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No 8!

MR. KITCHIN ON TRUSTS.

HE MAKES AN ABLE ARGUMENT ON THE TRUST QUESTION.

Congressman W. W. Kitchin Scores the Republicans on Their Anti-Trust Bill. He Shows that they are Insincere.

Mr. Chairman I regret very much that I have not time to discuss this bill, but in the short time I have I want to call attention to what seems conclusive evidence of the insincerity of the Republican party on trusts.

In 1888 the Republicans in their national platform denounced trusts. In their platform of 1892 they more bitterly denounced trusts. In their platform of 1896, when a different class of statesmen obtained control of their party, they deliberately emitted all reference to trusts. I call these facts to the attention of the gentleman from Maine [Mr. Littlefield] for his consideration when he closes this debate. He may say that it was unnecessary for the Republican party to renew its pledges, that they would not plead the statute of limitations; but they had better plead it out of date than to stare them in the face as binding and absolutely ignore its obligation.

In 1900, when practically all the great monopolies had become organized under the single corporation plan, and while the people were crying against trusts, the Republican party wrote words in its platform condemning "conspiracies and combinations." Under the Republican construction the single corporation is not a conspiracy or combination. I believe that platform deliberately informs these great trusts that the Republican party is not hostile to single-corporation monopolies.

We are not against rich men, or riches, or corporations, or big corporations. We admit that large capital or large manufacturing plant can produce more cheaply than small ones. We deny the necessity of enormous combinations for economical production. Economy of production of oil does not require a combination worth \$700,000,000. Economy in the manufacture of tobacco does not require a combination of \$250,000,000. A ten-million dollar tobacco manufacturing plant would be an immense concern, and could demonstrate the greatest economy in production. Such a plant would be worth more than the wealthiest county in my district, including its factories, its banks, its railroads, its farms, and all other taxable property. Yet such a single factory would not be a monopoly. We are not against great factories, but we deny the right of monopoly to exist in enterprises natural monopolies, such as street railroads, water companies, and others.

Natural monopolies should be controlled and their prices regulated by law. All monopolies in enterprises of competitive characters should be destroyed by law. It is unnatural for tobacco factories in Durham, in St. Louis, in Richmond in New York, and other places to combine, and it is wrong to combine for the purpose of monopolizing the tobacco business. Factories existed before monopoly and they

will exist and flourish if monopoly is destroyed.

Monopoly injures the small towns and sends their best talent to the great trust centers. It intimidates the energetic; it shuts the doors of opportunity to the young man. In my district twenty years ago new tobacco factories were started; no men now dare to begin manufacturing tobacco. Had the tobacco trust been in control thirty years ago as it is now, probably we would not know the names of the great tobacco magnates of to-day. Had the Standard Oil Company existed forty years ago, probably we would not know the name of Rockefeller. The great trust magnates laid the foundation of their fortunes under fair competition, then organized trust and deny opportunity to all who have no special pull with them.

Control of an article gives the monopolist the power to fix its price. Human selfishness inspires him to fix the price for the satisfaction of his own greed. Having the disposition and the power, he uses them against the people. Having, however, consideration always for the greatest net returns. Since we cannot deprive monopolist of their disposition to rob the public when the greatest net returns require it, it is the duty of the Government to deprive them of their power to do so.

Mr. Chairman, why does the existing law subject monopolists to imprisonment in the penitentiary unless monopoly is a moral wrong, unless it is a crime against humanity? The man who robs by virtue of his great wealth and power is no less a robber than he who robs at the point of a pistol. His method may be more polite and refined, but he accomplishes his purpose with just as much certainty as is the highwayman. Why will the Republican party not enforce the criminal provision of the Sherman anti-trust law?

Why did not the President, when he got after the beef trust instruct the Attorney-General to indict its members? If a band of men should combine to rob every man that passes along the highway and under that agreement rob a thousand men and a lawyer should bring a suit to enjoin the members of that band from carrying out their contract honest men would despise that lawyer. Yet when these people combined to put up the price of beer and robbed the consumers, violating the Sherman law, the Attorney-General brought suit to dissolve their agreements. He should have indicted the men who formed that conspiracy. The law which authorize the suit to enjoin them authorized their indictment. Why did not the President think of "tackling cunning?"

It is because the President is only human. He suffers temptation as do other men. He wants to be nominated for President, and knows that no man can be nominated by the Republican party who has not the sympathy of these great trust magnates. He knows that no man who takes a bold, unrelenting position against trusts, against monopolies, and who, under the law, advocates putting these great tyrants of the people behind bars, can receive the nomination of the

Republican party in the convention. That is the reason, in my judgment, the President abandoned his idea of "shackling cunning" in this age, as heretofore our ancestors learned to "shackle force."

Mr. Chairman, it seems a recital of these facts shows every intelligent American citizen that the Republican party is not determined to break up monopolies. It is not intelligence that gentlemen lack. It is not wisdom. They know how to frame the laws and how to execute them. It is either conscience or courage that gentlemen lack. Republicans have controlled the administration of affairs now for six long years and have allowed platform declarations to remain a dead letter. The criminal statutes they have not enforced against monopolies. There is no middle ground between those who plunder and those who are plundered. If you Republicans are determined that the law shall not be enforced, if you are determined that private monopolies shall not be destroyed, if you are determined to permit them to continue to charge the American consumer more than they charge foreigners, then have the manhood to let the American people know your position.

Can you mislead them by pressing bills at the end of Congress, when you have no hope of their becoming law? If the American people should vote intelligently and deliberately that the monopolies should control this country, we would bow to their will; but we deny that the people favor private monopolies. We deny that they favor allowing corporations or individuals to have the power to arbitrarily control prices.

THE WATTS BILL PASSES.

Seeing a Chance to Put This Much Temperance Legislation into Effect the Advocates of it Get Together Agree on a Program and Carry it Through.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 24.—The Watts bill regulating the liquor traffic in North Carolina is a law on the statute books.

It goes into effect on the first day of July, 1903, and it drives the distilleries and the groceries from the country.

It leaves in force all special regulations of the liquor traffic and it gives to any city or town, upon application of one-third of the registered voters the right to hold an election to determine whether intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured, whether or not there shall be bar-rooms, or saloons, whether or not there shall be dispensaries.

There had been a Babel of amendment confusions when the Senate adjourned its morning session, but at night this was all swept away. All the amendments offered in the afternoon by the opponents of the bill and which were pending, voted down, and as new ones were introduced these were voted down also. The final vote on the passage of the bill was 27 for and 15 against.

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SHOCKED BY TRAGEDY.

A MOURNFUL SUNDAY IN OUR CAPITAL CITY.

The Prisoner Visited by His Sister and Brother—Sympathizing Friends Called at the Home of the Father of Young Skinner—Story of an Eye-witness Indicates Shooting Was Premeditated.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 22.—Raleigh never passed a more mournful Sunday than today, made so by the killing yesterday of Ludlow Skinner by Ernest Haywood. Mrs. Preston L. Bridgers, of Wilmington, a sister, and Mr. Alfred W. Haywood, of Haw River, a brother of Haywood, arrived today and saw him in jail. There was a stream of sympathizing callers at the home of Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Skinner, the father of the dead man, and at the latter's home.

Skinner's funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon from Christ Episcopal Church. His brother-in-law, John H. Winder, of Columbus Ohio, will arrive tomorrow at noon. Winder is president of the Hocking Valley Railroad.

It has been learned that Skinner had not seen Haywood for at least ten days, having during that period been at the bedside of his mother, who was buried last Friday. Skinner went to the office in which he was head clerk Saturday afternoon, and, after talking with one of the firm, said he would go to the post-office, and would return in a short time. Barely five minutes elapsed before the clerks heard the two pistol shots, the second of which took his life.

THE STORY OF AN EYE-WITNESS.

An eye-witness to the shooting said he was in the post-office lobby; that Skinner was there also, talking with a friend, and laughed as he talked; that they went out the main entrance together; that Skinner turned as if to go diagonally across the street; that as he had about reached the edge of the sidewalk, Haywood, who was standing on the sidewalk in his rear, shot at him, and quickly took aim and fired the second time, when Skinner had nearly reached the center of the street.

At the second shot Skinner's hat fell off and he raised his left hand to his side. He then walked across the street car track, turned, and fell with his face toward his slayer gasped three times and died. One bullet passed entirely through the body from the left to the right side, through both lungs, severing the aorta, smashed the seventh rib, and was found imbedded in the flesh just below the skin. The eye-witness says no words passed between the men. Skinner had on an overcoat. His pistol was in his left hip pocket.

ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE.

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Mary W. Day hereby notify all persons owing said estate to come forward and make immediate payment and all persons holding claims against the estate to present them to me for payment on or before the 25 day of February 1904, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery This February 25, 1903.

E. M. WALKER.
Admr.

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A. M. BURNS