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MONDAY - - - APRIL 16, 1900

"FREE TRADE AND THE CONSTITUTION."

In discussing the Puerto Rican bill the New York Tribune calls attention to some facts that must be known before one is competent to pronounce a fair judgment on the bill. The Tribune says:

"Puerto Rican tradesmen, we are told, cannot reconcile themselves to the tariff imposition. They want 'free trade under the constitution.' But do they realize what that would involve in regard to their own interest? It would mean the imposition upon them, also, of our entire internal revenue system, including the tax on tobacco, the stamp taxes and all the rest. Do the Puerto Ricans want that? We are told that they do not. In fact, they have protested against it as strongly as they have asked for free trade. But they cannot cut and carve the constitution to suit their own taste and fancy. If the constitution is extended to their island, so as to make their tariff system a part of ours, it must be extended in its entirety, so as to make their internal revenue system identical with ours. Suppose they and their hot-gospeller friends turn their consideration from the tariff for a moment and fix it upon the internal revenue. They may find therein nutritious food for thought."

MERE FACTIONOUS OPPOSITION.

The men in congress and out of congress who have opposed the Puerto Rican bill have not suggested any alternative, says the Salem Statesman. They have not said how the money should be raised to pay the costs of the government and the improvements in the island. When they have voted against the bill, they have voted to let the Dingley duties remain—voted for 100 per cent instead of 15 per cent of the duties that have been charged.

The whole of the opposition has been merely an attack upon the administration, coupled with an attempt to gain some advantage by the men in this country favoring free trade. There has been no consistency, no fairness and no good business sense in the opposition. The country is waking up to these facts, and the conclusion will be that the very best thing has been done that could have been done; and that the opposition has been contemptible.

In a speech delivered in the lower house of congress February 27th, Joseph C. Cannon, of Illinois, made the following statement, which accounts for the tears which have been shed by free-trade editors and speakers over the Puerto Rican tariff bill: "Who has this tobacco—3,000,000 pounds in Puerto Rico? I will tell

you. The merchant has it; and I am informed that the tobacco trust of the United States owns it, and sends some of these poor Puerto Rican-American people, if not American people, over here to work for 'a fair show for Puerto Rico.' Three million pounds at 35 cents a pound. If they could import it today, they would have that duty to pay. If that tobacco should come to the United States, paying 35 cents a pound, that would be \$1,050,000 upon tobacco in the islands of the American Tobacco Trust."

Secretary Gage has decided that the customs feature of the Puerto Rico bill goes into operation on the 1st day of May, 1900. This decision was made necessary in view of a discrepancy in the bill as to the time the act should become operative.

With refreshing inconsistency the Republicans of Multnomah county "indorsed the administration of President McKinley" and then indorsed Senator Simon for acting conspicuously in opposition to the administration.

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Spokane Flyer 7:35 p. m.	Walla Walla, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East.	Spokane Flyer 4:25 a. m.
8 p. m.	FROM PORTLAND. OCEAN STEAMSHIPS. For San Francisco—December 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29.	4 p. m.
8 p. m. Ex. Sunday 10 p. m.	Columbia Rv. Steamers To Astoria and Way Landings.	4 p. m. Ex. Sunday daily
6 a. m. Ex. Sunday 10 p. m.	WILLAMETTE RIVER. Oregon City, Newberg, Salem & Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Ex. Sunday
7 a. m. Tues, Thurs and Sat.	WILLAMETTE AND YAM HILL RIVERS. Oregon City, Dayton, and Way Landings.	3:30 p. m. Mon, Wed and Fri.
6 a. m. Tue, Thurs and Sat.	WILLAMETTE RIVER. Portland to Corvallis, and Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Mon, Wed and Friday
8:30 p. m. Lv Riparia 1:25 a. m.	SNAKE RIVER. Riparia to Lewiston.	LEAVE LEWISTON 8:30 a. m.

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No. 21, west bound through freight, does not carry passengers; arrives 8:15 p. m., departs 9:30 p. m.

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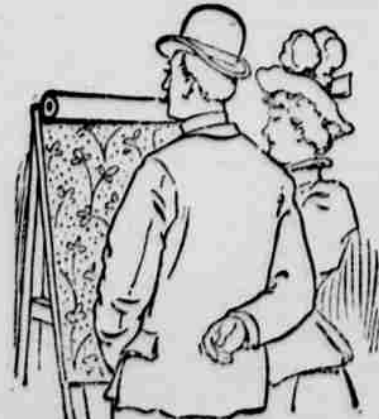
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