

= John Sherman =

John Sherman ( May 10 , 1823 ? October 22 , 1900 ) was an American Republican representative and senator from Ohio during the Civil War and into the late nineteenth century . He also served as both Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State . Sherman ran for the Republican presidential nomination three times , coming closest in 1888 , but never won . His brothers included General William Tecumseh Sherman , Charles Taylor Sherman , a federal judge in Ohio , and Hoyt Sherman , an Iowa banker .

Born in Lancaster , Ohio , Sherman later moved to Mansfield , Ohio , where he began a law career before entering politics . Initially a Whig , Sherman was among those anti @-@ slavery activists who formed what became the Republican Party . He served three terms in the House of Representatives . As a member of the House , Sherman traveled to Kansas to investigate the unrest between pro- and anti @-@ slavery partisans there . He rose in party leadership and was nearly elected Speaker in 1859 . Sherman was elevated to the Senate in 1861 . As a senator , he was a leader in financial matters , helping to redesign the United States ' monetary system to meet the needs of a nation torn apart by civil war . After the war , he worked to produce legislation that would restore the nation 's credit abroad and produce a stable , gold @-@ backed currency at home .

Serving as Secretary of the Treasury in the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes , Sherman continued his efforts for financial stability and solvency , overseeing an end to wartime inflationary measures and a return to gold @-@ backed money . He returned to the Senate after his term expired , serving there for a further sixteen years . During that time he continued his work on financial legislation , as well as writing and debating laws on immigration , business competition law , and the regulation of interstate commerce . Sherman was the principal author of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 , which was signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison . In 1897 , President William McKinley appointed him Secretary of State . Failing health and declining faculties made him unable to handle the burdens of the job , and he retired in 1898 at the start of the Spanish ? American War . Sherman died at his home in Washington , D.C. in 1900 .

= = Early life and education = =

John Sherman was born in Lancaster , Ohio , May 10 , 1823 , to Charles Robert Sherman and his wife , Mary Hoyt Sherman , the eighth of their eleven children . John Sherman 's grandfather , Taylor Sherman , a Connecticut lawyer and judge , first visited Ohio in the early nineteenth century , where he gained title to several parcels of land before returning to Connecticut . After Taylor 's death in 1815 , his son Charles , newly married to Mary Hoyt , moved the family west to Ohio . Several other Sherman relatives soon followed , and Charles became established as a lawyer in Lancaster . By the time of John Sherman 's birth , Charles had just been appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio .

Sherman 's father died suddenly in 1829 , leaving his mother to care for eleven children . Several of the oldest children , including Sherman 's older brother William , were fostered with nearby relatives , but John and his brother Hoyt stayed with their mother in Lancaster until 1831 . In that year , Sherman 's father 's cousin ( also named John Sherman ) took Sherman into his home in Mount Vernon , Ohio , where he enrolled in school . The other John Sherman intended for his namesake to study there until he was ready to enroll at nearby Kenyon College , but Sherman disliked school and was , in his own words , " a troublesome boy . " In 1835 , he returned to his mother 's home in Lancaster . Sherman continued his education there at a local academy where , after being briefly expelled for punching a teacher , he studied for two years .

In 1837 , Sherman left school and found a job as a junior surveyor on construction of improvements to the Muskingum River . Because he had obtained the job through Whig Party patronage , the election of a Democratic governor in 1838 meant that Sherman and the rest of his surveying crew were discharged from their jobs in June 1839 . The following year , he moved to Mansfield , Ohio to study law in the office of his older brother , Charles Taylor Sherman . He was admitted to the bar in 1844 and joined his brother 's firm . Sherman quickly became successful at the practice of law , and

by 1847 had accumulated property worth \$ 10 @, @ 000 and was a partner in several local businesses . By that time , Sherman and his brother Charles were able to support their mother and two unmarried sisters , who now moved to a house Sherman purchased in Mansfield . In 1848 , Sherman married Margaret Cecelia Stewart , the daughter of a local judge . The couple never had any biological children , but adopted a daughter , Mary , in 1864 .

Around the same time , Sherman began to take a larger role in politics . In 1844 , he addressed a political rally on behalf of the Whig candidate for president that year , Henry Clay . Four years later , Sherman was a delegate to the Whig National Convention where Zachary Taylor was nominated . As with most conservative Whigs , Sherman supported the Compromise of 1850 as the best solution to the growing sectional divide . In 1852 , Sherman was again a delegate to the Whig National Convention , where he supported the eventual nominee , Winfield Scott , against rivals Daniel Webster and Millard Fillmore .

= = House of Representatives = =

Sherman moved north to Cleveland , Ohio , in 1853 and established a law office there with two partners . Events soon interrupted Sherman 's plans for a new law firm , as the passage of the Kansas ? Nebraska Act in 1854 inspired him ( and many other anti @-@ slavery Northerners ) to take a more involved role in politics . That Act , the brainchild of Illinois Democrat Stephen A. Douglas , opened the two named territories to slavery , an implicit repeal of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 . Intended to quiet national agitation over slavery by shifting the decision to local settlers , Douglas 's Act instead inflamed anti @-@ slavery sentiment in the North by allowing the possibility of slavery 's expansion to territories held as free soil for three decades . Two months after the Act 's passage , Sherman became a candidate for Ohio 's thirteenth district in the federal House of Representatives . A local convention nominated Sherman over two other candidates to represent what was then called the Opposition Party ( later to become the Republican Party . ) The new party , a fusion of Free Soilers , Whigs , and anti @-@ slavery Democrats , had many discordant elements , and some among the former group thought Sherman too conservative on the slavery question . Nevertheless , they supported him against the incumbent Democrat , William D. Lindsley . Democrats were defeated across Ohio that year , and Sherman was elected by 2823 votes .

= = = Kansas = = =

When the 34th United States Congress convened in December 1855 , members opposed to Democratic President Franklin Pierce ( most of them Northerners ) held the majority in the House , while the Democrats retained their majority in the Senate . That House majority , however , was not fully unified , with some members adhering to the new anti @-@ Nebraska party , and others loyal to the new nativist American ( or Know @-@ Nothing ) party . The Know Nothings were also fractious , with some former Whigs and some former Free Soilers in their ranks . The result was a House that was unable to elect a Speaker for two months . When they finally agreed on the election of Nathaniel Banks of Massachusetts , the House quickly turned to the matter of Kansas . Preventing the expansion of slavery to Kansas was the one issue that united Banks ' fragile majority , and the House resolved to send three members to investigate the situation in that territory ; Sherman was one of the three selected .

Sherman spent two months in the territory and was the primary author of the 1 @, @ 188 @-@ page report filed on conditions there when they returned in April 1856 . The report explained what anti @-@ administration members already feared : that the principle of local control was being seriously undermined by the invasion of Missourians who , while not intending to settle there , used violence to coerce the Kansans to elect pro @-@ slavery members to the territorial legislature . The House took no action on the reports , but they were widely distributed as campaign documents . That July , Sherman proposed an amendment to an army appropriation act to bar use of federal troops to enforce the acts of the Kansas territorial legislature , which many now viewed as an

illegitimate body . The amendment narrowly passed the House , but was removed by the Senate ; the House ultimately agreed to the change . In spite of this defeat , however , Sherman had achieved considerable prominence for a freshman representative .

= = = Lecompton and financial reform = = =

Sherman was reelected in 1856 , defeating his Democratic opponent , Herman J. Brumback , by 2861 votes . The Republican candidate for president , John C. Frémont carried Ohio while losing the national vote to the Democrat , James Buchanan . When the 35th Congress assembled in December 1857 , the anti @-@ Nebraska coalition ? now formally the Republicans ? had lost control of the House , and Sherman found himself in the minority . The sectional crisis had also deepened in the past year . In March 1857 , the Supreme Court issued its decision in Dred Scott v. Sandford , holding that Congress had no power to prevent slavery in the territories and that blacks ? whether free or enslaved ? could not be citizens of the United States . In December of that year , in an election boycotted by free @-@ state partisans , Kansas adopted the pro @-@ slavery Lecompton Constitution and petitioned Congress to be admitted as a slave state . Buchanan urged that Congress take up the matter , and the Senate approved a bill to admit Kansas . Sherman spoke against the Kansas bill in the House , pointing out the evidence of fraud in the elections there . Some of the Northern Democrats joined with a unanimous Republican caucus to defeat the measure . Congress agreed to a compromise measure , by which Kansas would be admitted after another referendum on the Lecompton constitution . The electorate rejected slavery and remained a territory , a decision Sherman would later call " the turning point of the slavery controversy . "

Sherman 's second term also saw his first speeches in Congress on the country 's financial situation , which had been harmed by the Panic of 1857 . Citing the need to pare unnecessary expenditures in light of diminished revenue , Sherman especially criticized Southern senators for adding appropriations to the House 's bills . His speech attracted attention , and was the start of Sherman 's focus on financial matters , which would continue throughout his long political career .

= = = House leadership = = =

The voters returned Sherman to office for a third term in 1858 . After a brief special session in March 1859 , the 36th Congress adjourned , and Sherman and his wife went on vacation to Europe . When they returned that December , the situation was similar to that of four years earlier : no party had an absolute majority . Republicans held 109 seats , Democrats 101 , and Know Nothings 27 . Again , sectional tension had increased while Congress was in recess , this time due to John Brown 's raid on Harpers Ferry , Virginia . The election for Speaker of the House promised to be contentious . This time , Sherman was among the leading candidates , receiving the second @-@ largest number of votes on the first ballot , with no candidate receiving a majority . The election for Speaker was sidetracked immediately by a furor over an anti @-@ slavery book , *The Impending Crisis of the South* , written by Hinton Rowan Helper and endorsed by many Republican members . Southerners accused Sherman of having endorsed the book , while he protested that he only endorsed its use as a campaign tool and had never read it . After two months of balloting , no decision had been reached . After their attempts to adopt a plurality rule failed , Sherman accepted that he could not be elected , and withdrew . Republicans then shifted their support to William Pennington , who was elected on the forty @-@ fourth ballot .

Pennington assigned Sherman to serve as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means , where he spent much of his time on appropriations bills , while cooperating with his colleague Justin Smith Morrill on the passage of what became known as the Morrill Tariff . The Morrill Tariff raised duties on imports in order to close the deficit that had resulted from falling revenues . It also had the effect of encouraging domestic industries , which appealed to the former Whigs in the Republican party . Sherman spoke in favor of the bill and it passed the House by a vote of 105 to 64 . The tariff bill would likely have died in the Senate , but the withdrawal of Southern members at the start of the Civil War allowed the rump Senate to pass the bill in the 36th Congress 's final session , and

President Buchanan signed it into law in February 1861 . Likewise , Sherman supported a bill admitting Kansas as a free state that passed in 1861 .

Sherman was renominated for Congress in 1860 and was active in Abraham Lincoln 's campaign for President , giving speeches on his behalf in several states . Both were elected , with Sherman defeating his opponent , Barnabas Burns , by 2864 votes . He returned to Washington for the lame duck session of the 36th Congress . By February 1861 , seven states had reacted to Lincoln 's election by seceding from the Union . In response , Congress passed a constitutional amendment proposed by Representative Thomas Corwin of Ohio . Known today as the Corwin Amendment , it was an attempt to forge a compromise to keep the remaining slave states in the Union and entice the seceded states to return . Corwin 's legislation would have preserved the status quo on slavery and prohibited any future amendment granting Congress power to interfere with slavery in the states . Sherman voted for the amendment , which passed both houses of Congress and was sent to the states for ratification . Few states ratified it , and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865 , outlawing slavery , rendered the compromise measure moot .

= = Senate = =

Lincoln took office on March 4 , 1861 . Among his first acts was to nominate Senator Salmon P. Chase of Ohio to be Secretary of the Treasury . Chase resigned his Senate seat on March 7 , and after two weeks of indecisive balloting , the Ohio Legislature elected Sherman to the vacant seat . He took his seat on March 23 , 1861 , as the Senate had been called into special session to deal with the secession crisis . The Senate that convened at the start of the 37th Congress had a Republican majority for the first time , a majority that grew as more Southern members resigned or were expelled . In April , Sherman 's brother William visited Washington to rejoin the army , and the brothers went together to the White House to meet Lincoln . Lincoln soon called for 75 @, @ 000 men to enlist for three months to put down the rebellion , which William Sherman thought too few and too short a duration . William 's thoughts on the war greatly influenced his brother , and John Sherman returned home to Ohio to encourage enlistment , briefly serving as an unpaid colonel of Ohio Volunteers .

= = = Financing the Civil War = = =

The Civil War expenditures quickly strained the government 's already @-@ fragile financial situation and Sherman , assigned to the Senate Finance Committee , was involved in the process of increasing the revenue . In July 1861 , Congress authorized the government to issue Demand Notes , the first form of paper money issued directly by the United States government . The notes were redeemable in specie ( i.e. , gold or silver coin ) but , as Sherman would note in his memoirs , they did not solve the revenue problem , as the government did not have the coin to redeem the notes should they all be presented for payment . To solve this problem , Chase asked for and Congress authorized the issuance of \$ 150 million in bonds , which ( as banks purchased them with gold ) replenished the treasury . Congress also sought to increase revenue when they passed the Revenue Act of 1861 , which imposed the first federal income tax in American history . Sherman endorsed the measure , and even spoke in favor of a steeper tax than the one imposed by the Act ( 3 % on income above \$ 800 , ) preferring to raise revenue by taxation than by borrowing . In August , the special session closed and Sherman returned home to Mansfield to promote military recruitment again .

When Congress returned to Washington in December 1861 , Sherman and the Finance Committee continued their attempts to fix the deepening financial crisis caused by the war . The financial situation had continued to worsen resulting that month in banks suspending specie payments ? that is , they refused to redeem their banknotes for gold . Gold began to disappear from circulation . With the 500 @, @ 000 soldiers in the field , the government was spending the then @-@ unheard @-@ of sum of \$ 2 million per day . Sherman understood that " a radical change in existing laws relating to our currency must be made , or ... the destruction of the Union would be unavoidable ... "

Secretary Chase agreed , and proposed that the Treasury Department issue United States Notes that were redeemable not in specie but in 6 % government bonds . The bills would be " lawful money and a legal tender in the payment of all debts . " Nothing but gold and silver coin had ever been legal tender in the United States , but Congress yielded to the wartime necessities and the resulting First Legal Tender Act passed both the House and the Senate . The Act limited the notes ( later known as " greenbacks " ) to \$ 150 million , but two subsequent Legal Tender Acts that year expanded the limit to \$ 450 million . The idea of making paper money legal tender was controversial , and William Pitt Fessenden of Maine , chairman of the Senate Finance Committee , was among many who opposed the proposal . Sherman disagreed , and spoke in favor of the idea . He defended his position as necessary in his memoirs , saying " from the passage of the legal tender act , by which means were provided for utilizing the wealth of the country in the suppression of the rebellion , the tide of war turned in our favor . "

Reform of the nation 's financial system continued in 1863 with the passage of the National Banking Act of 1863 . This Act , first proposed by Chase in 1861 and introduced by Sherman two years later , established a series of nationally chartered private banks that would issue banknotes in coordination with the Treasury , replacing ( though not completely ) the system of state @-@ chartered banks then in existence . Although the immediate purpose was to fund the war , the National Bank Act was intended to be permanent , and remained the law until 1913 . A 10 % tax on state banknotes passed in 1865 to facilitate the shift to a national bank system . Sherman agreed with Chase wholeheartedly , and hoped that state banking would be completely eliminated . Sherman believed the state @-@ by @-@ state system of regulation was disorderly and unable to facilitate the level of borrowing a modern nation might require . He also believed the state banks were unconstitutional . Not all Republicans shared Sherman 's views , and when the Act eventually passed the Senate , it was by a narrow 23 ? 21 vote . Lincoln signed the bill into law on February 25 , 1863 .

= = = Slavery and Reconstruction = = =

Besides his role in financial matters , Sherman also participated in debate over the conduct of the war and goals for the post @-@ war nation . Sherman voted for the Confiscation Act of 1861 , which allowed the government to confiscate any property being used to support the Confederate war effort ( including slaves ) and for the act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia . He also voted for the Confiscation Act of 1862 , which clarified that slaves " confiscated " under the 1861 Act were freed . In 1864 , Sherman voted for the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution , abolishing slavery . After some effort , it passed Congress and was ratified by the states the next year .

When the session ended , Sherman campaigned in Indiana and Ohio for Lincoln 's reelection . In 1865 , he attended Lincoln 's second inauguration , then traveled to Savannah , Georgia to meet with his brother William , who had arrived there after his army 's march to the sea . Sherman returned home to Mansfield in April , where he learned of Lincoln 's assassination . He was again in Washington for the Grand Review of the Armies and then returned home until December , when the 39th Congress assembled . There had been no special session that summer , and President Andrew Johnson , Lincoln 's successor , had taken the lead on Reconstruction of the conquered South , to the consternation of many in Congress . Sherman and Johnson had been friendly , and some observers hoped that Sherman could serve as a liaison between Johnson and the party 's " Radical " wing . By February 1866 , however , Johnson was publicly attacking these Radical Republicans , who demanded harsh punishment of the rebels and federal action to assist the freedmen . The following month Johnson vetoed the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1866 , which had passed Congress with overwhelming numbers . Sherman joined in re @-@ passing the bill over Johnson 's veto . That same year , Sherman voted for the Fourteenth Amendment , which guaranteed equal protection of the laws to the freedmen . It became law in 1868 .

By then , Johnson had made himself the enemy of most Republicans in Congress , including Sherman . Sherman , a moderate , took the side of the Radicals in voting for the Tenure of Office Act , which passed over Johnson 's veto in 1867 ? but in debating the First Reconstruction Act , he

argued against disenfranchising Southern men who had participated in the rebellion . The latter bill , amended to remove that provision , also passed over Johnson 's veto . The continued conflict between Johnson and Congress culminated in Johnson 's impeachment by the House in 1868 . After a trial in the Senate , Sherman voted to convict , but the total vote was one short of the required two @-@ thirds majority , and Johnson continued in office . Writing later , Sherman said that although he " liked the President personally and harbored against him none of the prejudice and animosity of some others , " he believed Johnson had violated the Tenure of Office Act , and accordingly voted to remove him from office .

With Ulysses S. Grant elected to the Presidency in 1868 , Congress had a more willing partner in Reconstruction . The 40th Congress 's lame duck session passed the Fifteenth Amendment , which guaranteed that the right to vote could not be restricted because of race ; Sherman joined the two @-@ thirds majority that voted for its passage . The 41st Congress passed the Enforcement Act of 1870 in an effort to enforce its civil rights Amendments among a hostile Southern population . That Act , written by John Bingham of Ohio to mirror the Fourteenth Amendment , created penalties for violating another person 's constitutional rights . The next year , Congress passed the Ku Klux Klan Act , which strengthened the Enforcement Act by allowing federal trials and federal troops to be used . Sherman voted in favor of both Acts , which had Grant 's support .

= = = Post @-@ war finances = = =

With the financial crisis abated , many in Congress wanted the greenbacks to be withdrawn from circulation . The public had never seen greenbacks as equivalent to specie , and by 1866 they circulated at a considerable discount , although their value had risen since the end of the war . Hugh McCulloch , the Treasury Secretary under Lincoln and Johnson , believed the notes were an emergency measure only , and thought they should be gradually withdrawn . McCulloch proposed a bill , the Contraction Act , to convert some of the greenbacks from notes redeemable in bonds to interest @-@ bearing notes redeemable in coin . Most Senate Finance Committee members had no objection , and Sherman found himself alone in opposition to it , believing that withdrawing greenbacks from circulation would contract the money supply and harm the economy . Sherman instead favored leaving the existing notes in circulation and letting the growth in population catch up to the growth in money supply . He suggested an amendment that would instead just allow the Treasury to redeem the notes for lower @-@ interest bonds , now that the government 's borrowing costs had decreased . Sherman 's amendment was voted down , and the Contraction Act passed ; greenbacks would be gradually withdrawn , but those still circulating would be redeemable for the high @-@ interest bonds as before . In his memoirs , Sherman called this law " the most injurious and expensive financial measure ever enacted by Congress , " as the continued high interest payments it required " added fully \$ 300 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 of interest " to the national debt .

The Ohio legislature reelected Sherman to another six @-@ year term that year , and when ( after a three @-@ month vacation in Europe ) he resumed his seat he again turned to the greenback question . Public support for greenbacks had grown , especially among businessmen who thought withdrawal would lead to lower prices . When a bill passed the House suspending the authority to retire greenbacks under the Contraction Act , Sherman supported it in the Senate . It passed the Senate 33 ? 4 , and became law in 1868 .

In the next Congress , among the first bills to pass the house was the Public Credit Act of 1869 , which would require the government to pay bondholders in gold , not greenbacks . The 1868 election campaign had seen the Democrats proposing to repay the bondholders ( mostly supporters of the Union war effort ) in paper ; Republicans favored gold , as the bonds had been purchased with gold . Sherman agreed with his fellow Republicans and voted with them to pass the bill 42 @-@ 13 . Sherman continued to favor wider circulation of the greenback when he voted for the Currency Act of 1870 , which authorized an additional \$ 54 million in United States Notes . Sherman was also involved in debate over the Funding Act of 1870 . The Funding Act , which Sherman called " [ t ] he most important financial measure of that Congress , " refunded the national debt . The bill as Sherman wrote it authorized \$ 1 @.@ 2 billion of low interest rate bonds to be used to purchase the

high @-@ rate bonds issued during the war , in order to take advantage of the lower borrowing costs brought about by the peace and security that followed the Union victory . The Act was the subject of considerable debate over the exact rates and amounts , but once the differences were ironed out , it passed by large majorities in both houses . While Sherman was unhappy with the compromises ( especially the extension of the bonds ' term to 30 years , which he believed too long ) , he saw the bill as an improvement over the existing conditions , and urged its passage .

= = = Coinage Act of 1873 = = =

The Ohio Legislature elected Sherman to a third term in 1872 , after then @-@ governor Rutherford B. Hayes declined the invitation of several legislators to run against Sherman . Sherman returned to his leadership of the Finance Committee , and the issues of greenbacks , gold , and silver continued into the next several congresses . Since the early days of the republic , the United States had minted both gold and silver coins , and for decades the ratio of value between them had been set by law at 16 : 1 . Both metals were subject to " free coinage " ; that is , anyone could bring any amount of silver or gold to the United States Mint and have it converted to coinage . The ratio was bound to be imperfect , as the amount of gold and silver mined and the demand for it around the world fluctuated from year to year ; as a metal 's market price exceeded its legal price , coins of that metal would disappear from circulation ( a phenomenon known as Gresham 's law ) . Before the Civil War , gold circulated freely and silver disappeared , and while silver dollars were legal tender , Sherman wrote that " [ a ] lthough I was quite active in business ... I do not remember at that time to have ever seen a silver dollar . " The issuance of greenbacks had pushed debate over gold @-@ silver ratios to the background as coins of both metals disappeared from the nation 's commerce in favor of the new paper notes , but as the dollar became stronger in peacetime and the national debt payments were guaranteed to be paid in specie , Congress saw the need to update the coinage laws .

Grant 's Treasury Secretary , George S. Boutwell , sent Sherman ( who was by now Senate Finance Committee Chairman ) a draft of what would become the Coinage Act of 1873 . The list of legal coins duplicated that of the previous coinage act , leaving off only the silver dollar and two smaller coins . The rationale given in the Treasury report accompanying the draft bill was that to mint a gold dollar and a silver dollar with different intrinsic values was problematic ; as the silver dollar did not circulate and the gold did , it made sense to drop the unused coin . Opponents of the bill would later call this omission the " Crime of ' 73 , " and would mean it quite literally , circulating tales of widespread bribery of Congressmen by foreign agents . Sherman emphasized in his memoirs that the bill was openly debated for several years and passed both Houses with overwhelming support and that , given the continued circulation of smaller silver coins at the same 16 : 1 ratio , nothing had been " demonetized , " as his opponents claimed . Silver was still legal tender , but only for sums up to five dollars . On the other hand , later scholars have suggested that Sherman and others wished to demonetize silver for years and move the country onto a gold @-@ only standard of currency ? not for some corrupt gain , but because they believed it was the path to a strong , secure currency .

In switching to what was essentially a gold standard , the United States joined a host of nations around the world that based their currencies on gold alone . But in doing so , these nations exacerbated the demand for gold as opposed to silver which , combined with more silver being mined , drove the cost of gold up and silver down . The result was not apparent immediately after the Coinage Act 's passage , but by 1879 the ratio between the price of gold and that of silver had risen from 16 @.@ 4 : 1 to 18 @.@ 4 : 1 ; by 1896 it was 30 : 1 . The ultimate effect was more expensive gold , which meant lower prices and deflation for other goods . The deflation made the effects of the Panic of 1873 worse , making it more expensive for debtors to pay debts they had contracted when currency was less valuable . Farmers and laborers , especially , clamored for the return of coinage in both metals , believing the increased money supply would restore wages and property values , and the divide between pro- and anti @-@ silver forces grew in the decades to come . Writing in 1895 , Sherman defended the bill , saying that , barring some international agreement to switch the entire world to a bimetallic standard , the United States dollar should remain

a gold @-@ backed currency .

= = = Resumption of specie payments = = =

At the same time as he sought to reform the coinage , Sherman worked for " resumption " ? the policy of resuming specie payment on all bank notes , including the greenbacks . The idea of withdrawing the greenbacks from circulation altogether had been tried and quickly rejected in 1866 ; the notes were , as Sherman said , " a great favorite of the people . " The economic turmoil of the Panic of 1873 made it even more clear that shrinking the money supply would be harmful to the average American . Still , Sherman ( and others ) desired an eventual return to a single circulating medium : gold . As he said in an 1874 speech , " a specie standard is the best and the only true standard of all values , recognized as such by all civilized nations of our generation . " If greenbacks were not to be withdrawn from circulation , therefore , they must be made equal to the gold dollar .

While Sherman stood against printing additional greenbacks , as late as 1872 he remained a proponent of keeping existing greenbacks backed by bonds in circulation . Over the next two years , Sherman worked to develop what became the Specie Payment Resumption Act . The Act was a compromise . It required gradual reduction of the maximum value of greenbacks allowed to circulate to \$ 300 million and , while earlier drafts had allowed the Treasury the choice between paying in bonds or in coin , the final version of the Act required payment in specie , starting in 1879 . The bill passed on a party @-@ line vote in the lame duck session of the 43rd Congress , and President Grant signed it into law on January 14 , 1875 .

= = = Election of 1876 = = =

After the close of the session , Sherman returned to Ohio to campaign for the Republican nominee for governor there , former governor Rutherford B. Hayes . The issue of specie payments was debated in the campaign , with Hayes endorsing Sherman 's position and his Democratic opponent , incumbent Governor William Allen , in favor of increased circulation of greenbacks redeemable in bonds . Hayes won a narrow victory , and was soon mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 1876 . The controversy over resumption carried into the presidential election . The Democratic platform that year demanded repeal of the Resumption Act , while the Republicans nominated Hayes , whose position in favor of a gold standard was well known . The election of 1876 was very close and the electoral votes of several states were ardently disputed until mere days before the new president was to be inaugurated . Louisiana was one of the states in which both parties claimed victory , and Grant asked Sherman and a few other men to go to New Orleans and ensure the party 's interests were represented .

Sherman , by this time thoroughly displeased with Grant and his administration , nonetheless took up the call in the name of party loyalty , joining James A. Garfield , Stanley Matthews , and other Republican politicians in Louisiana a few days later . The Democrats likewise sent their politicians , and the two sides met to observe the elections return board arrive at its decision that Hayes should be awarded their state 's electoral votes . This ended Sherman 's direct role in the matter , and he returned to Washington , but the dispute carried over until a bipartisan election commission was convened in the capital . A few days before Grant 's term would end , the commission narrowly decided in Hayes 's favor , and he became the 19th President of the United States .

= = Secretary of the Treasury = =

Sherman 's financial expertise and his friendship with Hayes made him a natural choice for Treasury Secretary in 1877 . Like Grant before him , Hayes had not consulted party leaders about his cabinet appointments , and the Senate took the then @-@ unusual step of referring all of them to committee . Two days later , senators approved Sherman 's nomination after an hour of debate , and he began lobbying his former colleagues to approve the other nominations , which they eventually did . Hayes and Sherman became close friends in the next four years , taking regular



carriage rides together to discuss matters of state in private . In the Treasury , as in the Senate , Sherman was confronted with two tasks : first , to prepare for specie resumption when it took effect in 1879 ; second , to deal with the backlash against the diminution of silver coinage .

= = = Preparing for specie resumption = = =

Sherman and Hayes agreed to stockpile gold in preparation for the exchange of greenbacks for specie . The Act remained unpopular in some quarters , leading to four attempts to repeal it in the Senate and fourteen in the House ? all unsuccessful . By this time , public confidence in the Treasury had grown to the extent that the a dollar in gold was worth only \$ 1 @. @ 05 in greenbacks . Once the public was confident that they could redeem greenbacks for gold , few actually did so ; when the Act took effect in 1879 , only \$ 130 @, @ 000 out of the \$ 346 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 outstanding dollars in greenbacks were redeemed . Greenbacks were now at parity with gold dollars , and the nation had , for the first time since the Civil War , a unified monetary system .

= = = Bland ? Allison Act = = =

Sentiment against the Coinage Act of 1873 gained strength as the economy worsened following the Panic of 1873 . Democratic Representative Richard P. Bland of Missouri proposed a bill that would require the United States buy as much silver as miners could sell the government and strike it into coins , a system that would increase the money supply and aid debtors . In short , silver miners would sell the government metal worth fifty to seventy cents , and receive back a silver dollar . The pro @-@ silver idea cut across party lines , and William B. Allison , a Republican from Iowa led the effort in the Senate . Allison offered an amendment in the Senate requiring the purchase of two to four million dollars per month of silver , but not allowing private deposit of silver at the mints . Thus , the seignorage , or difference between the face value of the coin and the worth of the metal contained within it accrued to the government 's credit , not private citizens . The resulting Bland ? Allison Act passed both houses of Congress in 1878 . Hayes feared that the act would cause inflation through the expansion of the money supply that would be ruinous to business . Sherman 's opinion was more complicated . He knew that silver was gaining popularity , and opposing it might harm the party 's candidates in the 1880 elections , but he also agreed with Hayes in wanting to avoid inflation .

Sherman pressured his friends in the Senate to defeat the bill , or to limit it to production of a larger silver dollar , which would actually be worth 1 / 16th its weight in gold . These efforts were unsuccessful , but Allison 's amendment made the bill less financially risky . Sherman thought Hayes should sign the amended bill did not press the matter , and the President vetoed it . " In view of the strong public sentiment in favor of the free coinage of the silver dollar , " he later wrote , " I thought it better to make no objections to the passage of the bill , but I did not care to antagonize the wishes of the President . " Congress overrode Hayes 's veto and the bill became law . The effects of the Bland ? Allison Act were limited : the premium on gold over silver continued to grow and financial conditions in the country continued to improve .

= = = Civil service reform = = =

Hayes took office determined to reform the system of civil service appointments , which had been based on the spoils system since Andrew Jackson was president . Sherman was not a civil service reformer , but he went along with Hayes 's instructions . The foremost enemy of reform ? and Hayes ? was New York Senator Roscoe Conkling , and it was to Conkling 's spoilsmen that Hayes first turned his attention . At Hayes 's direction , Sherman ordered John Jay to investigate the New York Custom House , which was stacked with Conkling 's appointees . Jay 's report suggested that the New York Custom House was so overstaffed with political appointees that 20 % of the employees were expendable .

Hayes issued an executive order that forbade federal office holders from being required to make

campaign contributions or otherwise taking part in party politics . Chester A. Arthur , the Collector of the Port of New York , and his subordinates Alonzo B. Cornell and George H. Sharpe , all Conkling supporters , refused to obey the president 's order . Sherman agreed with Hayes that the three had to resign , but he made clear in a letter to Arthur that he had no personal grudge against the Collector . In September 1877 , Hayes demanded the three men 's resignations , which they refused to give . He submitted appointments to the Senate for confirmation as their replacements but the Senate 's Commerce Committee , which Conkling chaired , voted unanimously to reject the nominees .

During a congressional recess in July 1878 , Hayes finally sacked Arthur and Cornell ( Sharpe 's term had expired ) and appointed replacements . When Congress reconvened , Sherman pressured his former Senate colleagues to confirm the President 's replacement nominees , which they did after considerable debate . Jay and other reformers criticized Sherman the next year when he traveled to New York to speak on Cornell 's behalf in his campaign for governor of New York . Sherman replied that it was important that the Republican party win the election there , despite their intra @-@ party differences . His friendliness may also have related , as Arthur 's biographer Thomas C. Reeves suggests , to a desire to keep Conkling 's New York machine friendly to him as the 1880 presidential election approached .

= = Election of 1880 = =

Hayes had pledged himself to a one @-@ term presidency , and the Republican nomination in 1880 attracted many candidates , including Sherman . Hayes 's preference was for Sherman to succeed him , but he made no official endorsement , and he did not think Sherman could win the nomination . Among the early favorites for the nomination were former President Grant , Senator James G. Blaine of Maine , and Senator George F. Edmunds of Vermont . Grant did not actively promote his candidacy , but his entry into the race energized his partisans and when the convention met in Chicago in June 1880 , they instantly divided the delegates into Grant and anti @-@ Grant factions , with Blaine the most popular choice of the latter group . After Grant and Blaine were nominated , James Garfield nominated Sherman with an eloquent speech , saying " You ask for his monuments , I point you to twenty @-@ five years of national statutes . Not one great beneficent statute has been placed in our statute books without his intelligent and powerful aid . " The speech , while heartfelt , was not particularly stirring . As Senator George Frisbie Hoar later explained , " [ t ] here was nothing stimulant or romantic in the plain wisdom of John Sherman . "

After the other candidates were nominated , the first ballot showed Grant leading with 304 votes and Blaine in second with 284 ; Sherman 's 93 placed him in a distant third , and no candidate had the required majority of 379 . Sherman 's delegates could swing the nomination to either Grant or Blaine , but he refused to release them through twenty @-@ eight ballots in the hope that the anti @-@ Grant forces would desert Blaine and flock to him . By the end of the first day , it was clear that neither Grant nor Blaine could muster a majority ; a compromise candidate would be necessary . Sherman held out hope that he would be that compromise candidate , but while his vote tally reached as high as 120 , he never commanded even all of Ohio 's delegates . His divided home @-@ state support was likely fatal to his cause , as Blaine delegates , searching for a new champion , did not think Sherman would make a popular candidate . After several days of balloting , Blaine 's men found their compromise candidate , but instead of Sherman they shifted their votes to his fellow Ohioan , Garfield . By the thirty @-@ sixth ballot , Garfield had 399 votes , enough for victory .

Sherman was respected among his fellow Republicans for his intelligence and hard work , but there were always doubts about his potential as a national candidate . As one author described him , Sherman was " thin as a rail , over six feet high , with close cropped beard and possessed of bad teeth and a divine laugh , when he laughs . " His public speeches were adequate and informative , but never " of a sort to arouse a warm feeling for John Sherman , the man . " Unlike Blaine or Conkling , Sherman " communicated no colorful personality , no magnetic current . " His nickname , " the Ohio Icicle , " deserved or not , hindered his presidential ambitions .

Garfield placated the pro @-@ Grant faction by endorsing Chester A. Arthur as nominee for vice president . Despite his good relations with Arthur in 1879 , Sherman thought the choice a bad one : " The nomination of Arthur is a ridiculous burlesque , " he wrote in a letter to a friend , " and I am afraid was inspired by a desire to defeat the ticket ... His nomination attaches to the ticket all the odium of machine politics , and will greatly endanger the success of Garfield . " He was nearly correct , as Garfield eked out a narrow victory over the Democratic nominee Winfield Scott Hancock . Sherman continued at the Treasury for the rest of Hayes 's term , leaving office March 3 , 1881 .

= = Return to the Senate = =

The Ohio legislature had elected Garfield to the Senate in 1880 , and when he was elected President before taking his seat , they elected Sherman in his place . Sherman 's position in the Senate changed after his four @-@ year absence . He rejoined the Finance Committee , but Justin Smith Morrill , his old House colleague , now held the chairmanship . When Sherman re @-@ entered the Senate in the 47th United States Congress , the Republicans were not in the majority . The Senate was divided among 37 Republicans , 37 Democrats , one independent ( David Davis ) who caucused with the Democrats , one Readjuster ( William Mahone ) , who caucused with the Republicans . Arthur 's tie @-@ breaking vote as Vice President left the Republicans with a narrow hold on the chamber . Even so , the special session convened in March 1881 remained deadlocked for two months over Garfield 's nominations because of Conkling 's opposition to some of them , resulting in the resignation of Conkling and the other Senator from New York , Thomas C. Platt , in protest of Garfield 's continuing opposition to their faction . Sherman sided with Garfield on the appointments , and was pleased when the New York legislature declined to reelect Conkling and Platt , replacing them with two less troublesome Republicans .

= = = Garfield 's assassination and the Pendleton Act = = =

After the special session of Congress had adjourned , Sherman returned home to Mansfield . He spoke on behalf of Ohio Governor Charles Foster 's effort for a second term and went to Kenyon College with ex @-@ President Hayes , where he received an honorary degree . Sherman looked forward to staying with his wife at home for an extended period for the first time in years , when news arrived that Garfield had been shot in Washington . The assassin , Charles J. Guiteau , was a deranged office @-@ seeker who believed that Garfield 's successor would appoint him to a patronage job . After lingering for several months , Garfield died and Arthur became president . After completing a long @-@ planned visit to Yellowstone National Park and other Western sites with his brother William , Sherman returned to a second special session of Congress in October 1881 .

Garfield 's assassination by an office @-@ seeker amplified the public demand for civil service reform . Both Democratic and Republican leaders realized that they could attract the votes of reformers by turning against the spoils system and , by 1882 , a bipartisan effort began in favor of reform . In the previous Congress , Sherman 's fellow Ohio Senator , Democrat George H. Pendleton , had introduced legislation that required selection of civil servants based on merit as determined by an examination , but Congress declined to act on it right away . Republicans lost seats in the 1882 congressional elections , in which Democrats campaigned on the reform issue , and in the lame duck session were more amenable to civil service reform . Sherman spoke in favor of merit selection and against removing employees from office without cause . He was against the idea that civil servants should have unlimited terms of office , but believed that efficiency , not political activity , should determine an employee 's length of service . Sherman voted in favor of Pendleton 's bill , and the Senate approved it 38 ? 5 . The House concurred by a vote of 155 ? 47 . Arthur signed the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act into law on January 16 , 1883 .

= = = The Mongrel Tariff = = =

There was relatively little financial legislation in the 1880s . By that time , fewer bonds were

necessary , as the government now ran a consistent surplus which by 1882 reached \$ 145 million . Opinions varied on how to balance the budget ; Democrats wished to lower tariffs to reduce revenues and the cost of imported goods , while Republicans believed that high tariffs ensured high wages in manufacturing and mining . They preferred the government spend more on internal improvements and reduce excise taxes . Congress passed a law creating a committee to study tariff reduction , but Arthur appointed mostly protectionists to it . In December 1882 , the committee submitted a report to Congress calling for tariff cuts averaging between 20 and 25 % . The commission 's recommendations were ignored , however , as the House Ways and Means Committee , dominated by protectionists , provided a 10 % reduction . After conference with the Senate , the bill that emerged only reduced tariffs by an average of 1 @. @ 47 % , but it did remove or reduce many excise taxes . Sherman supported the bill , more for the excise reduction than for the tariff changes . The bill , known as the Tariff of 1883 ( or , by detractors , as the " Mongrel Tariff " ) passed both houses narrowly on March 3 , 1883 , the last full day of the 47th Congress ; Arthur signed the measure into law , but it had no effect on the surplus .

= = = Chinese immigration = = =

Sherman paid greater attention to foreign affairs during the second half of his Senate career , serving as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations . In 1868 , the Senate had ratified the Burlingame Treaty with China , allowing unrestricted immigration from China . After the Panic of 1873 , Chinese immigrants were blamed for depressing wages ; in reaction Congress in 1879 passed the Chinese Exclusion Act , but Hayes vetoed it . Now , three years later , after China had agreed to treaty revisions , Congress tried again to exclude Chinese immigrants : Senator John F. Miller of California introduced another Exclusion Act that denied Chinese immigrants United States citizenship and banned their immigration for a twenty @-@ year period . Sherman opposed both the 1880 treaty revisions and the bill Miller proposed , believing that the Exclusion Act reversed the United States ' traditional welcoming of all people and our dependence on foreign immigration for growth . President Arthur vetoed the bill , and Sherman voted to sustain the veto . A new Exclusion Act passed to conform to Arthur 's objections . Sherman voted against this bill , too , but it passed and Arthur signed it into law . In 1885 , Sherman voted in favor of the Alien Contract Labor Law , which barred engaging in a labor contract before immigrating or transporting a person under such a contract to the United States . Sherman saw this Act as a more appropriate solution to depressed wages than Chinese exclusion : the problem , as he saw it , was not the national origin of Chinese immigrants , but their employment under serf @-@ like conditions .

= = = Further presidential ambitions = = =

In 1884 , Sherman again ran for the Republican nomination , but his campaign never gained steam . Blaine was considered the favorite and President Arthur also gathered delegates in an attempt to win the a term in his own right . Again , the Ohio delegation failed to unite behind Sherman , and he entered the convention with only 30 total delegates pledged to him . Former Cincinnati judge Joseph B. Foraker gave a speech nominating Sherman , but it drew little attention . Blaine gathered support the next day , and Sherman withdrew after the fourth ballot . Blaine was duly nominated , and went on to lose the election to Democrat Grover Cleveland of New York . Sherman returned to the Senate where , in 1885 , he was elected President pro tempore of the Senate . After the death of Vice President Thomas A. Hendricks later that year , Sherman was next in line to the presidency until February 26 , 1887 , when he resigned the position .

In 1886 , the Ohio legislature elected Sherman to a fifth term but , before long , he was considering another run for the presidency . To broaden his national image , he traveled to Nashville to give a speech defending Republican principles . He encouraged fairness in the treatment of black Americans and denounced their mistreatment at the hands of the " redeemed " Southern state governments . The tour had its effect , and Sherman 's hopes were high . His old friend , ex @-@ President Hayes , thought him the best candidate . The early favorite for the nomination was again

Blaine , but after Blaine wrote several letters denying any interest in the nomination , his supporters divided among other candidates , including Sherman . With no clear consensus going into the 1888 convention , delegates divided their support among an unusual number of favorite sons . Daniel H. Hastings of Pennsylvania placed Sherman 's name in nomination , seconded by Foraker ( who was , by then , Governor of Ohio ) . Sherman , at last , had a unified Ohio delegation behind him and led on the first ballot with 229 votes ? more than double his nearest competitor , but well short of the 416 needed for nomination . Walter Q. Gresham of Indiana was in second place with 111 , followed by Russell A. Alger of Michigan with 84 . Sherman gained votes on the second ballot , but plateaued there ; by the fifth ballot , it was clear that he would gain no more delegates . He refused to withdraw , but his supporters began to abandon him ; by the eighth ballot , the delegates coalesced around Benjamin Harrison of Indiana and voted him the nomination . Sherman thought Harrison a good candidate , and bore him no ill will , but he did begrudge Alger , who he believed " purchased the votes of many of the delegates from the southern states who had been instructed by their conventions to vote for me . " A loyal Republican , Sherman gave speeches for Harrison in Ohio and Indiana and was pleased with his victory over Cleveland that November . After 1888 , Sherman , aware that he would be seventy @-@ three years old when the nomination was next open , resolved that from then on " no temptation of office will induce me to seek further political honors " and did not run for president again .

= = = Interstate commerce = = =

For some time , there had been concern about the power of the railroads and the way they charged different rates for different customers . In 1885 , a bill to regulate the practice , authored by John Henninger Reagan , of Texas passed the House . The Reagan bill forbade discrimination in railroad or pipeline freight rates , required that rates be reasonable , and fixed maximum charges allowed . Sherman agreed with the general idea of the law , but objected to certain portions , especially a provision that gave state courts jurisdiction over enforcement disputes . Sherman believed the law should allow for more nuance as well , insisting that competition against other forms of transit be considered . These changes were adopted in the conference committee and the result , the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 , owed much to Sherman 's influence . Cleveland signed it into law on February 4 , 1887 , and appointed members to the new Interstate Commerce Commission . The act displeased the railroad industry , but was a boon to farmers and the oil industry .

= = = Sherman Antitrust Act = = =

By the late 19th century , businesses began to form combinations , known as trusts , which claimed a larger and larger share of the market ? large enough to dictate prices , their detractors claimed . Members of both major parties were concerned with the growth of the power of trusts and monopolies , and , at the opening of the 51st Congress Sherman proposed what would become the Sherman Antitrust Act . The bill Sherman proposed was largely derivative of a failed bill from the previous Congress written by Senator George F. Edmunds , which Sherman had amended during its consideration . Until 1888 , Sherman had shown little interest in the trust question but it was rising in the national consciousness and Sherman now entered the fray . The revised bill Sherman proposed was simple , stating that " [ e ] very contract , combination in the form of trust or otherwise , or conspiracy , in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States , or with foreign nations , is declared to be illegal . " The bill further prescribed criminal penalties for any person who monopolizes trade . In debate , Sherman praised the effects of corporations in developing industry and railroads and asserted the right for people to form corporations , so long as they were " not in any sense a monopoly . "

The bill passed the Senate by an overwhelming 52 ? 1 vote , and passed the House without dissent . President Harrison signed the bill into law on July 2 , 1890 . Sherman was the prime mover in getting the bill passed and became " by far the most articulate spokesman for antitrust in Congress . " The Act was later criticized for its simple language and lack of defined terms , but Sherman

defended it , saying that it drew on common @-@ law language and precedents . He also denied that the Act was anti @-@ business at all , saying that it only opposed unfair business practices . Sherman emphasized that the Act aimed not at lawful competition , but at illegal combination . Later analysis was more generous : " The Sherman Act was as good an antitrust law as the Congress of 1890 could have devised . "

= = = Silver Purchase Act = = =

Since the passage of the Bland ? Allison Act in 1878 , there had been little discussion of gold versus silver coinage . Silver had been hardly mentioned in the 1888 campaign , and Harrison 's exact position on the issue was initially unclear , but his appointment of a silverite Treasury Secretary , William Windom , encouraged the free silver supporters . Silver supporters ' numbers had grown in Congress with the addition of new Western states . The drop in agricultural prices , which made farmers ' debts harder to pay , broadened their cause 's appeal . Harrison attempted to steer a middle course between the two positions , advocating a free coinage of silver , but at its own value , not at a fixed ratio to gold . This served only to disappoint both factions . Windom suggested keeping the Bland ? Allison system , but doubling the amount of silver allowed to be coined . The intrinsic value of the silver dollar had fallen to 72 @.@ 3 cents , but Windom believed ( though gold supporters doubted ) that coining more silver would increase demand and raise its value . Harrison was willing to sign whatever bill would satisfy the largest group of people , as long as it did not make the currency unsound .

Both Houses of Congress were majority @-@ Republican , but their solutions differed . The House passed a bill in June 1890 requiring the government to purchase 4 @.@ 5 million ounces of silver each month ( in addition to the \$ 2 ? \$ 4 million required to be coined under Bland ? Allison . ) The Senate passed a bill by Republican Preston B. Plumb of Kansas for free coinage of silver at the legal ( 16 : 1 ) ratio . Sherman voted against Plumb 's bill , but was appointed to the conference committee to produce a compromise bill that , now called the Sherman Silver Purchase Act , passed that July . The Treasury would buy 4 @.@ 5 million oz. of silver , and would issue Treasury Notes to pay for it , which would be redeemable in gold or silver . The law also provided that the Treasury could coin more silver dollars if the Secretary believed it necessary to redeem the new notes . Sherman thought the bill was the least harmful option . Harrison believed it would end the controversy , and he signed it into law . The effect of the bill , however , was the increased depletion of the nation 's gold supply .

In 1893 , a financial panic struck the stock market , and the nation soon faced an acute economic depression . The panic was worsened by the acute shortage of gold that resulted from the increased coinage of silver , and President Cleveland , who had replaced Harrison that March , called Congress into session and demanded repeal of the part of the Act requiring the government to purchase silver . The effects of the panic had driven more moderates to support repeal ; even so , the silverites rallied their following at a convention in Chicago , and the House debated for fifteen weeks before passing the repeal by a considerable margin . In the Senate , the repeal of silver purchase was equally contentious , but Cleveland convinced enough Democrats to stand by him that they , along with eastern Republicans , formed a 48 ? 37 majority . Sherman voted for repeal of " his " bill . After repeal , depletion of the Treasury 's gold reserves continued , but at a lesser rate and subsequent bond issues replenished supplies of gold . Academic debate continues over the efficacy of the bond issues , but the consensus is that the repeal of the Silver Purchase Act was , at worst , unharmful and , at best , useful in restoring the nation 's financial health .

= = = Final years in the Senate = = =

Sherman was elected in 1892 to a sixth term , easily defeating the Democratic candidate in the state legislature . The more difficult fight had been for the Republican caucus 's vote , as many preferred Foraker to Sherman . With assistance from Cleveland businessman Mark Hanna , and after four days of balloting , the caucus agreed to support Sherman over Foraker , and he was re

@-@ elected by the full legislature on January 12 , 1893 . In 1894 , Sherman surpassed Thomas Hart Benton 's record for longest tenure in the Senate . His memoirs , *Recollections of Forty Years in the House , Senate and Cabinet* , were published the following year . In 1896 , he gave speeches on behalf of fellow Ohioan William McKinley in his campaign for the presidency , but took a lesser role than in previous campaigns because of his advanced age . McKinley was elected over Democrat William Jennings Bryan . Wishing to see the appointment of Hanna , his friend and political manager , to the Senate , McKinley created a vacancy by appointing Sherman to his cabinet as Secretary of State .

= = Secretary of State = =

In January 1897 , McKinley offered Sherman the Secretary of State position , which Sherman , facing a difficult reelection campaign in 1898 , quickly accepted . His appointment was swiftly confirmed when Congress convened that March . The appointment was seen as a good one , but many in Washington soon began to question whether Sherman , at age 73 , still had the strength and intellectual vigor to handle the job ; rumors circulated to that effect , but McKinley did not believe them . Asked for advice on the inaugural address , Sherman offered a draft threatening intervention in Cuba , then in rebellion against Spain ; the suggestion was ignored .

Both Sherman and McKinley sought a peaceful resolution to the Cuban War , preferably involving an independent Cuba without American intervention . The United States and Spain began negotiations on the subject in 1897 , but it became clear that Spain would never concede Cuban independence , while the rebels ( and their American supporters ) would never settle for anything less . In January 1898 , Spain promised some concessions to the rebels , but when American consul Fitzhugh Lee reported riots in Havana , McKinley agreed to send the battleship USS Maine there to protect American lives and property . On February 15 , the Maine exploded and sank with 266 men killed .

War fever ran high , and by April , McKinley reported to Congress that efforts at diplomatic resolution had failed ; a week later , Congress declared war . By this time , McKinley had begun to rely on Assistant Secretary of State William R. Day for day @-@ to @-@ day management of the State Department , and was even inviting him to cabinet meetings , as Sherman had stopped attending them . Day , a McKinley associate of long standing , superseded his boss as the real power in the State Department . Sherman , sensing that he was being made a mere figurehead and recognizing , at last , his declining health and worsening memory , resigned his office on April 25 , 1898 .

= = Retirement , death , and legacy = =

Sherman retired from public life after resigning as Secretary of State . Except for one day , Sherman had spent the previous forty @-@ two years , four months , and twenty @-@ two days in government service . He gave a few interviews in which he disagreed with the administration 's policy of annexing Puerto Rico and the Philippines . Later that year , his wife , Margaret , had a stroke ; she died two years later on June 5 , 1900 . Sherman continued to alternate between houses in Mansfield and Washington . He mostly remained out of politics , except for a letter he wrote endorsing George K. Nash for Governor of Ohio in 1899 . Sherman died at his Washington home on October 22 , 1900 , in the company of his daughter , relatives and friends . After a funeral at St. John 's Episcopal Church in Washington , he was interred in Mansfield City Cemetery with his wife .

Sherman was not unmindful of his legacy and left \$ 10 @,@ 000 in his will for a biography to be written " by some competent person . " Two biographies were published shortly thereafter , but neither mentions the bequest . In 1906 , Congressman Theodore E. Burton of Ohio published a biography ; two years later , former Representative Winfield S. Kerr of Mansfield , Ohio , published another . Both were very favorable to Sherman . A scholarly biography was said to be in preparation in Allan Nevins 's " *American Political Leaders* " series of the 1920s and 1930s , to be written by Roy Franklin Nichols and his wife , Jeanette Paddock Nichols , but the work was never completed .

Jeanette Nichols later published several articles on Sherman in the next few decades , but he still awaits a full @-@ length scholarly biography . He is most remembered now by the antitrust act that bears his name . Burton , in summing up his subject , wrote :

It is true that there was much that was prosaic in the life of Sherman , and that his best efforts were not connected with that glamour which gains the loudest applause ; but in substantial influence upon those characteristic features which have made this country what it is , and in the unrecognized but permanent results of efficient and patriotic service for its best interests , there are few for whom a more beneficial record can be claimed .