

SECRET BACK OF ANTI-TRUST LAW.

**Congressmen, Delving Into
History, Bring Out Facts
Revealing Motive for
Legislation.**

SHERMAN HIT AT ALGER.

**Original Move Against Industrial
Combines Made by Ohio Sen-
ator to Spite Michi-
gan Man.**

[BY RAYMOND.]

Washington, D. C., Nov. 27.—[Special.]—
Since the revival of general interest in anti-
trust legislation dozens of senators and rep-
resentatives have had their clerks at work
digging into old records with a view to
suggesting some new legislation.

This general mania for digging up the
ashes of the past led one of the oldest mem-
bers of the senate, whose name is familiar
to the people of every state, to give to me
some interesting inside information as to
the origin of anti-trust legislation. There
is involved in it a whole catalogue of polit-
ical rivalries, and the curious thing about
it is that the man at whom the original
trust legislation was aimed has now re-
turned to Washington as a member of the
United States senate. After having en-
dured a period of obscurity following upon
his forced retirement from the cabinet, the
expected first victim of the Sherman anti-
trust law has at last reached the summit
of his political ambition, while the author
of that law long ago was gathered to his
fathers and now is remembered merely as
a great statesman, who was contempora-
neous, of course, with his brother, a great
general.

It was political animosity which led John
Sherman to prepare the first anti-trust law,
more than fourteen years ago, and the man
he was attacking was no less a person than
Gen. Russell A. Alger, subsequently a mem-
ber of McKinley's cabinet with John Sher-
man, and now an appointed senator from
Michigan. Gen. Alger will come here in
time to participate in the debate over the
intended amendment of the law of which
he was the actual cause, although he may
still be in ignorance of that fact.

From the stormy days of reconstruction
and resumption down to the extraordinary
predominance of McKinley, John Sherman
was the constant favorite son of Ohio. He
was repeatedly a candidate in republican
national conventions and seemed fated to
fall time after time, and always by a scratch.
John Sherman lived to see Hayes, Gar-
field, and McKinley, three Ohio men, step
into the White house over his head, and
Blaine and Harrison, with both of whom
he had served in the senate, secured nomi-
nations when the great Ohio financier sup-
posed he had a sure thing.

In the convention of 1888 Sherman, as
usual, was a candidate. As the politicians
read the signs of the time, and they read
them correctly, too, the republicans were
sure to win at the end of Grover Cleve-
land's first term. It is unnecessary to go
into details of the convention of 1888 ex-
cept to say that when Harrison was nomi-
nated Sherman's enmity turned, not toward
him, but to Alger, who was blamed by Sher-
man with the political crime of betrayal.

Congress was then concluding a long ses-
sion, which did not adjourn until October.
The senate was naturally made the scene
of a number of political squabbles. The
republican national convention had opened
up many sores, and it was only natural
that distinguished members of congress who
had been touched on the raw should aim to
get even.

During the summer of 1888 there was a
great deal of talk of trusts of one kind or
another. The Standard Oil company and the
Diamond Match company were particularly
the subject of public distrust and dislike.
John Sherman was at that time at the head
of the finance committee of the senate. He
introduced a bill to prevent the organization
and operation of trusts and illegal trade com-
binations. On its face the bill was a natural
attempt to remedy the evils of trusts, which
were then only beginning to be organized in
this country.

Mr. Sherman's bill was introduced Aug.
14, 1888. It was not a measure which prop-
erly belonged to the finance committee at all
and yet, on the theory that the trusts could
be reached only by the taxing power of the
government, Mr. Sherman had his bill re-
ferred to the finance committee instead of
to the judiciary committee, where it natu-
rally belonged. It was reported back by the
committee with a substitute measure on
Sept. 11, 1888.

Nothing was done with the bill at that
session of congress, because everybody was
tired out, and finally adjournment came
about a month later. The short session, as
usual, was too busy to do anything but
ordinary work. Nevertheless a considerable
proportion of the members of the senate
were fully aware of the fact that Mr. Sher-
man was seeking to make things particu-
larly unpleasant for Gen. Russell A. Alger, who
at that time, as it happened, had a large
interest in the Diamond Match company, an
attempted monopoly which was especially
odious to the people, because, like the Stand-
ard Oil company, it sought to control the
production of a necessary article of daily
use.

Mr. Sherman knew that Alger was inter-
ested in the Diamond Match company to a
large degree, and the purpose of the original
anti-trust bill introduced by the Ohio finan-
cier, as I am positively informed by a senator
who was then close to Mr. Sherman, was to
punish Alger for his action in the national
convention a few months before.

That this purpose was never lost sight of
is shown clearly by the subsequent history
of the bill, which afterwards became the
anti-trust law. The first session of the next
congress began on Dec. 2, 1889, and two days
later Mr. Sherman had reintroduced his anti-
trust bill and again had it referred to the
finance committee.

It is a matter of the secret history of that
committee that none of the members was in
favor of the bill except its author, but the
committee consented to report it back to the
senate out of consideration for the author,
and there it was buffeted about, being
amended and substituted and reamended
until its own father did not know it and
threatened to vote against it.

It was so bad a piece of patchwork in the
end that every one was glad to have it re-
ferred to the judiciary committee. That com-
mittee reported it back, but in the shape of a
new measure, much as it now appears on the

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SECRET BACK OF ANTI-TRUST LAW.

Delving Into History by Congressmen Seeking Facts Brings Out Motive.

SHERMAN HIT AT ALGER.

First Move Against Combines Made by Ohioan Because of Hatred of Michigan Man.

(Continued from first page.)

statute books. It passed the senate on April 8, passed the house on May 1, and was approved by President Harrison on July 2, 1890, two years after Harrison's nomination and Sherman's disappointment.

In his first speech in advocacy of the bill Senator Sherman let the cat out of the bag and showed the animus of his measure. He introduced into his speech a long quotation giving at length a decision of the Michigan Supreme court, which mentioned Russell A. Alger by name, and which showed his connection with the Diamond Match company.

In this decision the court refused an accounting between Gen. Alger and his partners on the ground that the Diamond Match company, by the admission of Gen. Alger himself, had been proved to be an illegal combination in defiance of public interests so that the court declined to lend its aid in any way to render the prosecution of the business peaceable or profitable.

Having made the bill subserve his purpose, which was to get into the record the fact that his political enemy, Gen. Alger, was one of the principal factors in the organization of the Diamond Match company, then in everybody's mouth, as the coal trust is today, Senator Sherman prosecuted his anti-trust bill with his usual patient energy. It had been altered in an extraordinary degree. It first proposed to do nothing more than confer jurisdiction upon the United States courts for vague proceedings by mandamus, injunction, or otherwise. As it came from the committee and as the law now stands it provided for criminal prosecutions, for damage suits by persons injured, and for injunction and other proceedings as well. The criminal features were contained in a bill proposed by Senator Reagan of Texas, who was also interested in the creation of the interstate commerce law.

It may be an interesting lesson to those people who believe the anti-trust law can be amended at this session of congress to note the fact that the measure introduced by Senator Sherman on Aug. 14, 1888, was not put upon the statute books until July 2, 1890, near the close of the first session of a subsequent congress.

In any event it is a curious piece of the hitherto unwritten political history of the country to discover that a piece of mere spite work, which grew out of the enmity of one prominent republican for another, finally became the one law which is now attracting more legislative attention than any other law on the statute books. And not the least curious feature of the thing is that Gen. Alger will now have a seat in the chamber where the bill intended to injure him was first given to the public, and where the report of the Michigan court connecting him with the Diamond Match company was first read in such a way as to make it become a part of the congressional record.

Representative Fowler of New Jersey, chairman of the house committee on banking and currency, expects to introduce in the house next week an amendment to the currency bill introduced by him at the late session. He says that bankers who are afraid of the asset currency plan have devised a new plan which has received the indorsement of the conservative element of the banking circles of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. This was presented to Mr. Fowler and he expects to introduce it as an amendment to his bill.

Currency based even partially upon unstable assets, he believes, would be undesirable and unsafe. On the other hand, the bankers maintain, he says, that state and municipal bonds always have a stable value, a fact which has recently been recognized through their acceptance by the treasury department as security of deposits of government money in national banks.

These bonds are therefore taken as the basis of the expanded currency in the plan which Mr. Fowler now has in view.

President Roosevelt kept Thanksgiving in the most restful manner possible—for the president—by spending that part of the day not devoted to social intercourse with his family, in driving, riding, and walking. He left the White house this afternoon in a carriage, and returned on foot to the White house later, but wore a spur and carried other marks of having indulged in a horseback ride. He entered the grounds about the executive mansion through the northwest gate and went at once to the executive offices, but he has abstained from all work today, and has insisted on every one else about the place doing so as nearly as possible.

Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Roosevelt went for a drive, and Commissioner of Civil Service Proctor went riding with Ethel and Archibald, the latter riding his calico pony.

The White house was aglow with lights tonight, and the president presided at a big, old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner. He is particularly fond of carving, and prefers his Thanksgiving bird to be placed before him in its glazed brown coat begotten of a fine oven, when he serves the guests in the most graceful manner.

This year the turkey sent by Horace Vose, the famous turkey raiser of Rhode Island, weighed but thirty-two pounds, and several companions given him were upon the president's table tonight. A profusion of chrysanthemums was sent to the White house from the propagating gardens yesterday and these flowers made the rooms of the White house gay.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, the latter sister to President Roosevelt, accompanied by James K. Gracie, arrived at the White house from New York last evening, and there are several other house guests. The president and Mrs. Roosevelt had dinner in the state dining room at 7:30, and their guests were: Senator and Mrs. Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Adams, Mrs. C. H. Davis and Miss Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Capt. and Mrs. Cowles, Theodore Douglas Robinson, Miss Helen Roosevelt, Miss Roosevelt, Miss Robinson, J. K. Gracie, Robert Ferguson, Theodore Roosevelt Jr., John Elliott, Miss Ethel Roosevelt.

Cabinet members seldom select Thanksgiving day for entertaining large dinner parties, preferring instead to spend the day with their families. Today was no exception, and those remaining in town dined quietly. Secretary of State and Mrs. Hay went to New York yesterday to spend the day at the Long Island home of Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney, and the party was joined by Mr. and Mrs. James Wadsworth, the latter the daughter of Secretary and Mrs. Hay.

Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw were surrounded by their family, with the exception of Miss Shaw, who is still at school in Iowa. Secretary Root remained in New York for the day, his wife and children being still in Europe. Attorney General and Mrs. Knox had a quiet dinner with their family and a few intimate friends, among them being John G. A. Lelshman, United States minister to Turkey, who is their house guest. Postmaster General and Mrs. Payne had with them today Senator and Mrs. Scott, and their niece, Miss Jones. Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Hitchcock are in mourning and spent a particularly quiet day, entertaining only their own family at dinner.

Perhaps the best Thanksgiving cheer offered in the cabinet family today was the observance of old fashioned custom by the secretary of agriculture and his daughter Miss Wilson, who, with western hospitality served a fine dinner to a number of young men from the west who are either students in Washington or clerks in the departments. These young men are all struggling for

foothold in the world and but for the thoughtfulness of Miss Wilson and her father would have spent the entire day in boarding houses.

Foreigners look leniently upon our Thanksgiving customs, but consider it not worth while to give it particular attention, and but for the small dinner in honor of M. Cambon, the French ambassador, at the Swedish legation, there was no special entertaining. Many of the diplomats left town to join house parties over Thanksgiving day, among them being the counselor of the French embassy and Mme. de Margerie, who are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Vanderbilt at Biltmore.

"It is for the United States senate and the Utah legislature to decide whether or not Mr. Smoot, a high dignitary of the Mormon church, will be acceptable as a senator," said Senator Kearns of Utah. "I do not care to discuss the matter in detail. Personally, however, Mr. Smoot is a good, hard working republican and has done a great deal for the advancement of the state. Already the people of the east are strongly objecting to the election of Mr. Smoot. The question of his selection must be determined by the legislature. There is much senatorial timber in our state and a score of men could be named, any one of which would make an excellent senator."

"Little new legislation will be adopted at the next session," said Representative Smith of Illinois. "There will be no tariff or trust legislation as the appropriation bills and a few important measures now on the calendar of the house will occupy all the time of the short session, which will be a busy one. Our country is prosperous, the farmers are receiving good prices for their products, labor is employed, and as the people of the country are willing to let well enough alone it is but natural that the elections resulted as they did. There was no reason for a reversal of sentiment."

Mrs. John A. Logan entertained several hundred guests tonight from 9 to 12 o'clock in honor of the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Col. and Mrs. Tucker. Official and resident society filled the house during the entire reception, and extended congratulations to Col. and Mrs. Tucker, while telegrams and other messages were received from all parts of the country. The old friends of the late Gen. Logan remembered his daughter with the most costly gifts in solid silver, and flowers sent from distant parts of the country filled the rooms.

Col. Tucker arrived from Portland, Ore., where he is stationed, in time for the event, and Mr. Logan Tucker, their son, came from Chicago yesterday. Mrs. Logan was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Tucker and others of her large house party. Both were dressed in silver gray, relieved by quantities of old lace, the color being symbolic of the event. A number of the cabinet families paid their respects.

Those of Mrs. Logan's house party are Mrs. M. C. Campbell, her sister, from Greenville, Miss.; J. V. Logan, her brother-in-law, of southern Illinois; Miss Katharine Gillett Hill of Lincoln, Ill., Miss Fannie M. Warner, Miss Elizabeth Logan of Cunningham, Ill., Mrs. W. Vincent Baker and Miss Baker, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Edwin Jones of Chicago.

Col. and Mrs. Tucker were married at the Logan home on Calumet avenue, Chicago, twenty-five years ago today.