

AS BELASCO SAYS IMMORAL PLAY AGITATION IS MANAGERIAL FAKE

New York, March 20.—David Belasco, who has just returned to New York from the first visit he has paid to San Francisco in 12 years, discussed yesterday the agitation which has occurred on account of his presentation of "The Eastward Way" and some of the impressions he gathered of things on the Pacific coast. He is filled with admiration for the spirit displayed by his former fellow townsmen, and declared that much of their courage and mutual helpfulness he intends to use as material in his future plays.

"The immoral play agitation," he declared, "I regard as a fake agitation. Watch the moves made by these managers and see if they will continue to be content with milk and water, amorphous stuff, they have immense power; why don't they shut their theatres to 'Zaza'?" Why is there no protest against "Samson," a play which was thought daring even for Paris?

"I am proud that I produced 'The Eastward Way' in the controversy that some plays were not intended for presentation to any but experienced people. He said: 'The girls who are most likely to go wrong are those who come from a convent or boarding school into life with an American man. They have never been hurt anybody, and if people can get harm from a play it must be in themselves. I know the girls in my profession closely. For every six who are tempted by the automobiles, flowers and suppers showered upon them by a certain class of men, there are another six who are content with a glass of milk and a crust of bread in the hands of a laborer who is mistreated. There's something inside them which prevents it. That's all the difference.'"

One of the subjects that Mr. Belasco is turning over in his mind as matter for a future play is the fate of an American girl married to a Japanese who returns home and marries one of his fellow countrywomen. It will be a play about the "Adam Butterfly." Talking of it, he said: "I studied the Japanese question in San Francisco deeply as a source of material for plays. The whole crux of it is the school question. The Californians are not afraid of being ousted by Japanese labor, but their blood boils at the thought of a Japanese man

being accorded the right to sit beside a little American girl in school. 'Think of how Mr. Roosevelt would have felt if one of his daughters had come home from the public school in Luang Ching, who sat next her and made up to her. But then none of his daughters were ever exposed to such a risk. It is the poorer classes and the men of moderate means who cannot afford a private school for their children who are driven to frenzy over the matter. Whenever you hear a man minimizing the difficulty, it is always because he can educate his children, where he likes.'"

Mr. Belasco sees in this phase of the situation a real danger which will break out sooner or later. "Some day," he declared, "an insult will be offered to an American girl and then the spirit of '49 will rise and there will be a lynching. Japan will ask for an apology and we shall always but just fancy the United States apologizing after an insult to one of its girls."

While he was in San Francisco a call was sent out for the old boys of his time at Lincoln school to have a reunion at the Cafe Esmeralda. "It was very pathetic," he said. "Principal Marks, nearly 80 years old, called the roll and responded and there followed a name; many times there came the answer 'Dead, and now and then somebody would respond and the principal put us through our paces again at the old lessons, and dealt out cuts on the hand with a piece of the old time rigor. I got on a chair and recited 'The Madman,' a piece I used often to give at school 35 years ago."

"I didn't know the names of all those who came, but by and by I would recognize the gleam of an eye and a nose and remembered that I knew the boy years ago. They were so much altered—one of the greatest bankers and another a portly physician of high standing and so on. It was very interesting and very pathetic."

Mr. Belasco, as a true Californian, believes firmly in the future of San Francisco; indeed, he declares that the catastrophe has done it good. With all the lower part of the city destroyed, the upper part of it has been developed and he illustrated the result of the earthquake by supposing that if all lower Manhattan were thrown down Harlem would then be boomed and after the old business section was restored it would still remain prosperous and important. "The old landmarks are gone," he said. "The romance has been destroyed, but the spirit of '49 has been transposed and the new San Francisco will be greater than ever."

They all admit that protection did not gain any headway in these decades. This is largely attributed to the lack of an organized movement on its behalf. The political parties had changed front completely on the tariff issue, and the Democratic congress at the time favored protection. Then came the Republicans to favor it, with Massachusetts another center opposed. Imagine a Democratic congress at the present time circulating the speeches of Thomas B. Reed or Nelson Dingley on the tariff, or the Republican sending out as campaign literature the speeches of John Sharp Williams or Champ Clark, an anti-Federalist congress had the Hamilton "Report of Manufacturers" printed and circulated.

All of the tariff acts before 1816 were largely makeshift, intended to meet the exigencies of the day, and none of the recognized authorities on the subject regard them as having been framed with any fixed policy in view. But when the whole question was taken up that year there was no financial concern that rendered hasty action necessary, so that a tariff bill expressing the ideas of the day could be framed. It required thirty-nine days for the measure to run the legislative gamut from introduction in the house to approval by the president. During the consideration of this tariff bill the manufacturers appeared in the interest of protection, but the number of lobbyists who have swarmed around the capitol from that day to this.

Daniel Webster and Henry Clay took conspicuous parts in the debate on this bill, showing some of the ability which afterward made them famous. During the voting on amendments more than three-fourths of the members voted for a protective duty on one article or another, yet on the final count practically all the higher duties were cut out of the bill. The influence of Hamilton and his "Report on Manufactures" was in eclipse.

Hepner Gazette: An orphan lamb weighing 170 pounds, dressed an even 100 pounds. This is what plenty of feed and water will do for a yearling sheep. The Wightman brothers, who own and operate the Alfalfa Lawn near Astoria, last week killed this lamb which brought them \$15. This lamb never had any milk, but always had all it could eat, as it ran and pastured any place on the farm that it saw fit. A hint to many more of our creek ranchers.

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(FIGHTING BOB)

Reserved Seat Sale at the Portland Commercial Club, Office 7th Floor, March 25-26, at 4 o'clock. March 27-28, at 2 o'clock. Out-of-Town People Can Secure Tickets by writing to "Secretary Portland Commercial Club," including money order or check, with stamped envelope for reply. Tickets, \$2.50, \$1.50, \$1.00 and 50 cents.

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That the tariff of 1816 was followed with an agitation for higher duties may be an incident in no wise remarkable, but there was a time when the question of protection was not a party question but was practically a phase of the nation's foreign policy. What strange bedfellows this peculiar piece of politics made will be told in Mr. Haskin's next following article in the tariff series.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
(Copyright 1909 by Frederic J. Haskin.)
Washington, March 20.—No great policy of any government ever had a more splendid argumentative foundation than was laid for the protection policy by Alexander Hamilton. His "Report on Manufactures," prepared while he was secretary of the treasury, is the granary from which all protectionist speakers and writers have secured their fundamental arguments. Although each of these speakers might be tempted to add some new thought to the subject, or to restate an old one in a more telling way, those students who consider it with the impartial calm of the historian, rather than the battle-flush bias of the politician, regard the Hamilton report as covering every detail of the fundamentals of the doctrine of protection.

How this report came to be written is an interesting story. Congress was not satisfied with the condition of manufactures in the nation, and in January, 1790, passed a resolution calling upon the secretary of the treasury for a detailed statement concerning them, together with his own views on the subject. With a thoroughness never surpassed, and seldom equaled, Hamilton proceeded to collect all available data. He spent nearly two years in preparation of the statement. When he submitted it to congress he gave to the world the historic and famous "Report on Manufactures," and of that doctrine alike admit that Hamilton stated the case in the most favorable light possible.

Demolishes Enemy's Theory.
The plan of his report is very simple. First he states the case against protection as clearly and concisely as possible. Then he demolishes the theory of his opponents by his own evidence of protection in its stead, and he uses every available piece of fact-wood to the best advantage. He gets right down to the very fundamentals. And with remarkable fidelity the protectionists ever since have stuck to the Bible he gave them. Of course they have some heretics who refuse to accept his statement that the tariff duty is one of the ingredients which enters into the cost of foreign goods to the consumer, but other than that every protectionist is orthodox as measured by the "Report on Manufactures."

But the advocates of a revenue tariff do not consider the Hamilton report as it is now interpreted by their opponents. In the first place, they assert that its arguments are well made, but not well taken. They say that even Hamilton never had any visions of protection being carried as far as it has been. Likewise, they insist that it did not represent the views of the nation. Dr. Henry C. Adams says it fails to prove that either Hamilton or congress were the high protectionists they are represented as being.

Tariff Rates Increased.
At the beginning of the second session of the first congress Hamilton, as secretary of the treasury, submitted his estimates for the year. These called for nearly four times as much money for interest as was required for the maintenance of the government. The estimates called for \$10,000,000 for interest and \$2,239,300 for meeting the interest on the domestic and foreign debt. Hamilton recommended an internal revenue tax on spirits, liquors, wines, etc., in order to swell the revenue. But congress was not willing, and this proposition was overwhelmingly defeated. Then the bill to increase the tariff rates was taken up, debated, passed and signed by the president within 30 days. Considering the fact that parliamentary procedure was clumsy and unwieldy in those days, this is almost record time for the passage of a tariff law.

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