



LOT M. MORRILL
of Maine

Biographies of Committee Chairmen

LOT M. MORRILL

The first chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Lot M. Morrill, was the first of only two chairmen to serve three times in that position and the only one who, after retiring from the Senate, returned to fill the post.

Born in Belgrade, ME in 1813, Morrill attended Waterville (now Colby) College, studied law, and moved to Augusta in 1841. He became Governor in 1858 after serving in the State senate and was elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate in 1860 to fill a vacancy. On March 7, 1867, he was appointed chairman of the Appropriations Committee and served until March 3, 1869, when he left the Senate to resume his law practice. That fall, after the death of William Pitt Fessenden of Maine, the second chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Morrill was appointed to the Senate to fill the vacancy. Once again, he was appointed to the committee and again was made chairman—contrary to the present practice under which seniority on the committee determines the chairmanship. He held the post from December 8, 1869, to March 4, 1871, when he left the committee but not the Senate. Morrill returned to the committee on December 6, 1872, and once more became chairman on March 12, 1873, after Cornelius Cole, the third chairman, retired. He remained in the position until July 7, 1876, when he resigned to become Secretary of the Treasury. From 1877 until his death in 1883, Morrill served as collector of customs in Portland, ME.

His brother, Abson P. Morrill, also from Maine, was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For further reading: Malone, Dumas, ed. *Dictionary of American Biography*. 1935. Reprint. New York, 1946. Vol. 13.

Garraty, John A. and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York, 1999. Vol. 15.