

SUGAR TRUST PUT UNDER SPOTLIGHT BY INVESTIGATORS

Special Committee Digs Into Operations of Trust That Is Second to Only Steel Corporation.

Washington, June 1.—Second only to the steel trust investigation in importance is the inquiry into the American Sugar Refining company, and other sugar refineries, which were formally begun by a special committee of the House today.

Primarily, the Hardwick resolution, under which the investigation is authorized, was aimed only at the American Sugar Refining company. The rules committee of the house, however, determined to make the investigation more far reaching one, and the original resolution was amended so that it would include all sugar refineries, in the trust and out of it.

Intent of Investigation.
According to Representative Hardwick, who is chairman of the special investigation committee, the real intent of the house investigation will be to determine whether or not charges are true that the American Sugar Refining company has secured absolute control of the American sugar market, crushing out competition wherever it appears.

"We expect to show before this investigation ends," says Mr. Hardwick, "that the American people are taxed hundreds of thousands of dollars each year by this gigantic trust, embracing perhaps a half hundred subsidiary organizations. The sugar trust has been fostered and built up under the protective tariff system, until it has become one of the most dangerous monopolies in existence today."

The committee will investigate not only the present day operation of the trust, but it will delve into the past to determine whether or not the American Sugar Refining company has been fully atoned for the immense frauds at the port of New York. The resolution asks what sum was received by the United States government in settlement of these fraudulently evaded duties. It demands to know whether the settlement has been full and complete, and if it has not been the special committee will ask the attorney general to explain why further settlements have not been demanded.

Inquire About Punishment.
The house committee will also make some pertinent inquiries as to the punishment meted out to those who were guilty of the sugar frauds. The charge has been made that the men "higher up" have gone unpunished while a few subordinate officials of the sugar trust have paid the penalty. If the committee ascertains that to be the case, that fact will be laid before the house and the attorney general will be asked for an explanation of this sort of adjudication of some of the most gigantic customs frauds ever perpetrated against any government.

The price of sugar at home and abroad; the purchasing of land in the Philippines by the sugar trust; the importation of duty-free sugar from the Philippine islands; the absorption of dozens of struggling independent companies, and the stifling of the best sugar industry by the sugar monopoly are all specific subjects into which the committee will inquire.

The special committee may continue its sessions during the recess of congress, and need not report to the house until it feels that it has stated the case against the sugar trust to the bottom.

SUPPRESS STEEL REPORT

(Continued From Page One.)

into your business from the inside for the last four or five years?"

"Certainly," replied the witness. "I do not know how many hundreds of thousands of dollars it has cost us to aid the government investigators."

"Have you any information whether the data gathered by the bureau of corporations have been furnished to the present president of the United States?" asked Stanley.

R. V. Linberry, who was permitted to appear as counsel for the steel trust today, objected to this question but Gary insisted upon answering it.

Gary Pleads Ignorance.
"I have no knowledge whether the matter was furnished to the president or not," Gary said. "I have information to the effect that a report will be furnished to the president within the next few months. I do not know whether partial reports have been made to him."

Judge Gary was the first witness called. Asked by Representative Stanley

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