MR. TONGUE'S ANSWER.

Continued from First Page.

The appropriations committee unanimously reported in favor of an appropriation of $200,000 to carry on that work; and I voted against the motion to strike it out. Upon that motion 76 voted aye, 123 no and 158 failed to vote; and only two of the members of this executive committee voted to strike it out. If that was an extravigant monument then those members of the executive committee who voted for it were failing to do their duty.

"An extravigant monument!" It will be, Mr. Speaker, when it is completed, a monument of the gratitude of this nation to its brave defenders in the hour of its great peril, and it is a monument for which I am proud to have had the privilege of recording my vote.

Again it says on January 25, when the proposition to appropriate $288,000 for the Methodist Book Agents Association was being considered and adopted by the house "he dodged the question and did not vote." In extenuation or explanation of that, Mr. Speaker, it is only necessary for me to say, with reference to the little truth embodied in the statement, that when this matter was before the house, and was being discussed in my judgment unnecessarily, with a certainty that on a final vote the bill would be passed by a large majority I did not stop to find out when the vote would be taken or to listen to the discussion because there was no question as to what the vote of the house would be.

I had work to do, and have had work to do, outside of my duties in connection with the sessions of the house of representatives. I have been necessarily compelled to go to the various departments of the government to look after matters there in which my constituents were interested. I may state in passing that I have secured over 100 pensions in my district, something like 40 new post-offices and increased mail facilities in 20 different localities. I have visited the war department many times to urge prosecution and completion of needed public improvements. It is important that a member who performs the duties he ought to perform for the benefit of his constituents should attend to these outside matters as well as to his duties in congress.

It is further alleged that I voted in favor of "paying United States bonds in gold thus adding to the profit of the bondholders and increasing the burdens of those engaged in agriculture and every other producing interest." This is not true in any sense of the word. There has never been a measure introduced here to pay United States bonds in gold. They are not paying them in gold today. Out of the payments during the last year by the treasury of the United States including every dollar paid upon United States bonds amounting to something like $216,000,000 of interest paid upon bonds was included in the sums thus paid. In these payments more than six dollars was paid in silver and silver certificates to every dollar in gold.

Mr. Bland. Will the gentleman allow me to make a correction there?

Mr. Tongue. I decline to be interrupted.

Mr. Bland. The gentleman desires to be correct?

Mr. Tongue (continuing). And I am proud of my vote Mr. Speaker, against the Teller resolution.

Mr. Bland. Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker. The gentleman from Oregon has stated that he declined to be interrupted.

Mr. Tongue. I have already said that after I have finished my statement I would be perfectly willing to yield to any interuption, but I must decline to be interrupted now.

I say, therefore, that that statement is absolutely and unqualifiedly without foundation.

It is further alleged that I "dodged the vote" when the bankruptcy bill was under consideration in the House, a bill "which would give relief to hundreds of debtors in his own state" and throughtout the country. That is absolutly untrue also. The very page of the Record to which reference is made here contradicts the story and shows its falsity. I voted with the gentleman from Arkansas, [Mr. Terry] to recommit the bill with instructions, and I also voted on the passage of the bill.

And this bill, if it was supposed to give so much relief, as it is alleged that it would, ought to have met at least the concurrence of the committee. It was passed almost exclusively by republican votes, I believe, the democrats and populists as a rule voting against it. And if the relief to be afforded by the bill is so important, the committee itself was recreant to its duty, because only one member voted for it. The leader of both parties on that side of the house opposed it and voted against it upon its final passage.

I am charged with voting for a measure tending to injure and limit the circulation of country newspapers.

That is absolutely unfounded. I take some interest in the country newspapers, and it would certainly be the farthest from my motive to injury them. I presume this tradebe Loud bill. I voted for jests angood bill. I believed it for them leve so now. I be- Electors wmade a mistake in these thing when, at a to country newspa- they hope tit would have help- ated in refof injurying them. These advertising sheets that are now published under the name of newspapers and sent out under the same rate of postage as legitimate newspapers, are destroying the advertising business of country newspapers. The cheap literature sent out through the mails from large cities at a loss to the government is destroying the legitimate book business throughout other sections of the country.

Another charge:

"He voted to authorize the merging of street railways in the District of Columbia, thus giving corporations the right and opportunity to increase their capital and still further water their stock."

This is absolutely untrue. I have voted for no bill that would authorize the watering of stock of any railroad or any street railroad. In the bill to which I presume reference is made, there was an amendment proposing to permit street railroads to lease other roads and to extend their construction upon the expressed condition that in increasing their capital it should not be watered and should not exceed the the cost of purchase or the cost of construction.

Again—

"On April 5, 1898, he voted to make a gift of $350,000 of the people's money to a shipbuilding firm. The shipbuildsrs of his own state are neglected."

Now, there are two statements in that. So far as the shipbuilders of my own state are concerned, I have besieged the Departments, almost making life burdensome to them, to insist that some portions of the contracts for shipbuilding should be given to Oregon firms, and it has been done, and the shipbuilders in my state do not complain. So far as making a gift is concerned, it was not a gift. It was an act of justice long delayed. It was an endeavor to repair an act done by the last administration, which broke up and ruined one of the most enterprising of American citizens, drove him out of business, broke his heart, and shortened his life. This was an act of long-delayed justice.

Another charge:

"On April 21, he voted to seat a gold democrat as a representative and attempt to turn out of his seat a regular democrat."

Citing the page of the Record, that is absolutely incorrect. I presume this refers to the case of Patterson vs. Carmack. The vote to which reference is made was a vote to take up the case. I did not vote to turn out Mr. Carmack or to seat Mr. Patterson.

Again:

"On April 28 he voted to allow railroad companies in the Indian Territory to merge and to lease their lines, thus giving railroad companies in that section an opportunity to increase and water their capital stock, and add to the burdens of those who are compelled to use the railroads in marketing their agricultural products."

That is not correct. On April 28, 1898, there was no bill of that kind nor anything near it under consideration. Some ten days before there had been a bill passed regarding railroads in the Indian Territory. It made no provision whatever for an increase of stock. It was reported unanimously by the Indian affairs committee, democrats, and republicans alike, and as amended it was finally passed unanimously, and no one objected.

But, Mr. Speaker, about the worst and the most aggravating charge is that I voted against taking any action in the Cuban matter, and the page of the record is cited. On that page I voted for the resolution authorizing the president to put an end to the war in Cuba and to establish a free and independent government there. There were 19 votes against it. Three of those were republicans and one of those voting "no" was one of the gentlemen on this executive committee that makes this incorrect charge against me.

There are several claims that I voted against the recognition of Cuba. It is difficult to tell what they mean. I voted against the proposition to recognize the independence of the Republic of Cuba. I voted against the policy that would send us into the most righteous war of the century with a lie upon our lips. I voted against a policy of declaring to the civilized world that the Republic of Cuba was independent and was in the exercise of sovereignty when there was not a word of truth in it. I voted against the policy that would contradict and be inconsistent with the very action that we took.

I have voted in support of the intervention in Cuba that would eventuily make Cuba free and independent; and I voted for a policy, Mr. Speaker, that would result in driving from the American continent as well as from the Asiatic continent, from the land and the sea, the most cruel, most corrupt, and most tyrannical government that exists to-day. I voted in favor of a policy that will enable us to write one of the most glorious pages of American history and inscribe upon it the victory of Manila; that will add to the long list of American heroes who will fire the hearts of American youth and will be an inspiration and example—the name of George Dewey.

Mr. Cochran of Missouri. I rise to a point of order.

The Speaker. The gentleman must confine himself to the charges made against him.

Mr. Tongue. Now, I want to say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that I regret, and I think every member upon both sides of this house will regret that a committee composed as this is, having for its chairman and members distinguished Senators and members of this House, have so far forgotten the proprieties of their situation, their duties, and their own dignity as to countenance and support under their authority the publication of an anonymous attack upon the private or public record of any member of this house. It is possible, as one of the gentlemen has said, that he knows nothing about it.

I simply want to call their attention to the fact, and to say that through that committee and upon the strength of the reputation and standing of that committee this circular has been published in nearly every democratic and populist paper in my district.

HARRISON R.

Kincaid is not a populist, is not a democrat, nor is he a republican. He can claim the votes of no party. He is anything for office and the people know it.

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It now appears that Prof. H. S. Lyman, candidate on the union ticket for superintendent of public instruction, is not sincere in his cry for cheaper text books as his record shows that he voted for higher prices than Prof. J. H. Ackerman whom he accuses of being friendly to the book trust. The records of the two men show that Prof. Ackerman voted against a change of text books and for cheaper books in the interest of the people while Prof. Lyman voted for higher priced books and for a change in the interest of the book syndicate. The Statesman is not contending for the American book company or any other book company. We believe in the best books for the least money and Prof. J. H. Ackerman has acted in accordance with that belief and in the interest of the people and we propose to give him our hearty support.—Statesman.

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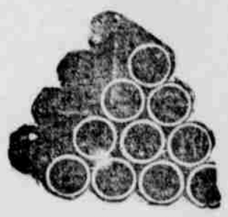

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