

in this city. And with the following additions, as we heard him deliver it, they may be corrected: At the point marked No. 1, where it refers to the vote of the democrats in the senate, which reads: "They voted to maintain the tariff rates on everything that came from their particular section." The president cited Texas as an example, evidently referring to Senator Bailey. I believe that he stated the figures that the imports from the Philippines were limited to that would come in free of duty. He classed the higher grades of cottons as luxuries nearly as valuable as silk. In reference to the conflicting statements of the manufacturers and importers (I think it was at this point) he good naturedly said, "There are liars and damned liars, and I might add tariff liars." As it was the first time the people of this part of the state have had the opportunity of seeing Mr. Taft we were all anxious and curious to see and size up the president and hear what he had to say in defense of the Payne-Aldrich tariff act, and as he said in "support" of James A. Tawney. He came right out in the open and said, "I came here because James A. Tawney comes from Winona; when a man stands with me, I stand by him." But the president rather took the wind out of Mr. Tawney, his friends, postmaster, editors and republican politicians arguments in general all over the country that they have been working the farmers with for years when he said: "Now certainly no one will contend that protection has increased the cost of food in this country when the fact is that we have been the greatest exporters of food products in the world. It is only that the demand has increased beyond the supply that farm lands have not been opened as rapidly as the population and the demand has increased." The farmers all over the country have been led to believe that high prices were due to the protective policy. This statement of the president's ought to open the eyes of the farmers to the fact that a tariff on farm products was simply a bunco game worked on them by the republican politicians and the interests to get their votes and enable the over-protected manufacturers to continue to fleece them. The president might have gone still farther at this point and been within the truth and stated how, after these food products of the farm reach the packer and manufacturer, they suddenly become extremely valuable and decidedly expensive to the consumer. There is but little doubt that many of these food products are shipped abroad and sold like many other articles that the farmer has to have, for less than he is compelled to pay for them at home.

THE PRESIDENT ON THE TARIFF

Mr. Taft has particularly failed in sounding the temper and grasping the view of the west with reference to the Payne-Aldrich law. He assumes that by signing the bill the tariff issue has been disposed of for some years. So far as the west is concerned, this is an utterly fallacious assumption. The action of congress has made the issue greater and more insistent than ever, and it will not be allayed until the tariff system is relieved of at least its most flagrant iniquities.

The president's treatment of the progressive republicans, who opposed the bill finally voted against it, is nothing less than amazing. Mr. Taft, as early as 1906, took public cognizance of the need of tariff revision, and of the sentiment within the republican party demanding relief from tariff excesses and the extortion prac-

ticed under them. Under Mr. Taft's leadership this sentiment spread and crystalized, and because of his espousal of the cause of revision he was nominated by his party, and against the combined efforts of the reactionaries. It was Mr. Taft and his leadership that forced the republican convention to promise downward revision, for any promise of revision under the circumstances was a promise of downward revision.

In short Mr. Taft took his party formally, at least, out of the standpat rut, and placed it before the country as a tariff revision party. He deserves credit for that. He put it in order for any republican, in congress or out of congress, to preach tariff reform without self-impeachment. In fact, he made it contrary to the official declaration of the party to demand higher duties or to insist that the country "let well enough alone." The senators and representatives who stood for lower duties were not originally low tariff men. They were and are protectionists. But the more they studied the schedules, under the license and implied mandate of their oaths of office and under the assumed approval of the president, the more they saw of the graft, of the extortion and of the wickedness of the prevailing system which system it was deliberately proposed, by a majority of congress to perpetuate.

Yet President Taft declares that these men were in the wrong; that they should have voted for the bill; that united action was essential in order to maintain the solidarity of the party. All this is amazing for the reason that Mr. Taft was accepted and elected as a progressive, not as a reactionary, but because congress had only one problem on its hands in that session—a problem on which both the party and the president had made themselves clear—and there seemed to be no reason why an honest attitude on the part of any member on that question should impair his usefulness in general or menace the solidity of the organization on questions subsequently to be considered.

For the first time, Mr. Taft in his Winona speech, went into the new law in detail. Heretofore he has confessed a lack of information on the ramifications of the tariff, but now he comes forward and bases his analysis of the measure on the showing made by Chairman Payne—a showing that has been utterly discredited by experts. Reference is made to the long hearings of the ways and means committee—hearings made up of "testimony" from the beneficiaries of protection, with the side of consumers rarely heard and never seriously considered. Mr. Payne himself said, near the end of the tariff session that the basis of production cost, recommended in the party platform, was abandoned because there was no reliable information at hand to make such a basis.

The president declares that the new law is the best tariff law the country ever has had. It is submitted that if comparisons were to be made the best tariff laws were those based on the original idea of protection—that industries should be fostered by limited protection only long enough to enable them to furnish the consumer at lower prices than the consumer could be furnished from abroad and that if this could not be done within a reasonable time, the protection should be withdrawn. Original protection never contemplated the embodiment of graft and extortion. Generally speaking, the best tariff laws were the earliest and the worst the latest and the evils of tariff legislation have been pretty evenly progressive. Barring those incidental, but important adjuncts of the new law pointed out by the president, and considering the tariff feat-



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ures only, the Payne-Aldrich law is the worst of them all.

The evils of the Dingley law were so manifest, so flagrant, so oppressive, so burdensome in the increase of the cost of living that the country will not be satisfied with any substitute that must be laboriously and

ambiguously explained and especially it will not be satisfied with the estimate of such a law by a man like Chairman Payne as against the denunciatory attacks on particular schedules by such patriots as the western insurgents.—Kansas City Star.