

# EDUCATIONAL SERIES

## Republican Editorials of the Vintage of 1909

### A TIME FOR PLAIN SPEECH

This is a time for plain speech. The Tribune does not believe that any northwestern member of congress who votes for the Payne-Aldrich treachery can expect re-election. We should have little faith in popular government if any could.

Contemplate the blackness of the treason in this part of the country in some states conventions and campaign speakers may have pledged tariff reduction with the secret intention to raise the tariff. We have more confidence in our members than to believe that was the case here. But if politicians did not mean to keep their word, the people meant that they should, and will punish them for not doing it.

The national platform was plain enough, but that of Minnesota was more explicit. The re-election of any member after voting for upward revision would be confession that neither candidates, conventions nor people mean what they say. After that the people might as well abdicate at once and for good.

Strenuous attempts to cloud the issue are preparing and will burst into full flower when the conference report appears. Figures will be juggled to prove that there has been average reduction. Why should anybody be fooled by these? We have had a generation of experience of tariff bills drawn by the same servants of privileged monopoly who drew this. Whatever the pretense of reducing duties, prices were pushed up after each.

Why should they not jack the tariff up? Both committees are organized in the interest of privilege. The conference committee is the last sifting of the monopoly forces. No northwestern state is represented on it. From eleven to fourteen of its fifteen members are sworn to higher duties. What folly to expect lower? If they are made in appearance, the reductions will be more than offset by obscure changes in administration or classification. Tariff beneficiaries have no doubt about what is doing. They have been rushing in imports in advance of the law and are putting up prices in expectation of its opportunities.—Minneapolis Tribune (Rep.)

It is not a complete surrender, but the president has secured for the people many of the fruits of victory for which they were contending. Chicago Evening Post (Rep.)

He (the president) has won a protective tariff, carrying out protection principles and meeting the pledges of the republican party.—Philadelphia Press (Rep.)

Doubtless a careful study of the bill will show that there are some reductions that are important. But it is doubtful whether there has really been revision downward, as far as the articles in which the consumers are interested are concerned.—Indianapolis News, Rep.

### VICTORY FOR ALDRICH

The outcome is a signal victory for the Aldrich-Hale-Lodge crowd. Mr. Aldrich has successfully defended his "citadel of protection" and the great schedules which he constantly referred to as the "bulwark" of the system, wools, cotton, iron and steel, and sugar, come out practically untouched. This is literally true of wools, cottons and sugar. Experts are unable to point to anything in the bill as agreed upon that will tend to lower to the consumer the price which he now pays for the necessaries of life.—Indianapolis News.

### NO RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE

At no point in the revision is there found evidence of a serious purpose to reduce duties in the interest of lower prices. The protective principle has been carefully observed. Many of the duties which prevented importation have been reduced, but there is little likelihood that importations sufficient to affect home prices will result.

There is every reason to believe the trade will take advantage of the increase in the duties on cottons, to advance prices. These increases bear especially upon the poorer classes. There

was absolutely no justification for the advance of the rates on the cheaper grades of cotton hosiery. No one doubts for a moment that the manufacturers will increase the price of women's and children's hosiery as a result of the heavier duties.

The increases in the silk schedule were made because Senator Aldrich and Representative Payne came to the conclusion that the articles comprised under this schedule were luxuries. There are hundreds of thousands of women who think to the contrary.

Although the woolen schedule was admittedly iniquitous it has not been changed, except in a few unimportant paragraphs.

The reduction in sugar rates is so inappreciable that it will not be felt by the consumer.

What are particularly interesting to the housewife are the china, glass and glassware paragraphs. The rates with regard to the articles therein are practically not affected.

The farmers of the middle west will not benefit from the new lumber rates.

The duty on structural steel ready for use has been increased. The reductions in the metal schedules will lead to no large importations.—Chicago Tribune, Rep.

### JOKERS

Senator Cummins is calling attention to a monstrosity in the steel schedule which ought to be looked after. The Dingley duty on structural steel is \$10 a ton, and the house or Payne bill reduced the duty to \$6 a ton. Now it appears in the Aldrich bill in ad valorem form at 45 per cent, which is equivalent to about \$16 a ton on the basis of present domestic prices, and which would be more than the Dingley rate on the basis of any import price likely to prevail. Why the Aldrich reviser should have sneaked in this special favor for the great steel trust remains to be explained.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

This is but an instance. The senate bill cotton and wool schedules are full of just such jokers, as Senator Dolliver showed. Why should the steel purchaser allow himself to be pacified with free iron ore, which helps the steel manufacturer and nobody else?—Des Moines Register and Leader, Rep.

### THE BEST THAT CAN BE SAID

The best that can be said of the tariff bill as reported by the conference committee is that it does not fulfill the promises of either party and should not have the support of any member of congress who has committed himself for honest, substantial downward revision. The worst that can be said of it is that its specific provisions are, in the main, specific in figures only, and that many of these figures, although they may be made to appear favorable to the American consumers, may yet be wholly deceptive, and that because of the ambiguity and uncertainty involved, the net result of the bill, if it should become a law, may be an increase instead of a decrease in the cost of living.—Chicago Tribune.

### NOTHING GAINED

The truth, if it is ever established, will be that the president has gained next to nothing.

There is much discontent among house members because of the palpable violation of all the party promises in the legislation about to be enacted.

Progressive senators who will vote against the bill realize that the president and the majority in both houses will make a mighty effort to discredit the men who have fought against Aldrichism and for the public interest. The darkest and most disreputable feature of the whole tariff fight is the effort already started in that direction and to be continued with the aid and countenance of the president himself.

The bill remains practically the senate bill except for such reductions in hides, leather goods, lumber and raw materials as were conceded to the president. Not a word of criticism was uttered against the measure in the senate, but is applicable to the conference agreement.

The reductions do not show revision downward in the sense that such revision was to

check the monopolization of productive industries or the steady advance of prices through manipulation by controlling combinations.—Philadelphia North American, Rep.

### THE COST OF LIVING

There is only one way to judge of the value of the proposed tariff law, which is now so nearly defined as to leave little speculation as to its ultimate terms, and that is the probable effect it will have on the cost of living.

The cause of the demand for lower duties is the excessive cost of living, brought about by the extortions of the tariff-protected interests.

As nearly as can be foreseen at this time, the tariff bill, as it will go to the president, will leave practically unchanged the predatory powers of the sugar trust, the steel trust, the oil trust, the woolen trust, the cotton trust, the meat trust, the harvester trust, the lead trust and the other combinations that have been formed to exact abnormal profits out of the prices that the people must pay for the necessities of life, and out of those who are willing and able to buy the luxuries.

If there shall be any gain to the people that gain will not meet the promises of the two great parties nor the expectations created by the platforms and campaign utterances. And no provision that congress may make that will not satisfy the people will serve to check the agitation of the tariff question. If this agitation continues to be allayed as a result of the deliberations of the present session, a way must be found to get under the rates so far made on the necessities of life and agreed to by the conference committee. The only key to the tariff situation is the cost of living.—Kansas City Star, Rep.

### AS OTHER PAPERS VIEW IT

The republican leaders are gambling on prosperity and public gullibility. The bill adopted in conference is a bet that the country will have so completely recovered from the Roosevelt panic by the time of the next congressional elections that the voters will forget the broken pledges, the extortionate rates and the manner in which the Payne-Aldrich measure was framed.—New York World, Dem.

The republican party in its platform, and the republican candidate in his speeches, having promised a reduction of the tariff burden, a republican congress has increased that burden, and now these men who have broken the pledge they made to the country are seeking by a false parade of meaningless figures to conceal their crime from the people, whom they have cheated and betrayed.—New York Times, Taft supporter.

The president's compromise with the party traitors who repudiated the pledges of revision downward given by him during his campaign is received by the country with profound disappointment. Most of all is it disappointing to the republican voters of the middle west and the northwest, who took Mr. Taft at his word and gave him the presidency. If they do not revenge themselves upon the party which has betrayed them the temper of the American people with respect to the binding force of popular verdicts has changed in a way that is unbelievable.—St. Louis Republic, Dem.

It is fair to say that Mr. Taft has done what he could. He has made a one-man fight to redeem the pledges of the republican party and has been moderately successful in the fight. \* \* \* The future of tariff revision rests with the people. Will they bestow censure in the one effective way upon those men in congress who not only have supported the high schedules of the present high tariff, but have done their best to make some of those schedules materially higher? If so, there will be a noticeable scarcity of standpatters in the next congress.—Chicago News, Taft supporter.

The bill as it went to Mr. Taft originally was a shocking repudiation of his solemn pledge. Undeniably Mr. Taft has made it less shocking. But we do not believe that President Taft or anybody else will be able to convince the people that the bill reported by the conference committee, and which, it is understood, the president will sign when it comes to him, is a redemption in good faith of the pledge made to the people that if the republican party were elected they could count upon substantial relief from the tariff burdens of which they justly complained.—New York American, Hearst.