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drawn so as to apply only to a certain class of corporations; or, (c) the right to grant or refuse incorporation will be vested in some federal office holder.

To place this discretion in a federal office holder is to grant to him the power to specify which particular trust or combination shall be licensed to prey upon the people of the United States—a power greater than that possessed by any tyrant of modern times—a power more dangerous than any exercised by Louis XIV in the hour of his most absolute and tyrannic rule.

If the act be so drawn as to apply only to certain classes of corporations, what shall this classification be?

Shall it apply only to those corporations possessing a certain amount of capital? Or to those which exercise a more or less complete monopoly?

Shall we solemnly ascertain first, that a concern is so large as to be dangerous, and then grant it a special prerogative and privilege not possessed or exercised by those institutions which are smaller and less dangerous?

Shall we remove the great and powerful from the purview of state control—yet subject the small and struggling institution to state legislation?

The mere statement of such a proposition is so appalling as to shock even the dull sensibilities of a special "pleader of monopoly," even though he be president of the United States.

The only remaining condition, therefore, is that the law shall be so framed as to permit all institutions engaged in interstate commerce to avail themselves of its privileges and protection. This being the case, let us see to what extent it will affect the business of our country.

Patently, no institution will avail itself of the law unless the privileges to be obtained are greater than those which exist under state organizations. If the law does not confer such benefits and privileges, then no institution will ever seek incorporation under it.

If it does contain advantages superior to those which can be exercised under state organization, then all institutions engaged in interstate commerce will flock to Washington and insist upon securing to themselves the benefits of the national incorporation act.

Who, then pray, may we justly and reasonably expect to at once abdicate state citizenship and seek refuge in Washington?

- 1. All railway companies.
2. All telephone and telegraph companies for all are engaged in interstate commerce.
3. Every great manufacturer, for all ship beyond the borders of their resident state.
4. All insurance companies, for they do busi-

ness in different states and have long been seeking protection under the federal government against the legislation of the states in which they do business.

5. The great financial institutions which are engaged in dealing with the citizens of the different states.

6. Great wholesale and jobbing houses, selling their wares in different commonwealths.

7. Stock yards companies.

8. The packing houses.

But why prolong the specifications? The all-embracing effect of such a law will be to centralize in the city of Washington the control of over 90 per cent of the great business institutions of the land. And at the same time, to deprive the sovereign states of the right of control and regulation over a corresponding volume of business.

The president blandly promises us the government will be good. That the government will not permit monopoly. And yet the very purpose of this bill is to permit monopoly.

The president tells us that the business of these institutions will be wisely regulated by the government. The experience of all the years demonstrates that instead of the government's wisely regulating these institutions, the concentrated lobby of all the predatory interests of the country will effectually regulate the government.

The proposition appalls the imagination and arouses the opposition of every patriot, regardless of party. It is at war with the history of our country. It is violative of the sacred precepts of the constitution as they have always been understood in the past. It proposes a commercial, financial and governmental revolution. It can only be accomplished by assassinating the liberties of the respective states and by annihilating principles of local self-government.

It will deprive the people of my state, Missouri, and of your state, Nebraska, of the power to protect themselves against abuses, no matter to what extent those abuses may go.

Under our present system of laws, the people of the state have the right to prescribe the conditions upon which foreign corporations may do business within their borders. If their representatives in their general assemblies do not respond to their will, they may right the wrong by the election of others who will voice their sentiments and guard their rights.

But once this impudent and infamous proposition is crystallized into law, the people of Missouri may cry aloud for relief. The people of Nebraska may join in the protest. The people of a dozen or twenty of the great American states may, with one voice demand relief. But so long as the corporations and monopolies can hold a majority of one in either branch of the national legislature, our protests will be in vain.

The monopolies knew their business when they capitalized Taft's campaign for the nomination. They understood where their interests lay when they made the trade with Taft's representatives in New York City shortly before the election and took his representatives' pledge in lieu of their financial support.

Practical Tariff Talks

Hardly any household in America is so humble or so grand but that matting of some sort is not to be found on the floors. The republican congress, however, in fixing the tariff tax on this class of house furnishings followed out a policy that is apparently directly in the interest of the users of the higher grades of matting and against that of those whose position in life requires them to limit their purchases to the poorer qualities. In brief, the tariff on mattings, plain, fancy or figured, manufactured from straw, round or split or other vegetable substances, included in what are commonly known as Chinese, Japanese and Indian straw mattings, valued at not to exceed 10 cents per square yard, was raised from 3 cents to 3 1/2 cents a square yard, while the tariff on all higher priced matting was cut from an average of about 9 cents—7 per cent and 25 per cent ad valorem added—to the same figure, 3 1/2 cents.

Expressed in another way, the percentage of tariff on the cheaper grade was raised from 36 to 43 per cent of its value, while that on the dearer grades was cut from 83 per cent of its value to 24 per cent, the tariff on the matting of the poor being raised and the tariff on the matting of the well-to-do cut in two and more. The ten cent value represents the price which the importer contracts to pay the manufacturer

in Asia, which reaches 17 to 24 cents in the New York market, and 40 cents to the householder. The dearer grades run as high as \$1.50 a yard in the retail store. There was no tariff on matting prior to the time Mr. Dingley began moulding his law. Then, because the ingrain carpet industry protested, congress levied the tariff as given above. But the ingrain carpet industry did not revive very much because a perverse people insisted on buying matting and refusing to buy the carpet. So it was that last year the ingrain manufacturers were down begging for a duty of 10 cents per square yard on the cheaper grade. They didn't get it, because democratic members pointed out that it was not the business of congress to deprive people of what they wanted in order to force them to buy what they didn't want. Trade experts declared that the decline of the ingrain carpet business was due to the fact that it had become an obsolete fabric.

The straw matting industry in the United States is so small that the carpet men and the importers who appeared at the ways and means committee had not heard of it. Their testimony was that no straw matting, only paper matting, is made in the United States, that it is all made in the orient from grass grown under peculiar conditions. This brought before the committee a Massachusetts man who runs a mill in Kennebunk, Me., which uses grass grown in Texas. He said that whereas all oriental matting is made on wooden looms operated by hand and foot power, his concern has power looms that make a high grade product that sells in America for a better price. He asked that the tariff on the medium and lower cost grades be retained at 3 cents, and that a specific duty of 12 cents per square yard be placed on the higher cost grades. It was refused. There is nothing in evidence or of record to show why.

The lace curtain is no longer regarded as a luxury. Most every American housewife likes to have a set of these at each of her more important windows, but if any of these good women construed the promise of the president to revise the tariff downward to mean that they would get their lace curtains at a lower price, they are doomed to disappointment. The industry in America is purely exotic, the child of a protective tariff, and at every step the cost increases because at every step the tariff drops in to levy a toll. The Nottingham curtain, the standard of the industry, requires highly-skilled labor. The curtains are constructed on intricate machines, every one of which must be imported, at a tariff tax of 45 per cent. The fine yarns specially spun for the industry which the manufacturer is obliged to use and without which no lace-curtain machine can be operated are all imported at 50 per cent duty. The workingmen had to be imported, and they are all protected because of the tariff duty on their finished product, 55 per cent. And the householder pays all the expenses, plus the profits from maker to seller. C. Q. D.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Mr. Robert C. Morris, president of the New York Republican club on the occasion of the celebration of Lincoln's birthday proposed a toast, saying:

"Here's a toast to Mr. Taft: May he continue to disappoint both extremes, and in patience and soberness, work out the policies of the great majority of the people who placed this responsibility on him."

But Mr. Taft has not disappointed the extreme that does business at the Wall Street end of the line.

"OLD MAN PEOPLE"
Washington dispatch to the New York World:
"Old Man People don't ever get much from the government. The drippings from the sanctuary may strike everybody else, but Old Man People is generally missed. The constitution is always invoked to prevent Old Man People from securing anything belonging to him. I have no patience with such rot."
Such was the declaration of Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas today in announcing his opposition to the postal savings bank bill.