

SUPPLEMENT.

SPEECH

OF

Hon. Thomas J. Wood,
Delivered at Rensselaer, July
22, 1884, on Accepting the
Democrat Nomination
for Congress.

A Rendering of Account by a Faithful Public Servant.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:—I truly thank you for a re-nomination to Congress. I have worked hard to perform the duties of a Representative, many and laborious as they are, and your approval today gives me new hope for the future. A faithful public servant can always find a friendly hand at home, though jealous and malicious men dog his footsteps in the paths of duty. During my few months of public service I have felt I was your agent, entrusted with power to represent you in the halls of Congress, and I tell you I have done so to the best of my humble ability. No citizen of my district has failed to hear from me upon any business he wrote me about, and every call made upon me has had respectful attention. If re-elected I promise the people the same unswerving devotion to their interest, and I shall continue to be the same faithful representative.

The business of Congress has rapidly increased in the last few years. Great commercial and inter-State questions, involving vast sums of money, are constantly before Congress, and only men of integrity can safely deal with them. While in Congress I saw the necessity of two political parties of nearly equal power. Two political parties are necessary to pure and stable government. This government could not live long without them, and the great business interests of the people with their government could not be safely handled without opposing parties. You know it would not be safe for the country to allow only one party in Congress. Political parties are checks and balances upon each other. Then,

necessary to a pure public service—I ask why is one party continued in power and the other kept out? Party control of the government should alternate every few years. This would keep both parties upon good behavior, and keep both familiar with the working and practice of the government. It is true patriotism for the people to order a change in the party control of public affairs.

The Republican party has been in power twenty-four years, and during this long period the young men have grown to command the Democratic party. There is no reason why they should not be trusted with public affairs. They have no bad record to look back upon, and they would give the country a grand administration. I tell you,

A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IS NECESSARY.

A change of President will not bring reform and break down dishonest practices. A Republican President is powerless for reform unless he makes a change in the office-holding element of the party. This he dare not do. If he did, he would lose the support of the party managers and invite their relentless hostility against all his measures of reform. He could not be successful. The hundred thousand office-holders have managed his canvass, worked for his election and gave their money for his triumph. Will he reward them by turning them out? No. Nine-tenths of them will remain to cover corrupt transactions and lay plans for new ones. Very often we hear of some theft of the public money. The disbursing officer of the Post-office Department was lately discovered to be guilty of embezzlement of the public money, which ran back to 1881. His stealings amount to over \$74,000. His salary was \$2,400 per year, yet he went into expensive society, drove fine trotters and entertained liberally. This was known and talked about for years, yet he was allowed to go on in this way, embezzling the people's money every day of his fast life, without inquiry or objection. This official had no settlement with the Treasury Department since 1881, and his accounts had never been audited or kept up. What do you say of this kind of administration? Do the people want public business conducted in this loose way?

Senator Ingalls, a Republican Senator from the State of Kansas, said of this case in the United States Senate, that there must be some radical defect in the keeping of departmental accounts, which permitted a series of peculations to go on for years undiscovered. I call your attention to a dispatch in the New York Star on this scandalous case:

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Burnside stole the proceeds of sales of war paper, carpets, mugs, furniture, and other Government property of which he had the control as custodian, clearing \$75,000 at least. The returns of his operations are not all in. When the stealings of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in cash was discovered there was no suspicion of other stealings. A prominent official says that Burnside was under the same regulations for insuring accountability and honesty as all the others, and that there is no greater certainty under the law and regulations as to others than there was as to him. None of the robberies and frauds now coming to light, except, perhaps, in the case of Morgan of the State Department, whose death made an investigation necessary, were discovered through inside vigilance, but purely through accidental circumstances on the outside. Senator Hale's proposed looking into the accounts of the departments is well enough if it doesn't mean the smothering of facts. The Meline investigation of the Treasury fraud was suppressed, and the subsequent one by a Senate committee carefully abstained from going into deep water. Exposure, not suppression, is needed.

This scandal was followed by numerous corrupt practices in the Navy Department, implicating divers officials. The extent of these embezzlements will not be known to the public until new men examine the books and inventory the property. In the Treasury Department you find a shortage of over \$12,000 in the accounts of Mr. Morgan, who died about four months ago. His peculations had been going on a long time, and no business accounting was ever had of his books. These embezzlements create grave suspicion that the whole Department is filled by corrupt men; and one will not overhaul the accounts of the other, or even ask for a balance sheet for years.

What did the Secretary of the Treasury himself do in the last ten years? How did he handle the idle millions of money in the Treasury, collected from all the people by over-taxation? He used it to benefit Wall Street jobbers every time they called for aid. Whenever a panic was threatened in Wall Street, through stock gambling, the Secretary telegraphs the street bankers that he will unlock the Treasury vaults to benefit them, and the gambling operators go on with confidence. After the Secretary sends his telegram, the New York press comes out next morning with head lines,

"Confidence in Wall Street is restored. The Secretary of the Treasury telegraphs aid in case of emergency." Is the public treasury to be open to stock gamblers and speculators that a panic in the street may be averted? Is the public treasury to be open to any bank or to any person to uphold wild speculation and preserve from downfall this immoral and corrupting hell of finance?

I fear the truth in these Government Departments is not known. We do not know how the accounts do stand in the Treasury Department, but if what I have stated is an index, they are bad enough. You will remember that it came out in a discussion in the United States Senate a short time ago, that there was a shortage in the Treasury accounts of a large sum—I think over fifty millions of dollars, and it was then justified as an unavoidable shortage! There has been no investigation of the Treasury accounts for twenty-four years, during which many billions of money have passed through the public Treasury; and we know not the naked truth, but I venture the shortage will reach many more than fifty millions when the books are overhauled. The little frauds and peculations leaking outside may be the evidence of swelling corruption inside. I am led to believe the shortage may be a great sum. The officials of the party responsible for these things will not make them known to the world. You might elect a Republican President and continue to do so, but these frauds and thefts of the public money will not be made known to the people by any of them, for the reason, they would destroy the party. I regret to tell you that, in Washington, the saving of the party from all harm is more important than the saving of your money or the honor and purity of the Government; and this condition always arises from a long continuance of one party power.

The Secretary of the Navy is not clear of improper conduct. He received about \$300,000 from the sale of the iron and debris of broken up ships, and deposited it in the Treasury, subject to his own check. He deposited it as he would his own money in a bank, and not to the credit of the Government. This was not a creditable transaction by a chief cabinet officer, and when this high cabinet officer did this bold thing, can we say the great numbers of officials under him have done better than he? What conclusions must fair-minded people draw from all this actual and circumstantial evidence? Would not most men think there is something bad behind it all?

Now, go over to the Attorney-General's office, another cabinet officer, and you will find hardly any conduct above suspicion. Indeed, my friends, so grave were the doubts of official honesty that an investigation was conducted during the entire session of Congress, and so far it has revealed that over \$200,000 was thrown away on the Star Route prosecutions in a reckless manner. Exorbitant attorneys' fees were paid—from \$30,000 to \$65,000 each—for a few months' work, and no good result whatever. Everybody knows that the Star Route scoundrels stole many millions of dollars, and escaped just punishment through corruption and bribery—a disgrace to the government. These Star Routes were projected and carried out through the Post-office Department, and this enormous stealing went on for years under the eye of the Administration, and nothing was done to stop it before Dorsey and Brady and other pernicious rascals got away with several millions of the public money. What kind of official integrity is this, that allows many millions of your money to be stolen under the eaves of one of the principal Departments of this Government? No Department ought to be heard to plead ignorance of such colossal theft. It is a loose, not to say criminal, way of conducting the public business, to allow millions to be stolen in a series of years without detection. It is well known now that a part of this stolen money was used in Indiana to corrupt the voter, under the name of "Dorsey's soap," in 1880.

After these men got away with their

STOLEN MILLIONS, what did they care for the Attorney-General? He made a great blow about it, flourished trumpets before the people, but no thing was done. Not one scoundrel convicted—not one. It is charged upon a show of evidence that the prosecution connived with the defendants. Oh, my friends, this is all rotten business, and the people ought to clean out the house. If my party were in the house I would say "clean it out." It is said these scoundrels are hunted down. Can you tell me one that was convicted and punished? Every time one was caught, they let him go. One of them is convicted he is soon pardoned out. They are all together, and do not intend to hurt one another. Why, the smell of official corruption was so strong at Washington that a Republican Senate was compelled to appoint an investigating committee to work all summer to investigate all the Departments of the Government. You may believe there is grave suspicion of bad corruption in the several Departments, or a Republican Senate would not, out of decency, appoint such a committee. What a spectacle! Every Department of this great Government to be investigated. The news was flashed over the wires to all nations that every Department of this great Republic is to be investigated. Has the party in power given our country this kind of a reputation among the nations of the earth? What is this to go down into history? What an example to young men who must soon take control of public affairs? Investigations generally fail. They are avoided in thousands cunning ways. The remedy is to clean out the great house. Burn the field to kill the chinch-bugs.

The Surgeon-General's office is utterly bad. One Dr. Wales and his subordinates embezzled over \$60,000, and no one called him to account. The Secretary said he thought something was wrong with Wales, but he was well recommended and therefore let him alone to steal. The idea that a cabinet officer of the Government, having suspicion of the dishonesty of his appointees, permits him to remain because he was well recommended! Is that a good excuse? Should I permit a man to steal because he was highly recommended? This will not do. It looks like connivance with the subordinate by the chief officer of the Naval Department.

Now step over to the Department of the Interior. This has charge of the public lands. The public land frauds tower over all others in audacity and magnitude. It has been going on for years. Could these schemes have ever found lodgment in an honest Department? The present Secretary, I believe, is an honest man, but what can he do with bad subordinates conniving against him? The land office officials all over the West are in league with scoundrels. They have been going on for years. They could not begin in an honest Department, but once begun, the new head finds records of these transactions in the office books, kept by hundreds of subordinates, many of whom are guilty. A new head of the Department cannot go through

the books. It would be the work of a lifetime. The hundreds and thousands of subordinates in the several Departments are among the guilty ones, who hold over Administration after Administration. There is no remedy here but to turn them out. They will not be turned out unless the people change the Administration. There are pending before the land office over six hundred thousand land claims, covering seventy-five millions of acres of the public domain. No one knows how many of these are fraudulent, but it is estimated on known facts, that about one-half are base frauds upon the Government. One corporation obtained 14,000 acres of fine timber land in California, and it turns out to be a base fraud upon the Government. Does any man believe that any person or corporation could obtain such a body of valuable land by fraud from an honest Department? Does any man believe that such colossal frauds could be carried on, such robbery of the public domain go on for years, without detection, in an honest Department? They could not germinate and grow under any honest and careful Administration.

WHAT HAS THE DEMOCRATIC HOUSE DONE

for the country? It undertook to make theft and peculation impossible by cutting down to the lowest the appropriations. It reduced them nearly forty millions of dollars. Plethoric appropriations are cause for embezzlement. It began the work of building a navy by appropriating money to construct and arm steel cruisers to be used to protect our commerce and baffle an enemy's ships, which no Republican Congress ever tried to do in the last twenty years. It forfeited the following land grants made, every one of them, by Republican Congresses:

Gulf and Ship Island Railroad.....	Acres.
Tuscaloosa and Mobile Railroad.....	682,800
Cosco and Tennessee Railroad.....	140,000
Savannah and Albany Railroad.....	900,000
New Orleans and State Line Railroad.....	120,800
Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad.....	1,057,024
Texas Pacific Railroad.....	14,389,700
Oregon Central Railroad.....	1,130,800
California and Oregon Railroad.....	2,126,526
Alliance and Pacific Railroad.....	16,000,000
Stout City and Saint Paul Railroad.....	85,654
Total.....	37,211,504

The following bills are on the House Calendar:

New Orleans Baton Rouge and Vicksburg Railroad.....	Acres.
Oregon and California Railroad.....	903,218
Marquette, Houghton and Ontonagon Railroad.....	3,701,760
Ontonagon and Bay View Railroad.....	627,200
Marquette and State Line Railroad.....	220,848
Northern Pacific Railroad.....	540,848
Southern Pacific, of California.....	20,000,000
Southern Pacific, of California.....	7,500,000

You can count the millions saved to the Government by these several forfeitures, every one of which I voted for, and it is a good work for one session of the lower House. The Senate, not representing the reform sentiment of the country, has thus far failed to act upon these forfeiture bills, sent to it by the House, and I fear it will not do so, and the people will be compelled to make a few changes in that body before reform measures will be acted upon. These lands, by action of the House, are to be held for homestead entry alone.

I give you a short history of the way our public lands are going and have gone under Republican Administrations during the last twenty years, as prepared by advice of the Land Committee:

OUR ALIEN LAND-GRABBERS—ONE RESULT OF REPUBLICAN MISRULE AND MISMANAGEMENT.

"WASHINGTON, January 5. "Within the whole domain of public affairs, there is no question of greater importance to the American people than that of land monopoly.

"Between the Republican party, the railroad corporations, and foreign land-grabbers, the public lands are rapidly falling away. Within a few very years no less than 300,000,000 acres of the finest soil the sun ever shone upon have passed from the people into the hands of men who would hardly hesitate to overturn this Government if it were necessary to serve their ends. The poor man's inheritance, the public domain, is rapidly becoming a reminiscence.

"Nothing in the history of the titled robbers of the feudal ages can compare with the recklessness that has characterized the Republican party in their management of the public lands, which were intended for the people and not for greedy capitalists or monopolists.

"Land monopoly in its best form (if that term be permissible) is a dangerous institution, but the danger is increased a hundred-fold when the land is held by men who are aliens by birth, by choice and in principle.

"To go into the details of this matter would fill column after column of your paper and tire the reader. A clear, concise table giving the names, locations, and amounts of territory controlled by foreigners will show the people the danger which threatens. Here are the names, etc.:

The Holland Land Company, New Mexico.....	Acres.
An English syndicate, No. 3, in Texas.....	4,500,000
Sir Edward Reed and a syndicate in Florida.....	3,900,000
English syndicate in Mississippi.....	2,000,000
Marquis of Tweeddale.....	1,800,000
Phillips, Marshall & Co., London.....	1,750,000
German syndicate.....	1,300,000
Anglo-American syndicate, Mr. Rogers, President, London.....	1,000,000
Byrd & Co., Danvers, in Milwaukee.....	750,000
Duke of Sutherland.....	700,000
British Land Company, in Kansas.....	425,000
William Whalley, M. P., Peterboro, England.....	320,000
Missouri Land Company, Edinburgh, Scotland.....	310,000
Robert Tennant, of London.....	300,000
Dundee Land Company, Scotland.....	230,000
Lord Dunmore.....	247,000
Benjamin Newman, Liverpool.....	120,000
Lord Houghton, in Florida.....	100,000
Lord Dunraven, in Colorado.....	60,000
English Land Company, in Florida.....	60,000
England Land Company in Arkansas.....	50,000
Albert Peel, M. P., Leicestershire, England.....	10,000
Sir J. L. Kay, Yorkshire, England.....	10,000
Alexander Grant, of London, in Kansas.....	5,000
English syndicate (represented by Close Bros.), Wisconsin.....	35,000
M. Ellerhausen, of Halifax, N. S., in West Virginia.....	110,000
A Scotch syndicate, in Florida.....	600,000
A. Boyen, Danish consul, in Milwaukee.....	500,000
Missouri Land Company, of Edinburgh, Scotland.....	50,000
Total.....	20,747,000

"Writing recently in the *Elmira Gazette* upon this question, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, a brother of Henry Ward Beecher, said: "We have here a high-living, frowning portent that should startle every intelligent patriot and cause him to instruct his Congressman inexorably to the effect that the ownership of land by non-residents must come to an end; and further, that the ownership of lands in great blocks must come to an end. However plausible, because profitable, their temporary occupancy may be, we cannot afford to repeat in this country the horrible experiences of Ireland."

"I am pleased, however, to state that the present Congress has taken a hold of this question of alien landownership, and there is every prospect that the evil will not only

be abated, but that some arrangement will be made whereby those immense tracts will revert to the people, to whom they properly belong and from whom they should never have been permitted to go. Congressman McCool, of New Jersey, Holman, of Indiana, and Hopkins, of Pennsylvania, have introduced bills that cover this important matter, and there is scarcely any doubt that they will pass. The people should urge upon their Representatives the necessity of supporting these bills.

"The names, &c., of our native land monopolists will fill every page of this issue of the *Star*. I select only a few from the several States and Territories, as follows:

Hon. C. F. Brainerd, Minn., a stalwart Republican, in Arizona.....	Acres.
Hon. George Hearst, San Francisco.....	140,000
A. P. Moore, Santa Rosa, Cal.....	48,000
Murphy estate, Santa Clara.....	138,000
F. C. Sherwin, in New Mexico.....	150,000
"My Dear Dorsey," star route.....	600,000
Whitmore & Co., of Wisconsin, in Alabama.....	500,000
J. W. Hille, Colorado.....	35,000
Grandin Brothers, of Tidoute, Pa., in Dakota.....	15,000
Oliver Dalrymple, of Saint Paul, Minn.....	40,000
H. Diston, of Philadelphia.....	500,000
Hon. William Larnabee, in Iowa.....	18,000
Walter Brown, in Kansas.....	15,000
Congressman E. N. Morrill & Co., in Kansas.....	45,000
J. B. Watkins, Louisiana.....	102,000
Daniel Murphy, Nevada.....	1,225,000
Mr. David Seltzer, of Ohio.....	20,000
Thompson & Warner, Minnesota.....	25,000
J. B. Walker, Minneapolis.....	50,000
Hon. J. S. Pillsbury, Minneapolis.....	50,000
J. M. Richmond & Co., of Buffalo, in Missouri.....	30,000
Michael Brand, of St. Louis.....	150,000
Adirondack Land Company, New York.....	500,000
Hiram H. Sibley, of Rochester.....	500,000
William Clark.....	30,000
Atty. David Raleigh, in New Jersey.....	30,000
Shenango and Alleghany Railroad Company.....	50,000
R. D. George, South Carolina.....	25,000
Colonel Meyer, Wisconsin.....	35,000
Governor Jeremiah Rusk, Wisconsin.....	18,000
Total.....	7,427,000

"The above are simply a few specimens. There is not a State or Territory in this broad Union which does not contain scores, even hundreds, of men who hold tracts fully as large as those noted.

"Concerning the railroad grants, those colossal monuments to corruption and robbery, it is impossible to speak with patience of the men and party responsible for them. I was informed the other day by a gentleman who served in the Thirty-seventh Congress, that 300,000,000 acres of land were granted to railroad corporations within twenty years.

"Since the beginning of the present Congress no less than thirty bills have been introduced declaring the land granted to railroads forfeited. Mr. Holman's bill is the latest sweeping, and therefore better calculated to do justice to an outraged people. Should it pass, the railroad corporations of America will be compelled to disgorge 100,000,000 acres of the best land in America, which they hold in defiance of law, decency and justice."

I give an extract from the speech of Mr. Love, of New Jersey, in the House in June last:

Table showing grants of lands to corporations to aid in the construction of railroads.

Corporations.....	Date of act.....	Acres.....
Union Pacific Railroad Company.....	July 1, 1862	12,000,000
Central Branch Union Pacific.....	July 1, 1862	187,488
Kansas Pacific.....	July 1, 1862	6,000,000
Union Pacific, successor to Denver Pacific.....	Mar. 3, 1869	1,000,100
Central Pacific.....	July 1, 1862	8,000,000
Central Pacific, successor to Western Pacific.....	July 1, 1864	1,100,000
Burlington and Missouri River.....	July 2, 1864	2,441,000
Stone City and Pacific.....	July 2, 1864	50,000
Northern Pacific.....	July 2, 1864	47,000,000
Oregon Branch of Central Pacific.....	July 25, 1866	3,000,000
Oregon and California.....	July 25, 1866	2,500,000
Atlantic and Pacific.....	July 27, 1866	42,000,000
Southern Pacific.....	July 27, 1866	6,000,000
Southern Pacific.....	July 25, 1868	3,520,000
Branch line.....	Mar. 3, 1871	1,500,000
Oregon Central.....	May 4, 1870	1,500,000
To corporations.....		137,208,688
To States.....		63,490,263
Total.....		199,698,951

"These grants aggregate 300,000 square miles, or over 190,000,000 acres of land, an area so vast that great empires dwarf in the contrast. Out of this vast domain you could carve 240 States of the extent of Rhode Island, with her 1,250 square miles; 150 States of the size of Delaware, with her 2,000 square miles; seven States like Pennsylvania with her 45,215 square miles; four and one-half times as large as all the New England States (Maine, 33,040 square miles; New Hampshire, 9,305 square miles; Vermont, 9,565 square miles; Massachusetts, 8,314 square miles; Rhode Island, 1,250 square miles; Connecticut, 4,900 square miles). 66,465; three times as large as the great States of New York (49,170 square miles), Pennsylvania (45,215 square miles), and New Jersey (7,815 square miles), 102,200; one and a half times as large as the great German Empire, with 208,624 square miles; nearly three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, which have 121,571 square miles, and nearly equal in extent to the thirteen original States, which only contain 325,065 square miles."

Will the Republican voters of this country approve their party by another vote this fall in the face of this shameful disclosure? Can the poor man, can the humble citizen for whose homestead the public lands are held, approve the party that has permitted such shameful waste of the public domain? My Republican friends, soon you and your children will have no free homes in this country if you will continue your party in power much longer. Will you not approve my effort to restore these lands to the Government? Will not the people approve me and my party in the work to save the public lands for homesteads for the people and their children? God helping me, I will labor to preserve the public lands for homesteads for the poor of our land. I would hold them for the actual settler. Give the

LABORING FOR A FREE HOMESTEAD.

and make them live for their country. Nothing makes a man love his country more than a free homestead on her precious domain. Give the poor a farm and make them grateful to our Government—make them firm friends to its institutions. I voted with my party to abolish the timber culture laws, so as to prevent one person from acquiring two or three large farms, and thus rapidly absorbing the public lands, taking them from our children. What hope have your children and mine for a free home under the Republican policy of wasting the public lands? Foreign landlords and barons are taking our best lands from American children. See the blocks of farms owned by English syndicates. Did this ever happen under Democratic policy? It is the best lands they have got. They do not improve or cultivate the soil; they are held for speculation. Foreign capital invested in blocks of fine lands as Heaven covers, to make expensive homes for the children of America! No

party ought to live an hour in the face of this anti-American waste of our children's homes. When I look over the map of the great West, and see the wide stretch of beautiful and fertile lands, I felt a swelling pride that the poor boys and girls growing up had a free home there, to live upon and build up for themselves and the country. I turned to the public records and I find nearly all in sight absorbed by corporations and foreign syndicates. I confess my disappointment. I said this is indefensible; shame does not describe it. I said it means no free homes for the young of our land. In the last twenty years, cattle-raising companies have fenced the public domain wholly without any authority of law, enclosing miles upon miles of open territory. This resulted in nullifying the Homestead laws, as actual settlers were driven away and shot like wild beasts if they happened to be in or near the enclosure, by these land sharks and robbers. The House passed a bill making the fencing of public land a crime punishable by severe penalties. How any watchful Administration could permit these outrages to go on without protest or interference is incomprehensible.

This Democratic House passed the Mexican Soldier Pension Bill, an act of great

JUSTICE TO THE OLD VETERANS.

whose sacrifices and bravery gave to the United States so much valuable territory. It passed an act doing away with proof of soundness of the soldier of the late war at date of enlistment, which he was required to prove before he could procure a pension. I advocated this with all my ability. I introduced a bill to give the Union soldier of the late war a homestead out of our public lands, and I labored for it with great zeal, but the High Encampment of the Grand Army passed a resolution and sent it to Congress and to the committee having the bill in charge, not to pass my bill or any bill of the kind. That overcame all my best efforts for the Union soldier. I could not overcome that resolution with all my faithful labor for the bill. This same High Encampment propose, as I am told, to guide the vote of the soldier for whom they please. I believe they are as much men to-day, as true and brave men, as when they fought for the Union on Southern battle fields; and if they will be guided by dictation, then I am wrong in my high estimate of them. I think to-day a homestead is due each of them, and to the widows and orphans of those dead, from the public domain. I would give it to them with an open hand and a free heart, as some recognition by this Government for their gallant deeds for home and country. I would give it to them a thousand times before I would give it to the railroad corporations, and through them to English barons. This act of justice will not be delayed always; it will come. I want the soldiers to recollect their friends, and by that they can get their dues; they certainly never will if they forget them. I mean tried friends, friends who have acted for them, not promising friends, always so full of "gratitude." This House passed over four hundred bills granting pensions to disabled soldiers, their widows and orphans, who were unable to get pensions at the Pension Department. This House has been

JUST TO THE LABORING MEN

of the country. It passed the bill providing for labor statistics and a report to Congress of the best means that law will give to protect them and insure to them their own. It went farther than this, and passed a bill suppressing the labor contract system in foreign countries. Monopolists, ever ready to get labor very cheap, sent agents to European countries to hire gangs of men at low wages and import them. This bill kills that system. This good deed was never thought of by any Republican Congress.

This House passed a resolution, introduced by Col. Morrison, instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to apply all revenue over \$100,000,000 to the payment of United States bonds due and payable; and cut off his power to buy them at a premium, as given him by a prior law. This Democratic House passed nearly a free shipping bill. Its effect was to restore our ship-building, which had declined to nearly nothing in the last twenty-four years. It would have sent American-built ships afloat in every port under the protection of the American flag; it would have

RESTORED OUR LOST COMMERCE

on the high seas, and delivered our agricultural and manufactured wealth to distant lands, reviving all industries and keeping labor well employed; but this bill was too free for the protective tariff men, and when the bill went to the Senate, they loaded it down with deathly amendments to destroy its benefits to America and American commerce.

The countries of Europe buy 356,000,000 bushels of wheat. Of this amount, Russia, India and other countries supply about 187,000,000, leaving 169,000,000 to be supplied by the United States. The foreign demand for corn is about 125,000,000 bushels. Foreign countries sell about 56,000,000 bushels, leaving the United States to supply 69,000,000 bushels. Every man must see the vital importance to this country—to the farming interest—of increased shipping facilities for the United States. Give us free ships for America. Away with the tariff on ship-building materials, and down with bad navigation laws.

This Democratic House refused to pass the Senate Bankruptcy Bill. Such laws are generally executed in the interest of officials, and the debtor's estate is wasted through high charges and expenses, while creditors get nothing; and it is generally considered a safe escape by all the rascals in the country from payment of honest debts. I voted twice to take up the Ragan Inter-State Commerce Bill, which provided for an equitable adjustment of freight rates upon the railroads. You may search the record of Congress through, and you can not find one of my votes on the side of monopoly in any form. You will find every vote I gave on the side of the people.

This Democratic House passed a bill compelling all land grant railroad companies to survey their unsurveyed lands and receive their patents therefor, in order that their lands may be liable to taxation in the Western States. Ever since these grants were made large bodies of excellent land have not been taxed at all, while the poor settler was compelled to pay tax upon his homestead with regularity. By this bill, these land-grant corporations must step up to the office and pay taxes on their lands like other people. It is strange that the present or past Administrations of the Government never thought of this act of justice before, though the omission continued through many past years. If I said they were in league with these corporations, to shield them, I would not overdraw the truth. I tell you, a change of Administration is one of the best things needed in this country, and the changes ought to be continued until abuses are corrected and the people's rights heeded. If the Democratic party, when in power, does not do right or forms a league with monopoly,

turn it out of power, and I will help to do it. This Government belongs to the people, and no party has an inherent right to control or administer it; the people grant that right. Political parties are made better by punishment, and that is what the Republican party wants now. It would be much better for that party if it were turned out of power for a few years, and then it would come back with good new men to administer the Government, which would be better for the party and better for the country. I am a profound believer in purification by punishment and repentance.

One of the greatest questions of this campaign is

TARIFF REFORM.

Shall the present tariff law be revised and reformed? The Republican party in Congress made the present tariff law and all its wrongs and inequalities. Will that party reform it? Will the party that made the house tear it down? That party made this unjust law in the interest of monopolies and at their command, and will it now oppose them and revise the law? Whatever the party professes in platforms to do, I say it never will do. It has had twenty years to make a revision of this odious law, and whenever the subject comes before Congress it persistently refuses to do anything against the monopolist, and talks high protection all the while. Go to the record and read their speeches. When back home among the people, they say, "Oh, the law is a bad one and it should be revised," and they put it in the platform that they want revision. But when the elections are over you find them on the floor of Congress fighting all reform and revision of the tariff, and we put the question to them, "Are you not pledged in your platforms to revise the tariff?" "Oh, yes," they say, "but we don't want to do that way." "Our way don't suit them; and I tell you that Divinity might suggest a way of reform, and they would say that would not suit them. The fact is, they want no tariff reform, no reduction of high taxes. They preach one thing to the people and practice another in the Congress of the United States. I am down on this hypocrisy. If I preach one thing to you and practice another in Congress, you would be right in calling me a scoundrel. Have not they resolved in their platforms for fifteen years past, that they favored tariff revision? Why did they neglect to carry out the platform soon as they were elected and safe in their seats again? It is practice, and not professions, that I am considering. You cannot find a Republican platform that favors our present tariff law. If it is a good thing, the party ought to be proud of it, and hold it up before the people as a model of benefits to the country. They never mention this handiwork with approval, but go before the