

Peace And Trust Resolutions At Kansas City

Reporting the proceedings of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Kansas City, November 22, the Associated Press says:

Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, and William J. Bryan secured the lion's share of attention here today among a long list of speakers at the three sessions of the Trans-Mississippi commercial congress. All spoke on subjects relating more or less directly to the increasing of the commercial business of the country.

Mr. Bryan was appointed to head a committee of ex-presidents of the congress to escort Secretary Shaw to the platform, and when these two distinguished public men led the way to the rostrum there was great applause.

Secretary Shaw, who spoke particularly for a wider foreign market for American goods, made this declaration:

"If this country ever develops international merchants it will accomplish it by granting them encouragement; not alone by dredging harbors and deepening channels, but by insuring them a merchant marine in which to carry, under the most favorable terms, the products of our farms, our mines, our forests, and our factories. Secretary Root has gone a step further than I propose to go in favor of a merchant marine. He commits himself to the ship subsidy idea. I do not say that I am in favor of a ship subsidy, but I will say that I am in favor of anything that will secure a merchant marine for the United States."

Mr. Bryan, whose subject principally concerned the commercial interests of the Mississippi valley region, was the sole speaker at the evening session.

The crowd that greeted Mr. Bryan was the largest of the congress, numbering 6,000 persons. He was introduced by David R. Francis, president of the congress, and was given an unusual ovation. Mr. Bryan said he felt very friendly toward the commercial congress, because it was the only body of which he was ever president. He made a strong plea in opening to have the next annual congress held in his home town, Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Bryan presented the following resolution, which he asked to be considered by the resolutions committee of the congress at the November 23 session:

"Resolved, That this congress heartily endorses the resolution unanimously adopted by the Inter-parliamentary Union at its London session last July, in favor of the submissions of all international questions to an impartial court or commission for investigation before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities."

He pleaded earnestly for the adoption of the resolution, hoping, he said, the congress would thus place itself on record as favoring peace.

Mr. Bryan congratulated the commercial congress for having had as their guests two members of the president's cabinet—Secretary Root and Secretary Shaw—"the two foremost members of the president's official family," he said.

Speaking of the South American trade expansion possibilities as set forth by Secretary Root he said he did not agree with Mr. Root as to the methods suggested. He did not, he said, believe in subsidies.

Mr. Bryan said he had heard Secretary Shaw

speak at the afternoon session also on the question of trade expansion. He said that Mr. Shaw had presented the situation in a pleasing manner, but took occasion to assert that many questions which are not logical must be presented in a pleasing manner to cover up their lack of logic.

Mr. Bryan then read a second resolution affecting trusts, which also, he said, he wished might be adopted by the commercial congress at its business session the next day. This resolution, which Mr. Bryan said covered in a general way his hopes regarding trust legislation, follows:

"Resolved, That this congress is unalterably opposed to private monopolies, and, believing them indefensible and intolerable, favors the enforcement of existing laws and the enactment of such new laws as may be necessary to protect industry from the menace offered by the trusts."

Mr. Bryan said he was glad that at last all people finally had come to be opposed to the giving and receiving of rebates. He spoke of the recent conviction of the sugar trust for receiving rebates and attacked the Standard Oil company, which he declared had built up much of its business by operating in rebates. But legislation was needed, he said, not only to prevent railways from granting rebates but those other great concerns from watering their stock.

The Associated Press report of the proceedings of the last day of the session at Kansas City follows:

After electing H. D. Loveland of San Francisco president for the ensuing year; adopting two resolutions by William J. Bryan after they had been voted down by the committee on resolutions, and after adopting a set of resolutions, including an indorsement of the propositions submitted by Secretary of State Elihu Root "for encouraging our merchant marine and for increasing our intercourse with South America by adequate mail facilities" the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress adjourned late today to meet in 1907 at Muskogee, I. T.

The first of the resolutions favored the indorsement by the congress of the resolutions adopted by the Interparliamentary Union at the London session in favor of settling of international questions impartially by a court or commission of investigation before declaration of war or the opening of hostilities by any country.

The second resolution sought to place the congress on record as being opposed to private monopolies and, believing them "indefensible and intolerable, favors the enforcement of existing laws and the enactment of such new laws as may be necessary to protect industry from the menace offered by the trusts."

The last session of a memorable gathering proved one of the most stirring of the congress and ended in a victory for Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan was not present, having left this morning for Columbia, Mo., to deliver an address.

The introduction of politics into the proceedings of the congress was narrowly averted when the report of the committee on resolutions was submitted for action. John P. Irish, chairman of the committee, had scarcely finished reading the report when L. C. Irvine of St. Louis, vice

president of the congress, was recognized by the chair. Mr. Irvine made an impassioned address censuring the action of the resolutions committee in omitting from its report the two resolutions introduced to the congress by Mr. Bryan during his speech last night. Mr. Irvine intimated that the omission of these two resolutions savored of political influence and their authorship rather than their subject matter was the reason for the failure of the committee to report them. He said all of the American people were in favor of the Bryan resolutions and that if this convention did not want to lose its power and its influence it had better not commit itself to an action indicating a partisan feeling. He said that the republican leaders who are fighting the trusts and Mr. Bryan were a unit on the trust question. He said that if you took a speech delivered by Mr. Bryan on that subject and another delivered by Mr. Roosevelt or Attorney General Hadley and you were not told the name of their authors you could not tell which man was the author of either speech.

J. A. Ross of South Dakota seconded the speech of Mr. Irvine and Chairman David R. Francis suggested that consideration of the two Bryan resolutions be postponed until the report of the committee on resolutions as reported had been adopted. The suggestion was accepted, the report of the committee was adopted and Mr. Irvine then formally offered the Bryan resolution against private monopoly.

Mr. Irish made a stirring reply to Mr. Irvine. He said that he opposed the Bryan resolutions because of the views Mr. Bryan had expressed in his New York speech. He said that those views were of such a nature that he did not want the congress to go on record as supporting them, directly or indirectly. He said that Mr. Bryan, who was an eminent dialectician and candidate for political honors, had advocated government ownership of all public utilities and that an indorsement of his trust resolution would be an indirect indorsement of government ownership of such utilities.

Several delegates remonstrated with Mr. Irish that Mr. Bryan had not advocated the public ownership of all public utilities.

Thomas Knight of Kansas City asked Mr. Irish: "Does the authorship of a resolution stamp the resolution?" and Mr. Irish rejoined: "Would you consider any resolution put by Mr. Harri-man?"

Mr. Knight answered: "I would if it were a good one."

Without further debate the resolution offered by Mr. Irvine was adopted. Then Mr. Bryan's peace resolution was submitted and adopted without debate.

John P. Irish referred to in the above dispatch was a "democrat" in 1896 and refused to support the democratic nominee for president, giving as his reason his opposition to bimetalism. In that campaign Mr. Irish made speeches for the republican ticket and the greater part of the time since then he has held a federal office at San Francisco.

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