

APOLOGIZING FOR THE "MONEY TRUST"

The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune refers to the efforts to prevent an investigation of the money trust and says that Mr. Underwood is opposed to the investigation. This correspondent adds:

"Mr. Underwood and other house leaders have counseled deliberation in the consideration of all measures proposing additional inquiries. They declare that unless the present trend is checked the house will be diverted from action on important legislation. On the other hand, Mr. Bryan has urged that the house democrats owe it to themselves and to the country to prosecute inquiries into the affairs of the money trust and other combines that are alleged to be operating in violation of law."

What is more important than an investigation of the money trust and this is made all the more important by the determined effort made by the leaders of that trust and public men who seem to be in sympathy with it to prevent any investigation. Mr. Underwood may yet discover that the rank and file of democrats take the professions of the party on the trust question seriously.

THE MONEY TRUST INVESTIGATION

Special dispatch to the New York Herald: Washington, D. C., Jan. 20.—It became known tonight that the house may not investigate the "Money Trust." The fate of the resolution introduced by Representative Charles A. Lindbergh, the Minnesota insurgent, is hanging in the balance. A radical democratic member of the rules committee, before which the resolution is now pending, is authority for the statement that there will be no investigation.

All of which makes a pretty kettle of fish for the democrats. William J. Bryan, in the issue of The Commoner which reached Washington today, charged that powerful financial interests, centered in Wall street, were behind the movement to prevent the investigation. For the last few days democratic and republican members of the house have been receiving letters from their banker constituents praying that they use their influence to call off the proposed inquiry.

Representative Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, democratic leader of the house and a prospective presidential candidate, is opposed to the inquiry. He declares that the standing committees of the house are well equipped to handle matters of this sort and that what the country demands is legislation—not prolonged investigation. Many democrats are coming around to his view.

The course of the Lindbergh resolution has been peculiar. It is the only measure introduced by a republican at this session which has come to the fore. At first it gave signs of being the biggest thing before the house. Representative Robert L. Henry, of Texas, chairman of the rules committee, did not hesitate to say privately that he was certain it would be favorably reported and that it would result in startling disclosures.

True, it was whispered around that the real credit politically, if there was any, would belong to Mr. Lindbergh, a republican, but the democrats hoped that his connection with it might be in large measure overlooked, after the inquiry had got fairly started.

Samuel Untermyer, a New York lawyer, was relied upon to furnish part of the excuse for the investigation. Letters were exchanged between him and Mr. Henry. Mr. Untermyer insisted that there was a money trust and that it ought to be investigated. It was reliably reported tonight, however, that Mr. Untermyer privately told the committee that he did not think any of the banks or persons responsible for the existence of the "trust" had violated the law. His idea was that the Sherman law was not all it should be.

This rather dampened the ardor of the committee. When the suggestion was made that perhaps after all it would be better to go right ahead with the question of bolstering up the Sherman law instead of wasting time on an investigation it began to meet with some favor. Along came the protests from "home," then the clarion call of Mr. Bryan, and there was the rub.

The committee on rules held a secret meeting today. Mr. Wickersham, attorney general, and Mr. Nagel, secretary of commerce and labor, were present. When it was over members of the committee said that the proposed investigation of the Harvester trust would not take place unless the Stanley steel committee undertakes it in connection with its other labors, that the proposed investigation of the foreign shipping trust would be postponed for the present, and that more hearings on the "Money Trust" resolution would be begun next Monday.

It was hoped that these hearings might be ended within a week or ten days. No explanation of the delay was vouchsafed. The resolution has been pending before the committee for several weeks and has been constantly under discussion among the members. Several days have already been devoted to hearings upon it.

Mr. Wickersham told the committee that the International Harvester company was being dealt with by the department of justice, and that it was preparing to reorganize its business to conform to the department's interpretation of the Sherman law. Mr. Nagel joined Mr. Wickersham in explaining that the administration had no objection to an investigation of the foreign shipping trust, but they intimated that the senate ought to be represented on the committee, because international questions might be involved and the senate was the treaty making branch of congress. The house democrats would rather keep their investigations to themselves.

IN THE GRASP OF THE MONEY TRUST

The following is a United Press dispatch: Washington, Jan. 26.—Expert evidence of the existence of a money trust—"a growing money oligarchy that threatens dangers as grave as any nation has ever known"—was given today before the house committee on rules by Samuel Untermyer, for years a Wall street attorney. He urged a favorable consideration of the Lindbergh resolution for investigation of the money trust.

"It is because I am satisfied that we shall never be able to legislate intelligently with respect to the trusts or a monetary system until we thoroughly understand this question that underlies the others, that I am an earnest advocate of this investigation," said Untermyer.

"Behind the money oligarchy, will be found a system, vicious and dangerous beyond conception, but one that is still within the law.

"Whether a calm, judicial, painstaking, non-partisan investigation can be conducted on the eve of a presidential election is for you to determine.

"As a result of recent solidifications of our industrial and railroad corporations, the control of the finances of these corporations has drifted into the hands of a few groups of men in New York city.

"These, by virtue of the control of the funds of the corporations, have been able to build up and dominate most of the great banks and trust companies in New York and to the influence of the vast deposits for the enterprises in which they are interested or which they approve.

"Within the past five years there has been a concentration of this money power greater than that known in the preceding fifty years. This has been cemented through interlocking directorates in financial institutions that were naturally competitive. These men are thus enabled to assist their friends and punish their enemies in the financial world and have their power to crush competition and dominate the smaller financiers and financial institutions.

"Under existing conditions independent railroad construction is at an end in this country except to the extent that it may be sanctioned by these interests. Competition against any trust or industrial corporation for which they are sponsors is also impossible. Their ramifications are so endless that the sources of credit are not to be found for any new enterprise that conflicts with their plans. Therein lies the greatest danger of the trust.

"This same power dominates the New York stock exchange and New York clearing association, both of which are beyond judicial and executive control. These banks and trust companies have been for years engaged in promoting and conducting on a vast scale speculative enterprises in partnership with these groups of financiers—by whom they are dominated—which are foreign to their legitimate business and may

at some time, if they miscarry, bring disaster to the institutions and to the business community.

"We shall never escape from our present plight until we have a national incorporation law. With the states engaged in an indecent struggle for the patronage of these corporations and bidding against one another in laxity of administration, it is hopeless to expect the restraints that are necessary for the just protection of security holders or of the public."

Untermyer declined to cite specific cases, declaring that "he was not willing to discuss individual cases, but desired to expose a vicious system."

He did assert, however, that the money power in New York was divided into four groups.

Answering Lenroot (rep., Wis.), he said that the Aldrich scheme of currency reform would not remedy financial conditions.

MR. LITTLETON OBJECTS

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Jan. 27.—Inquiry into the money trust has become one of the most important problems before the democrats of the house of representatives, and with the difference of opinion existing among them as to the wisdom of such an investigation, as provided in the resolution of Representative Lindbergh of Minnesota, Representative Henry of Texas, chairman of the rules committee, took the positive stand that the inquiry was imperative. In a statement urging his colleagues to vote with him to "turn on the light," Chairman Henry assumed leadership of what may develop into a serious party fight before the question is settled. It is known that Representative Underwood, the majority leader, and others, are opposed to saddling any more investigating committees upon congress at this time, but whether pressure in this instance will be strong enough to convince them that it is the duty of the party to delve into the secrets of Wall street finance remains to be seen. It is probable the matter will not be settled until the house democrats have fought out the issue in conference.

Speaker Clark, Mr. Underwood and others today declined to discuss the statement issued by Representative Henry in which he positively declared that the party could not decline to prosecute the proposed investigation.

Representative Martin W. Littleton, though not a member of the rules committee, which is considering the resolution, expressed opposition to the inquiry after a conference with some of his democratic colleagues.

"I am opposed to the inquiry such as is proposed by Mr. Henry," Mr. Littleton said. "If this plan followed a panic might ensue. Why would it not be better to admit that there is a money trust, if such exists, and then set about legislation to remedy the evil? What good is to be accomplished by an investigation based on the mere claim of some man that there is such a trust? An inquiry such as is proposed certainly will create unrest among the people."

"There must be no scandal and muckraking inquiry, but a wise, deliberate and effective probe into the conditions of the trusts," said Mr. Henry. He intimated he was prepared for opposition from some of the democratic leaders in the house.

"There should be no pussy-footing or gumshoeing by the trustees of the people now holding seats in this congress," said Mr. Henry. "Let the agents of the people stand up boldly for their constituencies."

SAMPLES

The following editorial, taken from the Chicago Tribune, is a sample of the fun "that is being poked at the democratic party for the efforts of certain leaders to prevent an investigation of the money trust:

"If some of our most conspicuous Jeffersonians fear the effect of a congressional investigation aimed at the money bags in Wall street they only prove that the patriotic may yet be human. There are times when even a Jeffersonian should wink as he roars, and certainly such a time has come when the brothers in the cause are endeavoring to form a pyramid for plum picking purposes and are endeavoring so to form it that it will be all apex and no base.

"This is no time to poke an inquisitorial finger into the money bags and make them grunt in dismay and apprehension."