

TAFT'S ANSWERS

Questions Asked by Mr. Bryan Answered.

PROPOSES REVISION OF TARIFF

Mr. Taft Expressed the Conviction That a Law Can be Enacted Regulating the Liability of Interstate Railroad Companies to Injured Employees.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Recently while upon his continuous campaign speechmaking tour, William J. Bryan stopped off in Kansas City long enough to make an address. At that time he took occasion to propound certain questions concerning William H. Taft as to what he stands for and what he would do in regard to certain matters of public policy.

Herewith appended are some of the questions which Mr. Bryan asked, and the answers of Mr. Taft, given in each instance in his public utterances before they were preponderated by the Democratic leader:

"What does Secretary Taft stand for?" asked Mr. Bryan.

One thing which Secretary Taft stands for is well-ordered, well-secured liberty against state socialism and government ownership. Said Mr. Taft in his address in Boston on Dec. 30, last:

"If the abuses of monopoly and discrimination cannot be restrained, if the concentration of wealth made possible by such abuses continues and increases, and it is made manifest that under the system of individualism and private property the tyranny and oppression of an oligarchy of wealth cannot be avoided, then socialism will triumph and the institution of private property will perish. The administration has been thus far successful in showing that dangers from individualism can be effectively regulated, and that the abuses in the exercise of private property can be restrained. Thus a great conservative victory has been won and the coming of socialism has been stayed.

"The question which you have ultimately to meet is not whether we shall return to a condition of unregulated railways and unregulated trusts, but is whether we shall maintain a strict system of regulation of railways and trusts, or whether we shall turn the country over to the advocates of government ownership and state socialism. Any one who seeks a retrograde step from the policy of the administration is blind to every political sign of the times."

"What would he do with the trusts?" asked Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Taft in his speech at Columbus on August 19, last said:

"I would restrain unlawful trusts with all the efficiency of injunction process and would punish with all the severity of criminal prosecution every attempt on the part of aggregated capital through the illegal means I have described, to suppress competition—The attitude of the government toward combinations of capital for the reduction in the cost of production should be exactly the same as toward the combinations of labor for the purpose of bettering the conditions of the wage-workers and of increasing his share of the joint profit of capital and labor. They are both to be encouraged in every way so long as they conduct themselves within the law."

"What does he propose on the tariff question?" asked Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Taft proposes a revision of the Dingley schedules next year by a republican Congress. He believes in the protection of American wage-earners, and reasonable but not exorbitant profits for American manufacturers. In his Columbus speech, referred to, concerning the coming of tariff revision, Mr. Taft said:

"It will affect only those persons injuriously who are making an unreasonable profit out of an excessive rate—It now seems to me that even most of the extremists in the matter of tariff are of the opinion that it would not only be unwise, but unsafe, for the party to fail in its next national platform to pledge itself to a revision of the tariff as soon after the next presidential election as possible. Those of us who favor immediate revision can well afford to wait until after the next presidential election in order to secure substantial acquiescence by all republicans."

"What reform does Secretary Taft propose for the benefit of labor?" asks Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Taft has expressed the conviction that a law can be enacted regulating the liability of interstate railroad companies to employees injured in their service that will have nothing to fear from the scrutiny of the Supreme Court.

Upon the subject of injunctions Mr. Taft in his Cooper Institute speech on Jan. 10, 1908, said:

"Under the original Federal judiciary act, it was not permissible for the Federal courts to issue an injunction without notice. There had to be notice and, of course, a hearing. I think it would be entirely right in this class of cases, to amend the law and provide that no temporary restraining order should issue at all until after notice and a hearing. Then the court could be advised by both sides with reference to the exact situation, and the danger of issuing a writ too broad or of issuing a writ without good ground would generally be avoided."

He also expressed himself as favoring "a provision allowing the defendant in contempt proceedings to challenge the judge issuing the injunction and to call for the designation of another judge to hear the issue."

At the conclusion of that speech he was asked by one in his audience why a black-listed laborer should not be allowed an injunction as well as boycotted capitalist. To this Mr. Taft replied promptly, "He ought to be and if I were on the bench, I would give him one mighty quick."

"What relief does Secy. Taft propose to give us from the burden which imperialism has imposed upon us?" asks Mr. Bryan.

In his McKinley birthday anniversary speech at Cleveland last January, Mr. Taft referred to the fact that "imperialism" so-called, had added to the country's trade something like \$100,000,000. He added: "I do not think that is important except as a beginning. If the government continues its friendly policy toward Porto Rico, and the Philippines, this trade will treble and quadruple in a marvelously short time, so that merely from the standpoint of material progress, the mutual benefits for the people we are helping and ourselves, will be no mean justification for the policy."

Here epitomized are Mr Taft's answers to Mr. Bryan's questions.

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BRYCE TO LECTURE.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—James Bryce, English Ambassador Extraordinary from Great Britain to the United States, will deliver the next series of E. T. Earl lectures in Berkeley, according to the announcement contained in the Register, just issued by the Theological Seminary, under whose auspices the annual lectureship series is held. The lectures will be delivered alternately by Right Honorable James Bryce and Professor George Adam Smith, of Glasgow, Scotland both being in the foremost ranks of educators of the British Isles.

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