
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 4, 1899.

Mr. GEORGE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A BILL

In relation to trusts and other acts in restraint of trade and production.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That all contracts, arrangements, agreements, trusts, or com-
4 binations between two or more persons or corporations, or be-
5 tween a corporation and a natural person engaged in selling,
6 importing, manufacturing, or transporting articles of
7 merchandise, made with a view of preventing or which
8 tend to prevent, and all acts done by any person with
9 a view of preventing, or which tend to prevent, full and free
10 competition in the importation, transportation, manufacturing,
11 or sale of any article of merchandise, or which shall have the
12 effect of advancing the cost of any such article to the con-
13 sumer, are hereby declared to be unlawful to the extent
14 herein provided, and subject to the provisions of the following
15 section of this Act: *Provided*, That this Act shall not be
16 construed to apply to any arrangements, agreements, or com-
17 binations between laborers made with the view of lessening
18 the number of hours of labor, or of increasing their wages;
19 nor to any arrangements, agreements, or combinations among
20 persons engaged in horticulture or agriculture made with the
21 view of enhancing the price of agricultural or horticultural
22 products.

1 SEC. 2. That when any action or suit in law or equity

2 shall be commenced, or shall be pending in any court of the
3 United States, it shall be lawful for any defendant therein to
4 except to the jurisdiction of such court upon the ground that
5 the cause of action or suit is for the enforcement of a right of
6 a person or corporation violating any of the provisions of the
7 first section of this act based on a contract for the sale,
8 exchange, or transportation, or based on any damage arising
9 from any wrong committed in respect to any article of mer-
10 chandise, manufactured, transported, imported, bought, or
11 sold in violation of the provisions of said first section; and if
12 such ground of exception shall be proven to the satisfaction
13 of the court, judgment of dismissal shall be entered, with
14 double costs to the defendant, and with such reasonable sum
15 for the attorney's fees for the defense thereof as may be al-
16 lowed by the court.

1 SEC. 3. That when the President of the United States
2 shall be satisfied that any arrangement, trust, contract, agree-
3 ment, or combination, as described in the first section of this
4 act, has been formed, and that in consequence thereof there
5 has been an enhancement of the price of any article of mer-
6 chandise, he shall have power, and it is hereby made his duty,
7 to issue his proclamation suspending the collection of all cus-
8 toms duties or import taxes on similar articles when imported
9 into the United States from any foreign country. Such sus-
10 pension shall continue for ninety days after the President,
11 upon being satisfied that such enhancement in price no longer
12 exists, shall issue his proclamation withdrawing his former
13 proclamation of suspension. And the President of the United
14 States may, from time to time, as may in his judgment be
15 proper, reissue, modify, or withdraw any proclamation he may
16 have issued.