

# The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## THE DEMOCRATS AND THE TARIFF

A VERY LARGE MAJORITY of the democratic members of the present congress favor a substantial reduction of the now oppressive tariff schedules. But there is a wide difference in opinion as to how great or how small a reduction shall be made. As all measures relative to finance must originate in the house, where the democratic majority is large, the danger is that a tariff bill so radical will be sent up to the senate, that the republican majority of that body will not indorse it.

Without a doubt the house will reindorse President Taft's Canadian reciprocity measure. If it is again defeated in the senate, the republican members will be responsible. It is, also, almost a certainty that the democratic house will pass a measure placing the necessities of life on the free list, as well as such goods as are made by the trusts and of which the trusts have a practical monopoly. Both of these measures will encounter opposition in the ranks of the democratic majority. Senators and representatives from the sugar districts, will oppose placing sugar on the free list. Those from the wool districts, at least some of them, will not favor the taking off the tariff from wool, and, probably, some of the members from the lumber regions will oppose placing lumber on the free list, thus admitting lumber free from Canada.

While it is true that the member who advocates reduction for the products of other sections than his own, yet endeavors to retain the present tariff on the products of his own particular locality, is selfish and is actuated from selfish motives, still that selfishness exists and must be combatted. This is what the congressmen who really wish to legislate for the best interests of the country are up against. This is what is going to block the best endeavors of the progressive democrats and republicans of the present congress. The country must retire a few more of the trust serving congressmen, before we can hope to have a really just tariff measure adopted.

Democratic and republican congressmen who oppose reducing the tariff, are willing that money shall be taken from the pockets of the great body of consumers and give it to the few trusts and manufacturing interests, without giving due value therefor. If a highwayman takes money from us, using a revolver as a means of enforcing his demands, we call him a robber and punish him for the crime, providing we catch him; but if we are forced to pay two cents per pound more for sugar, on account of the tariff, in order that the sugar trust may reap an inordinate profit, such procedure is called financing. An ordinary family will use about 1000 pounds of sugar annually. This means that the ordinary family must donate \$20 per year for the benefit of the sugar trust. If we look back and see how long we have been paying this annual tribute, we find that the ordinary family has given the sugar trust from three to five hundred dollars without receiving any value whatever therefor. No wonder the sugar kings amass immense fortunes. And this is what the

people are kicking against—the compulsory robbery to which the government has subjected them. What is the difference in effect, if your money is taken by the highway robber, or by the robber sugar trust? It is to correct this famous, or more correctly speaking, infamous protective system, dictated by the men interested, that the people have sent up a strong majority of democratic members for the lower house. If this democratic majority makes good and stands truly for the interests of the people, it is quite likely that the entire control of the government will be placed under the management of that party in 1912.

Now a vast majority of the republican party favors a reduction as do the democrats. The high cost of living bears as heavily upon the republicans as upon the democrats. Only tariff beneficiaries reap a benefit from this extremely one-sided law. Political prejudice and grafting is the sole cause of a law so unjust to the average consumer. Nor will this injustice ever be corrected, until both democrats and republicans are willing to drop political prejudice and vote for the good of the greatest number of the people.

The man who believes in a high protective tariff because he reaps a profit therefrom and to which he is not justly entitled, believes that it is right to rob his neighbor to enrich himself. He looks at life from a selfish standpoint only. And worse, he is willing to rob his neighbor without receiving any benefit whatever.

A tariff, when protective, is equivalent to a subsidy. It is simply taking money from the many in order to enrich the few. It is an idea handed down from the feudal times. The United States fought a war with Tripoli, simply because that country collected a tariff from American shipping. Our American revolutionary war was caused through England's endeavor to collect a tariff, no matter under what name, from the colonists.

It makes but little difference to the man who is robbed, who the robber is. If done under the guise of law, he feels partly responsible, in that he is one of the body politic. Yet if his money is taken from him, unjustly, for trust priced goods or by a thief at night, the effect is just the same. He is out the amount of his loss.

Indications are now that the United States will get mixed up in the Mexican embroglio within the next few days. Wall street has sent out the command and the few bullets which find lodgement on the American side of the border line, will furnish the excuse. Capital forced the United States into war with Mexico with a view of increasing slave territory from that country in 1848 and now capital will force intervention in order that the flow of dividends can be resumed. Of course intervention now means the restoration of the Diaz government, unless Mr. Diaz should be pressingly invited to step down and out, when the war will cease. Those insurrectos are fighting for a broader liberty than the dictatorial will of Diaz will allow. Figuratively speaking, Mexico is a republic. As a matter of fact, not even Russia is more dictatorial in her conduct of government, than is that of Diaz. True, American property may suffer, in that country and American lives may be sacrificed. But the investment was made under promise of Diaz protection and, it is up to him to afford the protection required. Americans sojourning in that country are there subject to Diaz protection as well. And if he fails to protect, if we intervene, all that would probably be necessary is for President Taft to invite Mr. Diaz to make an extended visit to a foreign land and which he would probably do. Then the war will cease. But to uphold the further enslavement of Mexican peons, by upholding the Diaz government, will be the most unpopular act of President Taft's administration.

Governor West has surely shown that he is not a party tool, when he named a republican to succeed Secretary Benson. Of course he knew what kind of a republican he selected. He knew that he was selecting an appointee, who would work in harmony with the other members of the state boards. He knew that he was selecting a thorough and honest business man. What more do the people want? After all, there is but a slight difference between democrats and republicans who have cut away from party prejudice and are willing to work for the best interests of the people. The clearer we can keep the state government from politics, the better it will be for the people. Anyway, the office of the secretary of state is purely executive. A republican can execute the law, if he will, just as promptly and correctly, as a democrat can. Mr. Olcott must be in harmony with the governor, else he would not have received the appointment. We expect Secretary Olcott to make an excellent and efficient officer.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned executors of the estate of G. T. Frost, deceased, have filed their final account of their administration of said estate, in the above entitled Court; and that Monday, the 8th day of May 1911, at ten o'clock a. m. of said day, at the County Court room of said Court has been appointed by the Court as the time and place for the settlement of said account and the hearing of objections thereto, if any there be. All persons having objections to said account are required to file the same prior to the date above mentioned. Dated and first published this 7th day of April 1911. Last publication May 5, 1911.

F. B. FROST,  
G. M. FROST,  
Executors of estate of  
G. T. Frost, deceased.

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