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**Veto Message: Governor Fletcher
1913 (H.371)**

An act to amend No. 416 of the Acts of 1910, relating to the charter of the E. and T. Fairbanks and Company.

STATE OF VERMONT
Executive Department.
Montpelier, Vt.,

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from His Excellency, the Governor, as follows:

To the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to return herewith without my approval House bill No. 371, "An act to amend No. 416 of the Acts of 1910, relating to the charter of the E. and T. Fairbanks and Company" for the reasons that:

The effect, if not the intent of this bill, is to create a holding company without limitation and to legalize a trust. A result contrary to the spirit and the letter of the law as laid down in the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in the recent Northern Securities Co.'s case, The American Tobacco Co. and Standard Oil Co. cases.

It may be that the result desired by the advocates of this bill is a just and legal one, but it should be reached without the infringement of the laws in relation to combinations of business.

If the intent were confined to the purchase or holding of the stocks and bonds of the St. Johnsbury Aqueduct Co. there might be no objection, but that Company has been owned by E. and T. Fairbanks and Company for some time as shown by previous charter amendments. But the grant in this bill is extended by the broad words "or of any other corporation", and those words open

the field for the investment in other corporations of any sort, to any amount, and the creation of a monopoly in violation of the Sherman Law and the best interests of the state.

It is true that amendments to the charter of this corporation have been made at various times tending toward this end but the grants have been limited both in scope of the business to be engaged in and as to the amount to be invested. Without attacking the action taken by past legislatures, it seems to me that the time has come to call a halt in the pursuance of such a policy which if carried out would only result in the establishing of a dangerous precedent and great injury to the public.

ALLEN M. FLETCHER,
Governor.

Executive Chamber,
Montpelier, Vt., Jan. 16, 1913.

**Governor's Veto Sustained
H.371, 1913**

The Governor's veto was sustained in the House.

Sources: *Journal of the House*, January 16, 1913 (Pages 594-595)