THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES - - EDITOR.

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REPUBLICANS, READ THIS.

The American Tariff Reform league, in which Franklin MacVeagh, William M. Hoyt, George D. Rumsey, E. G. Mason, W. T. Baker, Gen. A. C. McClurg, and other prominent republicans are workers, has issued the following address to the farmers of Illinois:

"The great importance to the welfare and prosperity of the nation of a reasonable and practicable reduction of the tariff has led to the organization of the American Tariff Reform league. Its officers, executive and advisory committees are men of republican antecedents, but as their love of their country, their sense of justice and right, and their desire for the promotion of the best interests of the people are greater than their devotion to party, and believing that the republican party in the present national campaign is advocating a policy of taxation thoroughly wrong in principle and in practical operation disastrous to the business interests of the country, have felt constrained to unite in an earnest effort to aid in the defeat of that party to which they have in the past been greatly attached. The federal government levies taxes upon a large number of articles imported from foreign countries. These taxes are called the tariff. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, the government received from these tariff taxes $220,000,000. The importing merchants, after paying for the goods they brought from foreign countries, paid to the national government this amount as import duties or tariff taxes. The original cost of the goods was therefore increased before they could be placed in the stores of the importers by the payment of this enormous sum of $220,000,000, which is nearly 50 per cent of the original cost of the goods. Now, the importing merchants must make a profit not only on the purchase price of the goods, but also on the amount of money paid to the government as taxes. The importers sell to jobbers and wholesale merchants. They in turn sell to the retail merchants throughout the country. The importers, jobbers, wholesale and retail merchants must all make a profit on handling the goods. The several profits, estimated in the aggregate at 40 per cent on the $220,000,000 paid the government in taxes, amount to $88,000,000. Thus when the consumers—the people—buy these goods from the retail merchants they must not only pay the first cost of the goods and the profit on such cost, but also the taxes—$220,000,000—and the profits on the amount of the taxes—$88,000,000; that is, they must pay $308,000,000 more for these goods than they would have had to pay were there no tariff taxes on them.

"But this is not the worst of it. There are manufactured in this country a great number of articles of the same kinds as those imported. While the cost to the consumer of the imported goods has been so greatly increased by the tariff, as shown above, the home manufacturers aim to get for their goods as nearly as possible as high prices as paid for the imported goods, although the cost of manufacturing, with a fair profit added, is small enough to enable the manufacturers to sell their goods at much less price. From information furnished by the government census reports for 1880 it is estimated that the amount of goods manufactured in this country of the same kinds as those from foreign countries upon which tariff-taxes are levied aggregated $3,500,000,000, and the manufacturers made a net profit on them of 25 per cent. This is too much. It is at least 15 per cent more than the manufacturers could have made had it not been for the protection they received from the tariff. This extra profit of 15 per cent on the protected goods manufactured in this country amounts to $525,000,000. In buying the goods from the manufacturers the wholesale merchants and jobbers paid to them, in addition to the cost of manufacturing and a liberal profit thereon, this extra profit of $525,000,000. These wholesale merchants and jobbers—as in the case with foreign goods, as before set forth—sell to the retail merchants, and they must all make their profit on this extra amount paid to the manufacturers in consequence of the tariff. These several profits amount to not less than 30 per cent, which on $525,000,000 amounts to $157,500,000. Thus the consumers of the home manufactured goods pay $682,500,000 more than they would have to pay for them were it not for the tariff taxes on the same kinds of goods of foreign manufacture. As is now readily seen, the people are paying annually on what they need for daily use an extra amount of $308,000,000 on foreign goods, and on those of home manufacture $682,500,000—in all $990,500,000, as the result of the tariff. How long can the people stand this severe drain upon their resources without being impoverished by it? Is it any wonder the protected rich are growing richer and the poor are growing poorer? This $990,500,000 wrung annually from the people by reason of an inequitable and iniquitous tariff amounts to over $16 per capita of the 60,000,000 population of the United States. This, applied to the state of Illinois, with its population now estimated at 3,000,000, shows an annual loss to the state of $48,000,000. If this were allowed to remain in the hands of the people how much greater would be the prosperity of our state! This sum of $48,000,000, if retained at home every year and spent in such manner as the people might prefer, would cause the state to realize a prosperity commensurate with its great industry and enormous productions. Greatly increased activity would be experienced in all branches of commerce and industry. New enterprises would be undertaken. The demand for labor would be largely increased and wages would be higher in amount and of greater purchasing power. The people would enjoy a prosperity and contentment heretofore unknown, and the dissatisfaction now prevalent among our laboring classes would be dissipated.

"The worst phase of the operation of the tariff laws is, however, yet to be considered. While the national government was in need of money the people bore this great burden without complaint; but now, in consequence of the tariff established in war times, the government is receiving annually a much larger sum than it requires. There is now in the vaults of the national treasury $130,000,000 surplus—money that the government has no legitimate use for, and it is in daily receipt of more money than it can use. In order to retard as much as possible the steady increase of the surplus and get part of it back into the channels of commerce, the secretary of the treasury is now buying the bonds of the government far in advance of their maturity and paying as high as 28 per cent premium for them, giving the bondholder $128 for a bond the face value of which is only $100. This large and steadily increasing surplus in the treasury is not only a temptation and incentive to extravagant legislation but is a constant menace and danger to the business interests of the nation. The rapid growth of population and the wonderful development of our country give rise to a constant increase in the volume of its commerce, requiring a corresponding increase in the supply of money necessary for business transactions. Yet instead of responding to this requirement the national treasury, under the operation of the tariff laws, is steadily contracting the supply of money by withdrawing from the channels of commerce the growing surplus lying dormant in the vaults of the treasury. The inadequate adjustment of the supply of money to the requirements of commerce resulting at critical times in a scarcity of money has brought upon the country the financial crisises from which it has in times past so greatly suffered. Who does not remember the disastrous crisis of 1873? Are we to have it repeated? It surely will be unless a stop is put to the increase of the useless surplus in the treasury.

"Mr. Cleveland in his last annual message to congress pointed out this grave danger to the business interests of the country and called upon congress to reduce the tariff taxes and relieve the people as much as possible of the great burden of taxation. The democratic party, in national convention at St. Louis, indorsed Mr. Cleveland's message and declared for tariff reform. The republican party declared against it anc advocated the unsound and pernicious doctrine of high protection to home manufacturers, even to the extent of making the tariff prohibitory, which simply means that the government must continue to enable the manufacturers to charge the consumers an excessive profit on their goods; must protect the greedy manufacturers in their avaricious ambition to grow rapidly rich at the expense of the people. With these facts presented to our contemplation, as great as has been our devotion to the republican party of the past, we can not in this campaign act with it. We do not belong to the dead past; we are in and for the living present, and do not allow old party attachments to interfere with our perception of what is for the best interest of our country. We appeal to you for the sake of your own interest, as well as for the general good of the country, to come out boldly, regardless of former party associations, and act with us. In putting forth our efforts to aid in the reelection of Mr. Cleveland we do so the more cheerfully because of our approval of his administration of the affairs of the nation during the past three years and a half. He has performed the duties of president faithfully and wisely. He has in all matters studied and endeavored to promote the people's welfare, and we feel that the best interests of the country will continue to receive his careful, watchful, and untiring guardianship. We most heartily urge you to cast your ballots for him. The farmers, the great producers of the country, are in no respect benefited by the tariff. It does not add in the least to the market value of anything they produce, but the prices of nearly everything they buy are greatly increased by it. The protected manufacturers alone receive benefit from the tariff.

"Appended to this we give a partial list of articles upon which tariff taxes are levied and the amount of such tax and invite your careful attention of it. From it you will see how excessively the necessities of life are taxed: Sugar, 80 per cent; salt, 83 per cent; corn starch, 93 per cent; rice, 113 per cent; cotton hoisery, 45 per cent; woolen hoisery, 70 per cent; flannels, 72 per cent; woolen shawls, 87 per cent; window glass, 86 per cent—while luxuries are lightly taxed—diamonds, 10 per cent; jewelry, 25 per cent; musical instruments, 25 per cent. Thus the burden of taxation rests most heavily upon those least able to bear it. The most absurd feature of the present tariff is the heavy tax placed upon what is called raw material—material that is imported in a raw state and is used in the production of manufactured articles. This material having to pay tariff taxes costs the manufacturers much more than it would if admitted into the country free. Thus the cost of producing the manufactured article is greatly increased. This enhancement in value of the manufactured articles tends to diminish the amount of such goods consumed, and this limits the amount produced and restricts the amount of labor required for their production, lessens the demand for labor, and as the price of wages depends upon such demand, the effect is to reduce the rate of wages and at the same time increase the price.

COMING TO THEIR SENSES.

A dispatch from Seneca Falls, N. Y., to the New York World says:

"Hundreds of farmers in Seneca county who have heretofore voted the Republican ticket will this year change their ballots. A few days ago there was a farmers' picnic at Cayuga Lake Park, and out of the sixty or seventy Republican voters present fourteen expressed their determination to vote for Cleveland and Thurman. One of these, in giving the reason for his change, said:

'I have voted for every Republican ticket from Freemont to Blaine under the idea that I was protecting myself. What is the result? I have constantly worked to improve my farm and to-day it is worth about one-half what it was when I began. The value of my produce has decreased and my expenses have increased. Twenty-five years ago I was out of debt and had money in the bank. To-day I have not a dollar on deposit, but have a mortgage on my place. Then we had a tariff averaging about 12 per cent; now we pay an import duty on everything we consume of about 47 per cent. I find the coat has been protected from off my back, my money out of the bank and my farm away from my children, and I have toiled and sweated and voted twenty-five years to do this, and now I am ripe for a change.'"

Evidently a good many of the farmers are coming to their senses.

WHY NOT BE HONEST?

Some dishonest political organs persist that the President's message last winter was a "free trade" message. Have they not read it, or is it possible for them to tell the truth once? This is what the President said:

"It is not proposed to entirely relieve the country of this taxation. It must be extensively continued as the source of the Government's income; and in a readjustment of our tariff the interests of American labor engaged in manufacture should be carefully considered, as well as the preservation of our manufactures. It may be called protection, or by any other name, but relief from the hardships and dangers of our present tariff laws should be devised with especial precaution against imperiling the existence of our manufacturing interests. But this existence should not mean a condition which, without regard to the public welfare or a national exigency, must always insure the realization of immense profits instead of moderately profitable returns."

Now there isn't one-half the sound of "free trade" in this that is to be found in the official utterances of Grant, Garfield, Arthur, Folger, McCullough, and even Sherman and Blaine, a very few years ago.

THEY KNOW CLEVELAND.

The following special from Seymour, Ind., explains itself:

We, the undersigned soldiers, having served in the following companies and regiments, and never having voted any but the Republican ticket, desire to say that we, after having examined the vetoes of President Cleveland in Private pension bills, approve of his course, and wish to say to our comrades that we will each of us vote for Grover Cleveland and the entire Democratic state ticket for the first time.

D. L. PEACOCK, Co. C, 33d Ind.
G. W. MITCHELL, 22nd Ind.
JOHN SMITH, Co. K. 22nd Ind.
JOSEPH DINGMAN, 7th and 119th Ind.
WILLIAM KRAMER, Co. D, 4th O. Cav.