Canal Tolls Debate in the House

CHAMP CLARK'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 11.)

The democratic leaders of this house led in the long, bitter and successful fight in the sixty-first congress which elected a democratic house in 1910 and set in motion the forces which put a democratic president in the White House, gave us a democratic senate and a democratic majority of 144 in this house. It is a proud record, and yet the New York World has the gall to charge that those same leaders are trying here now and point out 50 or 60 men these historic walls had not the democrats and insurgents made that fight in the sixty-first congress.

DENOUNCED AS SLANDER

Farther along in the aforesaid World article occurs this passage:

"The ship subsidyists are seeking to spring a great surprise when the vote is taken. When debate upon the repeal is finally opened on the floor they hope to uncover one trump card that will turn the tide of defeat.

"This trump card is to be Speaker Champ Clark. Thus far Mr. Clark has carefully avoided stating his his administration he will be reposition on the question. The World nominated and re-elected in 1916; correspondent learned today that Mr. but if he makes a failure, which God Clark is wavering against repeal. He forbid! the nomination will not be did not vote when the bill was worth having." passed originally, and therefore he has none of the fears of changing his vote that appear to be uppermost politicians.

to get Mr. Clark to make a thundering speech against repeal. If he can be induced to come out and announce that he is in favor of 'nailing the Stars and Stripes to the canal,' as one anti-repeal man expressed it today, some members believe many votes may be changed.

"With Mr. Clark, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Kitchen urgthe floor of the house."

That is another base and false insinuation. If any man here believes that slander, let him stand up here and now, so that he may be seen by these hundreds of witnesses.

In another World article those of us who stand for American rights as against British domination are assailed for "bolting the president." Merciful God! What an idiotic phrase! I have heard of men bolting platforms and of bolting nominees, but whoever heard of anybody bolting a man in office?

We are denounced by the plutocratic World as bolters because we stand by the platform, which surely is an astounding way to bolt.

I refuse absolutely to have my democracy measured by the weathercock World.

DEMOCRATIC ALL HIS LIFE

I have been a democrat all my life. I expect to die in that faith. I never bolted a democratic nominee or platform in my life. When I was a boy down in the Kentucky hills, there was prevalent a disease called democrat."

The World's insinuation that I am influenced by ship subsidies is too for consideration. contemptible Everybody, including the World, speakers-among them the greatest to heart, too often; we have mourned knows that from my first entrance of them all, Henry Clay, 'Harry of together in defeat for sixteen years, here I have fought all ship subsidy the West,' 'the Millboy of the but never were disheartened; we propositions tooth and nail. On one Slashes,' who through his long career have rejoiced together in our vicoccasion I led the fight which de of mingled victory and defeat was tories during the last four years, and

feated a ship-subsidy proposition by one vote.

Not satisfied with the foregoing slanders, it attributes the fact that I am standing on the Baltimore platform to the fact that I have not forgotten the Baltimore convention. How can I forget a performance which nobody else in America seems able to forget, including the New York World? It, along with every editor in America who hopes to be ambassador, minister plenipotentiary consul general, or to hold some other fat and juicy job, has been endeavorto split the democracy. I can stand ing to place me in antagonism to the president even since the election. who would never have sat within These papers declare that I am opposing this surrender to Great Britain as an opening gun in my campaign for president in 1916. It may surprise these obsequious courtiers to know that I never hinted to any human being that I would be a presidential eandidate in 1916; and that their slander has been a gratuitous mental degradation.

It will surprise these limberbacked incense swingers still more to know what I have uniformly told those who have suggested my candidacy in 1916, and it is this: 'If President Wilson makes a success of

ENTERTAINS NO ILL-WILL

I never entertained the slightest in the minds of many democratic ill-will toward the president about the Baltimore convention. I wish The ship subsidy interests hope him well. I did all I could to elect him, far more than some of those cultivating flowers and trees. who so vociferously and fulsomely praise him now and for whom deep supreme contempt. I have steadfastly supported him until we are called upon to bolt the platform. I absolutely refuse to do any such thing.

One more word on this head: I do not believe that the fact that I ing their followers to oppose the bill, lead on twenty-nine ballots at Baltiit is conceded that a most remark- more, receiving a clear majority on and others of its kind made these able spectacle will be staged upon nine, and that I got a majority of false statements, these base insinucompeted, precludes me from dis- an un-American thing-an utterly charging my duty or exercising my unjustifiable thing-a thing which rights as a representative in congress up for America against Great Britain.

as punishment for "bolting the presi- house and the speaker thereof. dent." So be it. The World tried ceived every vote in the democratic caucus. At that rate I would be older than Methuselah before it will defeat me.

Here is its exact language: "Reports

Now, I resent for my distinguished friends the title of 'little leaders'; they are big-bore leaders; but the Sun says:

"Reports have it that already the 'little leaders' have decided that "intermittent fever"-that is, the Representative Carter Glass of Virfever came up every other day. The ginia would be a good man for floor plutocratic World is an "intermittent leader, and that Representative Swager Sherley of Kentucky would my democratic friends who are going make an ideal speaker."

followed by a great multitude of Americans who loved him with the intensity and enthusiasm of the old guard for Napoleon.

It has been often wondered why this marvelous man was elected speaker on his first day of service in the house. Some months ago I searched it out. For years the British had been committing gross outrages upon our ships and seamen, and the American people rose in protest against it. The administration was not disposed to force redress. So in 1811 Henry Clay, in the prime of his splendid powers, came over the mountains loudly demanding that the wrongs and outrages on our shipping and our sailors be redressed. The people were with him, the house was with him and he was triumphantly elected. He is one of the im-

I have this to say: The fact that I am making this fight for our platform pledges may end my public career. There are many things worse than being defeated for congress or I am not a candidate. Consequently defeated for the speakership or even worse than to be defeated for the presidency, and one of them is to repudiate the platform on which you are elected.

NOT NECESSARY TO HAPPINESS

I can be happy without the presidency. I can be happy without the speakership. The happiest hours of my congressional life were spent on the floor of the house engaging freely in the parliamentary struggles, great and small, which rage in this large and energetic body. If my constituents who have stood by me with unshaken fidelity should retire me to private life, I can still be happy in the love and affection of my wife and children, in my books and in

One thing dead sure, when I do go out of public life, whether next down in his heart he must entertain year or twenty years hence, it will be with my integrity unimpaired and my self-respect intact. I will not leave my children much property, but I will leave them the rich-legacy of a good name, which King Solomon says is more precious than rubies.

Why have the plutocratic World over 300,000 over the president in ations, these ugly threats? To bully primary elections where he and I and browbeat me into helping to do will excite the scorn and derision of and as speaker of the house to stand the civilized world. It cannot be done. I have sense enough to know Finally, the New York World says my duty, and courage enough to do that I am to be defeated for speaker it as becomes a members of this

I have no criticism to make on to beat me for re-election to the the democrats who are going to vote speakership; but nevertheless I re- for repeal. I have co-operated with them so long, we have lost and won together so often, that it is with genuine sorrow that I cannot see as they see. I entertain a genuine af-The New York Sun practically fection for the members of this nominates the gentleman from Ken- house. Some of them have said tucky (Mr. Sherley) for speaker, things about me which they will regret when their fever cools down, have it that already the 'little lead- but I pass them by. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. Henry) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Sherley) became extremely heated because I exercised the right which they reserve to themselves; that is, of voting as it seemed to me was right.

NO CRITICISM FOR OPPONENTS

I have no word of criticism for to vote for the repeal. We have worked together too long; we have Kentucky has furnished many fought shoulder to shoulder, heart

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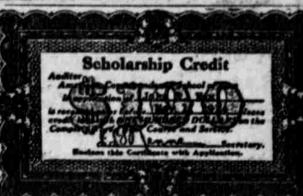


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