

free raw materials as a democratic policy and, if he conducts it with his accustomed energy, he is likely to succeed in bringing about a condition in the democratic party that may possibly render it unnecessary to make nominations in 1912. Any one acquainted with the industrial conditions of the country, especially of the south, knows very well that a free raw material platform must lose many congressional districts next year and might, in 1912, lose the electoral votes of several southern states that have gone regularly democratic in presidential elections.

It is rather late in the day to formulate a new tariff policy for the democratic party. The old principle of taxation for revenue with which to defray the government's expenses is sound statesmanship, and it admits of unimportant local differences of opinion that need not disorganize an entire party. If, however, it be proposed to write a tariff bill in a platform, the party that does it will suffer for the simple reason that every representative is going to abide by the instructions of his immediate constituency, as they have generally done in the past where the issue has been raised, and that will destroy every vestige of party harmony and divide the organization into hostile camps.

It is not the function of a revenue bill to award favors to privileged interests, nor yet to punish violators of the law. Its function is to provide revenue, and if the party is to depart from that doctrine, it might just as well use the taxing power to accomplish any other end of government.

Mr. Bryan is optimistic, indeed, if he thinks for a moment that his proposed tariff plank can unite the democratic party. Its only effect can be to accentuate such divisions as already exist without gains for the republicans to compensate for the losses. It is not difficult for the party to agree on a general principle of "tariff for revenue only," and the party can, if successful on such a platform, revise the tariff and mitigate the abuses of protection without its members flying at each other's throats. If, however, the party must undertake to bind its entire membership to detailed schedules, then disaster is inevitable.

The Post is frank to say, while conceding Mr. Bryan's undoubted right to advocate what he pleases and in whatever locality he pleases, it believes the campaign he has inaugurated is going to precipitate faction in the party instead of composing such differences as exist. It believes that if the people are permitted to thresh out the tariff question for themselves, they will, while differing widely, perhaps, according to locality, reach conclusions that will not render harmonious action impossible so far as the general principle of tariff reform is concerned.

So far as his arguments for free materials are concerned, they were presented so fully during the extraordinary session of congress that Mr. Bryan has added nothing of weight to them. They are as fallacious under his treatment as they were under the treatment of the democrats and republicans who espoused them when the tariff bill was under debate. They make a bid for republican votes that the party will never get and they apply the lash to democratic votes in close states and districts that the party will be certain to lose, if this free raw material fallacy be persisted in.

The Post, admiring Mr. Bryan as it does and agreeing with him in most things, must express its regret that he has deemed it proper to raise the issue presented in his Dallas speech. The Post can not follow him that far and the Texas democracy, which long ago repudiated the free raw material doctrine, will not do so, for the people are already sufficiently informed on the subject to comprehend the injustice that such a perversion of the taxing function as he proposes would be sure to inflict.

## North Pole Literature

In a dispatch from Battle Harbor, Labrador, the Associated Press says that it is learned from members of Peary's expedition that he was accompanied to the pole by only one Eskimo and that he left Henson, his negro servant, and three Eskimos one march south of the objective point. Peary, in his own story, declares that four Eskimos and Henson stood beside him at the pole. Those unfriendly to Dr. Cook criticised him because he had taken only two Eskimos with him to the pole, and no white companion. Admiral Schley, in a letter to Captain Osbon of the Arctic club, of which Cook is a member, says he likes

the attitude that Cook has maintained in the controversy with Peary. This shatters the assumption that the navy would be solid for Peary.

In a statement given to the Associated Press at Battle Harbor, Labrador, Commander Peary said:

"I am the only white man who has ever reached the north pole and I am prepared to prove it at the proper time. I have already stated publicly that Cook has not been to the pole. This I re-affirm and I will stand by it, but I decline to discuss the details of the matter. These will come out later. I have said that Dr. Cook's statement that he had reached the pole should not be taken seriously, and that I 'have him nailed' by concrete proof to support my statement. In six months you probably will get the whole story. It would not be policy for me to enter upon a full debate, with the subject as it now stands. To do so I would be giving out much information of which other uses could be made. I intend to wait until Dr. Cook has issued his full, authorized statement. Up to the present time there have been only newspaper accounts of Dr. Cook's alleged polar trip, and these may or may not be accurate. When Dr. Cook has time to issue a complete, authorized version of his journey will be the proper opportunity for me to make public the information which I have. After that the jury—in other words, the people and the scientific bodies of the world—will pass judgment on the matter and there will then be nothing left of Dr. Cook's case but his own assertions that he has reached the north pole. In the meanwhile it is my determination not to deal with debates for the reason already stated."

The Associated Press correspondent at Battle Harbor, Labrador, prints the following interview with Commander Peary:

"Why did you not have a white witness at the pole?" was asked.

"Because after a lifetime of effort I dearly wanted the honor for myself."

"Was Dr. Cook at the pole?" was the first question to which the commander replied.

"Cook was not at the pole on April 21, 1908, or any other time. I make this statement advisedly and at the proper time will back it up with proof."

"Were you surprised, Commander Peary, on returning to Labrador, to learn that Dr. Cook had reported reaching the pole, or had anything happened before you returned to cause you to anticipate this event?" was next asked.

"I heard it in New York that Dr. Cook was going to bring the pole back," replied the commander.

"Is it true that you opened letters or documents having reference to this point?"

"No," he responded emphatically.

"Did Harry Payne Whitney make any important statements to you about another polar expedition?"

"He made no statement," said Commander Peary. "He is on the relief schooner Jeannie now and is probably shooting bear on the western coast."

"What life is there to be found at the north pole? Are there birds, fishes or animals there?"

"When I was there it was not the season for birds. I do not know if there are fish in the polar seas at that spot. There are no animals at the pole."

Commander Peary declined to discuss the charges that he took supplies at Etah belonging to Dr. Cook, but declared that Captain Moses Bartlett could not throw any light on this point, because he had not been in Greenland since Peary went there last. Ludolph Francke had begged piteously to be taken out of Greenland. He was suffering from scurvy.

Speaking about the unexplored area in the polar regions, Commander Peary said that there were 1,000,000 square miles of unknown territory between the pole and Behring Straits previous to his expedition. He had not yet figured out by how much that quantity was reduced.

Asked with regard to the purple snow fields at the pole, the hummocks and crevices approaching the pole, Commander Peary said:

"That is a range of information that I do not care to impart now."

Speaking of the depth of water he said that he had run out 1,500 fathoms of line without reaching bottom within five miles of the pole.

"We took soundings from Cape Columbia to the pole," he continued, which give a cross section of that part of the floes of the Arctic ocean. The soundings were from ten to twenty miles apart.

"What was the thickness of the ice and the temperature of the atmosphere?" he was asked.

"I had no means of measuring the ice, which

was heavy. I do not care to tell the temperature."

Bearing on the Cook controversy, Commander Peary was asked:

"Are the Eskimos who were with Dr. Cook in his dash to the pole on your ship?"

"No, but I talked with them."

"Have you heard that any Eskimos were ever at the pole before yours?"

"No, never. No inducement that could be offered them would tempt them out on the sea of ice until I went there. They knew by experience the liability of the ice breaking up and carrying people away to death."

In referring to the reception being planned for him when he reaches home Commander Peary asked the Associated Press to publish the following statement:

"From such fragmentary reports as I have received, I am more touched, gratified and honored than I can say at the way the public has treated my work."

Arrangements are being made for a banquet in New York for Dr. Cook.

### SCHLEY WITH COOK

A New York dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Previous assumption that Commander Peary would have the United States navy solidly behind him in his controversy with Cook was not borne out in a letter from Rear Admiral Schley, retired, made public today by Captain B. S. Osbon, secretary of the Arctic Club of America, of which Dr. Cook is a member. The letter, under date of September 11, from Ponconno Manor, Pa., runs in part as follows:

"I like Cook's attitude immensely in this unfortunate, unnecessary controversy. He certainly has been dignified and manly in the stand he has taken in this matter."

"Captain Osbon followed up his letter from the admiral tonight with a lecture on 'Who Discovered the north pole?' 'Dr. Frederick A. Cook,' he said, 'was for two years my wife's physician. I saw him two or three times a week and we chatted many hours. If I have ever known a man of integrity, probity, sincerity and modesty, it is Dr. Cook.'"

## President Taft's Tour

President Taft started to Boston September 15 on his trip through the country. His tour will cover eight weeks and he will visit thirty-five states and territories and be entertained in fifty-five cities.

The business men of Boston gave the president a dinner on the evening of his departure. In that speech the president distinctly declared his partiality for Aldrich and Aldrichism. Following is an extract from his speech as reported by the Associated Press in the newspapers of September 15:

"Your chairman has made some reference to a number of subjects to which the attention of congress may well be directed. In the first place there is the monetary situation. While it is probable that the Vreeland bill passed by the last congress will aid us in case of another financial crash, it is certain that our banking and monetary system is a patched up affair, which satisfies nobody and least of all, those who are clear headed and have a knowledge of what a financial system should be.

"The matter has been referred by congress to a monetary commission, which has been studying with much interest and enthusiasm the financial and banking systems of the great governments of Europe, and has embodied and will soon publish in an interesting and attractive form the best accounts of the financial systems of the world. It is quite apparent from the statements of Mr. Vreeland, who is now the head of the committee on banking and currency in the house of representatives and from the conversations of Mr. Aldrich, who is the chairman of the monetary commission and of the finance committee of the senate, that the trend of the minds of the monetary commission is toward some sort of arrangement for a central bank of issue which shall control the reserve and exercise a power to meet and control casual stringency which from time to time will come in the circulating medium of the country and the world.

"Mr. Aldrich states that there are two indispensable requirements in any plan to be adopted involving a central bank of issue. The one is that the control of the monetary system shall be kept free from Wall street influences, and the other that it shall not be manipulated for political purposes. These are two principles