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A SPECIAL INTERESTS ADMINISTRATION

While Mr. Taft is out preaching for policies advocated by special interests the secretary of war is preparing to appear in court as attorney for a great corporation in its suit against the state of Illinois. A Nashville, Tenn., dispatch carried by the Associated Press says:

"A special news dispatch from Chicago tonight says that Secretary of War Dickinson will appear before the Illinois supreme court to argue a case for the Illinois Central Railroad company, for which he was formerly general counsel, and that the state of Illinois is the opposing party to the suit. Judge Dickinson's attention having been called to the matter, he said the suit had already been argued by him in the lower court while general counsel of the Illinois Central road. He said that the suit involved a large amount in taxes to the road, and had required a great amount of detail of preparation. He emphatically declared that no question was involved that in any way affected government regulation of railroads. It was simply a question of accounting under a contract. Secretary Dickinson explained that when offered a position in President Taft's cabinet, he informed the president that he would dissolve absolutely his connection with the railroad company, but told him that at that stage of the suit in question the company could not employ new counsel who would have the familiarity with the case requisite to argue it on appeal and that he did not feel it was right, under such conditions, to abandon the case. The president, Mr. Dickinson said, agreed to this view."

SHIP SUBSIDY, TOO

A Washington dispatch to the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal (rep.) says that President Taft is known to be in favor of the ship subsidy bill. This dispatch adds:

"Many evidences are given that the greatest campaign yet carried on in behalf of ship subsidy legislation is now afoot in various parts of the country. Not only through speakers, but by the distribution of literature, and in other ways, is this campaign being carried on. All the signs are that the subsidy question will be extremely alive from the opening day of congress. The test will come in the house, which has always been close in recent years on the subsidy question, as the senate will pass a bill."

Is this another instance where Mr. Aldrich is to demonstrate that he is the real leader of the republican party?

"The Prize Bunco Game of American History"

The Lincoln (Neb.) News, a republican paper, prints this dispatch:

New York, October 4.—"The plan for a central bank originated in Wall Street and not with the national monetary commission. Wall Street will control this bank or there will be no such institution."

So declared Alfred Crozier, the Wilmington, Del., author, who is probably one of the best versed students of finance in the country, when asked for an explanation, based on the statement published, that one of the commission admits that such a bank will be recommended.

"It is really humorous," continued Mr. Crozier, "to note the coy manner in which Wall Street interests are allowing information to 'leak' out. As a matter of fact this deal, the prize bunco game of American history, calculated to place the entire control of the nation's currency in the hands of a Wall Street company, has been completed for months. Fearing the uproar that would have been certain to result had the entire scheme been sprung on the public at once, the men engineering the deal have been shrewd enough to spring their plans by strategy. Today's scheme is accredited to one of the members of the monetary commission. It is planned that the statement that the monetary commission appointed by the last congress has decided that a central bank is necessary, is merely a feeler. If it causes a protest, as it is sure to

do, from small bankers who have not yet been whipped into line, the way will be smoothed and it will be easy to find out who the opponents of the bill are. Badly as Wall Street wants the institution which would give it entire power to issue and withdraw the money of the country—namely the power to make and unmake panics—the men back of the project will knife their own offspring in an instant if they feel that any scheme will be consummated which will keep the control of the institution in the hands of the government.

"Of course there has been no open talk of Wall Street control of a central bank of issue. Such a thing would be fatal. The plan is for a bank with capital stock privately owned. In my opinion no possible scheme could be devised which would prevent Wall Street from gaining control of a bank with its stock issued as this is planned.

"There are a great many suggestions made regarding the proposed bank and every effort will be made by the Wall Street interests to surround the entire matter with such a wealth of technicalities that the public will refuse to pay any attention to the scheme.

"The real issue, however, is merely this: Shall a great central bank be established which will have power to issue or secure our money, and if so shall it be done by the government or by private corporations."

Paying the Republican Tariff Tax on Clothing

One of the matters which the people had in their mind when they asked the government to arrange the tariff law so that it would bear a little less oppressively upon them was clothing. Clothing costs far more in the United States than it does in any other part of the world, though this country produces most of the world's cotton and a great part of the world's wool. In spite of the fact that this nation sells abroad vast quantities of both of these principal materials for clothes-making, and that with its improved machinery and intelligent labor it ought to beat the world, the price of clothes is higher here than it is anywhere else in the world; and the reason is that the tariff schedules are so high as to tax all the people through every article of clothing they buy, almost entirely for the benefit of a few mill-owners who have done nothing to earn this fat special privilege.

Congress did not lower the wool schedules. It is asserted, in its defense, that it did not raise them, either, though until the full extent of the sleight-of-hand work accomplished by Aldrich is laid bare, nobody can be sure of that. Congress did not lower the cotton schedules, but it did raise them, and it raised most heavily those covering articles which most people buy because most people can afford nothing better. These things were done by the tariff law which President Taft praises, and for voting against which he has chastised the insurgents of the west.

These abstract facts are made more interesting by a few figures. Clothing has already increased in price, and still further increases are promised for next spring. The suit of clothes that you used to buy for \$16 is now \$20; and the additional \$4 represents your tribute to the wool trust and the mill-owners, though there was a large tribute in the old price of \$16.

CONSCIENCE?

Will those who deny the binding force of a platform say that candidates for the legislature publicly pledged to vote for the ratification of the income tax amendment can honorably vote against the ratification of that tax? If he did violate his pledge, would anybody believe that it was his conscience that led him to take the side of the great fortunes against the masses?

REPUBLICAN EDITORIALS

It appears that the feeling against the tariff and those who made it is so strong—if not actually bitter—that a good many republicans are ready to co-operate with the democrats in an effort to overthrow the republican party in Massachusetts. The action of the democratic convention, therefore, may possibly be taken as the beginning of a revolution. Many will in-

terpret it in that way. If Foss and Shepard take this positive and radical stand, what may not other men do? It is known that they do not represent simply themselves and their own views. On the contrary, their views are the views of thousands of republicans in Massachusetts. For one man who will come out into the open there are likely to be a dozen or a score of men who will content themselves with registering a quiet protest by their vote.

We do not wonder that politicians at Washington are asking themselves, "If what has taken place in Massachusetts is to take place in other states." There is no telling. All that can be said—and this the people understand perfectly well—is that there is more community of interest between individual republicans and individual democrats than there is between low tariff republicans and the men now in control of the republican party. We look to see the insurgent movement grow stronger rather than weaker.—Indianapolis News, Rep.

The wholesale manufacturers have to pay more for cloth, linings, and trimmings, and so they declare they are compelled to raise prices—and, what is worse, to cheapen the quality of the goods.

The consumer has this tempting choice: He can pay \$25 for the kind of suit that he bought last fall for \$20, or he can pay the old price of \$20, and get for it the kind of suit that he could have got for \$16 last spring.

A pattern of goods that used to be sold to the manufacturers at \$1.75 per yard now costs him \$2.10. It takes three and a half yards to make a suit so the added cost on this item alone is \$1.22. Adding in the additional cost of trimmings and linings it is estimated that the increase in the making a suit out of that cloth is \$4.22.

A dealer quoted by the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "The retail storekeeper who has a run on suits that he pays \$15 for and sells at about \$22 if he wants to hold his \$22 price will have to take an inferior quality of suit. He will get a grade that sold for about \$12 previously and which he used to sell in his store at \$18."

Another dealer says that "it is simply a hold-up behind the tariff fence." This man bought a lot of cloth for \$2 a yard that sells—the same goods from the same mill—for 85 cents a yard in England. The suits made of it are sold to the retailer for \$16.50 and to the wearer for \$25. If the cloth could be bought at the English price, 85 cents, the retailer would get the suit for \$10 and the wearer at \$15.

And so it goes, throughout the list, thanks to the tariff law which the president of the United States is praising in the name of republican "party solidarity." What does the wearer of clothes, thus robbed, care about "party solidarity?"—Duluth (Minn.) Herald.