; though I have been hundreds of times East, and down and up the river, I have never before traversed this country three miles west of this river; and, sir, I was totally unprepared to witness such a country as I beheld. . . .

Sir, we have just emerged from a great war. By the valor of our troops we have planted our flags on every stronghold of the enemy. Peace is restored. Sectional jealousy is removed. The South has acquiesced to a reasonable extent—as far as we could expect—in the verdict of the war; and the measures adopted by Congress, reinforced by the verdict and sanction of the American people, will, I believe, result in the speedy return of every wayward State to its appropriate place, and we all trust and

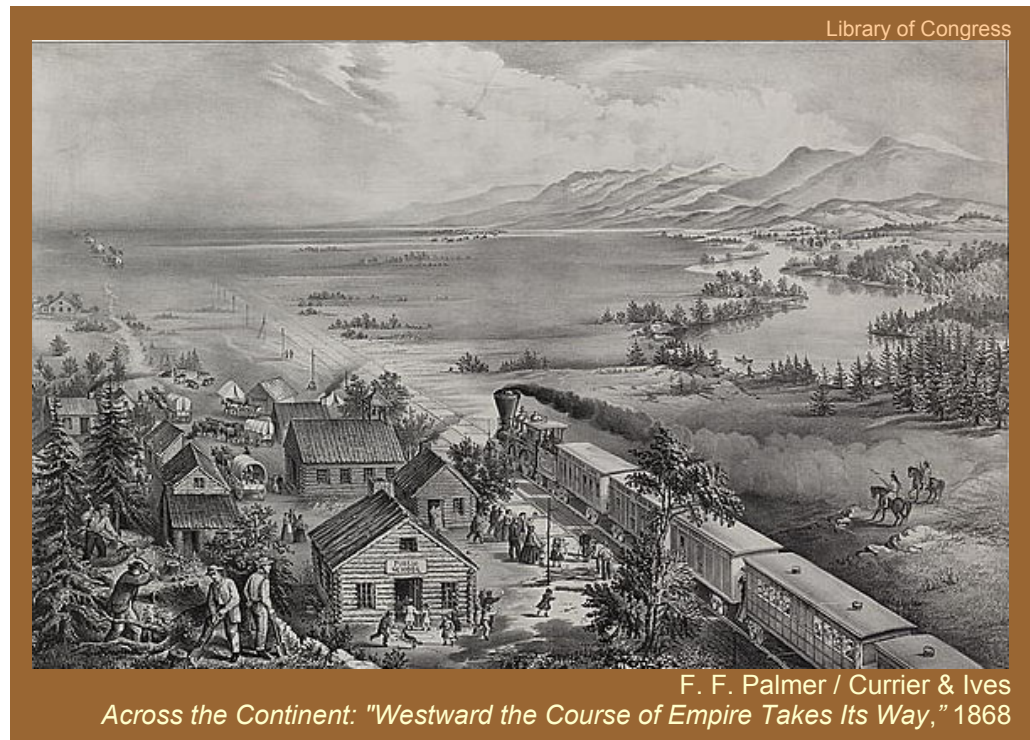
believe that the day is not far distant when our Union will again be restored with not a star obscured or a stripe erased. (Applause.)

But, sir, the war being over, there is something else for us to do. There must be another theatre of action. And now, sir, that a lasting peace, as I trust, is to be the heritage of this country, its future achievements are to be those of peaceful industry, of commerce, of agriculture, of the arts and sciences, and of religion. We are to carry, I believe and trust, the institutions which our fathers established, our free schools, our churches, our religion, all the recognized institutions of free, enlightened and civilized society, to the Kansas, to the Platte, to the Rio Grande, to the peaks of the Rocky Mountains, to the golden shores of the Pacific ocean, to the Russian possessions, and to every portion of the continent of North America. (Loud applause.) Mr. President, I consider that the vast



country west of the Mississippi is the valley wherein these achievements of peace are to be wrought. I will venture the assertion that there is no portion of the earth, where, during the present decade, the triumphs of peaceful industry, and the advance of improvement and material progress will be more visible and marked, than in this heaven-favored region west of the Mississippi river. If “the lines ever fell to a people in pleasant places,” they have fallen to these people out on the western plains, who occupy these grand outposts of settlement in the progress of civilization and Christianity, and in the triumphal march of the star of empire on its western way. (Applause.) . . .

We have a new agency born in the world. It is not now the fashion first to settle a country, and then to build roads to it and through it, but the fashion now is, to build the roads far into the wilderness, and then draw population and settlement to and after them. In war,



the railroad is our cheapest and most effectual defence, sending her locomotives thundering across our mountains and prairies to the relief of our armies and the triumph of our flag. In peace, our strongest bond of union; stronger than armies or navies, or all the constitutions man ever formed. The locomotive is the new pioneer of population and settlement. The railroad is the new agent of civilization. The railroad is carrying our institutions far into the centre of the West.