

AS TO THE CONSUMER

ARE HIS INTERESTS SACRIFICED BY PROTECTION?

As a Matter of Fact, Every Consumer is Also in Some Sense a Producer and is Thus a Share in All the Benefits of the Protective Policy.

Here are three short paragraphs from the Free Trade Almanac:

"The consumer is the forgotten man. Free trade gives justice to the consumer and opens the door of opportunity to everybody.

"Protection enriches the producer and dispenses special privileges to a favored few."

Who forgets the consumer? Does the farmer who is marketing all he can produce at profitable prices? Does the manufacturer who cannot fill his warehouses with orders or get his goods transported quickly enough by the overtaxed railroads? Does the merchant who is doing the largest business in his history? Why, the consumer is in the mind of all, for without his demands all production and trade would be profitless.

But who is the consumer? Every producer and those dependent on him. The \$5 a day now enjoyed by so many serves for the five members of the family, all consumers, who buy just five times as much as when the income earner got \$1 a day. It is the consumer, then, who brings the prosperity, for we must first have demand, then production and then consumption.

The man who has employment or a promise of employment and good wages can order a suit of clothes or a house. Then comes the construction, with its demand for materials, and then come the acceptance and payment. The consumer is the basis of all progress and prosperity. It is his prospects and demands that impel the wheels of industry, and the endless chain brings to him a greater share of the activity of which he is a single element. And just as long as demand exceeds supply and surplus earnings accumulate in financial institutions so long is the consumer benefited regardless of the relative degree of wages and prices, for the income must be greater than the outgo.

That is the acme of justice to the consumer, a condition which never exists under free trade. What justice or opportunity has the consumer when driven to the soup house? What justice of opportunity has the consumer when drawing out his savings from the bank? What justice or opportunity has the consumer when he must go home, after fruitless search for work, and hear the sobs of hungry children?

Bah, what rot it is, in the light of the experience of the past ten years, to say that "free trade gives justice to the consumer and opens wide the door of opportunity to everybody!" How the prosperous masses of today, as they look back to that awful free trade period of 1893 and 1897, laugh with scorn at such assertions.

And now for the third paragraph above: Protection does indeed enrich the producer, and every producer being not only a consumer, but the representative in a buying capacity of other consumers, the greater his enrichment the greater the consumption, to still further enrich the producer and so on till free trade clogs the wheel and snags the chain. And who are the few to whom protection dispenses special privileges? Can it be the 30,000,000 farmers, whose crops and live stock were worth \$4,000,000,000 more the past five years than the preceding five years? Can it be the manufacturers, whose product is now worth \$15,000,000,000 annually as against less than half that six years ago?

Can it be the railroads, taxed to their utmost in every part of the land and whose employees are reaping the benefit of more than 50 per cent increase in earnings over 1897? Can it be the merchants, whose stores are so crowded with customers as to require more room, more help and more stock? Can it be the masons and carpenters and painters and plumbers, all enjoying their short hours and \$3 to \$5 daily wages? Can it be the lawyers, the doctors, the clergy, the teachers, all with increased incomes? Can it be the busy mechanic or even the so-called day laborer? They are all busy, and their wages and incomes are greater per day, per month and per year than ever before. Who are this "favored few" to whom protection dispenses special privileges? Is there a man, woman or child from ocean to ocean to whom protection is not dispensing its blessings? If so, then they are the favored few, the very few, who because of self fault or unusual misfortune form the exception to the grandest conditions of industrial activity and consequent enjoyment of life's comforts ever experienced in the history of nations.—American Economist.

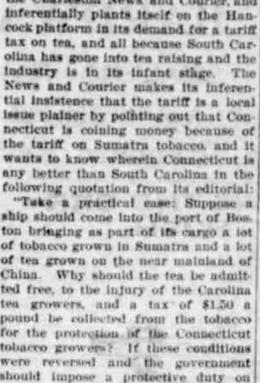
Colonel Watterson's Modesty. Colonel Henry Watterson sees in Grover Cleveland and in William Jennings Bryan two stubborn obstacles to the achievement of Democratic success in 1904. He regards the one quite as mischievous and obstructive as the other. The real man of the hour, in the judgment of Colonel Watterson, could scarcely be pointed out with strict propriety in his own party.—Kansas City Star.

An Ideal Leader. Gorman is an ideal leader for the national Democracy, provided the disciples of Jefferson are not particular as to which direction they take.—Lowell (Mass.) Mail.

The Same Old Need. What the Democratic party needs is to identify itself with something successful.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

TARIFF A LOCAL ISSUE. South Carolina's Plea For Protection For Home Grown Tea. That the tariff is a local issue was a Democratic exclamation by authority, General Hancock having so declared it. Of course that was in the days of long ago, when the Democratic party, as it is today, was in search of an issue and took up the brilliant and gallant soldier only to go to fearful defeat, and when Hancock made his famous announcement the cusses were deep on one side and the snickers were loud on

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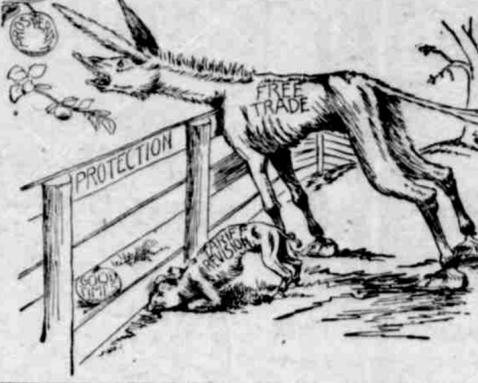
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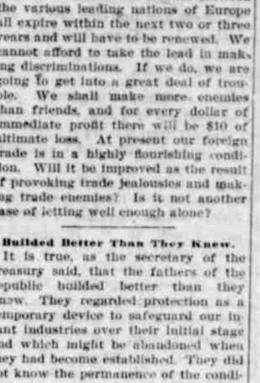
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We are now in a condition of prosperity unparalleled not merely in our own history, but in the history of any other nation. This prosperity is deep rooted and stands on a firm basis because it is due to the fact that the average American has in him the stuff out of which victors are made in the great industrial contests of the present day, just as in the great military contests of the past, and because he is now able to use and develop his qualities to best advantage under our well established economic system. We are winning headship among the nations of the world because our people are able to keep their high average of individual citizenship and show their mastery in the hard, complex, pushing life of the age. There will be fluctuations from time to time in our prosperity, but it will continue to grow just so long as we keep up this high average of individual citizenship and permit it to work out its own salvation under proper economic legislation.

The present phenomenal prosperity has been won under a tariff which was made in accordance with certain fixed and definite principles, the most important of which is an avowed determination to protect the interests of the American producer, business man, wage worker and farmer alike. The general tariff policy to which, without regard to changes in detail, I believe this country is irrevocably committed is fundamentally based upon simple recognition of the difference between the cost of production—that is, the cost of labor—here and abroad and of the need to see to it that our laws shall in no event afford advantage in our own market to foreign industries over American industries, to foreign capital over American capital, to foreign labor over our own labor. This country has and this country needs better paid, better educated, better fed and better clothed workmen, of a higher type than are to be found in any foreign country. It has and it needs a higher, more vigorous and more prosperous type of tillers of the soil than is possessed by any other country. The business men, the merchants and manufacturers and the managers of the transportation interests show the same superiority when compared with men of their type abroad. The events of the last few years have shown how skillfully the leaders of American industry use in international business competition the mighty industrial weapons forged for them by the resources of our country, the wisdom of our laws and the skill, the inventive genius and the administrative capacity of our people.

It is of course a mere truism to say that we want to use everything in our power to the welfare of our entire free body politic. In other words, we need to treat the tariff as a business proposition from the standpoint of the interests of the country as a whole and not with reference to the temporary needs of any political party. It is almost as necessary that our policy should be stable as that it should be wise. A nation like ours could not long stand the ruinous policy of readjusting its business to radical changes in the tariff at short intervals, especially when, as now, owing to the immense extent and variety of our products, the tariff schedules carry rates of duty on thousands of different articles. Sweeping and violent changes in such a tariff, touching so vitally the interests of all of us, embracing agriculture, labor, manufactures and commerce, would be disastrous in any event, and they would be fatal to our present well being if approached on the theory that the principle of the protective tariff was to be abandoned. The business world—that is, the entire American world—cannot afford, if it has any regard for its own welfare, even to consider the advisability of abandoning the present system.

Yet, on the other hand, where the industrial conditions so frequently change, as with us must of necessity be the case, it is a matter of prime importance that we should be able from time to time to adapt our economic policy to the changed conditions. Our aim should be to preserve the policy of a protective tariff, in which the nation as a whole has acquiesced, and yet wherever and whenever necessary to change its lines in particular paragraphs or schedules as matters of legislative detail if such change is demanded by the interests of the nation as a whole.

In making any readjustment there are certain important considerations which cannot be disregarded. If a tariff law has on the whole worked well, and if business has prospered under it and is prospering, it may be better to endure some inconveniences and inequalities for a time than by making changes to risk causing disturbance and perhaps paralysis in the industries and business of the country. The fact that the change in a given article of duty may be thought desirable does not settle the question whether it is advisable to make the change immediately. Every tariff deals with duties on thousands of articles arranged in hundreds of paragraphs and in many schedules. These duties affect a vast number of interests, which are often conflicting. If necessary for our welfare, then, of course, congress must consider the question of changing the law as a whole or changing any given rates of duty, but we must remember that whenever even a single schedule is considered some interest will appear to demand a change in almost every schedule in the law, and when it comes to upsetting the schedules generally the effect upon the business interests of the country would be ruinous.—President Roosevelt at Minneapolis April 4.

The Ohio Elections. Republican success in the recent municipal elections in Ohio was practically unmarred. Democratic strongholds were overturned in many parts of the state. In Republican cities the party candidates were elected by large majorities than ever known before, and in some instances more Republican votes were polled than in the last presidential election.

No national issues figured in the campaign except in one city, where the Democratic nominee for mayor was expected to become presidential timber. In Republican cities the party candidates were elected by large majorities than ever known before, and in some instances more Republican votes were polled than in the last presidential election.

In Michigan a state ticket was elected by the Republicans with a majority of over 40,000.—Jersey City Journal.

Democratic Discard. With Bryan denouncing Gorman as a traitor and political crook, Watterson lambasting Cleveland as a humbug and party wrecker and numerous Democratic newspapers calling upon their readers to look out for the trickery of David B. Hill, the prospect that the Democratic brethren will shortly be found dwelling together in unity does not seem highly promising.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

BRYAN AND CLEVELAND. Bryan says that Gorman is worse than Cleveland, which confirms the suspicion we have always had that one Democrat was always worse than another.—Philadelphia Press.

If Mr. Cleveland is permitting all this talk about his accepting a fourth presidential nomination simply for the fun of annoying Mr. Bryan, he is certainly making a success of it.—Des Moines Capital.

Grover Cleveland is being invited to more "harmony dinners" than is that peerless leader, William Jennings Bryan. Is it possible that they are trying to starve Mr. Bryan into being good?—Terre Haute Tribune.

Isn't it about time Bryan proposed to meet Cleveland in joint debate while the latter is in the western country? There are things to talk about.—Philadelphia Press.

One good result from the renomination of Cleveland for the presidency would be the permanent retirement of Mr. Bryan from the party.—Grand Rapids Herald.

Grover Cleveland refuses to say whether he will take steps to prevent his nomination next year. But if he should be too busy to do so Mr. Bryan will be good enough to act for him in the matter.—Salt Lake Tribune.

Mr. Bryan is quite agreed with Cleveland concerning Grover Cleveland, with Dave Hill concerning Grover Cleveland, with the Brooklyn Eagle concerning Dave Hill and with the editor of the Commoner concerning the leadership of Mr. Gorman. Otherwise he begs leave to differ.—Washington Post.

Marse Henry calls Grover an "ardent laborer." That settles it, Grover, old boy. You might as well quit.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

It is not a good omen that the movement to induce Grover Cleveland to become once more the Democratic standard bearer began in Pottsville. The name is so strongly suggestive of soap.—Chicago Post.