

# Some Republican Editorials

## SUTHERLAND CALLED TO ACCOUNT

It is curious to see that Senator Sutherland comes home with the subterfuge in his mouth that the republican party did not agree to revise the tariff downward. He says it agreed to revise the tariff, but said nothing about revising it downward. But revision downward was the only thing that was even thought about, nothing was possible to say about revising it otherwise. It was understood fully that it was to be a revision downward, not upward, nor to leave it as it was. If anyone had suggested, and could have persuaded the people to believe it, that tariff revision meant revision upward the republican party would have gone down to defeat. President Taft took it as a matter of course that the tariff revision was to be downward; at Milwaukee September 24, at Des Moines September 26, 1908, and at Cincinnati September 22, 1908, President Taft was explicit in his declaration that the republican platform meant tariff revision downward. Anyone who might have contradicted President Taft at that time and have said that revision of the tariff did not mean revision downward as Mr. Taft continually said it did, that man would have been denounced as an enemy of the republican party and a personal assailant of President Taft's good faith. And that is true today. To argue now that tariff revision did not mean revision downward, loses sight not only of the sentiment of the country at the time, but of the whole tendency of the campaign.—Salt Lake Tribune, Rep.

## THE PRESIDENT'S SERMON

In his sermon in the Mormon tabernacle yesterday President Taft argued strongly for peace and good will. Peace and good will are excellent things, and there is no quality that he praised that ought not to adorn our lives. And yet we believe that many a man, quite untainted by bigotry, will think of many other texts that might have been profitably expounded yesterday. "What concord," asks St. Paul, "hath Christ with Belial?" There thus appear to be some things with which the Christian can not maintain concord. Perhaps Mormonism, with its greedy, grasping for power, its political deals, its polygamy and the rest, is one of those things. Every one who has lived under its sway knows what its temper is, what its ambitions are. Can we, ought we, to live at peace with it? Many Americans, and Americans who believe in the widest religious liberty, and the broadest toleration, will answer this question in the negative. "What fellowship," the apostle again asks, "hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness?" There thus appear to be limits to the concord of which Mr. Taft is so good-natured a preacher.

We remember the sojourn of another American president among the Mormons—the late Benjamin Harrison. He, too, addressed Mormon audiences, and he improved his opportunity by glorifying the American home, presided over by one wife. And the whole nation applauded his courage and his steadfastness to the highest American ideal. He, too, was a lover of peace, but he did not think that it could be established or maintained between two irreconcilable forces. We do not share the fears felt by many at the spread of Mormonism. For, in our opinion, the whole tendency of the times is against it, as far as it stands for polygamy. So, while it is undoubtedly a dangerous force at the present moment, it will become less dangerous as the years go by. But there is a conflict, a conflict between Mormonism and the law, and between two social orders. The so-called Gentiles who live in Utah know how powerful is the tyranny of the Mormon oligarchy, know how corrupt it is.

In our opinion it would have been far better had the president kept away from the tabernacle, the official center of this un-American cult. Far from doing this, he appeared in the pulpit of the tabernacle and preached peace. In this he followed the precedent set by his predecessor. But it was a bad precedent nevertheless. There is nothing in it to which any one can take exception. On the contrary, the message is one that the American people as a whole needed to hear. But the words would have had greater weight had they been spoken from the pulpit of the church of which the president himself is a member. His appearance in a Mormon pulpit will be construed—mistakenly, of course—by the Mormons themselves as a sort of official

recognition of their system. And this will have the effect of weakening the influence which his excellent counsel would otherwise have.

No one, of course, believes that any serious consequences will flow from the action of the president. No one will because of it question his devotion to American ideals, and certainly no intelligent American citizen will for a moment imagine that he had any idea of "recognizing" Mormonism. But he has nevertheless made a mistake. The people in Utah who ought to have the support of our presidents are those who constitute the Gentile minority, for they are our people, in a sense that the Mormons are not; and it is they who are holding up the American standards, and are doing it under great difficulties, and in the face of many temptations to abandon them. We should think they would feel somewhat discouraged and disheartened today.—Indianapolis News, Rep.

## THE WASHINGTON RATING

You can not always tell, you know, when you see senators and representatives in Washington, just how they size up at home, and I am glad to be able to testify that however they (the Utah members) size up here, they do size up emphatically well in Washington.—From one of President Taft's Utah speeches.

There are no insurgents in Utah's congressional delegation. Utah is one of the western states whose representatives in congress made a particularly close alliance with the reactionary forces in Washington. Neither Senator Smoot nor Senator Sutherland voted once against Aldrich—not even once. In fact, Senator Smoot not only voted with Aldrich every time he voted at all, but with the exception of Aldrich himself he is the only republican member who never missed a vote.

He had 129 chances, and he voted 129 times, and for Aldrich every time. He was the Rhode Islander's chief reliance in the tariff session.

Is it true that such a record gives a member of congress an "emphatically" good standing in Washington? Perhaps it is. But if it is, then there is something radically wrong with Washington. And there is something radically wrong in mistaking the Washington rating for the political or moral rating put upon a senator or representative by the country at large.—Kansas City Times, Rep.

## CONGRESSIONAL VIGILANCE

The second assistant postmaster general explains that under the law the railroads continue to receive pay for carrying mails on a basis established every four years, "whether they continue to carry much or little." He has asked congress to give the department authority to divert the pay of the railroads when the mails are diverted. So far the recommendation has not been complied with.

It will be recalled that congress was inactive when Representative Murdock called its attention to the fact that by a gross error it was enormously overpaying the railroads for carrying the mails.

When some influential interest has a stake in perpetuating an abuse it is mighty hard to get action in what its members delight to call "the legislative branch." As a body congress cares precious little for that hazy personage who was referred to jocularly in the tariff debates as "the Ultimate Consumer."—Kansas City Times, Rep.

## A Fine Tribute

Referring to the late John A. Johnson, Thomas W. Lawson has written for the Boston Journal this beautiful tribute:

I have ridden with him the hot day through in the dusty, nerve-racking railroad train and I've been with him when he listened to the fealty message of the leaders of his party which cooed about that crown and throne which is the dream of all red-blooded Americans; and I've brought him the taunt of his great rival, and yet in all I never once saw that childish, merry twinkle leave those wonderfully love-begetting eyes, and I never heard a discord in that voice of trust and faith and charity and good will to all. Ah! but he was such a man, such a good man.

John Johnson's vision was all outward. He

had no mirror and had he one he would have held it to reflect the beauties and the goodness of his fellows.

The other evening Erman Ridgway, his good wife and myself were in the 'bus with this great man on our way to hear him lecture. We'd had a jolly good dinner and he was snuggled into the corner muffled in his big fur coat, and we thought he wanted to be alone to tell over his great speech, when, as he neared the church where his lecture was to be delivered, he said, "I'm nervous tonight, Lawson, for I'm going to make my lecture the simple story of how I pardoned a boy and gave him back to his old mother and father. I want you to hear it, but I know I'll cry and make a country booby of myself, and then these eastern people will wonder what my great state was thinking of in electing such a governor."

'Twas a big audience, big in intelligence, big in sympathy with this latter day Abe Lincoln of the people and Governor Johnson told his story and the tears trickled down his cheeks and his gentle voice was gentler than its wont, but we, his audience, yes, all of us, men, women and children, we cried, and at the close of the story I said to the big, strong mannish governor of New Jersey, who had sat with bowed head, as John Johnson, the man, told the simple story of how Governor Johnson of the great state of Minnesota gave their boy back to the old father and mother, "Governor, I notice that you, too, forgot that Governor Johnson was of the enemy."

"Yes, yes, I forgot everything but the story and the man who was telling it," and he tried to sneak away the trail the story had left on his cheek. "And if all democrats were like Governor Johnson, there'd be no enemy."

That night at Ridgway's house, after the family had retired, I sat in front of the open grate with this, the all-around best big man I have ever met, until the gray dawn was tapping at the panes and time and time again, as I listened to his clear analysis of times and things and humans and their goodness, I would break in and try to make him put on my smoked glasses and see the out-there black, but he met each attempt with his merry laugh. "Yes, yes, I'll agree that there is lots that might be made better, but, on the whole, Lawson, it's a good world and a good people. I can never bring myself to believe but the world and the people are getting better all the time." Ah! but he was such a man, such a good man.

God was good to John Johnson. He endowed him with all those riches which made for happiness, here and hereafter. Birthed from the womb of the common people, cradled in that greatest of all world luxuries, poverty, he came to the starting line a moral Hercules, bursting with love of mother and adoration of wife, bristling with affection for humanity and charity and forgiveness for his enemies and muscled with a superb honesty and veneration for God and nature. The starter's bell was to him a joyful "go." As he ran he saw no mire, no belders, no ditches, only God's great blue; he felt only God's warming sun rays, and as he ran for them, not himself, 'tis no wonder that his track was fast and his feet winged.

God was good to Governor Johnson. He took him as He took the sainted Lincoln, and all His very chosen, while yet they ran, while yet their fellows cheered, while yet their souls were radiant with the intoxication of ambition's rays.

To us who were blessed with the privilege of his presence is left the consolation that he was, and is yet. Let us rain our tears, but not for him. Let us weep for her whose sun is set and for the nation, which so sorely needs her valiant sons, and for humanity, whose champion has gone over yonder. For myself, my sadness is mellowed by the thought that I knew him and by the faith that his shadow will for ages be a dream-cradle for countless despairing souls.

## BUT ALDRICH IS THE LEADER

The Tribune differs with the president in his inferential invitation to the country to give the democratic party control of the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. It is the Tribune's belief that the tariff can be revised and revised properly by the republican party, and this may be accomplished in the next congress by retiring standpatters and electing in their stead men of progressive tendencies.—Chicago Tribune.

But Mr. Aldrich is the republican leader and when the republican party nominates Aldrich men the Chicago Tribune will, in all probability, be among their noisiest supporters.