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AND NOW THE INCOME TAX

In the invitation for proposals for bids for the construction of railroads in the Philippines, which invitation was made public by Secretary of War Taft June 11, it is provided that in place of all taxes, the railways must pay annually for thirty years to the Philippine government, one-half of one percent of their gross earnings; or fifty years after the expiration of the thirty year period the annual amount to be paid in place of taxes shall be one and one-half percent upon the gross earnings. After that time the amount to be paid shall be fixed by the Philippine government.

Do our eyes deceive us or is this really a formal endorsement by the republican administration of the principles of the income tax?

The republican administration has given its endorsement to the democratic plan of giving the interstate commerce commission power to fix railroad rates. It has given its endorsement to the democratic demand that the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law be enforced. It has given its endorsement to the democratic plan of requiring federal license before a corporation may do business outside of the state of its origin. It has given an emphatic denial to the republican claim that protection is a highly patriotic and moral rule; it has given an emphatic endorsement of the democratic claim that "protection is a robbery of the many to enrich the few;" it has admitted that the tariff should not be employed by the American manufacturer as a means for imposing extortionate prices upon the American consumer. And now in the Philippine islands the republican administration has given endorsement to the principle of the income tax.

To a great many people the question will occur: If the principle of the income tax is good as applied to the Philippines, why is it not good as applied to our own land? And if it is proper for the government to go to the markets where it can buy cheapest its supplies for the Panama canal in order to escape extortionate prices, with what reason will the individual consumer who supports the government be denied the benefit of that same common sense remedy?

WHIP THE HORSE!



President Roosevelt's Peculiar Method of Punishing Corporation Wickedness

THE REAL DEFENDERS OF PROPERTY

Written for The Saturday Evening Post by
W. J. Bryan, and reproduced by courtesy of
that Journal.

Whenever any vested wrong is to be righted or any long standing abuse corrected, those who profit by the wrong or the abuse are prompt to pose as the defenders of property and to charge the reformers with attacking property rights. This is the historic attitude of those who oppose remedial legislation. The insincerity of the position taken is usually shown by the arguments employed by these self-styled champions of property, and one of the best illustrations of these arguments is to be found in the story of Demetrius, the silversmith. It reads as follows:

"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover, ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded

and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

The silversmith was profiting by the worship of idols; the making of images was the source of his income. He called together those who were engaged in the same occupation and when all were convinced that Paul's preaching would bring them financial injury they joined in a protest, but they did not give their real reason for opposing Christianity—namely, that it would cause them a money loss, but they pretended a fervent devotion to the goddess Diana. So, today, the beneficiaries of bad laws and bad governmental systems are defending their pecuniary interests with arguments that imply great devotion to the public welfare. Having satisfied themselves that the reforms demanded by the people will lessen their power to extort from, and to tyrannize over, the people, these monopolists and their defenders shout "Great is property!"