

are considered. When a tariff law is prepared by those who believe in the principle of protection the interests of the favored few are looked after, at the expense of the rest of the people.

I do not know to what extent the tariff question will be an issue in the next presidential campaign. The money question overshadowed the tariff question in 1896, and the question of imperialism overshadowed both the tariff and the money question in 1900. In 1904 an effort was made to secure control of the government by making concessions to those who had been alienated in former campaigns, but the effort failed. Last year an effort was made to arouse the people to the immense corporate aggression and the paramount issue was declared to be the rule of the people.

A number of questions were discussed, the tariff question more than any other. Republicans recognized that tariff reform was demanded. A large percentage of the republicans in the country are now enlisted under the banner of tariff reform. But how can the democratic party hope to secure the support of these people if they go before the country as the advocates of protection?

Fully 75 per cent, probably 90 per cent, of the American people, if not more, derive no benefit, direct or indirect, from a protective tariff, whether that tariff be levied upon the manufactured product or upon raw materials. They can see no prospect of relief in the effort to extend the benefits of protection to a few more. We can not hope to win them over to our standard by promising to transfer the protection from one class to another, or to extend the direct benefits of protection from a few to a larger number. If we make any headway we must convince them that in writing a tariff law we will consider the interests of the taxpayers, rather than the interests of the beneficiaries of protection.

Insofar as the presidential campaign of 1892 turned on the tariff question it was an indorsement of the record of the Fifty-second congress, in which the democrats favored free raw materials and a substantial reduction in the tariff on manufactured products. This can not be described as Mr. Cleveland's policy, because it was adopted before his third nomination was assured, and the platform upon which he ran that year was more radical than the platform which his friends prepared. The national platform of 1892 indorsed the doctrine of free raw material and on that issue more than any other the democratic party won its national victory.

Insofar as the Wilson bill became unpopular, it was due in part to its failure to produce enough revenue, after the elimination of the income tax by a supreme court decision, and partly because the senate made a substantial increase in the rates fixed by the house. The Wilson bill would have been more popular as it passed the house than it was as it passed the senate, because the house bill was more radical, and more fully recognized the demand for free raw material. If history teaches anything, therefore, it teaches us that we should endeavor to lessen the scope of protection, rather than to extend it.

I beg to assure you of my appreciation of the hearing you have given me. I believe in the rule of the people, and we must present the issues to the people, that they may know the arguments on both sides.

As one of those condemned by your platform of 1896 I have come to present a defense of the position taken by those who believe in free raw material, as a step—an important step—in the direction of a tariff for revenue only.

I hope the matter will be fully discussed among the democrats of Texas, and I have confidence that their verdict will be on our side, when they have had time to give full consideration to the subject. If, on the other hand, they decide against us I shall take an appeal to the democracy of the nation, for that is the court of last resort in matters of party policy, and I have faith that that court will support the position taken by the democrats in the Fifty-second and Fifty-third congresses.

Believing as I do that the doctrine set forth in the Texas platform would, if put into effect, be injurious to a majority of the people of Texas, and believing that the policy would be disastrous to the party if adopted by a national convention, I am performing what I regard as a duty in presenting the objection to that policy, and in appealing to the democrats of Texas to reconsider the action which they took in their state convention of 1896.

MR BRYAN IN TEXAS

The following report of the Dallas meeting is taken from a Dallas dispatch to the Houston, Texas, Post:

Dallas, Texas, September 14.—William J. Bryan today laid down a line of demarcation between the policy of a tariff on free raw materials—a line between protection and no protection, clearly and distinctly. He showed that there was a clearly defined way which the Texas democracy must follow—either with himself or with the Texas national congressmen, for or against such a tariff.

He inveighed against a tax on raw materials and explained his position. He took a positive stand against protection and gave reasons why he did not believe in it. He showed by argument, which the large audience in Bush Temple evidently believed in, that a tax on raw materials would benefit the few against a hardship on the many, and said that the supporters of protection could give no adequate reason for their contention—claiming that there were three reasons why he opposed it, none of which the supporters had ever refuted.

If anybody had expected a personal reference to any Texas national representative from the Nebraskan, that person was disappointed, because there was no personal reference. He did refer to Texas national congressmen and the way they had voted on the tariff bill, but that was all. He called no names, and used the word "them" instead of "him." In fact, at one time during his address, a man in the audience called out: "Go after him," and Mr. Bryan corrected the remark.

"Don't say him," he called, as he raised his hand in a well known gesture, "say, rather 'them.'"

He said he had come to Texas to answer an indictment against himself which was of years standing, and that he believed no one had a better right to come to Texas than he, because the people of Texas had done everything in their power to give him the highest office in the gift of the people.

In concluding that portion of his address which related to the tariff, Mr. Bryan said he had given four arguments against it. "When they are answered," said he, "I'll come back and give you some more. I never enter a fight until I am prepared to stay to the finish, and I shall stay to the finish in this fight. Not only will I go into Texas, but into other states as well."

And then he turned to protection. He gave reasons for opposing what he termed an unnatural condition. As an illustration he quoted a case from Topeka. In it it was decided that a decision of the supreme court of Kansas in the city of Topeka could not tax its citizens for the benefit of a proposed factory. He said that this was the same theory as that of protection, except that the latter was on a greater scale.

Mr. Bryan arrived from Waxahachie about 8:30 o'clock over the Katy. He delivered two addresses—one at Bush Temple and another in the open air in front of the main entrance of the Oriental hotel. The second address was made necessary because of the immense crowd which gathered at Bush Temple to hear him. The seating capacity of the house is 1500 people. There were fully 2100 people assembled long before 10 o'clock. This being true, it was necessary to have the overflow crowd and the overflow address.

Therefore Mr. Bryan talked in front of the Oriental's main entrance. Soon after 9:30 o'clock, when Manager Wray of Bush Temple saw the conditions, he made an explanatory talk to the crowd on Elem street. He had seen Mr. Bryan and the committeemen and suggested the overflow meeting and told about it. This explanation was accepted in good humor and the crowd waited.

AT FORT WORTH

(Houston Post Special.)

Fort Worth, Texas, September 14.—Accompanied by a large delegation of some of the most prominent politicians and business men of the city, who had come with him from Dallas, Mr. Bryan alighted on Main street at 3 p. m. and walked to the city hall, a few blocks away.

Arriving at the foot of the stone steps leading to the upper floors, and the auditorium, the large number of people congregated thereabouts unable to obtain entrance to the auditorium caused an investigation to be made by the entertainment and arrangement committeemen who decided that it would be better to have the

commoner deliver his speech from the city hall lawn.

Mayor Davis was accordingly dispatched to the auditorium, where the crowd wedged and jammed until the police on duty refused to allow any more, cheered lustily, believing that he had come to announce the coming of Bryan.

Those who had been in the hall for several hours, having come early in order to make sure of a seat, were somewhat disappointed in the change of program, and, disregarding the admonition of the mayor to proceed slowly in order to make sure no accident would occur, a mighty rush was made for the stairways. These were instantly congested to a dangerous degree and a corps of officers were kept busy preventing a stampede.

The crowd from the auditorium mingled with the hundreds who had been unable to gain admittance and instantly a rush was made for the speaker, who, suave and smiling, stood under the window of the auditor's office on the pavement. Instantly a cry was raised by those in the rear asking that he mount either the stairs or a chair in order that he might be seen and heard when he started to talk. A table was brought from one of the offices, but before he could mount it Mayor Davis drove his big seven-passenger automobile over the curbing, on to the lawn, and to the spot where Mr. Bryan was standing. In the meantime the 2,000 people had flocked to every point of vantage and were packed as closely as possible on the lawn. In the crowd were many ladies, who were allotted places on the iron park benches and in the windows of the city hall. On the roof of the Central fire station the different fire crews congregated, while men and boys climbed the trees surrounding the hall, and several of the more venturesome ascended telephone poles, while the iron fire escape of the Western National bank building, 100 yards away, was thronged by dozens anxious to see Mr. Bryan. In the automobile with Mr. Bryan were Mayor Davis, his son Marvin, Commissioner Powell, Colonel Wynne and his granddaughter, Pauline.

Commissioner Powell arose in the machine and said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: We are indeed fortunate that we are here to listen to and hear the words of wisdom from the greatest living American statesman (applause) who for many years has presented all that is best in the passing years of the republic, and who comes to us today in the capacity of a private citizen to discuss a great issue before the people of Texas. No character in history, in all its pages, has passed through the open furnace of public criticism with greater credit to himself and no political party ever rallied around a loftier standard-bearer than we have done in the memorable contests when Mr. Bryan was our leader. (Applause.) Calumny and slander have passed by him as an idle wind, which he respected not and, shining through the cloud of his successive defeats with meteoric brilliancy, his great character has illumined the party of a great country. I know not what place he will occupy in history, but when the historian comes searching the musty tomes for the greatest private citizen of this age, he will find that monument recorded in the life history of our distinguished guest. And now, gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the first citizen of the American republic, Hon. William Jennings Bryan." (Prolonged applause.)

Colonel Bryan, in responding, spoke as follows:

"I appreciate the compliment that you pay me by your presence, insofar as your presence can be construed as a personal compliment, and I appreciate still more highly the interest that you manifest in a great subject, insofar as that interest accounts for your being here.

"I spoke this morning at Dallas, and I took the precaution to commit to writing yesterday the substance of what I expected to say. I did not commit the speech to memory, but I followed the line as closely as I could, and the two twin cities of northern Texas have so equal a place in my consideration that I would not be willing to deliver a different speech to the one I delivered there, lest one might be better than the other, and thus I might show partiality. (Applause and laughter.) I will do as nearly this afternoon as possible what I did there, and follow as closely as memory will permit the line of argument that you will find printed in the papers."

THE HOUSTON POST'S OPINION

In an editorial entitled "Mr. Bryan at Dallas," the Houston (Texas) Post says:

Mr. Bryan has commenced a campaign for