

days. Representative Smith now comes forward and makes an extended and interesting defense of the doctrine, as both good democracy and good sense. His points are too many to enumerate, but some of them are very convincing. There is the argument—not new, of course, but never answered—that other manufacturing countries admit raw material free, and that for us to put a duty on it would be to impose on our manufacturers a positive tax; to take off such a duty would not be, as Senator Bailey and others have contended, a form of protection; it would be merely removing a burden and handicap which ought never to be imposed. The difficulty about defining raw material is not practically important, since we all know fairly well what is meant by the term. The tax on raw material, like every other tariff tax, is in the end paid by the consumers; yet meanwhile it operates to deny our manufacturers a fair chance in foreign markets.

In the matter of the democracy of the doctrine, Mr. Smith is able to produce some telling citations from utterances of various democratic leaders. Perhaps the most telling is one from Robert J. Walker, father of the tariff of 1846; but at a later period one finds Cleveland and Bryan in full agreement on the point. Hardly less effective is the evidence that, whether or not the doctrine is democratic, it cannot be set down as republican. That could be done only over the vigorous protests of the men with the best right to speak for the republican party. These have pretty uniformly denounced the doctrine as the most insidious and dangerous of all forms of the democratic low-tariff contention.—Harper's Weekly.

HIGH TARIFF FRUIT

"Lemons are scarce and high. The best grade of Messina lemon will bring \$6.50 to \$7.00 a box, and fancy California fruit will bring even higher prices. Dealers assert that one of the reasons for the high prices of lemons is the tariff, which is \$1.10 a box. A few years ago only about twenty-five cents a box was the tariff."

The above quotation is from the Pittsburg market report of October 25, 1910. It shows the effect of the tariff which Roosevelt and Taft say is "the best ever." Of course, it is "the best ever" for the few whom it licenses to rob the American people. The voters should soon be tired of "the best ever" Payne-Aldrich pet of Roosevelt and Taft. E. E. KEELER, R. 1. Ford City, Pa.

A GROWING REFORM

George W. Acklin, Pittsburg, Pa.—In the line of The Commoner's campaign for election of United States senators by popular vote, I beg to call your attention to "Pittsburg Dispatch senatorial straw vote contest." The Dispatch reports that during the past week, "upwards of 21,000 ballots were cast in this contest and of this vast number, coming from every corner of the Keystone state, less than thirty were marked as opposed to the proposition to elect senators by popular vote. It seems to me this indication of the direction of the senatorial breeze in boss-ridden Pennsylvania ought to be given the widest possible publicity.

SHAFROTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS

John Shafroth of Colorado, is one of America's great governors. The message he sent recently to the Colorado legislature will take high rank as a state paper. Recommendations in that message are as follows:

Urges passage of a bank guaranty measure as a "solemn obligation," declares the Texas plan is the fairest.

Asks that power possessed by the public service commission of New York be vested in the railroad commission of Colorado.

Demands passage of good registration bill, containing such measures as will prevent frauds at elections.

Favors central board of three, to be paid fair salaries, for control of all the penal institutions.

Advises ratification of the federal constitutional amendment providing for the income tax.

Asks four-year terms for state officials, with the recall.

Wants a law regulating and limiting campaign contributions.

Advises tax of one cent a ton on all coal mined in the state and enlargement of coal mine inspector's department.

Suggests appointment of commission to study the subject and report to the next general assembly a measure providing a system of com-

pensation to injured employes in all lines of industry.

Concerning the income tax Governor Shafroth said: "This power of the national government was exercised on previous occasions, but about fifteen years ago a law authorizing such tax was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States. In order that the government may possess that power it is necessary that the constitutional amendment should be ratified by the legislatures of the respective states.

"When a man by the protection and advantages given to him by a benign government, is enabled to make an income over and above the cost of supporting himself and family, he owes to his country the duty of contributing a part of the wealth so acquired for the maintenance of that government. The most enlightened nations on the face of the globe resort to that mode of raising revenues.

"Taxes upon incomes are taxes upon people who can afford to pay and, therefore, are less burdensome upon the people than many other forms of taxation. I, therefore, urge that the general assembly ratify this constitutional amendment, so that it may become a part of the constitution of the United States."

A BIG PLACE

The Houston (Texas) Post, a newspaper which objected to the democratic method of choosing house committees declares that the speakership would be an empty honor with the power of naming committees removed. The Post seems habitually to take the undemocratic view. It will be a greater honor for Champ Clark to be the presiding officer of a real house of representatives than to be the dictator of a body from which all constitutional semblance has departed.

BROKE THE RECORD

The Houston (Texas) Post says: "Our friend, the New York World, is now getting the college presidents to demand an extra session of congress to revise the tariff. If the World only knew how indifferent seasoned politicians are to the demands of college presidents!"

But there is one college president in New Jersey who made the "seasoned politicians" sit up and take notice.

"THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS"

Editor Hemphill was chosen to respond to the toast, "The democratic press," at the Baltimore re-organization banquet. Mr. Hemphill did what he could during several presidential campaigns to defeat the democratic national ticket. It was perhaps just as well that the banqueters made so much noise that Mr. Hemphill did not deliver his address.

NEVER MIND, SENATOR GORE

Senator Gore of Oklahoma need not be disturbed about the attacks made upon him by his enemies. The American people have confidence in the Oklahoma senator, believing that he has done his best to protect the public interests and they thank him for his faithful service.

JOSEPH FELS AND HIS MISSION

(An interview with Joseph Fels in the Chicago Tribune of January 9, 1910)

A little man with a big mission and a big pile of money—it is estimated at \$8,000,000—with which to carry it out, went through Chicago yesterday. He is Joseph Fels of Philadelphia, soap maker and single tax apostle. "If you're an honest reporter, I'm glad to meet you," said Mr. Fels as he looked up at his visitor in the La Salle hotel. On being assured that honesty was the chief aim in life of his visitor Mr. Fels displayed a newspaper clipping and said, "Read that." Here is what the headline said:

..... :
: **CONFESSED ROBBER!** :
: Joseph Fels, Millionaire, Tells :
: How He Got It :
:

Mr. Fels was assured that the report was shocking. "But it's true," he said. "So are all millionaires. I haven't so much fault to find with the way Rockefeller and Carnegie are giving away their money as I have with the system that permitted them to get it. Swollen fortunes for the few and prohibitive prices for the many are the direct result of special privileges. I am for single tax and low tariff. The tariff is about as insidious a crime against the

prosperity of a common people as could be conceived by a fathead government, which allows itself to be controlled by big business. A box of forty matches is sold in an average grocery store in America for one cent. Six boxes of forty matches in a box are sold on the streets of London for a penny. Eggs in England, twenty-eight cents a dozen. The day I landed in New York eggs were forty-five cents a dozen there. They were cold storage eggs, too. Cost of living! Why look at this suit of clothes! What do you suppose I paid for it in London? Just \$20. To duplicate it here, it would cost me \$35; and I do not consider that the average wages of the common people in America are much, if any, higher than in Great Britain, cost of living considered."

Asked concerning his interest in politics, Mr. Fels said: "I am not in politics. I am working to push along the economic philosophy of Henry George. That is my purpose in traveling to the Pacific coast now. We shall have something like single tax in Oregon in 1912."

"I have heard you intend to dispose of your fortune in benefiting humanity," was suggested.

"This will tell you all about the Fels fund," said he, handing out some printed literature. "Read that carefully."

One of the pamphlets said Mr. Fels is "giving in England \$25,000 a year; in Denmark, \$5,000; in Canada, \$5,000," and so on—altogether, \$100,000 a year. And he is offering to give \$25,000 (or more) a year for five years (or more) in the United States on condition that Americans who see the "land cat" will match him dollar for dollar. The money is to go into a fund which will be spent in taxation movements which seem to be making most directly toward the cures of poverty.

"I want to spend my fortune to make such fortunes as mine impossible," he said. "And that's a serious, worthy, happy occupation for a man of executive ability."

Mr. Fels spoke in Oak Park at noon, addressed single taxers in the afternoon, and heard Gifford Pinchot speak in Orchestra hall at night.

A UNIVERSAL PRAYER

George N. Bailey in the Houston (Texas) Post: "Would to the Lord old Carnegie would make haste and unload his pile and be done with it. We are sick of the noise of it. We are not grateful for any of his philanthropy, and we are as strong as ever for a horizontal reduction of the iron and steel schedules of the tariff law so that he can't rob us any longer."

THE BURDEN OF MILITARISM

The standing armies of Europe exclude from productive employment almost four million men, not including nearly two hundred thousand officers. During the past twenty-five years the military establishment has cost almost forty thousand millions and yet there are those who would have our country enter into a mad rivalry with Europe in military matters.

A PROLONGED STRUGGLE

A week after the execution of Charles I., two centuries and a half ago, parliament resolved "That the house of lords is useless, dangerous and ought to be abolished." The question is still up and the patient people of Great Britain still tolerate the hereditary body, but it looks like it would be shorn of some of its powers.

REED OF MISSOURI

Senator Reed, who succeeds Senator Warren of Missouri, will not remain long in the background. He is an orator and, what is more, is right on public questions. His campaign was a spirited one, and his speeches won him an enthusiastic following. Keep your eye on Reed of Missouri. He will not disappoint you.

SCORED AGAIN

The corporations and standpat element scored again—and heavily—when President Taft appointed Representative Walter I. Smith of Iowa to be judge of the Eighth circuit court to succeed Judge Vandeventer. Mr. Smith is one of the most pronounced among the corporation standpat republicans.

WHY FORTIFY THE CANAL?

President Taft recommends the fortifying of the canal. Why? It is a useless expenditure of money and reflects upon the nation's good intentions. It is about time for our nation to do something to prove its faith in the peace movement.