

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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REVISED BY ITS FRIENDS

DURING the political campaign of last year, the tariff figured somewhat; but we were told by the party in power, that it should be revised by its friends. The people accepted these statements and elected Mr. Taft and a Republican congress. Mr. Taft, in the canvass stated that, if elected, he would immediately after his inauguration, call a special session, to revise the tariff. This special session was called and, after over four months of wrangling, enacted a tariff bill and it has been signed by the president and congress has adjourned. So we now have a specimen of a tariff enacted by its friends.

If anybody expected that the friends of the tariff would, in the revision, give any material reduction of the schedules, they are disappointed; for the new law is not a reduction but simply a rearranging at the dictation of the tariff beneficiaries, and the common necessities of life yet pay as high a duty as ever.

There is no article of more general consumption among the people, rich or poor, than sugar. This product has been under the ironbound control of the Sugar Trust, for several years. So general is its consumption, that the people thought that it should be either placed upon the free list, or at most, be made subject to only a nominal duty. Under the Dingley law, sugar was dutiable at 1.95 cents per pound. Under the tariff revision by its friends, it has been reduced to 1.90 cents per pound. This reduction of .05 cents per pound is all that the sugar trust would permit and, of course, the congress which managed the revision, had to submit. This wonderful reduction, by the friends of tariff, of which we heard so much about during the campaign, will be a great boon to the poor man who buys his sugar 25 cents worth at a time. He can buy one-fourth of a cent worth more for the same amount of money. A like reduction has been made on a number of other commodities, but as a whole, the reduction that the people expected, has not been realized. The people have found that tariff revision by its friends has been wholly in the interests of the tariff beneficiaries and not in the interests of the great majority of the American people—the consumers.

The fact of the business is, the protective tariff is either right or wrong. If right, then the duties should be placed so high that not a vestige of foreign goods would be imported; if wrong, then every duty should be arranged only with reference to the interests of the general government in view. And the quicker the people look at the subject from a moral and equitable viewpoint, the quicker will the question be settled and settled rightly. If the people considers it right for a few people to enjoy special privileges, as in the case of the tariff beneficiaries, at the expense of the many, then the protective tariff can be defended. But if they believe in equal opportunity for every man, then the protective tariff must be considered as legalized robbery.

This is the fourth time that the tariff has been revised by its friends. The Morrill tariff is not included, for the reason that it was a war measure and the immediate necessities of the government overshadowed all other interests. But the Wilson, McKinley, Dingley and Payne bills have all been measures in the interests of special classes and every time has the duties bourn harder upon the common people and, proportionately, easier upon the rich and predatory classes. This is the result of tariff revision by its friends. The question is "How much longer will the people allow themselves to be made stoopigons of through party prejudice? How much longer will they worship the god Mammon, for Mammon is the basis of all of this tariff robbery.

The NEWS believes that the people, generally, will view the present tariff revision as a colossal failure. They have given the Republican party free rein, absolute power to revise in the interests of the people and it has failed to make good. It has been trusted and has violated the trust.

Of course there will be prosperity under the new tariff. There would have been prosperity under the old. And it is hoped by the tariff beneficiaries, that before another presidential campaign comes on that the people will become so engrossed in money making that they will forget an incident so early in the Taft administration, and be ready to be fooled again. A last straw is said to have broken the camel's back. The NEWS believes that the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill will prove to be a last straw.

But it may be said, the Democrats were tried once and they did no better than the Republicans. This is true. The Wilson tariff was, if possible, more infamous than either tariff bill enacted since. It was so infamous that President Cleveland characterized it as "a measure of perfidy and dishonor." Then to whom or to what shall we look for relief?

A political party is but an incident of our political system. If a party fails to come up to the requirements of the people and fails to make good, then defeat and drive it from control of the government. If all parties fail, then do away with party altogether, or form a new party, rejecting the views and theories which brought the old parties to grief. The people must vote for their own interest, and if it can not be done under the name Democrat or Republican, then act under some other name. Action is what is required. When a public man shows that his heart is right and he advocates measures in the interests of the people, then hold his hands up, no matter what party name he may wear.

When a man like LaFollette stands for office, vote for him and keep him in office as long as he makes good, but no longer. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" said Washington. There never was, never was a time in the history of our government when vigilance was more important than now. The crucial period of a government by the people is at hand. Either the people must win out and recover control of matters, or our form of government will soon be changed. It cannot nor will not be tolerated much longer, as controlled and manipulated by the Cannons, Aldriches and others.

PREDATORY FORTUNES

THE NEWS has no fault to find with legitimately acquired wealth.

It believes that great fortunes are a necessity to our present civilization; for great aggregations of wealth are necessary for the accomplishment of great undertakings. But to the fortunes illegitimately obtained through speculating in and watering of industrial stocks and by grace of special privileges obtained from congress, the NEWS in common with the masses of the people, registers a protest.

When it is known that it is within the power of a score of men to bring about a financial crisis at their pleasure, then all will admit that these men have been allowed to acquire too much power. They thus become a menace to our present form of government.

Some statistician has taken the trouble to find out the value of the product of an average days labor, and states it to be from \$8 to \$11. Of this sum the laborer receives less than \$1.50; the balance goes into the pockets of employers and dealers who figure between the producer and the consumer.

Now it should not be understood that labor which produces is, only, to be considered. The labor of the merchant, of the counting room, of behind the bank counter and of the professional man are all necessary for the convenience and happiness of society. Wherein lies the injustice is, the laborer who works in the trenches receives too little of the wealth his labor produces. Nor can conditions be made better until society and government are organized differently. The principle of graft, both public and private, must be eliminated.

Last week congress adjourned, after more than four months of wrangling about the rearranging of how much bonus the people must pay to the trusts and other manufacturing combines. Now every dollar which is acquired through special favor of congress, must be earned by some laboring man. More than one-third of the laborers earnings which is paid for what he consumes, by the great kindness of congress and the assent of the president, goes into the pockets of the protective classes.

This, in addition to a reasonable cost of the commodities he consumes. It is simply legalized robbery duty authorized by the government when one man is compelled to pay from 50 to 100 per cent more for the product of another man's labor, which is the direct result of the tariff, than he would have to pay if there was no tariff or a tariff for revenue only. It is legalized robbery when the government permits transportation companies to collect exorbitant tolls for the carrying of freight and passengers. It

is legalized robbery when men are permitted to so manipulate the price of food products that a fictitious value is created which the consumer is compelled to pay. Now all the wealth acquired through legislative favors, through exorbitant railway charges and through the manipulation of the market of food products, is the product of men who labor at an average wage of \$1.50 per diem. Not one dollar of it is produced by the beneficiary of class legislation, the railway magnate, nor the man or men who create a fictitious value for food products. They are simply permitted by law, to reach down into the pockets of the laborer and help themselves; and the laborer is exceedingly fortunate if they leave enough therein for the meager support of himself and family.

But the great danger to our commonwealth is the power that these swollen fortunes give to the men who possess them. That these masters of swollen fortunes own the government, is demonstrated whenever we have a financial crisis. They own the government through owning her bonds and the bonds of the industrial world. They own the government and the people because they possess the power to bring about a financial crisis whenever they desire to do so.

There was no natural cause for the financial panic of 1907. Crops were as bountiful as usual and the prices were normal; yet, at the command of Wall street, N. Y., the financial world was shaken from center to circumference. Are the destinies of the country safe when entrusted to hands of men who worship the almighty dollar?

The Morgans, Rockefellers, Carnegies and other predatory millionaires, possess too much unrestricted power for the peace and financial stability of our country. And the problem for the people to solve is how to correct these wrong conditions and how to reconstruct our congresses, legislatures and courts, so that these wrong conditions may be righted. It must be done gradually and without the destruction of the rights of property, no matter whether acquired rightly or wrongfully. We must deal with conditions as they exist. But when a man can acquire a fortune of \$800,000,000 in one short life time, we know that there is something wrong with our economic system.

It is absolutely necessary for our congresses and courts to right about face in the methods of enacting and interpreting law, if our economic system is restored to normal conditions. While the legitimate acquirement of wealth should be protected and unhampered by law, the illegitimate accumulation of money and property should be stringently legislated against. And when such legislation is enacted, the law should be enforced without fear or favor.

Predatory fortunes have been acquired through speculating and watering industrial stocks and bonds, through wholesale appropriating by individuals and corporations of the mineral wealth of the earth, through the monopolization of land and through special class legislation by congress. All of these causes which have bred swollen fortunes, should and must be removed or controlled. A proper system of taxation of incomes and a graduated land tax, would go far towards the correction of the evils lax legislation and enforcement of law has permitted to grow up. A removal of the protective tariff or a reduction to a revenue basis, would permit a liberal importation of foreign goods and the competition resulting would reduce the price of commodities to their reasonable worth. The American consumer would then be permitted to retain a larger portion of his earnings and there would be no more Schwabs and Carnegies.

But to accomplish this result, the people must take political matters into their own hands. They must replace partisan prejudice with patriotism. They must find out, if possible, what the trusts and protected classes desire, and then do just the opposite. By such action they will do what is best for themselves and families.

The political management of the government has become a matter of pure and unadulterated selfishness. The only safe and patriotic rule is to vote for the interests of the greatest number of people. It is quite time that the common people—those who work in the trenches—should get their political eyes open on governmental matters. They must become so wise that the trusts and the interests cannot, through partisan prejudice, cause the people to vote against their own interests. In other words, the people must get on to the political situation.

HOW TARIFFS ARE MADE

It is the popular impression that a tariff is the slowly worked out product of protracted congressional inquiry and matured thought. This impression is confirmed by long and apparently earnest senatorial debates over one or another schedule. The people who sat in the senate galleries a few weeks ago and listened to the elaborate discussion of the wool and woolen schedule thought they saw how tariffs were made.

That was a great mistake! The senate in adopting the schedule it did, merely ratified one which had been agreed on

months before by outside parties. Last October east and west met in Chicago. The manufacturers of woolen goods of one region and the wool growers of the other came together to agree on the wool and woolen duties of the tariff law which they assumed would be passed the following year. Their conclusion was that the Dingley law rates should be re-enacted. That having been settled, nothing was left but to notify congress quietly after it should have been elected and had convened.

The elaborate hearings before the ways and means committee were a farce. The wool and woolens schedule was then res judicata. The senatorial debate was a sham fight. As the president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, says, "This entire discussion is unnecessary and absurd." After the real tariff makers had decided what the duties were to be why spend time in talk?

If the allied eastern and western interests had seen fit they could have ordered congress to arise the duties, and presumably it would have done so. It may be that the public should be thankful for their moderation. But what a legislative mockery it is when a few men get together in private, make out tariff schedules to suit themselves, and then direct congress to make it law. Now we begin to understand how tariffs are made.—Chicago Tribune.

A SENATOR OF RIGHT CONCEPT

During the debate on the tariff bill in the senate, Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, Democrat, refused to vote for a high tariff on oil though urged to do so by the oil producers of his state. Explaining his refusal, he said:

"I confess there is a good deal of human nature in me. I wish that this cup might pass from my lips. Many of the independent producers in the state of Oklahoma are my personal and political friends. They would render me any possible service, and I would reciprocate. I would render them any possible service that I could without violence to my conscience and my convictions. Perhaps my attitude on this occasion is attributable rather to verdure than to virtue. Perhaps when I have grown older in statecraft, and in political fitness, I may revise both my views and my policies. Mr. President, I am not unaware that I may now be making a serious, a fatal political mistake. I am not unaware that I may be ordering a political casket. I am not unaware that I may be, like the ancient queen, lighting my own funeral pyre. But, sir, I shall never demand a protective duty in behalf of a product or an industry in my own state until I am willing to concede protection to every other industry in every other state of the American Union."

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Teachers' Examination

Notice is hereby given that the regular teachers' examination for Linn county will begin at the court house in Albany, Oregon, August 11, 1909, at the hour of 9 o'clock a. m., and to continue three days for county and four days for state papers.

W. L. JACKSON,
County Supt.

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