

TARIFF ABSURDITY

If a prize is ever offered for the choicest bit of tariff absurdity the editor of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Republican should enter the following editorial, which recently appeared in his paper:

"Have the politicians and newspapers in Iowa who are so ardently in favor of tariff reform ever considered that things can be greatly cheapened all around by letting the Japanese do our manufacturing? Of course that would mean some idle workmen at home. But let them go to farming. To whom would the farmers sell their stuffs, if the number of farmers were thus increased and the number of consumers decreased? Why to Liverpool, naturally—that is where everything goes and where all prices are fixed, according to the free trade leaders. But we tried that a dozen years ago and we found when the American workmen ceased to consume the products of the American farms to their normal capacity, when at work and supplied with money, that all prices of farm products fell—at Liverpool, or wherever the prices were fixed. Hogs were worth \$2.50 a hundred on the farms and corn and oats fifteen or twenty cents. The American farmers need the American working man and wage earner—and they need him fully employed, so that he has money with which to buy the products of the farms."

The Republican assumes first that tariff reform means the abolition of all import duties—which no person or party proposes. It assumes second, that present prosperity is due to the tariff and that the proposed reduction would destroy prosperity; and it assumes, third, that its readers have so little information as to be fooled by such an editorial as the one above quoted. The editor ignores the fact that prosperity followed the low tariff of 1846 and that the panic of 1873 occurred under a high tariff; he ignores the fact that the volume of money has increased more than fifty per cent per capita since 1896 and that this has caused a rise in prices all over the world. He also ignores the fact that we are exporting more than six hundred million dollars worth of manufactured products and selling them in foreign markets where we have no tariff to protect us.

It would be a reflection on our public school system if such an editorial as that reproduced could favorably impress the voters of the country.

LABOR DAY SPEECHES

The most important Labor Day speeches delivered this year were those made by Mr. Hearst and Mr. Gompers at the Jamestown exposition. Mr. Hearst called attention to the unfairness manifested in the treatment of laboring men and labor organizations. He took San Francisco as a case in point. A great deal is said about the demand of laboring men for more wages but little is said about the rise in rents and the increased cost of living. He also pointed out that while the labor mayor is branded as an extraordinary criminal because he yielded to temptation and became a grafter, less is said about the prominent business men who tempted him. Mr. Hearst's speech was a temperate but strong appeal for justice to those who toil and for harmonious relations between labor and capital.

Mr. Gompers presented an argument against government by injunction and defended the laboring men from the charge that they favor violence. Mr. Gompers knows, as all other intelligent men must, that the cause of the laboring man has no greater enemy than the man who uses or advises violence.

The two speeches will be useful in presenting the laboring man's viewpoint.

TAFT IN OKLAHOMA

Secretary Taft advises the people of Oklahoma to vote against the constitution and trust congress to pass another enabling act. This advice may be accepted by republicans who are so partisan that they would postpone statehood in order to keep a democratic state out of the union but very few republicans are as partisan as Secretary Taft, and even he might be more anxious for statehood but for the fact that his political interests would be advanced by keeping Oklahoma a territory. With most of the republicans of Oklahoma the voice of justice is not silenced by ambition for office. The right of a people to statehood does not depend upon the ticket they vote, although the republican party has for

years punished the people of the territories for voting the democratic ticket.

Secretary Taft finds fault with the constitution but he overlooks the fact that the constitution provides a way by which a majority may easily amend it. The democrats had so much confidence in the people that they framed a constitution which puts the people in power and leaves them to alter or amend the constitution to suit themselves.

Secretary Taft complains that the state is so districted that the republicans might carry the state by 10,000 and yet lose the legislature. There is not a republican state of that size where the same is not true and in Connecticut and Rhode Island it is much worse. Has Secretary Taft ever rebuked the republicans of Connecticut and Rhode Island for their unfairness in districting the state? Not he. The administration arranged the districts for the constitutional convention and they were much more unfair than the legislative districts arranged by the democrats, yet Secretary Taft never protested. It is astonishing that a cabinet officer should have shown the partisanship which his speech displayed. Fair minded republicans must have been alienated from, rather than attracted to, him by his Oklahoma City speech.

HIS OBJECTION EXPLAINED

Secretary Taft advised the people of Oklahoma to reject the proposed constitution. One objection is that the new constitution provides for jury trial in injunction cases. As the original injunction judge Secretary Taft's objection may be well founded from the standpoint of a judge. The Oklahoma constitution says that any man can demand a court trial before being convicted for violating a court injunction. This merely allows a man who has broken the command of a fallible judge the same right that the vilest criminal is allowed after breaking every law on the statute books. Labor knows full well the power of the injunction, especially the federal injunction. Almost the first federal judge to use the injunction against labor, and to sentence to imprisonment men whose only offense was that they did not believe a judge could deprive them of constitutional rights, was William H. Taft. He became addicted to the injunction habit early in his judicial career, and it is not surprising that he should object to the adoption of a constitution which will prevent the injunction abuse in Oklahoma.

THAT "PLATFORM"

Secretary Taft told the people of Oregon that we have a plethora of millionaires but he neglected to say that the "plethora" owes its existence very largely to the privileges granted by the republican party.

HEART'S CONTENT

Far over troublous seas there is an isle
Above whose valleys bluest skies are bent,
Where balmy breezes blow and soft suns smile—
Men call it Heart's Content.

And every prow that rides the sea of life
To that dear distant isle is turned for aye;
Through baffling calms and stormy waves of strife
Holding its doubtful way.

Comes back the same as barque meets barque,
And as they pass from each the challenge sent
Oft in the midmost ocean rose the waters dark—
"We steer for Heart's Content."

For many an isle there is, so like, so like
The mystic goal of all that travail sore,
That oft the wave-worn keels on strange sands strike
And find an alien shore.

But ever, as the anchor drops, and sails
From off the storm-strained yards are all unbet;
From the tall masthead still the watcher hails—
"Lo, yonder! Heart's Content!"

And so, once more the prow is seaward set;
Hearts still hope on, though waves roll dark around;
And on the stern men write the name, "Regret,"
And face forth, outward bound.

—Barton Grey in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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