RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

If This Be Anarchy Bacilli Make the Most of It.

ALLEN AND THE COMMONWEAL.

The Rich Welcomed by the Lawmakers, The Poor Refused a Hearing—Populists are Their Only Friends.

Speech Which Angered Plutocracy.

MR. ALLEN. Mr. President, I certainly hope the resolution of the Senator from Kansas will be adopted by the Senate, not because I think it advisable for Mr. Coxey's army or any other army to come to Washington for the purpose of presenting a petition to Congress in person, not because I think it is advisable for them to do this, but because as American citizens they have a right to do so if they see fit, and it would be unwise on the part of the Senate to deny them this right. Any American citizen has a right to come to Washington, I suppose, at least I have never heard it denied until within the last two or three days; any American citizen, it makes no difference where he may live, or what his occupation may be, or what his station in life may be, has a right to come here, and he has a right to walk under the Dome of this Capitol if he sees fit and be as secure as any other citizen in the land. So if Mr. Coxey and his followers see fit to come here for a peaceful purpose, as they are coming—whether that purpose be visionary or not it is not for us to judge—they have a right to do so and look in upon the highest legislative body of the country of which they are citizens; and they have a right to occupy these galleries, which are sometimes occupied by persons who are almost chronic in occupying them to the exclusion of citizens of other sections of the land. They have a right to come and be heard by a committee of this body, they have a right to present their grievances in person; and no man has the moral or the legal right to deny them that privilege whether he be Senator or citizen.

Disclaiming, then, any purpose whatever of approving or advising Mr. Coxey's movement, I must say that, so far as I am concerned, I believe he has a right to come here with his followers, and that he and they have a right to be treated with as much courtesy and kindness in doing so as the President of the United States, and any different reception of Mr. Coxey or his followers, or of any other American citizen, would be altogether un-American, and would not be sustained by the common judgment of the American people.

Let us look for a moment at the way public business is transacted here. I have been reading for two or three days in the newspapers of this city that some general, called Ordway—I do not know who he is, whether he is a regular army officer or a militia officer—is mobilizing the military force of the city for the purpose of receiving Coxey at the confines of the District, with the bayonets of soldiers and the clubs of policemen.

These men are coming here for a rightful purpose as American citizens, whose persons, whose homes and whose rights are as sacred under the flag and the Constitution of this country as are those of any other man, woman, or child, and yet we witness the singular spectacle of the city being thrown into excitement about the movements of a harmless army of this character entirely without arms. The Army is to be mobilized to receive them upon the point of the bayonet, if need be, and hired soldiers are to meet them at the confines of the District and check their entry or to shoot them into submission if they refuse when they have violated no law.

Is that American? Is it right to deny to such men the privilege not only of entering the District of Columbia and the city of Washington, but to enter these galleries, if they see fit to enter them?

Go down to the depot of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad or the Pennsylvania railroad at almost any time of the day and you will see great bodies of lobbyists coming to the city. I have seen them myself, fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five at a time, and sometimes more. They do not stop to take their baggage to the hotels, but they walk right into the corridors of this Capitol and seek these galleries, seek the lobbies of the Capitol, seek Senators and the committee rooms to lay their various schemes before members of Congress. Sir, many of them are met almost with hats off; they are met almost with outstretched arms and words of welcome, and yet they are doing the country more damage and more injury than all the Coxey armies, than all the forces that can be mobilized in this country by men like Mr. Coxey; and yet here is a threat upon the part of this Government—for I assume that this militia officer would not take the step he threatens to take without orders from some authority, from some one higher than himself—here is the threat we see in the newspapers, that honest workingmen who are out of employment, every one of whom perhaps is as good as any Senator in this Chamber, every one of whom owes allegiance to this country and to its flag, are to be met with a military force to deprive them of an undoubted and sacred right. A surprising spectacle in a country like this!

The conditions of the country are ripe to produce movements of this kind. These people have appealed to Congress from time to time by petitions and memorials without any attempt being made to redress their wrongs. They send their petitions to Congress, and they are received here simply because the Constitution makes it obligatory upon us to receive them; they are never read or published here so that the world can know what they contain; they are hurriedly read by title or a mere brief statement is made of their reception, and they are speeded off into the dark closets and caverns around this Capitol, never to be resurrected or seen again. No attention whatever is paid to them.

The right of petition as it exists in this country, and as it is practiced in this body, is a farce, and the great common American people know it full well. So, seeing that they cannot be heard otherwise, they come here to lay their grievances before Congress in a peaceful manner. Will we deny them that sacred right of American citizens? Will we deny them the privilege—no, not the privilege—but the right under the Constitution they have to do so? Will we not only deny them that right, but meet them at the confines of the city as felons are to be met and driven back? Are American citizens coming here for a lawful purpose to be met at the confines of the capital of their nation by a hired soldiery, by a police force and kept out of the city and beaten into submission if they persist in coming?

What provokes any suspicion against this class of our people? Is it the clothes they wear? Is it because they are not clothed in purple and fine linen and arrayed like Solomon in all his glory? Is it in consequence of any threats they have made against Congress or any branch of the Government? Is it in consequence of their being armed and threatening the peace of the city or the integrity of the nation? Sir, it cannot be any of these, for they are peaceable, law-abiding, honest, humble American citizens, and they come upon a mission of peace, and not of war.

MR. HARRIS. Will the Senator allow me a second?

MR. ALLEN. Certainly.

MR. HARRIS. Representing in some measure, as I do, the people of the District of Columbia, I beg to know of the Senator from Nebraska what evidence he has that the officer in command of the District militia has ever made a threat or an intimation such as the Senator has indicated? I undertake to say he will find no authority for any such statement coming from any such officer.

MR. ALLEN. Mr. President, I will say in answer to the Senator from Tennessee that I said the newspapers of this city were full of it. I ask the Senator from Tennessee if that is not correct?

MR. HARRIS. I understood the Senator to deal with what he was pleased to characterize as a threat of the officer commanding the militia of the District of Columbia. I deny that any such threat has been made. The Senator need not ask me what has appeared or what may appear in a newspaper in its disposition to speculate upon every possible condition, in its disposition to hunt things sensational. I know not what the newspapers have said or what they may say upon this or any other subject, but the Senator is not justified in charging that a public official has uttered threats such as he has described upon mere newspaper declarations as to what possibly or probably may happen.

MR. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am not responsible for what the Senator from Tennessee understands, nor did I make the statement which he now makes. I said that in the newspapers in this city it was claimed and it is not denied—and that is how I know that there was an officer of this name—that Gen. Ordway is mobilizing the military force of this District for the purpose I have named.

MR. HARRIS. Does the Senator mean to say that it is stated that that officer has threatened to do the things which the Senator describes?

MR. ALLEN. It has been stated in the newspapers that this officer has mobilized or is mobilizing a force for the purpose of meeting these men with the bayonets of soldiers. What does that mean? Does not that mean war upon them and upon their rights? It is nonsense for us to say that nothing of that kind is contemplated when there is a unanimous concensus of opinion upon the subject, and it is not denied by the very officer himself, who must see the statements made in the newspapers from day to day. I know nothing of his purpose except as I get it through the newspapers of this city; and I say if he intends to meet these men with a military force, he violates every principle of this government, and violates its statutes as well.

I heard it stated in this Chamber within a few days that the time has come when these Capitol grounds must be made sacred and nobody must be permitted to occupy them; that parades must not occupy the Capitol grounds. What is there, Mr. President, about the Capitol grounds which makes them so sacred that no American citizen dare walk across them without permission?

MR. FAULKNER. I should like to ask the Senator a question.

MR. ALLEN. I yield with pleasure.

MR. FAULKNER. Is not the Senator aware of the fact that no processions of any character or description can parade the streets of the city of Washington, or any other municipality of which I know, without permission from the city authorities, designating the route over which they are to pass, and the object and purpose of the procession?

MR. ALLEN. Mr. President, if that be true, it is a shame and a disgrace to this nation that it should be so.

MR. COCKRELL. It is so everywhere in every city of the United States.

MR. ALLEN. It is not so in every city of the United States.

MR. COCKRELL. It is true in every well-regulated city.

MR. ALLEN. It is an absolute shame and disgrace to this nation that peaceable citizens dare not get together and march in the streets unless they get permission from some person in charge of the municipality; and when the Senator from Missouri says it is so in every city in the United States, I say I know that it is not so in every city; that there are large cities in the United States where it is not required to get permission to have a parade of any kind. If that be the law of the city of Washington, and honest and loyal citizens dare not get together upon the streets and march with drums and fifes if they desire to do so, then it is high time for this Government to repeal such a law. There is no right in anyone to enforce a law of that kind unless there be an occasion for its enforcement by a violation of the peace or threatened injury to the people and to property.

Mr. President, it is almost of weekly occurrence—I have seen it myself, and have seen it repeatedly—for military companies and parades of different kinds to march across the Capitol grounds, and yet I am told that it is in violation of the law for them to do so, and even the District Commissioners have no power to permit processions to invade the Capitol grounds. I saw last week, as I have seen almost every week since I have been in this city, military companies and societies of different kinds with banners, with fifes and drums, and with brass bands marching across the Capitol grounds without the slightest molestation or injury. There is not a man in this Capitol building today who has not seen the same thing; and yet we are told when Coxey, this mysterious and harmless Mr. Coxey, who is coming down the Chespeake and Ohio canal with two or three hundred harmless men reaches Washington, because he is not domiciled in Washington and of known high character, because he is not honored with a position in this end of the Capitol, or the other perhaps; because his fellow citizens have never called upon him to represent them in any respect in Washington, that he and his followers are to be met by police officers and a military force and kept off the Capitol grounds. Why? Does he menace this Chamber or the Capitol? Not at all. He is harmless; his mission is harmless; the mission of those who follow him is harmless, and it is lawful, and in one sense laudable and respectable.

The Capitol grounds—the great campus upon which this building is situated—are very sacred, indeed, now, but when railroad lobbyists, tax lobbyists, bank lobbyists, and all other lobbyists who infest this city and these Capitol grounds, come here everything is thrown open to them; but when Mr. Coxey comes marching along with his army of the commonweal to petition Congress for the redress and relief of the masses of his race, he is to be met and not permitted to enter the Capitol grounds, to say nothing of this sacred Senate Chamber.

The galleries are inhabited from day to day, from week to week, and from month to month by the same class of persons, so that American citizens from Maine to California and from Texas to Massachusetts are crowded out of them when they come here but once in a lifetime to look upon the Senate of the United States, and nothing is done, no effort is made to change this condition of affairs; but when this harmless man Mr. Coxey and his harmless and unarmed followers are coming here to lay their grievances before us we refuse to give them even a few moment's time of a few of the Senators in this Chamber, and are to forbid them entrance even on the Capitol grounds.

Mr. President, have we not time to give ear to them? Look in upon this Chamber if you will two hours from this time when the tariff discussion is going on and probably there will not be six members of the body present to hear the speech which is being delivered; for hours it will go on in that way until 5 o'clock, and probably there are fifty or sixty Senators who could give these men from two to three hours to present their cause without any detriment whatever to their private affairs or to the public business of the nation. I hope the resolution will be adopted.

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Gentlemen—I have been a victim of rheumatism for several years past. I have suffered intensely at times, and have gone to the Hot Springs of South Dakota, and the Hot Springs of Arkansas five times, seeking relief. I have also taken much medicine under the directions of able physicians. About one month ago I suffered from one of the most violent attacks of the disease, and at once began taking hot salt water baths at your new and splendid bath house in this city. Under the care of your gentlemanly and efficient attendant, Mr. Henry Schmutte, I have, I think, entirely recovered.
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I do not hesitate not only to recommend, but to urge every person suffering from rheumatism to try a course of baths at your bath house under the directions of one of the physicians in charge.
I believe your new and magnificent bath house will prove a great blessing to the many victims of rheumatism in this vicinity, and I hope it will receive the liberal patronage it merits.
You have not requested of me any testimonial, yet I deem it proper that I should acknowledge the great relief I have received at your hands, and you may use what I have said in such manner as you may deem proper. Very respectfully,
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The above from Judge Strode is but a sample of the many similar testimonials we have received without solicitation and which will appear from time to time in these columns.
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The National Organizer's Dates.

BETHANY, Neb., April 14, 1894.
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Hon. Alonzo Wardall, national organizer of N. F. A. & I. U. and Alliance Aid, assisted by W. F. Wright, state organizer, will hold from two to three meetings with the Alliances in open meetings in the following counties, commencing in Otoe county, April 23rd, viz:

Nolan school house, 6 miles north of Lincoln, Lancaster county, May 4.
Saltello, Lancaster county, May 5.
Bennett, " " " 7.
Cook, Johnson county, May 9.
Graff, " " " 10.
Vesta, " " " 11.
Stromsburg, Polk " June 4.
Osceola, " " " 5.
Shelby, " " " 6.

Following counties, places not yet designated:
Gage county, May 12, 14, 15
Jefferson " " 16-17.
Thayer " " 18, 19, 21.
Fillmore " " 22-23.
Saline " " 24-25.
Seward " " 26-28.
York " " 29-30.
Hamilton " " 31, June 1-2.

Bills will be sent out as soon as places are designated for last eight counties.

W. F. WRIGHT,
State Organizer.

State Lecturer J. H. Powers will speak at the following places on the dates given:

Friend, Saline county, May 7.
Wilber, " " " 8.
Tobias, " " " 9.
Daykin, Jefferson " " 10.
Fairbury, " " " 11.
Endicott " " " 12.

Friends of the Alliance in these counties will please fill out the appointments giving the hour of the day in each case, and notify the state secretary, Mrs. J. T. Kellie, Hartwell, Neb., as soon as possible so she can inform me of the same.

Friends of the cause will please remember that on account of the financial condition of the state treasury the lecturer will get nothing for his services except what is voluntarily contributed on his field of labor.

Notice the new ad. of the Interior Decorative Company in this issue. Call on them and tell them where you saw their ad. and buy such things as you need. They have everything in stock in their line, and will treat you white.

President Lincoln said "keep in touch with the people." Dictator Cleveland warns the industrial army that they have no rights of peaceful petition that the government will respect—that if they congregate in Washington the "dogs of war" will be turned loose upon them. Yet the delegates of Wall street and the rich corporations ride free in palace cars to consult with the president and swarm in the lobbies of Congress. Grover may yet learn something about the duties of this government toward its starving and destitute subjects.—Blair Republican.

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