

UNMASKING THE TARIFF DELUSION

Franklin Pierce Shows That Labor Is Not Benefited by Unjust Tax.

MANUFACTURER KEEPS PROFIT

Proof of Democratic Platform's Soundness Cited in Reports of Wage Investigations.

By FRANKLIN PIERCE.

For a hundred years of our history the manufacturers, believing that they received a benefit from the protective tariffs, have ingeniously devised plausible pretexts for imposing increased prices upon the necessities of life. At first they said that industry in our country was in its infancy and needed protection. When those industries had become strong and needed no aid the manufacturers invented the theory that the foreigner paid the duty. This theory was exploded, and they declared that cheap clothing meant cheap men and was not a blessing.

Driven from every one of these indefensible positions, their final and only argument left today is that the tariff is imposed upon foreign imports to enable the manufacturer to increase his profits and pay higher wages.

The Democratic platform declares that:

"In the most highly protected industries, such as cotton and wool, steel and iron, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our industries."

Wages in Cotton Industry.

Under the existing Payne-Aldrich tariff law actual imports of cotton cloth paid in 1910 average duties of 56.4 per cent.

In 1905, when work and wage conditions in the cotton industry were exceptionally good, the wages of 202,211 cotton mill operatives in the United States—men, women and children—averaged only \$6.47 a week. The average wage for men was but \$7.71 a week, for women \$6.30 and for children, \$3.21.

As to the profits, seventeen leading cotton mills, with total capitalization of \$23,110,000 and total surplus of \$21,303,561, paid in nine years dividends averaging 22 per cent.

The cotton manufacturers turned out in 1905 \$442,451,218 worth of goods and paid in wages therefor \$94,237,695, or 21 per cent of the value of the finished product.

Extortion of Wool Tariff.

Outside of the duties on two or three commodities of comparatively little importance, the duties on woolen cloth are the highest of any in the tariff schedules. According to Senator Reed Smoot, owner of a woolen mill at Provo, Utah, and chairman of the finance committee in charge of tariff legislation in the senate, wearing apparel valued at 30 cents a pound now pays 206.23 per cent duty.

This and other correspondingly high duties on the manufactures of wool are made to enable the manufacturer to pay his labor an increased wage over those of foreign countries. But the duty on woolen goods is nearly five times the entire labor cost, while the American manufacturers in 1905 paid in wages only 18 per cent of the total value of their production.

At Lawrence in this most highly protected industry the laborers were obliged to strike even for a living wage. Thousands of adult males were receiving only from \$6 to \$9 a week and many only \$5 to \$6 a week. As a result of the strike the American Woolen company gave its employees slight increases in wages.

The wool tariff bill vetoed by President Taft reduced the duties on raw wool from 42.20 to 29 per cent and on manufactures of wool from 87.65 to 48.30 per cent. Mr. Taft said he vetoed it because the proposed rates did not comply with the findings of the tariff board. Senator La Follette contradicted the president, saying that the proposed rates varied from 1 per cent lower to 11.6 higher than the tariff board's findings justified.

Low Wages in Steel.

Manufacturers of iron and steel in 1905 paid in wages only 15 per cent of the total value of their production, while the duty then would average about 45 to 47 per cent, and on all metals it now averages 34.51 per cent.

American wages are really the cheapest wages in the world when you take into account the amount of production per man. An illustration of this appears in the Stanley report, investigating the steel trust, as follows:

"The labor cost of producing pig iron in Pennsylvania fell from \$1.25 a ton in 1902 to 82 cents a ton in 1909, yet the realized value of the pig iron output was \$15.64 in 1902, whereas it was

\$17.44 in 1909. In other words, wage-workers in 1902 got \$1.25 for producing only \$15.64 worth of pig iron and in 1909 only 82 cents for producing \$17.44 worth."

While thus treating labor the industrial combinations that have grown up under the protection of the tariff have fixed the prices of commodities at the highest point the home market would stand.

When will the laboring men of the country cast off this delusion that the tariff is for their benefit and with their votes strike down this monstrous injustice?

WHY TAFT OR ROOSEVELT?

Prices of Food Products Have Soared Under Them, Yet They Promise Reductions.

According to the bulletin of the federal bureau of labor the average price of a dozen or more of the principal articles of food has increased 50 per cent in the last ten years.

The price of flour has increased 30 per cent, lard 55 per cent, steak 50 per cent, hams 61 per cent, cornmeal 63 per cent, rib roast 63 per cent, round steak 84 per cent, pork chops 86 per cent, bacon 96 per cent and Irish potatoes 111 per cent.

During these ten years of rising prices Roosevelt and Taft were at the head of the government. Both of them want to be at the head of the government again.

Does any sane man believe that if these men in ten years did nothing to retard the rise of prices which are oppressing the people they would do anything in four years? Rather, judging by the past, we should be paying approximately 25 per cent more than we do now, or 75 per cent more than we did ten years ago.

The Republicans talk about tariff revision, and yet when a Democratic house in fulfilling Democratic promises to the people reduced the tariff, a Republican president vetoed the measure. "By their works shall ye know them."

Democrats in every state of the Union should organize and prepare for polling a record breaking vote Nov. 3. Be it remembered that no matter how certain victory seems, overconfidence is always dangerous.

Is there any reason why the Democratic party should go out of existence simply because Mr. Roosevelt has taken

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on up the Progressive measures adopted by the Democrats eighteen years ago?—W. J. Bryan.

Mr. Roosevelt stood as a guarantor for Mr. Taft. Mr. Bryan says, "Now when Roosevelt has failed so utterly in his judgment of men, I ask can he pass correct judgment on himself?"

Why His Name Was Changed.

"But, Eliza," said the mistress "your little boy was christened George Washington. Why do you call him Iznak Walton? Walton you know, was the famous fisherman."

"Yes'm," answered Eliza, "but dat chile's repetashun fo' tellin' d' troof made dat change impertive." —Ladies' Home Journal.

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