

ONE STEP AT A TIME.

None of the democratic Senators have been deterred from insisting upon a reduction of the tariff now, by the cry of their opponents that the logic of their argument would lead to "ultimate free trade." Nothing shows more plainly the essential weakness of the protectionist position, and the consciousness of its defenders that it is weak, than does this plea that tariff reduction will "lead to free trade."

How can tariff reduction lead to free trade unless it shall operate to the benefit of the country? If the "first step" leads to good results, have not the people a right to take another step in the same direction? If it works ill, are they likely to try more?

Nothing can be done further without the decree of the people. The beneficiaries of the war tariff are afraid to give the people any relief lest they should want more. The democrats trust both their theory and the people. If a freer trade shall lead to free trade it will be because the country finds freedom better than restriction.

And if the people shall make this discovery will they not be entitled to its benefits? Or do the monopolies own this Government?

It is announced that young James G. Blaine has been sent to a machine shop in Maine to learn a useful trade. If Jimmy had been set to work to learn a trade a half dozen years ago, and kept at it, it might have made a man of him. But though he has entered a machine shop now, not much good can be expected of a young cub who has not enough spirit and sense of honor to refuse to be led by the ear, even by his mother, away from his wife and child. No decent young mechanic would be guilty of the conduct that has characterized young Blaine.

George France, a farmer of Laporte, Ind., went into the woods near his residence a few days ago to chop stove wood. He was accompanied by his son. The two commenced work on an old, hollow beech tree. After it was felled the elder France looked into the hollow stump and discovered a peculiar looking earthen jar. It was at once secured, the lid removed and the jar was found to be filled with silver coin. The money was of Spanish mint and its coinage was over 200 years old. France brought the silver to town, where it was weighed and tested and the farmer was given \$800 for his find.

James P. Newcomb, proprietor of the San Antonio News, the only republican newspaper in Texas, is calling editorially upon President-elect Harrison to appoint ex-Congressman Thomas P. Ochiltree as Minister to Mexico. Says the News: "The Colonel is a Texan and more widely known than any man hailing from the South. As an officer in the Confederate Army his record is a brilliant one. He has been a staunch republican since the war. His Texas friends believe he would make a brilliant Minister to the halls of the Montezumas."

"You seem to be somewhat disappointed in your Congressional experiences, Mr. Tarsney?" "I certainly am. I once had a high and lofty ideal of official affairs at Washington. It has been rudely dispelled. I say now, and I say it boldly, that the Congress of the United States is nothing more nor less than a huge gambling institution, where every man is working for his own interests and the interests of his handful of constituents, regardless of the welfare of the country at large. Exceptions to this rule are sadly rare."

Now it is said by republicans who claim to know, that the Senate will not confirm the appointment of Judge Claypole to be United States attorney for Indiana. It looks as if Colonel Dudley still had a strong "pull" at the capital city, and is to be saved by his friends. When republicans clamor for an honest ballot they intend that their remarks shall apply exclusively to the South.

It is said that ex-Senator Thomas B. Ferry, one of the most unpopular men ever in the Senate, was the best presiding officer it had in thirty years. That man, once Senator from Michigan and acting Vice-President of the United States, is now anxious to get the place of Collector of the Port of Grand Haven, at a salary of \$2,500 a year!

Protection is so dear to the hearts of the republican Senators that they refused the other day to place Bibles printed in the English language on the free list of their Tariff Bill, notwithstanding the democrats urged them to permit it. Can we not have the gospel free, gentlemen?

TIMELY ADVICE.

Among other things the Governor gives the following timely advice:

"A change is needed in our laws relating to assessment and taxation. Under the present law the burden of taxation is quite unequally borne. Under it the honest men of the state have to bear the brunt of taxation, while the dishonest man, who, through the aid of the banks, returns a fictitious indebtedness, is rewarded by a relief from just taxation. The law, as it now stands and as it is now enforced, is really a law to punish by tax a man for honesty, and to reward, by exemption from tax, a man for dishonesty. Such a law is a disgrace to any commonwealth. A change should be effected."

From this it will be seen that the Governor does not propose to recede an inch from the heretofore advanced position which he has taken in favor of promoting the interests of farmers and labor people by the adoption of such legislative enactments as will compel capitalists to bear an equal part of the burdens of the state. This is a just demand and the Legislature should not be slow in affording the long sought relief. The Governor's statement that funds belonging to the State University are being diverted to maintain a law school at Portland without authority of law is one that should be inquired into without delay. Many other timely suggestions are made, but we have not space to refer to them.

James G. Blaine, jr., is to become a mechanical engineer. His father is quite an expert so far as machines are concerned.

A young lady entered a store in Albany or somewhere else and said: "I desire to obtain a pair of circular appendages capable of being contracted or expanded by means of isolated burnished steel appliances that sparkle like gold leaf setting with Alaska diamonds, and which are utilized for retaining in proper position the habiliments of the lower extremities which innately delicacy forbids me to mention."

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