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THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION

The democratic position on the tariff question should be contrasted with the republican position that the public may know the difference. The republican position is embodied in the Payne-Aldrich bill—now a law; the democratic position is set forth in the last national platform which reads as follows:

We welcome the belated promise of tariff reform now offered by the republican party in tardy recognition of the righteousness of the democratic position on this question; but the people can not safely entrust the execution of this important work to a party which is so deeply obligated to the highly protected interests as is the republican party. We call attention to the significant fact that the promised relief was postponed until after the coming election—an election to succeed in which the republican party must have the same support from the beneficiaries of the high protective tariff as it has always heretofore received from them; and to the further fact that during years of uninterrupted power, no action whatever has been taken by the republican congress to correct the admittedly existing tariff iniquities.

We favor immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duties. Articles entering into competition with trust-controlled products should be placed upon the free list and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life, especially upon articles competing with such American manufactures as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home; and graduate reductions should be made in such other schedules as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis.

Existing duties have given the manufacturers of paper a shelter behind which they have organized combinations to raise the price of pulp and paper, thus imposing a tax upon the spread of knowledge.

We demand the immediate repeal of the tariff on wood pulp, print paper, lumber, timber and logs, and that these articles be placed upon the free list.

While a few democratic members of the house of representatives and several democratic senators repudiated the platform, they did not represent the rank and file of the party and their apostasy does not change the attitude of the party. The democratic voters are for tariff reform—and for tariff reform along the lines laid down by the platform. The people now know the difference between tariff REVISION and tariff REDUCTION, and they want tariff reduction. Articles coming into competition with trust made articles should be put on the free list—that means, among other things, free iron ore.

There should be a material reduction in the tariff on the necessities of life, especially on such articles as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home. No material reduction can be hoped for in the tariff on woolen goods so long as the wool growers and the manufacturers stand together. The tariff on wool is the key-

stone of the tariff arch. It is used to fool the farmers although but a small percentage of the farmers raise sheep. As long as democrats concede protection to sheep growers they can not oppose the protective principle elsewhere. We must have free wool if we are to have cheaper clothing. The people demand reduction on other necessities of life—on sugar, on cotton goods, on hardware, machinery, agricultural implements, etc.

The platform also declares for free lumber, free paper, etc.—these are all a part of the people's fight against injustice.

After eliminating the worst features of the tariff a systematic plan should be adopted looking toward a gradual reduction—a revenue basis being the end in view. A democratic tariff law should first eliminate the grosser features of the present law, then fix a maximum ad valorem rate and then provide for a reduction of a certain per cent each year until a revenue basis is reached. Protection for protection's sake has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

A MAN

The death of William Brown of Jacksonville, Ill., removed another from the circle of Mr. Bryan's friends. When the latter began the practice of law he had desk room in the office of Brown & Kirby, and the acquaintance then formed and which continued unbroken was very helpful to Mr. Bryan and highly appreciated by him. Mr. Brown was a great lawyer. His mind was logical and his reasoning direct. He was honest with himself and honest with judge and jury. He was a model in courtesy and candor. He could protect his client without abusing his opponent; he could cross-examine a witness without brow-beating. His speech had the strength of simplicity and made the impression that only sincerity and earnestness can make. He was more than a great lawyer—he was a great man—or possibly the word is stronger without an adjective—he was a man. He never lost his sympathy with the masses—his professional success never weaned him away from the people. He did not sell his citizenship when he accepted a retainer. He did his duty everywhere. Peace to his ashes and sympathy to his family.

Galveston's Sea Wall

Occupying the east end of an island some thirty miles long and from one to three miles wide, with its original ground surface less than five feet above the Gulf of Mexico, the city of Galveston is provided by nature with practically no protection against such furious storms as that which swept over the city last Wednesday or that which on the memorable day of September 8, 1900, caused the death of more than 6,000 persons and destroyed property worth more than \$17,000,000. That the latest great assault of angry waters did not cause the death of a single life within the city was due to the promptness and energy with which the people of the stricken city in 1901 set to work to provide an effective barrier against another awful calamity.

The Galveston sea wall is one of the triumphs of re-enforced concrete construction. It extends along the city's water front for 17,593 feet (three and one-third miles), and its top is seventeen feet above mean low water of the gulf, or 1.3 feet higher than the highest point reached by the flood that was driven over the city by the hurricane of September 8, 1900. The wall proper is five feet thick at the top and sixteen feet at its base, the front being concave and the back vertical. It is built on a foundation of piles that are driven forty-three feet into the ground, the sea side of the foundation being faced with sheet piles twenty-four feet long, that provide a seamless surface against undermining water. In front of the wall for twenty-seven feet seaward a massive bed of granite rip-rap three to seven feet thick provides a further protection to the foundation. The wall itself, calculated to resist by its weight alone the shock of waves and the hydrostatic pressure, is backed by sand filling extending inland far enough to provide a walk thirteen feet wide next to the wall and a driveway thirty-eight feet wide. The surface of the driveway is on the new grade of the city, which is being extended across the island on a straight slope to a point eight feet above the waters of

Galveston bay, permanently raising the general level of streets and the first floors of buildings as the level of the downtown district was raised in Chicago years ago for permanent protection and good drainage.

The sea wall is built of concrete consisting of one part of cement, three parts of sand and six parts of crushed granite. Every three and one-half feet there were placed in the wall re-enforcing rods of corrugated steel, one and one-half inches square and ten feet long, a short distance back of the curved surface and extending diagonally in a straight line parallel to a tangent to about the middle point of the concave front. Three engineers of national repute designed the wall—Brigadier General H. M. Robert, a retired army officer, Alfred Noble of Chicago and H. C. Ripley. The grade rising was carried on under the direction of Captain C. S. Riche, for several years United States army engineer in Chicago and for six years in charge of the government's office in Galveston.

A city board of commissioners employed the sea wall engineers and was created by virtue of provisions in the constitution of Texas that empowers all counties and cities bordering on the Gulf of Mexico to issue bonds and construct sea walls, or break-waters. These provisions were in the constitution as a result of the impression produced by the hurricane of September, 1875, that swept over the island, causing much damage to property. The constitutional convention was in session at the time the hurricane occurred and hastened to insert the bond provisions, which were drafted by Judge William P. Ballinger, one of the foremost of Galveston's citizens and a member of the constitutional convention. The need of protecting Galveston was so strongly before Judge Ballinger's mind that in August, 1886, having in mind a storm that swept the city a few days previously, he addressed an open letter to the people of Galveston, warning them of their danger and urging that the bond-issuing power be used. As in many other communities, however, public sentiment was not keenly alive to the peril until a frightful lesson had been learned.

Financing the building of the sea wall was thus made possible, the total cost being \$1,500,000. A contract for building it was let to a firm of Denver contractors in September, 1902, with the requirement that the work be completed in fifteen months. Having provided for water-front protection, the city turned to the work of raising the grade. For this the legislature authorized Galveston to issue bonds to the amount of \$2,000,000, and made a grant of \$70,000 per annum for seventeen years to aid the work. Management of the grade raising was placed in the hands of a commission appointed by the governor, the undertaking thus becoming a joint enterprise of the city and the state of Texas.

That their city is now safe from any storms that may occur is the exultant cry of Galvestonians. It is true that the wind last Wednesday did not reach nearly so high a velocity as in the great storm of 1900, when the anemometer at the government station blew away after registering 100 miles an hour. In that unprecedented fury of the storm king it is estimated the wind reached a velocity of 130 miles an hour, while last Wednesday it is said to have been not more than seventy-five miles, some reports placing it at about seventy. Some observers consider it demonstrated however, that Galveston is safe against any storm that is likely to visit it for many years, considering that such calamities as the 1900 hurricane come, like the earthquakes that devastate great cities, only once in centuries. Since it was settled in 1847, Galveston has been visited by only six severe storms, and in none previous to that of 1900 was there a loss of more than three lives.—Chicago Record-Herald.

HIGH SENSE OF HONOR

What a high sense of honor those bankers must have who first limit their own liability by organizing a corporation, then demand personal security of their patrons and then refuse to give security to their depositors. They ought to blush.

DON'T BE FOOLED

Some of the papers have commenced to cry out against the income tax but the readers ought not to be fooled. A newspaper owner who puts his own interests above the welfare of his readers ought not to have any readers.