

Mr. Speaker:

On Friday August 11, 1911, when the House had under consideration Senate Bill 3152, which provided for the extension of the time of payment for certain lands in South Dakota the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, as shown by the Congressional Record of that date, page 3988, made certain observations, pertaining to Oklahoma and her people. The bill under consideration at that time did not relat/e to Oklahoma, but the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Mann) in his remarks as shown by the Congressional Record of March 11, 1911, page 3988, referring to another bill on the Calendar which authorized certain payments to be made to the Kiowa and Comanche Indians, referring to Oklahoma, her lands, and her citizens said:

- (1) "And yet a few years ago these gentlemen were urging the people to go from our cities and farms to enter upon an Eden, the garden spot of the world, in this drought-ridden and flood-afflicted portion of the country; and having obtained the settlers there, buying Indian lands at high prices, paying from \$4 to \$10 an acre for land which is not worth and was not worth 75 cents an acre for any practical purpose."
- (2) "I want the people in our part of the country to know that a man who goes out into that God-forsaken country of droughts takes his life in his hands."

(3) "I think anyone who goes from our portion of the country, where we really can raise things, into the arid region, risking his life and the lives of his family, is entitled to every consideration when he gets there. In fact, I think he ought usually to be cared for in a lunatic asylum."

The gentleman from Illinois has had a long and distinguished career as a Representative in the Congress of the United States. His services extends over a period of fifteen years. He has served as Chairman of important committees. The Republican minority conferred upon him the highest honor in its gift by making him the minority leader. But with all his experience, ability and prestige ~~in this House~~ under the Constitution of the United States and Rules of this House he has no more rights than its humblest member. The position the gentleman occupies, only makes it more incumbent upon him to treat fairly, generously, every member of this House, and when speaking of any state or its people, to use language that could not offend. ~~With all who are familiar with the facts, these statements will be justly regarded a slander upon Oklahoma and her people.~~ <sup>The language used with reference to Oklahoma</sup> <sup>to which I have called attention</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>islands</sup> <sup>and a reflection upon</sup> <sup>and her people.</sup> <sup>Even though they were intended as</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>jest,</sup> in my humble judgment the gentleman would do himself credit if he would make due apology and ask that they be stricken from the Record.

*and her people.  
I submit was not publishable.*

It is impossible to think that the gentleman representing the Second Congressional District of Illinois could have made these remarks with any intention of injuring Oklahoma or her people, or with any thought of offending the Representatives from the state in this House. He was acting from a sense of duty. His only purpose was to render service to his country. He thoroughly understands the high position he occupies, he realizes the great responsibility resting upon him, and he himself admits that he can not be severed from the discharge of a duty he owes to the 92,000,000 people in the United States.

If I accomplish nothing else in my remarks, I am exceedingly anxious that the Members of this House as well as the country at large shall at least partially appreciate the great debt of gratitude we owe to the gentleman who represents the Second Congressional District of Illinois for the unselfish service he performed, in endeavoring to inform the world as to the true value of Oklahoma lands, and expose the confidence game the people there had been perpetrating upon the unsuspecting people of the United States. I assume that such a service could be performed only by a man of heroic mould, inspired by the highest wisdom of statesmanship, the noblest aspirations of patriotism, and the purest impulses of philanthropy.

The Tide to Oklahoma Still On.

It is true, that for more than 21 years, there has been a stream of humanity pouring into Oklahoma. The tide is still on. From every state the people are flocking to Oklahoma. The census reports show this to be a fact. In 1890 Oklahoma had 61,000 people. In 1900 the Indian and Oklahoma Territories combined had 700,000 population. In 1907 they had 1,400,000 inhabitants. Finally as a climax to this rush to Oklahoma, the census of 1910 showed that Oklahoma had a population of 1,600,000. And so far as I know had it not been for the gentleman's timely remarks, in another ten years there would have been 5,000,000 people in the state. But notwithstanding the gentleman's great speech, in 1920 Oklahoma will show a population approximately three million people.

But who is to blame for all this irresistible and ever increasing, uncontrollable rush to Oklahoma. The Congress of the United States is to blame. All this great sacrifice of life; all this calamity would have been averted had Congress not enacted the first law opening lands in Oklahoma to settlement. There was the first great mistake. Great mistakes have been charged against President Cover Cleveland, but if he ever made any mistake, certainly in the mind of the gentleman representing the Second Illinois District, his greatest blunder he ever made, was in approving this Oklahoma measure. And as the Republican leader in this House the gentleman

feels like hiding his face in shame when I inform him that it was a Republican President Benjamin Harrison who issued the proclamation opening the first lands to settlement in Oklahoma. But in the matter of opening these lands to settlement I want to vindicate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Mann) from any blame. Of course, I will not ask any one to take my word for it. But I appeal to the records, which show that the gentleman from Illinois was not a member of Congress at that time. Had he have been here the calamity would have been averted. He would have foreseen the danger that awaited the people, and would undoubtedly have prevented such ill-considered, ill-advised and dangerous legislation from passing. But after all a large part of the blame for the enacting of this legislation must rest with the people in the Second Congressional District of Illinois. They should have earlier recognized the great abilities of the gentleman and had him in Congress when this legislation was up for consideration.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Mann) says the Indian land in Oklahoma, sold to the deluded people who have gone there from from \$4 to \$10 per acre, is not and was not worth 75 cents per acre for any practical purpose. Here again the gentleman will no doubt recognize that he has performed a great public service. Has he not ~~this~~ by this statement called attention to ~~his~~ unreliability, inefficiency

and untrustworthiness of our Department of Commerce and Labor? Because that Department has recently issued a statement showing that the average price of farm lands in the state was \$25.65 per acre. At 75 cents per acre the 28,717,000 acres of farm land in Oklahoma would be worth only \$21,537,750. But the Department of Commerce and Labor in the same statement has valued the farm lands with buildings in Oklahoma at \$736,473,000. A mistake on the part of the Department of \$715,000,000. Is not this a matter that should have immediate attention from a muck-raking committee. Had it not have been for the gentleman from Illinois, the people might have actually believed the figures given by the Department of Commerce and Labor, and accepted them as accurate. Even after the gentleman has called attention to this matter, it is too late to entirely remedy the evil. Because the Department's figures have been widely published and no doubt the great majority of the people of the United States will continue to accept the statements of the Department as true. Hundreds of thousands of them will continue to flock to Oklahoma, and will persist in purchasing these lands, at still higher prices.

When the census is taken in 1920, these lands will be selling at an average price of perhaps \$50.00 per acre. Of course, if the gentleman be correct and few would be bold enough to question any information he gives the House, they will not be worth that much. Through intuition, or perhaps inspiration, the gentleman appears gifted with the power to see things as they actually are. And a remarkable thing about it is he does not need to go to Oklahoma and physically move about in the state to discern the condition of things down there. He is endowed with such extraordinary vision that enables him to see things 2000 miles away.

Now the people who own land in Oklahoma and the farmers from other states who go to Oklahoma, make the great mistake of estimating the value of lands by what value of the products they will produce. These lands produce magnificent crops of corn, wheat, cotton, oats, alfalfa, all kinds of vegetables, and almost every farm crop grown in the United States. The land and climate is excellent for fruit. Indeed these Oklahoma lands for the diversity of the crops they will produce, are not excelled by any lands under the sun. So when a man with money comes to Oklahoma and sees the land producing annual crops that are worth from \$15 to \$50 per acre, he imagines that the value of the land should be based on the value of the annual crop. Falling into this error he buys the land at a high price. So the delusion goes on.

ALL LINEN

The lands of Oklahoma do yield most abundantly and from every section of our country prospective purchasers are coming to Oklahoma. Values are going up. According to the reports from the Department of Commerce and Labor from 1900 to 1910 the farm lands in Oklahoma increased in value 331 per cent - but the Department may possibly revise this statement when it learns the estimate which the gentleman from Illinois has placed upon the value of Oklahoma lands. But I did not rise to make a defense of Oklahoma to boast of her achievements, or magnify her advantages. As Webster said of Massachusetts. There is Oklahoma; she needs no defense, no eulogy no eponium. Her people have come from every state in the Union. If I remember correctly. Illinois has sent nearly 65,000 of her citizens to Oklahoma. I can not say as to the character of all the people who remain in Illinois, but I know those who left Illinois and found homes in Oklahoma, are men of the best type of citizenship. So with those who have come from every other state in the Union. There is not in any state in the Union a higher average of citizenship than will be found in the state of Oklahoma. The people came there for homes. They came to build a new state. They have been through. There have been floods. There have been storms. But the people who went to Oklahoma determined to accomplish their purpose in spite of droughts and floods. They have succeeded.



Oklahoma is not a paradise. But it is still a land of promise, and a land of great opportunities. Nowhere in the United States is the average citizen better off than in Oklahoma. Sir, I am proud of the state which I have the honor to represent. Less than four years in the Union, she stands 23rd in population among the states of the Union. It is ~~great~~ <sup>great</sup> commonwealth, great in population, great in wealth, great in commerce, great in its trade and industries, great in its religious and educational institutions, and great in the character, intelligence and patriotism of its citizenship.

VIRTUES OF CHICAGO.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Mann) in his remarks uses this language. "I think any one who goes from our portion of the country, where we really can raise things, into the arid regions, risking his life, and the lives of his family, is entitled to every consideration when he gets there. In fact, I think he ought usually to be cared for in a lunatic asylum."

When the gentleman refers to "our country" he evidently means Chicago. The gentleman then refers to Chicago as a place "where we can raise things." The gentleman is undoubtedly correct in this statement. They do, can, and always will "raise things in Chicago." But in justice to his home city he should have been more definite and certain and told us just what kind of things they could raise in Chicago. Some people might get confused and think the gentleman was referring to that slanderous story that has occupied so much space in our newspapers about a certain \$100,000 legislature jack-pot that was alleged to have been raised in Chicago. The gentleman further says "I want the people of our country to know that a man who goes out into that God-forsaken country of draughts takes his life in his hands." This statement unquestionably reflects great credit upon the gentleman from Illinois. He must have at heart the safety of his people. He ought to warn them against even the ordinary risks of life that are confronted in even an average American community. It

should be born in mind that Chicago is a place where life and property are surrounded by the most extraordinary safeguards. People living in Chicago where the danger to life is reduced to its very minimum - do not realize the dangers that beset a man in even an ordinary American community - to say nothing of the ~~imminent~~ danger out "in the arid region." Now, Chicago at present is not the largest city in the United States, but it is usually admitted that among all our cities, large or small, Chicago ranks first in point of morals, in the devout religious sentiment of its citizens, in the high standard of its citizenship, in the enforcement of the law, and in the absence of graft, corruption and crimes. The gentleman is right. Persons who have been brought up and lived their entire lives surrounded with such uplifting influences, where the very atmosphere is permeated with the highest development of righteousness should be warned of the dangers in even the ordinary community, and this warning should be emphasized when he dares to venture into the "arid regions of the west."

Do not understand me that I mean to leave the impression that there is no vice or immorality in Chicago. Crimes are frequently committed in Chicago. There are thousands of saloons and other places where intoxicating liquors are sold. There are doubtless many disreputable resorts in the city. They have thousands of police and other officials on duty at Chicago - who are kept busy arrestin/

people for violations of the law. But mark you, the people of Chicago do not patronize these saloons and commit these crimes. These saloons are to accommodate the people who visit Chicago, and who reside elsewhere. And the crimes—well, they are committed by people who come from the "arid regions." Fortunately for our country Chicago was located something near the Geographical center of the United States. The splendid, uplifting influence going out of there is thereby as far as possible equally distributed throughout the entire country.

Some one has said that all liquor is good but some is better than others. So all Chicago is good, but the best part of it is outside of it.