

## CONGRESSMAN CORNTASSEL'S MAIDEN SPEECH.

Note: Many of the men who will go to make up the new Congress are rural gentlemen wholly unsophisticated in national politics, who have tobogganed into Congress on the Democratic landslide. In view of this fact and in consideration of the attitude of past Democratic Congresses towards national defense, a speech similar to the following is not at all unlikely.)

Delivered in the House of Representatives, March 15, 1913, by Congressman Corntassel of Hickory Corners, Missouri.

"Mister Speaker an' feller representatives: One day last hayin' season when I wuz down to Si Mildew's groc'ry, I heerd tell uv this tew-gunboat program, an' I allowed then thet ef I ever come to represent our deestric in Washin'ton, I'd do ever'thing in my e-e-ternal power to make Congress act sensible 'bout this question. Ever' night arter milkin' the cyows, Mirandy an' me 'ud get down our pile o' old almanacs an' the kid's hist'ry an' geogerphy an' study the hull blamed affair.

Now, I'll allow thet the' little scheme we all concocted mought sound some'at irractical to yew folks down here 'cause yer so allfired used to doin' things in a cut an' dried fashion, jest th' same's us folks plow a furrer day arter day; but when yew-all hev' set up nights studyin' like Mirandy an' me did, then maybe th' light o' intelligence 'll dawn on yew like it hez on us.

In the fust place, we disagree with them critturs in th' Senate house as to th' essentiability uv buildin' tew boats. As t' why we think thet-away, it haint necessary t' say right off—that'll come out later on. We allaw as how one will cover all th' present needs uv this glorious republic. Regardin' th' structure of this boat, we hev arrived at th' conclusion that these here kid industries hev been reapin' a big harvest uv th' common peepul's money fer tew long a time, an' thet it's time to' bring a halt to th' performance. Therefore, Mirandy an' me figgered thet instead o' lettin' Mr. Rockefeller an' Mr. Carnegie git rich on this boat, same's they been adoin' on all th' others, we'd build this one out o' wood!

In th' second place, in regyard t' th' place where this boat is t' be placed, we were unanimous in agreein' thet th' coast states like Noo York an' San Francisco oughter share th' benefits uv a great navy with th' inland states like Missouri. Followin' out this line o' argyment we jedged thet Missouri had a claim tew th' next gunboat. Now, right back o' Josh Higgins' barn is a moughty fine little lake 'bout a quarter mile wide an' twice thet much long. It haint named on th' map, but folks down thar call it Higgins' Lake. This would be a mos' convenient place fer thet new boat, an' I larned from ol' man Higgins who fit in th' Civil War thet it wuz a stragetic position fer defendin' Hickory Corners from attack. (Applause from the Hickory Corners delegation in the gallery.)

One o' th' greatest objections tew a gunboat is th' fact thet in time o' peace an' tranquillness th' durn things air as useless as a 'tater bug, an' so Mirandy an' me hit onter a scheme fer usin' th' ol' gunboat in peace time. Here it be: In th' reg'ler ol'-fashioned boats which hev been built heretofor, there's allus