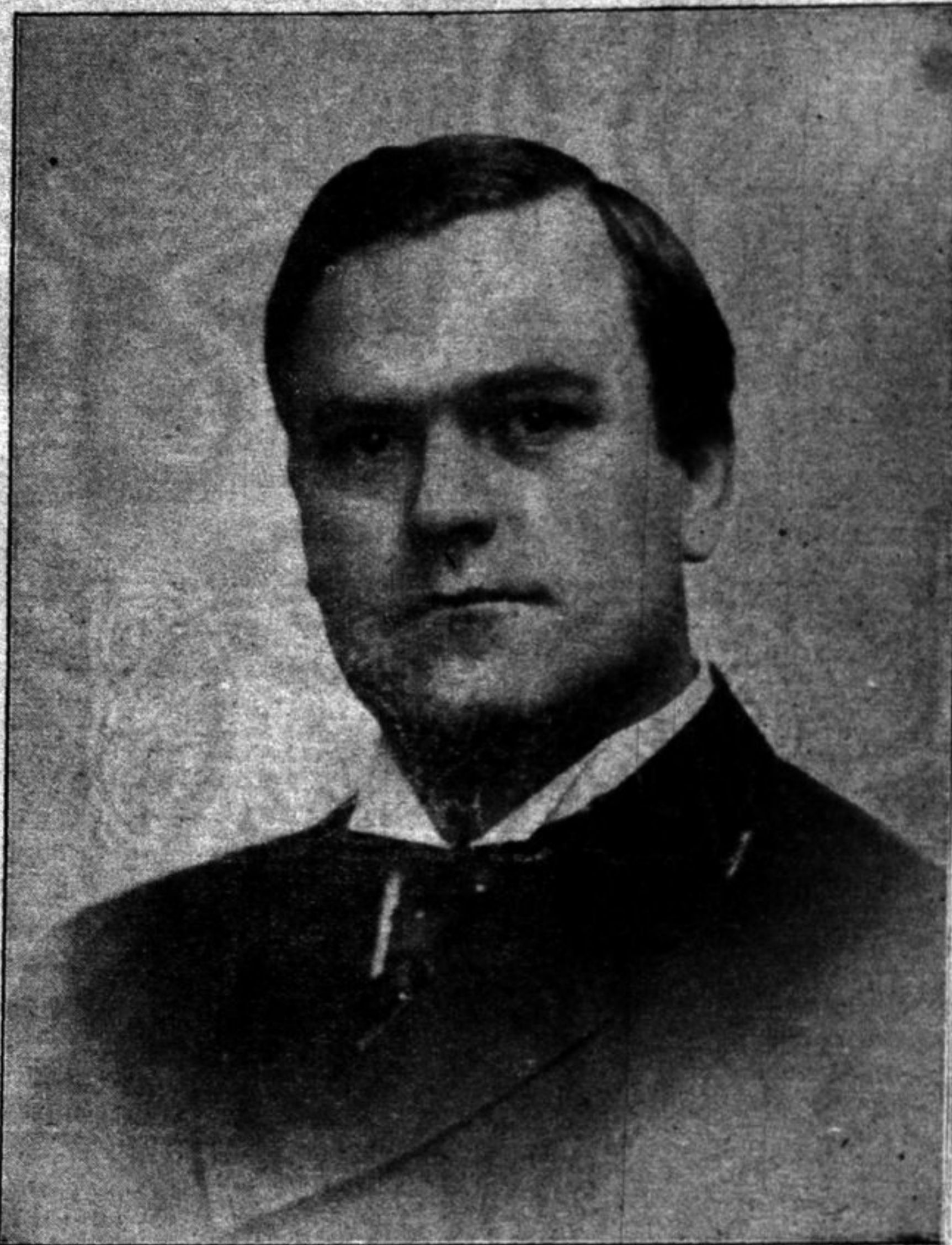


RECORD SHOWS FOSS' POSITION

Commended by Chicago Tribune for Good Work on the Tariff Bill



GEORGE EDMOND FOSS

Many Years Ahead of President Taft In Pos- tal Savings Idea

Proposed Revision First

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Congressman Foss is a progressive republican. The records show that he was some thirteen years ahead of President Taft in his recommendation of postal savings banks and he was two and one-half months ahead of him in recommending a downward revision of the tariff. This ought to satisfy his constituents as to where Mr. Foss stands on these vital questions.

On Labor day, Sept. 7, 1897, Congressman Foss made an address in Chicago, in which he said:

"The establishment of a postal savings bank means the honor and stability of our country. The great Teacher in His wonderful sermon on the mount said, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' When you come to add to the patriotism of man for his country element of a financial interest therein, you cement a union of forces which would make every depositor a strong defender of national honor and national credit in every hour of its trial. He would not be a fomenter of strife; he would always be the champion of peace. Therefore the establishment of these institutions means the development of a spirit of devotion to a common country, for every depositor would hold a stake in its welfare. The security of his savings would rest upon the security of his government. His success in life, the education of his children and the happiness of his home, would be wrapped up in preservation of the institution of his government, and the consciousness of this fact would instill in him the principles of loyalty and patriotism and of love for flag, for home and country. So while the postal savings bank mean much to the people, they mean more to the State."

PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO KNOW

June 13 Mr. Foss made a speech in Congress on tariff revision practically the same course the president favored in his letter to Congressman McKinley only in that speech he went further than President Taft. Among other things he said:

The people have a right to know what the difference in the cost of production is. The executive must know in order that he may carry out the provisions of the tariff law. The Congress ought always to know in order to enact a measure that will meet the just demands of the people. The President will, under this provision, appoint experts, who will investigate the whole subject, and then, undoubtedly, will transmit that information to Congress. I may say for myself that I would much prefer that it had been stated in the provision that he should report their findings to Congress, but I have no doubt that under his constitutional right he will deem it not only his privilege, but his duty to do so in order that Congress may have the facts and the results of the work of scientific experts.

"In my judgment tariff legislation ought to be placed upon a scientific basis, and I desire to see the whole matter of investigation and determination of facts placed in the hands of a nonpartisan commission permanently appointed, which will report to congress from time to time, and then upon the recommendation of that commission the proper committee of congress, that of the ways and means, can take up and report bills modifying the tariff rates on the different articles as necessities may require. I see no reason why a particular schedule could not be taken up or modified or amended at any time. Tariff laws have usually been a general revision of all of the duties, and this has been open to the popular criticism that tariff bills have, too frequently, been considered as log-rolling measures, where certain interests combine to effect selfish ends, but in case that schedules were taken up separately, as needs required and modified, then there could be no cause for such criticism."

FOSS FIGHT FOR LOW TARIFF DUTIES.

It will be remembered that during the consideration of the tariff question the Chicago newspapers, led by the Chicago Tribune, began a great fight for lower duties on gloves and hosiery. The women of Chicago interested themselves in the matter, and through their various clubs, obtained more than 200,000 signatures to petitions, and sent a special committee to Washington to protest against the duties recommended by the committee on ways and means. They went to Congressman Foss, who took charge of their fight and presented their mammoth petition to congress. It was a great struggle and has been told in the columns of the Chicago newspapers. The result was a complete victory. Congress was forced to reduce its duties on gloves down to where they were before, under the old tariff law, and to lower the duties on hosiery considerably below what was recommended by the ways and means committee.

ENDORSED BY TRIBUNE.

In speaking of the victory the Chicago Tribune on July 30, 1909, said: "To Representative George Edmond Foss must be awarded the credit for having allied himself with the demanders of lower duties on

women's gloves add cotton hosiery when the issue was first raised by the Tribune way back in the days when the bill was first reported to the house. He stayed with the game to the finish.

"Those who came to Washington to fight Littaire and his high glove duties found in Mr. Foss a friend and pusher they needed, and they were loud in their praise of the effective and constant efforts he put forth.

"Mr. Foss received many congratulatory telegrams today from mercantile firms in Chicago and messages of thanks for his assistance. The Chicago congressman has for three weeks been piloting Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Simmons, the Chicagoans who came here and bore the brunt of the gloves and hosiery battle. His appeal at the White House in their behalf and in behalf of the women in general served largely to strengthen the president in the position he took."

Mr. Francis T. Simmons, who, with Mr. Kenneth Barnhart of Marshall Field and Co., were managers of the fight, in an interview in the Chicago Tribune of July 30, 1909, said:

NEVER LEFT GUNS.

"Congressman Foss never left his guns from the time the Chicago women went to the capitol and he insisted on introducing their petition until the conference finally gave way. The worst crime in the house code is to oppose the party organization. Sedition they call it, and of that they accused him. He stood stanch, and of such men we must remember, for they are none to common."

John G. Shedd, in an interview as appeared in Chicago Record-Herald of July 31, 1909, said of Congressman Foss:

"The citizens and press of Chicago and the splendid, courageous stand of President Taft in interpreting the republican platform have been of the greatest service to the country in forcing congress to give us a reasonable revision of the tariff downward. Congressman George Edmond Foss has done much."

In a private letter he said:

"Congressman Foss has always been in favor of lower tariff duties and has been what might be called a moderate protectionist. In his speech on tariff revision, published in the Congressional Record, he advocates first, the establishment of a non-partisan commission which shall report to Congress from time to time the difference in the cost of production between goods manufactured in this country and in foreign countries, and recommends that revision of tariff schedules be taken up from time to time as necessities may require."

CONGRESSMAN FOSS' REPLY TO MR. ENGELHARD'S CHALLENGE.

Chicago, Aug. 27, 1910

My Dear Mr. Engelhard:

Upon returning to my office after an absence of a few days, I find your letter of the 20th inst., which was received here on the 23, inviting me to a joint debate. I note that you have already selected the places of debate and have requested an acceptance to your challenge within three days from the date of your letter. Manifestly, it is impossible for me to comply with such terms.

Furthermore, I do not approve of your action in completely ignoring the other candidate, Mr. Frederick C. De Lang who claims to be a progressive republican. It seems to me that a joint debate should also include him. I regard him as more of a progressive than yourself, and I think that the people after examining the record which you have made, will be of that opinion. As you are well aware, the people of this State by an overwhelming vote, declared themselves in favor of direct primaries. They will be interested in knowing of your effort to thwart their will, and that you were the author of that circular letter of January 18, 1910, which was placed on the desk of every member of the legislature, a part of which I now quote to you:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Illinois: "This protest against the direct primary conspiracy now menacing the legislature in the disguise of a crusade for popular rights will presumably count for nothing but I shall at least satisfy my conscience in reversing my former record favoring direct nominations and declaring the facts as they appear to the overwhelming majority of Illinois voters."

"There is, it is safe to assert, no demand for direct primaries anywhere evident save by the metropolitan newspapers and by the party bosses who live by their support."

"It might have been supposed that the revelations of the practical workings of the Oglesby act would have been sufficient to silence the demand for any sort of direct primary successor, but instead of silence

we have newspaper intimidations rampant; instead of criticism we have defiance; misrepresentation and defamation have supplanted respect for honest judgment based upon obvious demonstration; the men who by their votes have exhibited the courage of their convictions are branded as renegades and apostates; newspaper vilification is scourging legislative honesty into craven submission, and truth is again being led to the scaffold with wrong on the throne.

"What are the facts as disclosed by the trial of the Oglesby act? Did the voters under that act win any measure of freedom in the selection of party candidates? Were the party bosses relegated to the rear? In all the county of Cook was a single candidate nominated otherwise than by the decree of the Deenee-Tribune-Busse-Record-Herald-West & Co. combine? Did a single candidate not endorsed by the 'organization' as represented by half a dozen star chamber leaders manage to pull through, save here and there a barefaced exception? Was not practically every republican and democratic candidate on the blanket ballot at the November election named in its voice by an autocratic coterie of less than ten men regardless of the preferences of the party voters? Was ever a more appalling exhibition of boss rule witnessed than in the results of primaries instituted under conditions which promised utmost freedom of expression by the individual voter?"

In view of that record, how can you claim to be a progressive? Was your conversion take place? Was it on the road to Damascus, or the way to congress?

In my judgement, the order course to take in a matter of a joint debate of this character, where one proclaims himself to be a progressive and another an insurgent, would be for Mr. De Lang and you enter into a joint discussion as to who is the more progressive and who is the more insurgent. Then I would be glad to enter into a joint debate with the survivor of such discussion, if he should exist. In the meantime, welcome you both to a careful and thorough investigation of my record.

You speak of what you are pleased to call my "pro-Cannon" and "stand pat" record in the last congress. You are well aware that the republican press of Illinois, a few years ago, with one voice demanded the election of Mr. Cannon as speaker, believing that it would be greatly to the interest of our state if an Illinois man were elected. The Illinois delegation have unanimously supported him, and I did so, believing that I was voicing the wishes of my constituents.

Since my return from Washington I have been, and am now, visiting different portions of the district with a view of determining the sentiment of the people on this question, as well as on others, and I have publicly stated that I am committed in no way, and am under no obligation, to any particular individual as speaker for the next congress, or the event of a republican house. I shall be guided by the wishes of my constituents.

Now, in regard to my so-called "stand pat" record. My constituents know that I have supported the administrative policies of Roosevelt and Taft, and if that be "stand pat," make the most of it. They know that in the tariff discussion I presented the petition of 100,000 people demanding a reduction of the tariff duties on gloves and hosiery, and that I fought for such reduction and succeeded in my effort, with that of others, in securing lower tariff duties.

My constituents know that at the last session of congress, I supported the appropriation of \$250,000 for the maintenance of a tariff board to make a scientific investigation into the difference in cost of production at home and abroad. I believe that this board is the first step toward a non-partisan tariff commission, which will take the tariff question out of American politics. The Congressional Record will show that I spoke in favor of such a commission which shall report to congress from time to time, when that body can take up the subject separately, as circumstances may require.

I also invite your criticism as to my record on what has been secured for my congressional district, in the way of public institutions and appropriations, and in order to save you the time in looking up that record, I will briefly state what the most important of them are:

- A public building for Evanston.
- Extensive improvements to U. S. marine hospital at Lake View.
- Appropriations Caused By George Edmond Foss For Lake County.

- A public building for Waukegan.
- Harbor improvements for Waukegan costing nearly \$500,000.
- Co-operation with my colleagues in all federal matters for the good of Chicago.

A naval training station, the finest in the world, at North Chicago, now nearly completed, costing \$3,500,000.

Furthermore, I invite your attention and criticism to my record as chairman of the committee on naval affairs for the last ten years in my efforts to build up the American navy. During my membership on that committee, the American navy has been substantially all built, with the exception of a few ships; and during my chairmanship, I have carried through appropriations in the house of nearly a billion dollars for the maintenance and increase of the navy.

I invite your attention to my whole public record, upon which stand before the people of the district for renomination in the congressional primary.

Very respectfully yours,
George Edmond Foss

\$4,000,000 of Mr. Foss' appropriation went to Lake County, thus it is why every voter in our County should