

SUPPLEMENT TO
THE INTELLIGENCER.

DANVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1906

SPEECH OF JOHN G. McHENRY

Issues of Campaign Forcibly Presented by the Coming Congressman.

An Eloquent Address to the Voters of the Sixteenth District by One Who Will Serve Them Faithfully and Well.

The following speech was delivered by John G. McHenry, Democratic nominee for Representative in Congress for the Sixteenth District of this State at Dushore, Sullivan county on Monday evening, October 15:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I greet you tonight not as democratic or republicans but as earnest fellow citizens seeking an honest solution of political problems some of which have become a menace to the fundamental principles of a free government and the prosperity of our people. The predominant question at issue during the campaign is not whether our state and national government shall be ruled by the democratic party or the republican party but whether we shall have a government by the people, of the people, and for the people, or a government by railroads, corporations, and trusts.

In the days of Washington and Lincoln our government was pure and honest because it was operated in the interest of humanity and for the equal good of all. Since their day there has sprung up new political methods and a new form of being, an artificial man. It has neither heart nor soul nor conscience, yet it recognizes by our government with all the rights and powers and privilege of citizenship without the burden or responsibility which personal citizenship carries with it—the corporation. So great has its concentrated power grown that every farm, hamlet, town and city feels its blighting influence either directly or indirectly in the tribute it levies upon the necessities of life, and the activity which it displays in nearly every local, County, State and National election. So wonderful has this corporate being grown in strength and power that it now controls and directs the destiny of the American people. A legitimate corporation is a business necessity and a good thing when honestly conducted, but when any corporation assumes the role of a monopoly and takes from the people and upon itself the functions of government it then exceeds its limitations and becomes a dangerous element in our social, business, and political life. The paramount question is, shall the people be controlled by the corporations or shall the corporations be controlled by the people. Shall we have a government by the people or a government by political corporate Bosses.

Three Kinds of Representatives.

One kind represents the trust direct, with brazen effrontery and without apology—another kind represents the trusts indirectly by obeying orders of the political Boss who in every instance is a trust Representative. Still another kind is the kind that Lincoln meant, who chosen by the people, becomes acquainted with the people, learns to know them—knows their thought and wishes and honestly strives to reflect that thought and wish through the medium of his voice and vote in the state or national assembly. I believe in the people and believe that you can trust them. I do not believe in centralized power either in government or in the realms of business and I do not believe that the business interests of this country or the management of our government is safer in the hands of a few men than in the hands of all the people where self interest would secure a square deal to all. To admit that it is would be to admit that our Jury system is at fault and that Justice would be meted out with more uniform fairness and less free from prejudice in the hands of one man than in the hands of twelve men—or to agree that we would be more prosperous and happier if instead of trying to manage our own affairs we would turn them over entirely to John D. Rockefeller and his associates. We have a wonderful country and a great government and you will vote on November 6th to determine whether you want to continue to have a vested interest in your country and a

voice in the control and management of your government or whether you will vote it out of your possession for all time.

For I tell you my friends with its history of graft, political debauchery and wrong doing fresh before us and with the recent examples in both State and National legislatures of the evils of political Bossism and Governmental favoritism as exemplified by the republican state machine and the subservience with which the Pennsylvania delegation at Washington has bowed to the will of this machine if it does not now deserve and receive a fitting rebuke at the polls, justice will have miscarried and American citizenship and American patriotism become but an empty thing.

The Centralized Power of the Trusts

For years we have decried the centralization of political power within the hands of a few men, but not withstanding our watchful alarm we have seen this mighty octopus grow, and grow and grow until it now hangs like the shadow of rebellion over a land of free people. Free in personal liberty, free to breathe the air and drink the water that God has given us, free to eat if we can work long enough hours to buy the food, but under a political bondage which neither hears nor knows any voice but the voice and command of the trust and a financial bondage which now has the power to determine how much each man may earn and how much each man shall spend—the power to say to the working man we will advance your wages 10 per cent. and the cost of your food and clothing and household supplies 20 per cent. The power to say to the farmer and home owner you must pay the taxes to support our schools and poor, and defray the expenses of govern-

ment while railroads and trusts are permitted to go comparatively free of taxation. The power to say to the wage earner, accept our terms or we will apply the law by injunction and if that don't work we will call out the Russian State Constabulary and shoot you. Look where you will you will find the area of citizenship becoming narrower as the scope and power of the artificial man and the political Boss becomes greater.

Who Can We Trust?

We realize that gross wrongs have been committed in the past and all honest men of all parties agree that these wrongs must be righted in the most speedy way possible. But who shall we trust with the stewardship of reforms already begun and those still more important yet to come? Shall we trust the men and party who by base political treachery has betrayed the people and brought about the very condition of which we complain? If by way of illustration you wanted the Standard Oil Trust regulated would you appoint John D. Rockefeller or some one he might choose as special commissioner to do the work? If you wanted unfair Railroad transportation changed would you choose a railroad president to readjust the railroad rates? If you wanted the tariff laws revised would you choose a Trust president whose corporation is a direct beneficiary of said tariff law? If you feel that we should have equalization of taxes would you choose one to revise our taxation laws who is profiting under the present system or would you choose one of your own kind of men who have felt and still feel the burden of class legislation? In brief it is not reasonable to expect of the average man and much less to expect of this soulless, artificial, corporate man that he will vote and

work against his own interests.

Vote For Your Own Interests.

So in considering the political reforms which are now under debate it resolves itself into a question of choosing the men to represent you in state and national legislation whom you believe will represent your best interests and who will not be dominated and controlled by the Trusts and political Bosses. The time is here for absolute selfishness upon the part of all voters to cast their votes for what they believe will be for the best for themselves and families. When this is accomplished and the power of the political Boss overturned, we will once more have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The Tariff.

We are not so much in need of new laws as we are in need of the courageous enforcement of laws we now have and of the revision of certain laws to meet new and changed conditions. The merchant, manufacturer, mechanic or professional man who would apply the business or professional methods of fifty years ago in present day business, would find himself swept away by the advancing tide of modern progress. So, in the administration of our government which is but one gigantic business enterprise, and the same care should be exercised in its management as your Representative would exercise in the management of his own personal business and when it is clearly proven that under certain laws or regulations or systems our government as a whole or the American people as individuals are losing money then that law or rule should be changed and changed quickly if by such change the loss of the Government or the people can be stopped. Take for in-

stance our present tariff laws. Born in their inception of a desire to protect certain home industries and to provide revenue to meet the running expenses of Government we find in many instances that changed conditions have converted what was originally thought a blessing into a burden. Let me cite you briefly to one or two specific cases which show such a flagrant abuse of Governmental protection in the interest of a favored class as against the whole people, of sufficient importance to be an issue in this campaign and sufficient to illustrate the need for tariff revision along certain lines

Lumber.

Ten years ago we were buying hemlock lumber on board cars at the mill for \$10.00 per thousand. Today the ruling price is \$20.00 per thousand on car at the mill for the same kind of lumber. We find by comparison that the average wage rate paid to mill men and woodmen to be practically the same in wages as it was ten years ago, with exceptional cases of advance in wages that do not exceed an average in wage rate of 10 per cent. Now who pays this increased cost and who receives this enormous sum of money represented by an annual sale of thirty-five thousand million feet and a clear profit of \$350,000,000.

Monopolies of Our Natural Resources.

In all countries there are three direct sources of natural productive wealth. The coal, mineral and oil underneath the earth's surface; the farm production and real estate values of the earth's surface, and the virgin forests of standing timber. In each article we find a necessity—we must have fuel, we must have oil, we must have food, we must have lumber to build our homes, our mills and

our towns and cities and we find in nearly every case with the exception of farm products that the ownership and control of these necessities have passed into the hands of allied money interests with the power to charge such prices as their avarice and greed may determine. The only reason that farm products are not controlled by Wall Street is because each year produces a new crop; the supply is inexhaustible and cannot be cornered, but in the case of coal and oil and timber it is different. If the financial interests buy all of nature's stores they can of course control the price and as nature's supply diminishes and our population increases it follows with inevitable certainty that a still higher price can be charged and we must buy these products and pay the price demanded for we cannot buy them anywhere else and must have them.

The People, Not the Trusts Should Control Our Government.

We cannot prevent rich men from buying up these natural resources if they want to do it and which they have a right to do and have already done but we ought neither give nor sell our government to these same financial interests to be used as additional weapons against us. Let us see how your Government is leading its aid to the timber trust and making you pay the bill. The first move by the trust was to buy all the timber in the country then have a prohibitive tax placed upon all imported lumber to prevent foreign competition so that if a man needs lumber he must buy it from the timber and lumber trust. On dressed lumber there is a tax of \$2.00 per thousand, which added to the heavy transportation charges prevent lumber coming from Canada or Mexico or foreign countries because it cannot be delivered to compete with our prices and pay this additional tariff and transportation charges. So the timber trust adds this additional cost to their own prices and keep the prices up to the point just a little below the price which the foreign competitors could offer. I want to explain what I mean by allied interests and I want you to carry this thought home with you and think it over. The same financial interests which control the timber trust also controls the railroads of the country. So the Government is presenting the timber trust with \$2.00 per thousand through its tax regulation while through the railroad trust the foreign rates from import points are made so high that foreign lumber can not be brought into this country or if it is the railroad people make such a large profit on the transportation charges that they don't care.

Force of Government Tax on Lumber

Think of the absolute folly and untenable position for our government in spending vast sums of money to preserve our forests upon the one hand and upon the other hand imposing an import tax of \$2.00 per thousand feet to prevent foreign lumber from coming into this country, impoverishing our people to the extent of these unlawful millions which the timber trust is annually collecting from the people and at the same time helping to denude our forests instead of drawing upon the forestry reserves of foreign countries. Twenty years ago there were untold millions of feet of standing timber in Pennsylvania. Today there is scarcely a decent saw-mill tract left and every tract of timber in Pennsylvania of any considerable size is owned by the timber trust. You may think that this matter does not concern you because you do not expect to buy any lumber, but don't forget that the consumer is the man who always pays the price and when you see these enormous fortunes built by the artificial corporation man you must know that this money has been drawn from the pockets of the people and the centralization of this same money into the one supreme head gives it additional power while weakening the power of resistance upon the part of the people. Whether you own a home or rent one you are paying direct tribute to the timber trust. And I will venture the assertion that there is not a mechanic or working man living in this Congressional district today who rents a home who has not had his rent advanced anywhere from 25 to 40 per cent. during the past five years.

How Timber Tax Affects the People.
How does the Government timber tax affect the people? One working



JOHN G. McHENRY.