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SENATOR REED'S SPEECH (Continued from Page 13.)

their own particular emolument and profit.

If it is necessary to talk plain, I will talk plain. I even dare to talk for that miserable wretch who has the temerity to get himself elected to a seat in this chamber and who does not have a vast sum of money at his back.

Mr. President, I say that here, just as in the supreme court of the United States; here as in the supreme courts of the various states; here as in the nisi prius courts of the land; here as in the little justice courts at country crossroads, with no light to guide save that of reason and conscience; here as in all tribunals where justice is dealt out with even hand; here, as there, when a man has a direct personal interest he ought, in all decency, in all good conscience, in all patriotism, to step aside and let those who do not have that interest settle the question in dispute.

I would not object to these interested members' appearance before any committee, as interested parties, to present their case, although the propriety of such conduct may well be questioned, but I say we have the right to object to men sitting in this body and voting upon a question when they have a heavy financial interest to serve. Why, sir, if a man were to sit in any legislative body and take a thousand dollars for his vote, we would brand him a criminal; we would put stripes upon him and lock him in a prison cell for years of time. Because some senators have come to this body and it has been alleged that they have offered or paid sums of money to secure votes, we solemnly investigate the question whether they shall be permitted to sit here. If it be proper to send a legislator to a prison cell because he takes a thousand dollars for his vote, will you draw me the line in the realm of conscience between the conduct of the legislator who sells his vote for money and the act of a man who sits here in the senate and votes tens of thousands of dollars into his pockets by way of a tax levied upon those he has sworn to represent and protect?

The Reed-Smoot Colloquy

Following is a page from the Congressional Record of August 15:

Mr. Smoot. Mr. President, the inference to be drawn from the remarks of the senator from Wisconsin (Mr. La Follette) is that the Payne-Aldrich bill passed the house, came to the senate, and the committee on finance considered the bill but 48 hours and reported it back with some 600 changes. I simply want to say to the senators that as soon as the finance committee was organized in the Sixty-first congress the committee met every day of the week at 10 o'clock in the morning, labored until 5 and 6 in the evening for weeks and weeks before ever the Payne tariff bill passed the house of representatives, and by the time it did pass the house the finance committee of the senate had considered every schedule of the bill. The finance committee of the senate had the hearings that were held before the ways and means committee of the house. They gave hearings to anyone attended by a senator who desired to be heard. Any senator who appeared before the committee upon any schedule was heard; and the time given to the bill was not 48 hours, but it was weeks and weeks.

Mr. Reed. Mr. President — The Vice President. Does the senator from Utah yield to the senator from Missouri?

Mr. Smoot. If the senator will wait until I finish, then I will gladly yield.

Another thing, Mr. President, I

wish to just answer briefly. The senator from Wisconsin says that the Wilson bill had nothing whatever to do with the financial condition of the United States during the years 1894-1897. I say that the Wilson bill had an effect upon the woolen industry of the United States, and an effect upon the woolen industry of England.

Let me quote here what the London Times said of the woolen industry of Bradford, England, at the close of the year 1895. The London Times said:

"There is room for doubt whether outside the West Riding of Yorkshire it is at all generally realized that the year 1895 witnessed a revival in the worsted industry of such magnitude as to be a matter not only for local but for national congratulation. After long years of depression the varying, sometimes, doubtless, intermitted gloom of which had lately become painfully intense, the great manufacturing district of which Bradford is the center was visited last year by the full sunshine of prosperity. Roughly speaking, the Wilson tariff, which came into effective operation in the last month of 1894 in place of the strangling system of duties associated with the name of McKinley reduced the customhouse charges upon the principal products of the Bradford district imported into the states from 100 per cent of their value to 50 per cent."

I also call the attention of senators to the fact that during the year 1891 there were 11,886,716 pounds of cloth imported; by 1892 there were 16,248,313 pounds; and in 1893 there were 13,604,965 pounds, or in those three years 41,739,996 pounds while in the single year of 1895, when the country was in the throes of poverty, there were imported from England 40,070,148 pounds. There were imported within a few thousand pounds in that one year of what was imported during the three preceding years under the McKinley bill.

Mr. President, I am not going to take up the discussion as to whether the tariff had anything to do with the general distress throughout the country, but I know that it closed the woolen mills of this country and it opened the woolen mills of the Bradford district, in England.

The Vice President. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

Mr. Warren. Mr. President, I rise with some reluctance on this report.

Mr. Reed. Mr. President — The Vice President. Does the senator from Wyoming yield to the senator from Missouri?

Mr. Warren. I do. Mr. Reed. I rose to ask the senator from Utah a question, and he said he would prefer I would wait until he had closed. I did wait, and I should like to have the privilege of asking the question.

The Vice President. Does the Senator from Wyoming yield for that purpose?

Mr. Warren. Certainly. Mr. Reed. I understand the senator from Utah now to say that the senate finance committee did hold meetings for many weeks and did have hearings.

Mr. Smoot. Mr. President, I said that the senate finance committee did hold hearings, for weeks, and that any senator who desired to be heard upon any schedule was given the chance, and whomsoever he brought with him was given a hearing.

Mr. Reed. I had not concluded my question. I want to know if the senator from Utah desires now to change the statement he made on this floor in a recent speech, in which he said that the meetings were secret meetings, had by only the republican members of the committee, and that no one was admitted except those interested parties who came before that secret tribunal organized