

..The Libby Herald..

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G. E. SHAWLER - Business Mgr.

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Can He Come Back ?

Roosevelt has "come out" again and with his coming he takes the trusts and trust-busting for a subject. In an article reviewing developments following trust decisions, he declares that lawsuits cannot terminate trust evils. He may well come to such a conclusion in view of the net results of years of government activity in a "reasonable" decision by the highest court which, apparently, leaves the matter where it was before, but at the same time takes away the criminal feature of the Sherman law. Mr. Roosevelt, in his article, says:

"In the case of the Tobacco trust, for instance, the settlement in the circuit court, in which the representatives of the government seemed inclined to concur, practically leaves all of the companies still substantially under the control of twenty-nine original defendants. Such a result is lamentable from the standpoint of justice. The decision of the circuit court, if allowed to stand, means that the Tobacco trust has merely been obliged to change its clothes, that none of the real offenders have received any real punishment. Surely, miscarriage of justice is not too strong a term to apply to such a result when considered in connection with what the supreme court said of this trust."

Following his article, an interesting story comes from New York to the effect that Wall street, alarmed at the progress the La Follette people are making for their candidate, has decided to drop Taft and pin its faith once again upon Roosevelt and thus head off the pompous statesman from Wisconsin. It is even intimated that LaFollette would look well as a second placer on a ticket with the colonel.

This change of heart by the Big Interests as to Roosevelt is supposed to be because of the remedy for the trust question given by the ex-president. He suggests an administrative bureau with supervisory and regulatory powers similar to those of the interstate commerce commission.

When we consider the harmless powers of the interstate commission, up to date, it may well be believed that the Street would be willing to accept this method as a proper solution of the trust evil, and let it go at that.

Protection Helps Foreigners.

The Stanley steel investigating committee has made public the export prices of steel trust products. This is a very important piece of news, inasmuch as it shows great differences of prices in favor of foreigners, and, therefore will probably result in a great reduction, if not the removal, of all tariff duty on steel.

The figures given out show that the trust charges American consumers \$32.67 per gross ton for steel plates, while supplying the identical article to foreigners at \$29.04. The unprotected foreigner thus receives an advantage of \$3.93 over the protected American consumer. The advantage given the foreigner in steel rails is \$3.84 per ton, in tin plate \$12.54 and in structural steel \$4.50.

Query: If the steel trust sells its products cheaper to foreigners than to home consumers, who is the actual beneficiary of the American protective system? The foreigner or the home consumer?

A Starving Industry.

The woolen trust is the most insistent of all the trusts in its demand for a high tariff. This trust still calls itself an 'infant industry,' and its agents told the members of the ways and means committee that

the trust would starve to death if the tariff were taken off of wool.

At Boston, recently, Wm. Wood, president of the woolen trust, was a witness in a suit filed against him by a man whom he had knocked down and run over. The judge asked Wood how many automobiles he owned.

"I don't know," Wood replied. "How many chauffeurs do you employ?" asked the court.

"I never tried to keep track of them," Wood answered.

Imagine a man so rich he cannot keep track of the number of automobiles he owns! Then reflect on how many of the workingmen who purchase Mr. Wood's highly-protected products are unable to keep track of the number of woolen suits they or their children own.

Tips It Off.

In a recent speech in New York, George W. Perkins, late partner of J. P. Morgan, said that Governor Hughes was put forward in 1908 by Wall street to represent the republican party's position on the trust question and that Hughes, in his speech at Youngstown, O., construed the republican promise to amend the anti-trust law as follows:

"In our progress we must avoid false steps. Ours must be the rule of reason," etc.

Congress refused to legalize 'reasonable,' or any other kind of monopolies, so Governor Hughes was put on the supreme bench and helped twist the law to make it conform to the trust idea of what the republican promise meant.

Taft will soon have another congress on his hands—or on his back—according to the point of view.

A Menacing Peril.

Governor Woodrow Wilson put his finger on the most menacing peril that constantly overshadows the prosperity of the country when, in discussing the money trust, he said:

"The great monopoly in this country is the money monopoly. So long as that exists our old variety and freedom and individual energy of development are out of the question. The industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore and all our activities are in the hands of a few men who, even if their action be honest and intended for the public interest, are necessarily concentrated upon the great undertakings in which their own money is involved and who necessarily by every reason of their limitations, chill and check and destroy genuine economic freedom. This is the greatest question of all, and to this statesmen must address themselves with all earnest determination to serve the long future and the true liberties of men."

According to the November crop report of the department of agriculture, Montana is the only state in the Union which harvested a full crop of apples this year. The total crop of the United States is 39 per cent short. Oregon is 60 per cent short, Washington reports only half a crop and Idaho 80 per cent.

After Commerce Court.

The demand for the abolition of the commerce court, which has been smoldering for months and which burst into flame with that tribunal's decision of the intermountain rate cases, has assumed serious proportions.

The democratic house is eager for the chance to repeal the provision of the law creating the court and developments at Washington indicate that a sufficient number of votes in the republican senate are available for the passage of the repeal through that body.

It is assumed that the president would veto the repeal, so that the abolition of the court could be accomplished only in the event that two-thirds of each house should pass the bill over the executive disapproval.

It transpires that nearly all of the republican senators from the mountain and some neighboring

states are ready to join the movement to wipe out the court. The decision of a few days ago, holding that the interstate commerce commission exceeded its authority in reducing the inter-mountain long and short haul rates, has raised a storm of protest throughout the far west.

The senators who are planning to introduce the repeal of the court section of the law have been making a canvass of the situation. They have telegrams and letters indicating that fourteen regular republican senators from the far west are willing to vote for the repeal.

Representative Sims of Tennessee will introduce the repeal in the house. There is no doubt of its passage there, where the court has even fewer friends than in the last house, where a tie vote was all that saved the provision from being expunged from the bill.

The progressives and the democrats and many of the regulars contend that the court is a failure. Not only in the inter-mountain but in a half a dozen other cases the court has held up orders of the commission regulating rates in fa-

vor of the shippers.

President Taft and his friends undoubtedly will put up a stout defense of the institution. The administration takes the position that it is too early to judge the efficacy of the new institution. Even if the commerce court should be abolished the five judgeships would remain, for the members of the court were created circuit judges for life. They would be assigned to work on various circuits.

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