

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

REVISION WITHOUT REDUCTION

SEEING THAT CONGRESS is now in special session, called by President Taft for the distinct purpose of revising the tariff schedules, our readers will pardon us if this subject is given frequent attention through the editorial columns of the NEWS.

The tariff is an indirect tax which, ultimately, the consumer must pay; for it is made a part of, or is charged up as a part of the cost of the goods. The primary or first object of the tariff is to obtain revenue for the support of the government. But we have always had a class of political economists, who advocate an extremely high tariff schedule for the purpose of protecting our domestic manufacturers. Our present system of tariff taxation is based upon this idea. There has, also, been another class of economists who believe that a tariff should be based upon the sole idea of obtaining revenue for governmental purposes. The two systems of tariff taxation may be briefly explained as follows:

A tariff for revenue purposes only, places the duty on the imported article just as high and no higher than is compatible with a liberal importation of goods made by foreign peoples. Levied in this manner, the government would receive a large revenue from this source.

A tariff for purposes of protecting our manufacturers contemplates a duty on the article or articles imported so high that but few if any foreign made goods are placed upon our markets. Ideal protection would rear the tariff wall so high that all importations, practically, would cease. Under such conditions, the government would and does receive but, comparatively, a small revenue. This is the condition of our tariff system at the present time. What is known as the McKinley tariff law has reared the wall so high that our importations of foreign made goods have not kept pace with the increase of population nor with increase of governmental expenses, and a lack of sufficient revenue to discharge the government's liabilities during the past fiscal year, of nearly or quite \$130,000,000, has resulted in the extra session for the purpose of providing additional revenue.

The revenues to support the government is derived from three principle sources. The internal revenue, the tariff and the sale of public lands. To increase the internal revenue, would cause loud complaints from the people and for this reason our congressmen are very leary of increasing the government's cash from this source. Most of our desirable public lands have already been disposed of and the receipts from this source are likely to grow less with passing years. About the only source left, then, is the duty on imports, unless direct taxation is resorted to. By common consent direct taxation is left to be employed by the states, so that tariff taxation is the chief source from which the support of the government must come.

Tariff taxes are indirect taxes. The duty on the imported article is simply added to the price, which is paid by the consumer. The consumer knows he is paying a high price for the goods he buys, but he frequently charges the blame to the greed of the merchant or to high freight rates instead of to the protective tariff, where the blame properly belongs.

Our present tariff schedules are so high that the importation of foreign made goods is discouraged and a further raise of the schedules would magnify rather than mitigate the evil, viz. the annual government deficit. That is to say, a further increase of the duty rates would decrease importations and the government's revenue from this source. But this is just what the tariff barons are endeavoring to have congress do at the present time. On the other hand, if our schedules are all be reduced, so that goods will be imported freely, ample revenues for the support of the government will result. Nor would the increase of the revenue be the only gain. Should the foreign manufacturer be permitted access to our markets at a reasonable cost, he would become an active competitor with our domestic manufacturers. A necessary result would be a better grade of goods at a less cost than we now have.

If the schedules shall be reduced to a revenue-producing basis, an abundance of revenue will result for all of the governmental needs and the great masses of the American people—the consumers, will be able to buy more cheaply. On the other hand, if our tariff schedules remain as they are, or are increased as the manufacturers desire, the National deficit will grow larger and the consumer will pay more for his goods. No one will be benefited except a very small part of our people who own the manufacturing concerns.

Our tariff laws are, essentially, measures of selfishness. They are not adjusted upon the principles of justice, by any means. During the war and since, our manufacturers obtained

and have held such a dominating influence over congress that they have been able to dictate what the tariff schedules should be, no matter which political party was in power. Nor have the manufacturers been content with snuffing his foreign competitor from the American markets. To prevent domestic competition, "trusts" have been developed to a very high state of efficiency. What is the result? For every dollar of revenue received by the government from the importation of foreign made goods, the American people are compelled to pay the American manufacturer \$40, which our almost prohibitory tariff and the organization of the trust makes possible.

Now there is but one way in which this manifestly wrong and unjust conditions can be changed. The American consumer, as compared with the American manufacturer, constitutes a vast majority of our citizens. It is only necessary for consumers to act in harmony in order to correct the wrong, give the government an abundant revenue and the people the necessary comforts of life at a less cost. Will the consumers ever have sufficient political independence to do so?

The bane of American politics is political partisanship. Men, who are actuated from selfish impulses have gravitated to power. As a consequence they have brought our political system to a condition not satisfactory to the American people. Yet politicians, through party prejudice, are able to accomplish their designs. When will the people awaken to the importance of the situation?

At the present time, we know that the national house of representatives is controlled, body and soul, by men who are reaping rich profits from our protective system. The tariff bill, lately passed by that body, demonstrates this fact. The measure, as turned over to the national senate, is everything which the tariff barons desire. From their viewpoint, the bill is harmless. Speaker Cannon, under the rules adopted, had power to control this matter and he did not hesitate to do so. He could see nothing but the manufacturers interests. With such men as Vice President Sherman and Senator Aldrich dominating the senate, we cannot expect a much better result from that body. Our only hope is the fear that congressmen may have of the power of the people and that is not a very comforting hope.

Until the people awaken to the fact that they are being robbed, systematically, by this so-called protective policy, which protects those who do not need protection at the expense of the great body of American consumers and who can ill afford it, we are not likely to obtain relief. Until we retire the Cannons, the Shermans, the Aldriches and Elkinses from the national legislature, and replace them with men who will legislate for the interests of the entire American people, can we expect relief from the robber protective tariff. Such men can be elected, only, when voters replace partisanship with patriotism and selfishness and lust for office with the principle of justice. The old time claim that protection enables the manufacturer to pay a higher wage to the laborer, has been fully disproven. Indeed, protection is making the lot of the laborer more intolerable, in that the cost of living has been increased out of proportion to the advance of the price of labor. Absolute free trade may not be the better policy for the nation to adopt; but extreme high protection has proven a flat failure, except to the favored few. Until our tariff laws are adjusted without interference or influence of people who are directly interested, we can hardly expect full and exact justice from congress. A spirit of patriotism and unselfishness must control our lawmakers. They must be men wise enough and broad enough to consider the interests of the entire people, and that the United States extends from ocean to ocean and from the great lakes on the north to the gulf of Mexico on the south.

The dairy has become a leading feature of business with a majority of the farmers of Eastern Linn county. That the business is a paying one is evidenced by the fact that the number of dairymen are increasing with the years, and those already in the business are increasing and improving their herds. In most dairies there are, probably both good and inferior cows. Until the milk of each cow is weighed and tested, no dairyman can tell exactly which are his best cows. The best lookers are not, always, the best milkers. While some cows are money makers, others simply pay expenses. The wise dairyman will soon ascertain this fact and the inferior cow will soon go to the slaughter pen, to be replaced with a cow which will pay. With our milk condensery and a half-dozen creameries within reach, the price of milk or butter fat will likely bring a good price, continuously, in the future and, therefore, no one need be afraid to go to the expense of getting into the business properly. Increase the quality of the individuals of the herd, provide plenty of green feed to carry over the dry season and over the frosty winter weather, give the herd regular and proper attention, and failure cannot result. Keep the barns in a sanitary condition and the cows in reasonably good flesh, are features that should not be neglected. A poor cow can give neither the quantity nor the quality of milk which she will give if kept in good flesh. To be successful in the largest sense, one must give his mind to the business. He should use every means of obtaining information about the cow and apply the knowledge when he gets it. Scientific dairying will pay where neglect and inattention would cause failure.

County Council at Lyons

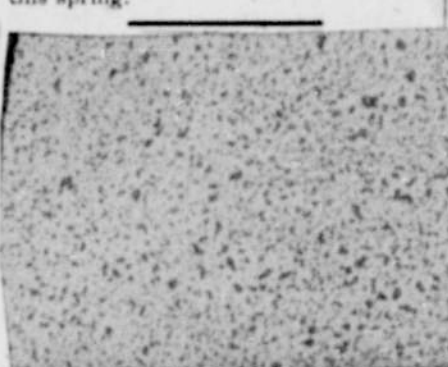
The Linn County Council which met at Lyons was one of the most important meetings ever held by the Grangers of this county. At this meeting were discussed important questions of legislation which were to be brought before the people for a vote at the next general election. State-wide prohibition, railroad rates and other matters received attention. The coming session of the State Grange will consider the proposed plan of holding annual sessions of the Oregon Legislature, one session to be devoted exclusively to the introduction of bills and the next session to the passage or rejection of the bills formerly introduced, no new measures to be presented except under an emergency.

At a meeting of Linn County Council of the Grange at Lyons Saturday afternoon, a committee consisting of C. L. Shaw, Eugene Palmer and A. C. Miller was named to prepare resolutions embodying this plan and to present them to the State Grange. If the plan is approved by the State organization, an effort will be made to enact it into law by the initiative route.

This same committee was also instructed at the meeting Saturday to prepare resolutions for presentation to the State Grange, recommending a uniform passenger rate on all railroads doing business in Oregon. There are some lines, it was stated, that still maintain the old fare of 4 cents per mile, and legislation is desired which will force all roads to observe the 3-cent rate.

The Linn County Council went on record Saturday in favor of the submission of the state normal school question to the people in the 1910 election by means of the initiative and thus settle the matter permanently.

There was a spirited debate at the Council on the subject of an initiative measure to secure state-wide prohibition in 1910, but no action was taken. It is said that this question will come up in the session of the State Grange this spring.



ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that the undersigned, has been appointed Administrator of the estate of Allen Van Ness, deceased; late of Linn County, Or. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same to the undersigned at his residence in Scio, Oregon, duly verified as by law required within six months from this date. Dated the 26th day of April, 1908. First publication May 7, 1908, last publication June 1, 1908.

J. E. WEATHERS, Administrator
J. F. LEFFLER, Attorney

Acreage Tracts

If you are looking for a nice piece of acreage, for a home or investment, buy one or more acres in the Ewing & Richardson plat, in and adjoining the city of Scio on the west. No. one soil, will grow anything which grows in Oregon; nearly all cleared; road through tract, price, only \$150 and up; small cash payment, balance in installments. Save your earnings and place it in good dirt where it is safe. For further particulars, call on R. Shelton, agent.

Notice.
Those knowing themselves indebted to the undersigned will please call and settle. I need the money.
E. C. PEERY.



THE SURPRISE

Our spring assortment in mens' wear we have for you are varied and pleasing.

In suits we have everything to be found at the high class metropolitan establishment—numbers and numbers of suits just your size and fit—and all different too!

In furnishings, our spring neckwear is a delight to every man who takes pride in his personal appearance. In all the lustrous shades and tints so popular just now.

Its easy to get just what you want at this store.

THE BLAIN CLOTHING CO
Albany, Oregon

SPECIAL SALE



On spring and summer dress goods; ladies' low shoes and slippers, laces and embroideries, ladies' ready made dress skirts. This is a chance to buy some of the things you will be needing for spring and summer at a bargain.

Sale Commences Mon., May 3; Closes Sat., May 15

SPRING and SUMMER DRESS GOODS

8 1/2c value 5c 25c value 19c
15c value 12c 35c value 27c
20c value 16c 40c value 29c

LADIES' LOW SHOES

\$1.65 value \$1.38 \$3.00 value \$2.68
\$2.00 value \$1.78 \$3.50 value \$3.10
\$2.25 value \$1.90 \$4.00 value \$3.45

LADIES' DRES SKIRTS

\$4.00 value \$2.95 \$5.00 value \$3.90
\$4.50 value \$3.45 \$6.00 value \$4.25
Large assortment of 6c and 8c laces to go at per yard 5c

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