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ARE BECOMING WISE

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS the American consumer has been aware that he was being robbed, daily, for the interests of the trusts and combines among the manufacturers. Even when the McKinley tariff was enacted, there was a most respectable minority which opposed the protective tariff then enacted by congress, because they thought it wrong in principle to tax the great body of the American people in order that a comparatively few manufacturers might grow rich and fat. When this law was enacted, a majority of the people, apparently, believed that a high tariff schedule was necessary in order that the manufacturer might be able to pay a wage commensurate with the dignity of the American workmen. They believed that competition between American manufacturers would be sufficient to cause the sale of the products of the mill or workshop at reasonable prices. They had just passed through an era of stringent financial times and were eager for the restoration of financial prosperity at any price. But the people soon found that they had made a serious mistake. They soon ascertained that they had permitted the manufacturer to secure an advantage from which, as yet, they have failed to dislodge him.

The manufacturers soon found a means to prevent competition as between themselves. The excessively high tariff had insured them against any serious competition on the part of their foreign competitors, so they could give their entire attention to inventing a scheme to avoid any, to them, mischievous home competition. By a simple agreement among themselves at first and afterwards by trust and combine, the home competitor was made as powerless for competition as the tariff had made those in foreign land. The immediate effect was that the American consumer was required to pay the very highest price for what he consumed, without exciting competition of the foreign manufacturer, even after he had paid the excessively high tariff in order to place his goods upon our markets.

As before stated, the American consumer has known of these conditions for a number of years. He sees our American manufacturer enter into successful competition in foreign lands with the foreign manufacturer, whose workmen are paid pauper wages as compared to the wage paid by the American manufacturer. In some special cases, American made goods have been bought in England, reshipped to America and sold in the American markets at a less price than the same goods could be bought direct from the trust governed and regulated American manufacturer. This procedure has opened the eyes of thousands of voters who have hitherto supported the high protective tariff system. It has done more. It has opened the eyes of President Taft and a considerable number of our congressmen on the Republican side.

Last week, President Taft, in an address to some Yale college students, embraced the opportunity to give forth a warning to the Republican majority in congress, which seems determined to revise the tariff upward instead of downward, as was promised by that party during the last political campaign. Evidently, Mr. Taft has given the tariff question considerable thought since his election. He now tells Aldrich and his gang of standpatters that a tariff revision which does not reduce the schedules, will probably make the Republican the minority party in the near future. Senator Cummings, LaFollette and others, have given the same warning in their debates during the present efforts at revising the tariff. But under the leadership of Senator Aldrich, the Republican majority seems determined to pass a tariff bill, the schedules of which have been dictated by the

interested trusts and combines and which will result in a revision upward. President Taft knows that the country does not want this kind of revision and that the passage of a bill upon this basis will drive thousands of Republican voters to join the ranks of the opposing party. If the president, when the bill is placed in his hands for approval or rejection, will have the nerve to give it a most emphatic veto, he will do the most popular act of his life. He will erect a standard, about which the foes of special privilege can and will rally. He will demonstrate that he represents the real Republican party more truly than does Speaker Cannon or Chairman Aldrich.

There is a rapidly growing element of the Republican party, which believes that the time has now fully arrived to place the tariff upon a purely revenue producing basis. They believe that the time is now at hand when special privilege, as a Republican policy, should be eliminated. They think that it is now quite time when congress should legislate for the American home rather than for the American trust. If President Taft will but assume leadership of this element of his party, which is sure to embrace four-fifths of the same, he will place himself at the head of American statesmanship and earn the lasting gratitude of the people.

OUR THIRD ANNUAL FAIR

THE THIRD ANNUAL Linn County Fair promises to eclipse, by far, either of its predecessors. The outlook, at the present for a large stock exhibit, is most encouraging. In fact, the exhibits of every department, promise to be much more extensive than heretofore. Nearly every mail brings applications for space for exhibitors, and the racing events promise some very fast speed contests in trotting, pacing and running. With the completion of the new barn of forty stalls, a commodious restaurant and other buildings, wells, etc., we are prepared to take care of the visiting public and exhibitors in much better shape than ever before, and the program of the farmer's institute promises a most instructive and entertaining time.

The legislative appropriation of \$1000 has enabled the management to offer some very flattering premiums for stock, grain and vegetable exhibits. The premium of \$50 for the best individual farm exhibit is sufficient to induce a number of our farmers to prepare exhibits and enter the contest, and the \$50 premium for the best milk cow, any breed, milk test to be made during the Fair, is sure to cause a number of our dairymen to slick up their "bossys" and enter them for the test.

Our farmers, dairymen, gardeners, fruitgrowers, poultrymen and stockmen, should remember that the Fair was organized and is maintained for their benefit and to encourage the production of better stock and better farm products of all kinds. Many of the people who work the hardest for the success of the Fair, have not had nor will not have anything whatever for exhibition. They are simply working for the general welfare of the community, knowing that whatever benefits the community in general, will be of benefit to every individual therein. If it will encourage our dairymen to provide themselves with better cows and care for them in a more scientific manner; if it will cause our fruit growers to give their trees and vines better culture and closer attention; if it will cause our stockmen to grow a better grade of stock, and our farmers to get better results from their farms, then the purpose of the promoters of the Fair will have been accomplished.

But in order that the Fair shall be made the success which it deserves, every farmer, stockman, dairyman, fruitgrower, gardener, poultryman, etc., should have something on exhibition at the Fair. Two or three or a half-dozen exhibitors cannot make a Fair, but two or three hundred can. Visitors will come to the Fair expecting to see the very best products of the country. Let us not disappoint them. The News desires to inform its readers, that the future success of the Fair depends much upon the patronage given this year's Fair. If the society, after going to the trouble and expense, the evidence of which can be seen if one will but visit the Fair grounds, together with the nearly \$2500 in premiums and purses offered does not merit a liberal patronage both in exhibitors and visitors, then it is hardly worth while for a county or district to attempt to give an agricultural fair.

However, there is no danger but what both exhibitors and visitors will be on hand in abundance. Our people are beginning to appreciate the benefits to be derived from a friendly contest in exhibits and the education to be derived from the lectures at the farmers institute. They are beginning to apply the knowledge gained in the past and are desirous to add to that knowledge. They know that an observance of the knowledge already gained, has enabled them to increase their bank accounts.

So let us, one and all, work to make the Fair of 1909 so good and so extensive, that it will be a source of both pleasure and profit to every exhibitor and visitor who will favor us with their presence.

MIGRATION TO THE COUNTRY

THE LOSS of employment through the contraction in industrial output as an incident of the dull times of the past two years has led thousands of workmen to listen to the call of the soil. To be a high-salaried employe when business is booming is one picture and to walk the earth seeking employment and finding none is quite another side of a mechanic's condition. While mining and manufacture may have been greatly reduced in magnitude of operations, there has been no cessation of activities on the farm. Everywhere in the past two seasons farmers have not only produced bountiful harvests but all the products of the farm have sold at good prices.

The movement of population to farms is reported to have been of extraordinary proportions during the past twelve months. Several government reservations have been opened for settlement, and in some instances the commonwealths have extended payments of land over a period of forty years. West, South and Southwest there has been an extraordinary movement from congested cities and rural districts in answer to the call of the soil. Probably 50 per cent. of the people who are making new homes in the country are unfamiliar with agriculture, but they possess the courage to try to become successful farmers. Others have migrated to the country, where no man is compelled to stand idle in the market place because no one gives him employment.

If one consults the agricultural press or the columns of the great metropolitan papers he will discover an unusual number of advertisements of farm lands for sale at very attractive prices. Vast tracts of land are purchased by syndicates and subdivided into small farms and sold on installment payments. Much of the land is located near great cities and sold in small allotments for truck gardening purposes. In Texas an acre of onions will often sell for \$500 and small holdings furnish steady employment to one man when devoted to fruit or market gardening.

Agriculture is now recognized as the nation's leading industry, as the annual output of the farms has attained a value of \$8,000,000,000. The majority of the exodus from cities to localities west of the Mississippi will devote their energies to agriculture. While the government practically has no more land to give to settlers, there are plenty of large unimproved agricultural districts to supply urgent demand for small farms. With prices at their present high level, agriculture has become the most stable and profitable of all the professions. The rapid increase of the nonagricultural population is one of the primary causes of the present high prices for farm products. - Farmers and Drivers' Journal.

AN INEQUITABLE TAX

Concerning the corporation tax which the U. S. senate, under the lead of Senator Aldrich, is trying to supplant the income tax with, the Oregonian's has the following to say:

"The Oregonian believes the corporation tax most inequitable; it knows the corporation tax is most inequitable; and it believes the corporation tax therefore will plague the Administration and the Republican party hereafter. Yet President Taft has been constrained to accept it as the least (as he supposes) of the evils of a particular situation. The power of the extreme protectionists in the Senate cannot be broken down. Part of their scheme is to prevent an income tax. The corporation tax is the substitute.

"But it is most unjust and inequitable. It taxes the profits of a corporation doing business in any line, whatever it may be, but leaves the profits of the individual or the partnership doing business in the same line free. It leaves the vast profits of individuals, based on bonds—the persons most able to pay—free from taxation. It shuns an income tax, which is fairest of all taxes, yet enacts what is in effect a partial income tax, leaving out, however, large numbers of those most able to pay it. It is a tax that will favor and protect the very rich, who have their revenues from bonds and mortgages and other sources of personal income, and puts the burden on the multitude of stockholders, whose aggregated capital, subscribed in small amounts, does a very large part of the business of the country. It is one of the most unjust and unequal systems of taxation ever contrived; and it will be resisted in behalf of the legitimate corporations of the country, on the ground of its unfairness and unconstitutionality.

"Since certain great trust corporations and combinations of capital, operated unscrupulously for oppression of the people, have made the very word corporation odious, it is hoped and expected to obtain public favor for a scheme to enforce this unequal method of taxation. But the tax will not reach or touch the bondholders of the great corporations—only the stockholders. It's a further tuck, pinch or nip of the cinch upon those already tightly cinched by the great capitalists and bondholders, who are to be exempt while they pile up more and more profits.

"Now Theodore Roosevelt wouldn't stand this kind of thing for a moment. The country would ring with his denunciation of it. The Senate would receive a special message. But the deal doesn't turn up a Roosevelt every time; only very rarely.

"This tax, in its operation, will be especially odious, because of its unfairness and inequality. As a tax invented, devised and enacted by the Republican party, it is a contrivance that will return to plague the inventor."

INCOME VS. CORPORATION TAXES

THE UNITED STATES SENATE is considering the propriety of submitting to the states an amendment to the Federal Constitution, authorizing the National government to collect an income tax. Should the amendment be submitted, it is quite probable that it would be adopted by the required number of states. An income tax is certainly one of the most just methods of taxation which can be devised; for who is so well able to pay a tax as he who has an income. It is supposed that such a tax would be arranged upon the graduated principle—the percentage of taxation increased as the magnitude of the income increased. Many of the immense incomes exist without any great personal effort of the person who receives it. By methods which are regarded by many people as not being honorable and just, many of these multi-millionaires have secured their vast accumulations of stocks, bonds, etc., from which their incomes are derived. About the only personal exertion required of such, is to devise ways and methods for spending their incomes. Surely it would be no great hardship to people who have more money than they can comfortably spend, to devote a portion of it to the support of government, and it would be but simple justice too; for many of these colossal fortunes have been acquired through special favors from the government, manipulating and watering stock, etc. But there is little danger of either an income or corporation tax, so long as congress and the U. S. Supreme court are composed of the present personnel.

Produce Wanted

Please remember that we are always in the market for all of your produce, such as lard, bacon, hams, poultry, eggs, hides, wool, mohair, cascara bark, veal, hogs, beans and in fact nearly everything you produce. We are always willing to give reasonable prices, whether we buy or sell. Your produce is good to buy anything in our immense stock of dry goods, furnishing goods, shoes, hats, caps, groceries, queensware, glassware, hardware, furniture, tinware, carpets, linoleum, in fact we can furnish you from A to Z for reasonable prices. If you have more produce than you can use for exchanging for our goods, we will buy for cash.

Yours for business,
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