

Some Texas Opinions on the Tariff Question

To the Editor of the Record.

Colorado, Texas, September 29.—Gentlemen: Looking over the Fort Worth Record of yesterday I saw the following in large red letters, viz: "Bryan answers Senator Bailey's free raw material speech with general abuse."

That Mr. Bryan would abuse any person in a speech was news to me. I have read every important speech he ever made and had never discovered any abuse. So I read this particular speech with all the capacity I have, aiming to discover the said "general abuse." Well, I must confess that in finding said abuse I utterly failed. Not a line, not a sentence, not a word did I find. Of course, the man who wrote the said head line saw the abuse in Mr. Bryan's speech, and can substantiate his statement. Just tell said head line writer that this correspondent lived forty years in Missouri and has to be shown.

Now, I will tell you which, one of the boys I am. In 1861 I was with General Price when he retreated from the Missouri river to Cow Skin Prairie in McDonald county, Missouri. After being in camp a few days I was sent with a detail in the country in search of something to live upon.

As we rode into camp we noticed the arrival of some strangers in camp.

Not knowing who they were we asked one nearest us, cavalry or infantry? The young soldier boy poked his fingers under his hat and answered no—"private in ranks and belong to walking company." That tells you who I am. Private in ranks and belonging to walking company. J. T. HARNESS.

PREDATORY WEALTH AND PROTECTION

A neighbor of ours has a Bermuda pasture in which the grass grows every year, and would yield a harvest but for the fact that he permits his friend, for a stipulated sum, to pasture their stock in it. As fast as the grass carpets the soil it is nipped by the feeding stock. Although the soil is rich and the grass grows rapidly, the constant nipping of these predatory animals keeps the grasses just struggling for existence.

We wish to mention this because we wish to liken the industries and people of this nation to this pasture—the stock grazing therein to the predatory wealth and protected interests, and the republican party, supported and aided by some democratic senators, to the owner of the pasture. The owners, or predatory wealth and protected interests, contribute to the campaign fund and loan a few senators money, and they have paid the stipulated price for which they are permitted to nip, nip, nip at the resources of the people. However active and industrious the people may be, and whatever resources they may put forth, these are nipped to the very roots by the sugar trust, the meat trust, the lumber trust, the steel trust and the transportation companies or combination of companies.—Tyler-Courier-Times.

PARTY PLEDGES

Governor Campbell sounded the alarm of war in his Labor Day speech when he said: "I say that every man that takes office on a democratic platform is in honor bound to live up to that platform, and if he fails to do so he should be whipped from power." It was said at once that the governor had made a thrust at Senator Bailey, when he had reference, no doubt, to those who voted and worked against submission in the last legislature when the state democratic platform had declared for submission. But following the governor's speech a few days later William J. Bryan, the great democratic statesman, appeared in Dallas and delivered a speech of the old democratic type, setting forth the principles of democracy as have been declared on the tariff question, and declaring that all platforms of the democratic party are binding on the officers of the party, and the howl was immediately made that he had opened war on Senator Bailey. The fact is that neither Governor Campbell nor Mr. Bryan has made war on any one, but each has made a speech which declares that an officeholder is a servant of the people and not their boss, and it does not set well with those who regulate the pledges of the party and the wishes of the people.

Mr. Bryan made himself very clear on the tariff question and showed that a person could not argue for a tariff on any one thing for his section and at the same time claim to be for a tariff for revenue only. When we ask for a tariff on wool, because a few men in Texas raise

sheep, we get the republican doctrine of protection, for the reason that we are asking it to protect some of our goods. The same is said of lumber, and a man can not be a good democrat and ask for a tariff on lumber, claiming that he wants it for revenue.

The line is drawn in the party and there is no way out of it except to accept the theory of the republican party and ask for protection or get on the old-time democratic platform and put everything possible on the free list, leaving tariff on such goods as will bring enough revenue.

The last national democratic platform declared for free raw material in a few instances, and especially asked that every trust-controlled article be put on the free list. A few democrats lined up with the republicans and repudiated the democratic platform and are now trying to explain their votes to the people and asking that the democracy of their districts indorse their actions. Mr. Bryan condemns such platform jumpers and refers to them as cowards, or people who get scared when a sheep bleats. Of course Mr. Bryan's argument was in regard to those in congress and had no reference to those in the legislature who voted against the demands of the party.

The line-up is now started and we will see it made on the lines of a protective tariff, headed by Senator Bailey, for the benefit of "friend Kirby and his lumber" and a few rich wool growers, supported by those who are opposed to the people having a vote on prohibition in Texas.

It will not be a question of whether protection is right, or that it is right to refuse the people the right to say whether or not the saloons shall be closed in Texas, but it will be the rich sheep raisers and the head of the lumber trust saying to the brewer, "You tickle me and I'll tickle you."—Grand Saline Sun.

WELL STATED

The Tyler (Texas) News makes this clear cut statement: "If the people are not competent to construct a party platform demanding the official to enforce it, then the people are not qualified to elect a man to make laws. The News believes that the people are capable, hence the servant who disobeys his instruction should be called down and out and replaced by one that will."

BRYAN'S RIGHT TO SPEAK IN TEXAS

Some of his friends are trying to gain sympathy for Senator Bailey by saying that Mr. Bryan had no right to come down into Texas, the home of Mr. Bailey, to jump on him. The contention between the two men is upon an issue that affects the entire nation, and is by no means confined to any state; therefore, we contend that Mr. Bryan, as a leader of the democracy of this nation, has as much right to discuss a national issue in Texas as Senator Bailey, President Taft or any one else. The tariff question is not a state issue but a national issue. Senator Bailey voted with the high protective tariff republicans in defiance of the national democratic platform, and for these reasons Mr. Bryan has called his hand. Senator Bailey has repudiated the platform upon which he was elected, and betrayed the confidence and trust imposed in him by his people; and glad we are for at least one man in the democratic party who is able to administer to the senator a good, gentle spanking for his conduct.—Troy Enterprise.

MUST QUIT PANDERING TO PROTECTION

The great political sensation of last week was the discussion of "democracy and the tariff" by William J. Bryan and Senator Bailey at Dallas, both of whom made strong speeches from their respective standpoints. They spoke on different dates, and Bailey's speech was avowedly in reply to that of Bryan. Both the speeches took high grounds, and both speakers discussed principles, free from personal references. That these were the opening speeches of a great discussion that will go on within the democratic party for the next three years no one doubts. That neither has made the subject entirely clear to us we candidly admit. In fact, there are a

lot of things about this tariff question we do not understand. Bryan may be right, or Bailey may be right—we don't know. Possibly both are partly right and partly wrong. Discussion and study of the question will help the people to reach the right conclusion in the end.

In the meantime thousands of democrats are not ready to embrace either the Bryan or the Bailey theory on the tariff. Both seem to be trying to occupy a middle ground on the question, when many can see no middle ground on which to stand. If a protective tariff is right, let us have protection; if free trade is right, let us have free trade. The sooner the issue is squarely joined in this country the sooner it will be settled. The democratic party has led to occupy the shaky middle ground so long that it has lost the confidence of the advocates of both these views. The party can not exist half protection and half free trade any more than our government could exist half slave and half free. Just as the slave-holding interests captured and controlled the democratic party before the war, so have the protected interests captured the republican party of today and those who favor protection must finally go to that party. Thousands of thoughtful democrats everywhere believe their party must cease pandering to protection if it ever hopes to accomplish any permanent good.—Granbury News.

NEW ENGLAND'S REAL ATTITUDE

Frank Putnam thinks that New England, New York and Pennsylvania, "scared blue by the loss of their western and northwestern partners in the tariff graft," are making desperate efforts to capture the southern states as a partner so they can maintain the protective graft system against future attacks from the west and northwest, where the tariff-for-revenue-only party is in the ascendancy and where the "insurgent" movement has only begun. Such a trade, he thinks, would insure a protective tariff for another twenty-five years, but he predicts that the protective tariff graft is certain to be overthrown sooner or later, and that the south will profit in every way by refusing to become the partner of New England, New York and Pennsylvania in the attempted perpetuation of the protective tariff, even though the south (or its rich interests, rather) might profit temporarily by getting the leavings from the protection table.—Denton Record and Chronicle.

BRYAN'S DEMOCRATIC KEYNOTE

Hon. W. J. Bryan in his speech in Dallas Tuesday, struck the keynote as to real, simple democratic doctrine. If the democrats ever hope to win they must remain true to the time-honored principles of democracy and not try to get a part of the republican platform or principles. The man out of office and not caring to hold an office is more apt to be true than the man who is an officeholder or wanting to hold office, and this is the way it is with Mr. Bryan. He is not an officeholder, nor does he care for office. He would not sacrifice principle for any office, and, too, he is not a politician and never has been. His words are true.—Italy News-Herald.

BAILEYISM VS. DEMOCRACY

The Corsicana Light says: "Is Texas bigger than Mr. Bryan? That's the question the Nebraska has put to the Lone Star democracy, and followed up by an argument showing on which side he stands." We fail to discover in anything Mr. Bryan has said that which would justify such a contracted view. Mr. Bryan has declared that democracy in Texas should be the same as democracy in the nation. He expressed views that are worthy of consideration and gave his reasons for his beliefs. Mr. Bryan has attempted to show that there is a difference between Baileyism and democracy.—Waxahachie Light.

IF BAILEY'S LEAD IS FOLLOWED

If Senator Bailey's lead is to be followed the democratic party must forsake its position as a representative of the interests of the people and become the representative of the interests of the few; it must repudiate its ancient teachings of "the greatest good to the greatest number," and must substitute therefor "the greatest good to the favored few;" it must relinquish its claim as the champion of a tariff for revenue only and espouse the cause of protection; it must cease to stand for a principle of right and adopt in its stead a policy of individual self-interest.—Bonham News.