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La Grande Evening Observer
CURREY BROS., Editors & Props
Entered at the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.
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One year in advance.....\$6 50
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Per month.....65c
Single copy.....5c

PROTECTIVE TARIFF
The term "protective tariff," when used in the United States, means a tariff so levied on foreign goods, imported into this country, as to protect the producers of similar goods in the United States from competition, to the extent of the tariff levied, with the product of cheaper labor in other lands.
The idea of so adjusting the duties on imported articles as to encourage home productions became prominent in American politics at an early day.
President Jefferson in his sixth annual message on Dec. 2, 1806, after showing that the condition of the United States treasury was such that an undesirable surplus would accumulate unless some of the sources of revenue were cut off or diminished used these words regarding the tariff then in force: "Shall we suppress the impost and give that advantage to foreign over domestic manufactures?"

It would seem from the above question which Jefferson asked of Congress that he favored the continuance of a tariff, no longer necessary for "reverse only," solely because it protected American industries. In fact, in responsive to his own question immediately following the sentence quoted, he used the following strong argument in favor of a protective tariff and against one far revenue only. He said "on a few articles of most general and necessary use the suppression in due season will doubtless be right, but the great mass of the articles on which impost is paid are foreign luxuries, purchased by those only who are rich enough to afford themselves the use of them."
People of this day pretty generally regard Thomas Jefferson as having been a reasonable good man and one who would neither in private or in public acts sanction robbery, but as he did in his sixth message sanction a tariff solely because it protected American industries, according to the late Democratic platform adopted at St. Louis he sanctioned robbery. The words of the democratic platform are: "We denounce protection as a robbery of the many to enrich the few, and we favor a tariff limited to the necessities for the government to be economically administered." But Jefferson favored a tariff to protect American factories of which there were very few in the United States in 1806, and this too without the pretext that the money thus raised was needed by the General Government. If the Democrats are sincere in their belief that protection is robbery, why did they not do as Jefferson did when he was who announced a robbery?

The democrats have an apparent preference for old men for the vice-presidential nomination. When Cleveland was first nominated in 1884, his running mate was ex-Governor Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, who had been the candidate for the vice presidency on the Golden ticket in 1876. Hendricks was 66 years old when inaugurated and died a few months later. In 1888, Cleveland's associate on the ticket was Allen G. Thurman, the "Old Roman," of Ohio, who was 77 years old at the time of his defeat. "Uncle" Adlai Stevenson was older than President Cleveland when he was elected vice-president in 1892, and when he ran again on the ticket with Mr. Bryan in 1900, he was 65, while Mr. Bryan was then only 40. Arthur S. Well, Bryan's running mate in 1896, was his senior by many years. Judge Parker is 62, while ex-Senator Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia, was in the senate nearly thirty years ago, and is long past the mark of three score years and ten.

It must be admitted that the Democratic ticket has one decided advantage over the Chicago nominees, to whose names the fiery and untamed campaign poet can find no rhyme. But when the St. Louis convention adjourned it was to the ringing rhyme of "Parker and Davis, and salt won't save us."

The death of "Golden Rule" Jones, mayor of Toledo, removes one of the country's most unique public characters. That he was an earnest, honest man was the opinion of all who knew him and the city that he governed is plunged in grief over his sudden demise.

Since the national convention is over the war correspondents have stirred up some pretty lively scuffling in the Far East. Bryan announces that he is organizing forces to control the democracy in 1908. Hope springs eternal.

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