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A False and Fraudulent Record

Republican leaders have caused to be circulated in nearly every congressional district of the country a publication which pretends to be a copy of the record of the proceedings of the lower house of congress for May 21, 1900.

According to this spurious record it would appear that on May 21, 1900, the republicans of the house voted in the affirmative, and democratic and populist members voted in the negative, respecting a bill designed to give to the government the "power to create any corporation for the purpose of commerce between the states, including railroad, telegraph, telephone, transportation, express and sleeping car companies." The purpose of this presentation is evidently to take undue advantage of the present day popularity of government control of public utility corporations.

This publication presents the record of the discussion had in the house on May 21, 1900, with relation to an entirely different proposition from that presented in the spurious record.

According to this record the discussion in the house on May 21, 1900, related to the following measure:

(House joint resolution 138, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States.)

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled (two thirds of each house concurring therein), that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several states as an amendment to the constitution of the United States:

Section 1. That in all cases mentioned in this article the United States shall mean and include the several states of the United States, the territories of the United States, and all territory under the sovereignty of and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Sec. 2. That the congress shall have power to create any corporation for the purpose of commerce between the states, including railroad, telegraph, telephone, transportation, express and sleeping car companies.

Sec. 3. That all corporations in the United States shall be under the control of congress, including the power to impose a franchise tax, terminate the existence of corporations, forfeiture of the franchise, control and disposition of the property of the corporation.

Sec. 4. That congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Sec. 5. That in the absence of legislation on the part of congress all powers conferred upon congress by section 3 of this article may be exercised by the several states.

Now for the facts. No such measure as described in this bogus record was under consideration by the house on May 21, 1900.

The bill which republican leaders have sought to palm off on the people as the one for which they voted, and against which the democrats and populists voted, was the original bill as referred to the house committee on judiciary. This house judiciary committee, like other committees of the house, is a republican committee, and the measure which republican leaders seek to make the people believe was killed by the votes of democrats and populists was, in truth, utterly destroyed by the republican judiciary committee of the house, and never was reported back to the house for discussion or vote.

The truth is that on May 15, 1900, house journal resolution No. 138 was reported by the judiciary committee to the house in the following form:

Section 1. All powers conferred by this article shall extend to the several states, the territories, the District of Columbia, and all territory under the sovereignty and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to de-

To the Polls! To the Polls!

Citizenship brings responsibilities as well as privileges, and it is to be regretted that these responsibilities are not always realized and lived up to.

In the great struggle between human rights and inhuman greed no one can remain indifferent or neutral.

In many of the states the democratic party has boldly met the issues and presented the Kansas City platform remedies. By doing so it has alienated the representatives of organized wealth and must rely upon the support of those who believe in "Equal Rights to All, Special Privileges to None."

While it is wise for the party organization to arrange for men in each precinct "to get the vote out," yet it is a reflection on the voters that such an effort is necessary. If all the people prized the right of suffrage as they should they would not have to be reminded of the arrival of election day or carried to the polls. As it is, those who are awake to their civic duty ought to vote in the forenoon and spend the afternoon canvassing among those who need urging.

To the Polls! To the Polls!

fine, regulate, prohibit or dissolve trusts, monopolies or combinations, whether existing in the form of a corporation or otherwise. The several states may continue to exercise such power in any manner not in conflict with the laws of the United States.

Sec. 3. Congress shall have power to enforce the provisions of this article by appropriate legislation.

It was this bill against which the democrats and populists voted. Messrs. Loud and McCall, re-

publicans, also voted against this bill.

On May 21, 1900, the question on the immediate engrossment and third reading of this measure came up. The democrats and populists voted against this proposition as, indeed, they also voted against the bill itself as reported by the committee when it came up for final passage.

It will be seen by the language of this resolution that congress, by the mere passage of a law, could have assumed exclusive power over trusts and monopolies and that states could not have exercised any power in that respect which in any manner conflicted with the laws passed by congress.

The bill was also intended to strike a blow at labor organizations, and Mr. McCall, a republican member from Massachusetts, on this account voted against the resolution. In explanation of his vote Mr. McCall said:

"I intend to vote against the proposed amendment to the constitution which, at most, will keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope. Let us not deceive ourselves about this proposition. This amendment is not simply aimed at trusts and monopolies, but it has application to every form of individual combination, and, in my judgment, it confers upon congress a power to strike a most deadly blow at individual liberty. It involves the control of the labor organizations of the country, and of any co-partnership or union of two or more men for any business purpose whatsoever. And what will be the effect if we concentrate upon one body of men the control of more than one-third of the capital of the world, and all these other tremendous influences? Is there a gentleman on the floor who does not believe in his heart that if this power is conferred on congress, the most corrupt and rottenest place in the universe will be found right here in the city of Washington?"

When the bill, in its amended form, came up for passage in the house, the vote stood 154 yeas to 132 nays. Democrats and populists voted against the bill, and fifty-six republicans refused to vote at all. The measure, as amended by the committee, was regarded as a mere pretense on the part of republican leaders to give the people relief on the trust question, and republicans as well as democrats admitted that to take away from the states all power over the trusts and vest that power exclusively in the federal government would only serve to please the trust magnates.

It will be seen by this that the republican leaders have been engaged in circulating among the people a downright falsification of the record.

If anyone doubts the facts as herein presented, let him go to any public library and examine volume 6 of the house reports of the Fifty-sixth congress. An examination of report No. 1501, made by the republican judiciary committee of the house, will sustain the charges herein made.

If there are those who cannot find it convenient to visit a public library, let them call upon any republican committeeman for a copy of the republican campaign book for 1902. On page 95 of that book it will be found that the proposed constitutional amendment, under consideration May 21, 1900, was exactly as is here described, and that the purported copy, which republican leaders have been scattering, is false and fraudulent.