

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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WILL THEY EVER AWAKEN?

IT IS SO PLAIN that one wonders why everyone does not see it, that the trusts and manufacturing interests, through manipulating the National congress, are working the American people to a finish in the maintenance of the high protective tariff system. In their greed these cormorants have entirely lost sight of the fact that the primary purpose of the tariff was to provide revenue to support the government. They act as if the first purpose of a tariff is to enable trusts and manufacturers to exact exorbitant prices for their products. But one of these days, and it is not far distant, the people will awaken to the fact that they are being robbed right and left, because of the expanded prices they are required to pay for what they consume.

How beautifully have these tariff protected pirates arranged matters. By boosting the duty on importations skyward, they have shut out foreign competition. Then the trust and combine is invented to prevent domestic competition. No better arrangement (for them) could possibly be made.

To show what is the effect of this arrangement, is: The absolute cost of material and labor required to produce a \$20 suit of clothes, is not more than \$5 or \$6. The protective tariff enables the manufacturer to charge the retailer \$15 for the suit and the balance of the price constitutes the retailer's profit. This same story could be told of almost any other product of the mills and workshops. The actual labor and material cost of the self-binding harvester is not more than \$35. Yet our farmers pay \$150 each for them.

Now these prices could not be maintained, if our markets were subject to the foreign competitor. If foreign made steel was not kept out of our markets by a prohibitory duty, the United States steel corporation would not be able to declare an annual dividend of over 100 per cent upon stock which has been watered until each share has been made four or five times larger than it, legitimately, should be.

Why will the American voter permit this burden of exploited prices to be saddled upon him? Why will he permit the sugar trust to exact a tribute of 1 1/2 cents per pound more than a reasonable profit would entitle it to charge?

All of these unnecessary and unjust burdens can be removed, if the American voter will but remove the scales from his eyes and, also, if he will cut out political prejudice and partisan bias. It is by appealing to partisan bias that the manufacturer is enabled to hang on to the tariff teat. If every voter was independent enough to vote for the interests of himself and his wife and children, the Aldriches and Paynes would no longer disgrace the Federal congress. Every senator and representative who votes on a tariff measure in the interest of the tariff beneficiary, should be marked for the political grave yard at the first opportunity. It matters not whether he is a Republican or a Democrat. If he votes against the people's interests and to maintain the present robber tariff, club him into oblivion as soon as possible. Fill his shoes with a Cummings, or a LaFollette and men of that character.

What difference does it make to the people whether a congressman is a Republican or a Democrat, if he only votes right—if he has for his purpose the welfare of the American people?

Ignorance and prejudice are the evils which the American electorate must overcome before these tariff extortions can be stopped. And through the independent voter, alone, can this result be accomplished. Therefore, by every means possible, should independent political action be encouraged.

Under our present political system, the political party seems a necessity, but a party's power for evil and injustice should, if possible, be reduced to a minimum.

THE COMING CONFLICT

Contributed

PERHAPS the most important news item of the month is the reported opinion of Ohio C. Barber. The general tendency of the "respectable masses" to regard the statements of a lowly reformer as visionary encounters a serious obstacle in the utterances of this man. For, Ohio C. Barber possesses all those peculiar qualities and that eminence which serve to recommend a man to the public mind as a keen, careful, thinker with a clear insight into commercial relations. He it was who brought into being the first trust, "The Diamond Match company," an enterprise capitalized at the enormous figure of \$16,000,000, as ably handled as any modern commercial enterprise and which has served in form and method as a pattern for recent institutions of this character. Mr. Barber having resigned the presidency of the Diamond Match company, has publicly stated that the condition of the laboring people is a matter for serious concern. He frankly admits that the former opinions of the equity of social relations were mistakes and more careful considerations assure him that the poor are growing poorer and the rich richer, that the masses are suffering from a crushing injustice and that if something is not done soon to alleviate their condition, we of this generation will witness as the inevitable result of the unjust distribution of wealth, a terrible and bloody conflict.

This opinion, however, is not a new one. Capable men in all walks of life have announced the same belief. It only serves to impress upon those who thoughtlessly hurl the anathema "calamity howler" at the lowly reformer that there is need for investigation and unselfish patriotic effort. We should not forget that the essential trait of a traitor is selfishness.

There has never been a time when patriotism was more necessary than at present, and in order that patriotic effort be intelligently directed, men must think frankly, determinedly, persistently.

Justice is the goddess to whom the son of liberty every where and at all times consecrates his life. Do justice, said Michelet, or suffer the consequences that have attended injustice in every age. It is time for the American people to awake from their lethargy, renounce the idols of gain, and seek to abolish those institutions which, founded on injustice, have given rise to untold miseries and forced men into poverty and crime. When one man is ending each year with hundreds of thousands to his credit, while thousands of others whose combined production is thousands of times greater, end their year with nothing to their credit save recollection of want and the constant fear of starvation, the problem is to get justice done.

We of the Pacific coast do not realize the conditions of the East but we should not forget that similar causes beget similar consequences and if a remedy is not applied, we are destined to witness the same deplorable condition in our midst. The conflict prophesied by Mr. Barber is not a conflict of capital against labor nor yet of class against class but, a conflict against arbitrary power and special privilege both of which are founded on land monopoly. "Soldiers of Rome," said Tertius Gracchus, "you are called the lords of the earth, yet you have not a foot of ground to stand on." The conflict prophesied is the old old conflict that has been waged in every age and land—a conflict between the power to prevent and the wish to live; between appropriating indolence and exhausted toil; between special privilege and hopeless want—a conflict between the muscle and mind which produces and the thief who legally steals—the old old conflict of labor against monopoly.

PLUTOCRATS IN THE PILLORY

SENATOR DOLLIVER, republican, represents in part a state which never voted for a democratic presidential candidate. He is a stalwart partisan whose loyalty to the organization is no more in question west of the Mississippi than is that of Senator Aldrich on the shores of Narragansett Bay. In the course of a two days' speech Mr. Dolliver has asserted, intimated or insinuated—

1. That the cotton and woolen schedules of the pending tariff bill were prepared by interested parties in New York and that many of their sponsors in the senate do not know what they mean.
2. That whereas there is a pretense that the measure reduces taxation, the fact is that there is an increase, and designedly so.
3. That the tin-plate tariff of 1889 brought into existence a monopolized industry which was at length unloaded on the United States steel corporation, with a rake-off to the promoters sufficient to buy the Rock Island railroad.
4. That many of the rates in the existing law and in the proposed bill are so extravagant and unnecessary as to bring the policy of protection into ridicule.
5. That in 1890 McKinley permitted

the beneficiaries of the tariff on wool to write their own section in his bill.

6. That in 1897 Dingley's avowed purpose to reduce tariff taxation was defeated by the clamor of the men interested.

7. That in the pending bill the tax upon goods containing small quantities of wool is excessive and especially burdensome upon the poor.

8. That the avaricious are using the protective tariff as an asset in financing conspiracies in restraint of trade.

9. That only once in forty years has the public interest or the welfare of the republican party been made paramount over sordid private considerations.

10. That the tariff has corrupted American industry and made great industries mere adjuncts to political agitation.

The precise form which the Payne-Aldrich bill shall assume upon passage can not be foretold, but it will be many a day, we believe, before this republican indictment of the privilege and plutocracy of protection will be forgotten.—New York World.

WIDE PUBLICITY IS SECURED FOR OREGON

"OREGON IS THE PLACE for you" has been the slogan brought to the attention of 5,000,000 people of the country through a big advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post, placed by the Portland Commercial Club, and the same message has been sent to 1,000,000 more through other publications. Reasons why Oregon is the State of opportunity have been presented. The 92 commercial bodies of the state having membership in the Oregon Development League have been given an opportunity without cost to them to answer immediately thousands of new inquiries about Oregon. Never before has Oregon been so well known and interest in the State so generally aroused. All that is needed to get the best results is for the commercial bodies to take advantage of the opportunity and make these home-seekers familiar with their sections by sending them literature and answering inquiries.

That Oregon has immense trade possibilities with China, which offers a great market for the manufactures as well as the raw products of this country, is the opinion of Quan Kai, a wealthy Chinese merchant of Hong Kong, who has been a Portland visitor for the past few days. He believes an era of closer commercial relations with the United States is about to dawn for his country and he welcomes a larger commerce with the Pacific Coast. Quan Kai says his country is entering upon a period of expansion and must have railway materials, machinery of all kinds and manufactured products in addition to the lumber, wheat and flour, the chief commodities secured from this Coast, saying that his people prefer to trade with this country in preference to the English and German exporters who have the bulk of this trade at present.

Salem is making preparations for the fourth annual cherry fair to be held in the Capital City July 8 and 9. The people of Salem make a big event every year of the cherry show and the fete this season will eclipse anything of the kind ever held there, according to those in charge of the program. The fair will be held at the time of the Mid-summer meeting of the State Horticultural Society at Salem. There will be addresses by prominent orchardists and specialists and a trip through the orchards about Salem on Friday, July 9 will be a feature of the gathering. Fruit growers of the State are making plans to attend.

Oregon was well represented at the tri-state bankers' convention at Seattle last week. Many prominent in the financial affairs of the state were in attendance. The sessions were of unusual interest and because of the bankers of Oregon, Washington and Idaho meeting together, a closer relation was established between the financial interests of the Pacific Northwest.

Circuit Court

The case of Oregon agt. Geo. W. Fisher, of Brownsville, once convicted for violating the game law, was ordered out of court this morning, on account of the law under which he was indicted having been repealed by the last legislature in one of its customary bungles. Even if convicted there would be no punishment.

G. W. Smith agt. R. E. Overton, settled.

N. W. Thompson agt. Ralph Groshong et al. New matter in answer was ordered stricken out. Defendant was given until July 19 to answer and the plaintiff ten days to reply.

R. L. Sabin agt. H. Tassell. Judgment ordered, with sixty days stay. J. C. Howe agt. G. R. Robertson, costs retaxed at \$87.90.

Wilhelm Hans Carl Gottlieb Fehmerling was admitted to citizenship.

True bills were found against J. P. McRay and George Richards, for simple larceny in the theft of some copper wire valued at \$32, stolen from the S. P. The men plead guilty, waived time and were sentenced to the county jail for three months.

To Guard Against Forest Fires

Portland, Ore., June 29.—State officials, associations and individuals will cooperate with the United States Forest Service in an attempt to get accurate records of all fire losses in Washington and Oregon this summer. The Forest Service will compile a report showing by counties, the area burned over of merchantable timber, non-merchantable timber, and cut-over land; the quantity and value of the timber destroyed, and the cost of fighting the fires. In this way the Federal and State Governments as well as the public will be enabled to obtain at once systematic information concerning all fire losses in these two states.

Heretofore, this information has been only partially collected. The Forest Service has secured comprehensive reports from rangers on the National Forests, but from no other source. The State Board of Forestry in Oregon and Washington have had reports from their wardens, but many regions had no wardens. The State and Government statistics were in different form and not brought together. Consequently, although those interested in the subject know in a general way that fire entails an enormous loss to the community every year, they have been unable to back their arguments for remedial action with any definite proof.

District Forester E. T. Allen is receiving the active help of the Oregon Conservation Association, the Oregon State Board of Forestry, and the Washington Forest Fire Association in organizing the work. The two latter have revised their report forms to bring out the same facts regarding all fires. The Oregon Conservation Association is canvassing the state to secure suitable men to act as fire wardens and report on fires in their territory and presents their names to the State Board for appointment. It will also send each man a post card reminder every two weeks, with a return card on which he will enter a few main facts about the fire. The Washington Forest Fire Association will collect reports from its rangers and from other correspondents where it has no rangers. The Forest Service will furnish franked envelopes for mailing in the reports, and compile the results. The Washington State Board of Forestry has not made any agreement as yet, but will undoubtedly furnish all the aid it can.

Every lumberman, or any one else who is interested in preventing forest fires, will see the advantage in bringing this information before the public and can be of great assistance by reporting fires in his vicinity. Forms will be furnished on application to the Secretary of the Oregon State Board of Forestry, or, in Washington, to the Washington Forest Fire Association.

See Here!

I have pure bred black Minorca and Buff Leghorn eggs, (guaranteed) for sale at \$1 per setting of 15. What is the use of sending away for something that you can get at home. N. J. Morrison.

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