

SENATORIAL DEMAGOGUES

The part that congress has been playing in public affairs ever since this session began has been shallow demagogery, and especially so in the senate. Spooner has been advertised very extensively in the daily press as a great constructive statesman, and for days he has held the senate up, speaking hour after hour on the bill to admit the three territories as states. To occupy the time he reads long articles from magazines and newspapers and uses all the means so well known to demagogues to occupy the time. This he has done when the most pressing necessity exists for legislation—when chaos is reigning in a good many places in the United States for want of it, and to beat a bill that the republican party pledged itself in its national platform to pass. The statehood bill is the unfinished business before the senate and no legislation can be enacted except appropriation bills until it is disposed of. Spooner knows that a majority of the senate would vote for the bill if it was allowed to come to a vote, so he draws on day after day to empty benches to prevent a vote being taken. He has two objects in view. One is to beat the bill and the other is to prevent any tariff on trust legislation.

The situation in the senate is this. There is not a man among them who dares to defend the trusts or the present exorbitant tariffs in debate. How would a senator appear defending rebates to the rich on the railroads? What sort of a condition would he be in trying to defend a tariff system which enables manufacturers to sell goods at a profit to foreigners for 40 per cent less than the same goods are sold to citizens of the United States? So their policy is subtraction, division and silence. Besides that they resort to every means to prevent any legislation. They simply "stand pat" and "let well enough alone." A more infamous body of men never legislated for a people. They are there to make millions for themselves and to allow the predatory hordes, organized as trusts, to prey upon the people.

There is no relief from this infamy except the populist plan of electing senators by a vote of the people.

SENATOR ALDRICH

A more infamous, prevaricating scoundrel than Senator Aldrich never stood on two legs. His pretended righteous anger over the fact that Dingley said that some of the schedules in the tariff were put high for the purpose of trading when it came to making reciprocity treaties provided for in the bill, is demagogism pure and simple and everybody knows that it is. Every nation in the world has been making "fighting tariffs" and "trading tariffs" for the last ten years. Germany has just finished such a job. The holy Aldrich pretends that he thinks that there is something dishonorable about it. He is such a saint that he can't look at such a think without shivers of holy horror!

Aldrich and his partner in Rhode Island have had a prohibitory tariff on their products for many years and the millions that they have accumulated have been taxed out of the people of these states and gone into their pockets. He well knows that if "publicity" was obtained for his transactions, that he would be branded as infamous for all eternity. That is what makes him so anxious that no revision of the tariff shall take place. In such an event, the schedules in which he is interested would be overhauled and the infamy of them would come to the public knowledge.

THE SITUATION

There are coal mines sufficient to furnish all the coal the people require. There are railroads enough to haul it to consumers. There are people with money in hand ready to buy. But there is a coal trust extending far and wide which refuses to let the

people have the coal except at exorbitant prices. There are laws on the statute books that would send the pirates to prison if they were enforced. The officers of the law, republicans, who have been elected by the contributions of the trusts, refuse to enforce the law. The people suffer with cold and many manufacturing plants have been forced to shut down, some because they could not get coal and some because the price asked was so exorbitant that the plants could not be run without loss. Instead of enforcing the law, Congressman Jenkins introduces an unconstitutional measure as a piece of buncombe. If Jenkins really wanted to relieve the situation he would introduce a resolution impeaching the attorney general. The anti-trust law has been on the statute books for years. The trusts have multiplied by the thousand. The attorney general has never brought a suit under it yet. It is a clear case of malfeasance in office. The trusts put this administration in power. It will do nothing to stop their thieving raids upon the citizens of this country. That is the situation in a nutshell.

THIRTEEN TROUBLES

The New York Herald says that President Roosevelt has twelve troubles on hand at once and enumerates them as follows:

1. Smoot candidacy in Utah.
2. Wolcott candidacy in Colorado.
3. Addicks candidacy in Delaware.
4. Brackett rebellion in Albany.
5. Crum case in Charleston.
6. Indianola fight in Mississippi.
7. Coal controversy.
8. Trust question.
9. Isthmian canal problem.
10. Venezuelan imbroglio.
11. Cuban reciprocity.
12. Presidential nomination in 1904

But there is another, the thirteenth, the unlucky one. It is his Uncle Mark Hanna. Just at present his Uncle Mark "he lay low and say noffin'" but he is plotting mischief. Uncle Mark and his children, the trusts, don't intend that Teddy shall be nominated as the candidate of the republican party for president.

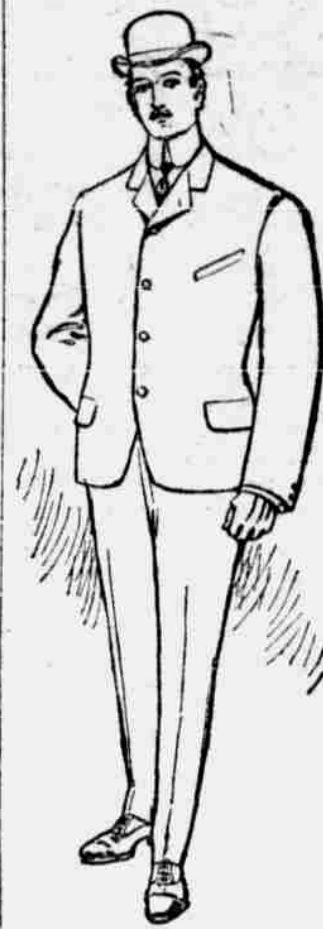
THE FOWLER BILL

Lincoln said that you could not fool all the people all the time, but it seems that it is an easy matter to fool a majority of them all the time. A majority of the people of this state were fooled into the belief that the republican redeemers had run the state government at much less cost than the fusionists did, and that the Fowler bill was dead, never to be resurrected. When the official report of the republican auditor was published it showed enormous deficiencies and a great increase in the cost of the state government. Last week the Fowler bill was favorably reported to the house by the chairman of the committee on banking and currency. The Independent has information that that old Indiana monetary convention has been very active during the last few weeks sending out many thousands of letters and spending not less than \$1,000 a day for some time to get things in a right condition to force the bill through. This information comes direct from a person in position to know exactly what the bank ring is doing.

POOR MUST PAY THE BILLS

The people may as well make up their minds now as later to one fact: As long as the republican party remains in power they will have to pay twice as much for coal as they ever did before. The fact has developed that there have been "Coal Exchanges," organized in every city of any size, and these "exchanges" fix the prices and regulate the supply. With prosecuting attorneys and judges who have been elected to office with the corruption funds supplied by these men and others who are interested in other trusts, there is no possible way

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of breaking up these combines, which gather riches by robbing the poor. The people therefore can make up their minds that as long as the republican party holds power, they will have to pay a double price for coal as they have been doing for illuminating and fuel oil.

The organization of trusts has turned the world upside down. The old order of things has been displaced by a new order, or rather by chaos in the commercial world. Under the old order, an increased supply would reduce prices. Under the chaotic rule of the trusts that is no longer the case. There has been within the last two or three years a tremendous increase in the output of petroleum. New fields of supply, far exceeding in output any heretofore discovered, have been found in several different states. But as the supply increased, the price went up, and at the present time illuminating oil cannot be bought at retail along the lines of the railroads in many places for less than 25 cents a gallon. That gives a profit to the trust upon a staple article that would seem to be "beyond the dreams of avarice." The Rockefeller methods are being applied to coal and the same result is obtained. If the Standard Oil trust is to go on without hindrance, how can the coal combine be suppressed? If the coal trust can be restrained under the law as it now exists, why cannot the Standard Oil and other trusts also be restrained?

It is a very shallow subterfuge for the party in power to say that monopolies cannot be abolished without enacting new laws. They could all be suppressed, as every lawyer knows, under the common law if no statutes at all existed on the subject. The attorney general has never brought even one case under the anti-trust law to see if it was effective, although evidence has been collected by outside parties at their own cost and the papers prepared ready for filing. The attorney general won't even file them. If he thought the law was ineffective he would be very willing to file them and prove that his contention was true.

The truth about this matter is as has been declared by several Washington correspondents, Walter Wellman among them, that the leaders of the republican party do not intend to do anything or permit anything to be

done that will in the slightest manner check the rapacity of the trusts.

That being the case, the people will have to pay exorbitant prices for coal and every other necessity of life. There is no way of escape and never will be as long as the republican party is in power. The exorbitant price demanded for coal will increase the rents of heated rooms. The price of board has already been advanced in all the eastern cities. Manufacturers will have to raise prices on their goods, and the common people, "of whom God made so many," will have to pay the bills while the rich will add millions more to their already accumulated millions.

The basest wretches connected with all this business are the hireling editors of the plutocratic dailies and the professors of political economy in the great universities, who knowing all the facts in the case and well understanding what the results of monopoly will be, keep silent. As long as the trusts establish universities and pay the professors from a portion of their loot, and as long as the editors are simply hirelings, never daring to express an honest opinion of their own, it will be hard to find anything more wretched and vile than they.

The editor of The Independent is informed that he is partially mistaken in his comments on the New England lobby in the southern states in regard to child labor. There are two New England lobbies down there, one working for laws to prevent child labor and one to allow it. The manufacturers who have their factories in the north are working for anti-child labor laws, as they consider that the labor of children in the southern mills is a discrimination against them. The other, whose factories are located in the south, are in favor of child labor. That is probably true, but they are both actuated by the same sordid motives. The question of what is right or wrong is not taken into consideration by either of them. The northern manufacturers whose mills are located where child labor is prohibited, are working for their own interests and if those interests were not affected, they would have no lobby in the south. Both North and South Carolina legislatures are considering child labor bills at the present time.