

property could have been avoided, and the river held to its old channel. Now I said that I was a republican. I mean in principle, I don't mean in party. I have told you of the Cowlitz river and its many dangers and the cause of the trouble. Now we will turn to our government. When George Washington accomplished America's freedom and set up her constitution, giving privilege to make any amendments to it that was necessary, changes that would work to the betterment of our land and country, he (Washington) when he left public life, in his retiring speech said: "I have wound the ball and if you ever unwind it it will be hard to wind again." After Washington retired from public life and the government fell into the hands of others that corruption or the debris began to gather to turn the course of the government from its natural source. We find Jefferson, Lincoln and some few others striving to remove the debris, and to keep the water (government confined to its channel, but it appears that it has overflowed its banks and the floods are carrying away the farmers' stock, wealth and everything they possess to the great ocean of trust companies and monopolies. Every year we have a promise for the better, and so we hope for better but worse comes. Now here is our congress, senate and legislators and lawmakers in general, they promise the people this: Now send us; we know just what the farmers need and we will see that he gets it; we will lighten his taxes and we will take the burden off his shoulders and we will place them on the corporations. (Piling up debris.) And what do they do? They ignore their promises, they make more room for office, impose heavier taxation on the citizens by making more officers to support, raising the tariff, etc. Well, one said the farmer is getting more for his products now than he ever did before. Yes, he is, that is so, but hold a minute. Our taxes are double, yes triple, yes triple. So now where is his income? Well, the driftwood that gathered in above has given way and the river (government) has washed it away in taxation to keep up office. Well, says another, isn't the government punishing criminals? O yes, my dear sirs, I happened to be somewhat acquainted with some of Uncle Sam's punishments. I have known cases where the cost of one trial where a man had violated the laws to run to a thousand or twelve hundred dollars, maybe find the offender guilty, fine him \$100, ten days imprisonment and then remit the fine. send the man home and the people have the cost to pay. This is making taxes lighter on the farmer, isn't it? I call this fatalism practiced by republican partyism. I could talk on this subject more, but will refrain for this time.

SENATOR CULBERSON ON THE TARIFF

Senator Culberson's tariff statement as reported in the Houston (Texas) Chronicle follows:
From letters received recently there appears to be a wish on the part of many people that I state my position on certain phases of the tariff question. My declarations in and out of the senate and my votes there during the last session clearly show my attitude, but I have no hesitation in stating it now.
During my term as attorney general I stated in a letter which was published at the time that I was opposed to placing raw material on the free list where there was a protective duty on the finished product, and I believe this was the first specific declaration of the kind made by any person holding a public office in our state, except the speech of

Judge Reagan in the senate in 1890, which I had not then seen.

This position was subsequently restated from time to time by me, particularly while a candidate for and while I was governor, so that I assume it was given wide publicity and was generally known in Texas. In December, 1897, in announcing my candidacy for the senate, I stated my position on the tariff after declaring for the freest, practicable foreign trade, in the language of the national democratic platform of 1896 and that of the Texas state platform, adopted June 24, 1896, to which I will hereafter refer more fully.

Opposed to Protective Duty on Raw Material

Afterward, in March, 1898, restating my position, I announced that I favored the utmost freedom of trade which was practicable, that I was opposed to protective duties on raw material or on manufactured articles; that I stood for a revenue duty only, levied first on luxuries and last on the necessities of life, and that:

Subject to the foregoing principles I believe in the language of the Chicago platform that these duties should be "so adjusted as to operate equally throughout the country and not to discriminate between class or section," and in the language of the state platform adopted June 24, 1896, "that the present tariff law which lets into the country raw material free of duty and levies heavy duties on manufactured products, thus subjecting our agricultural and pastoral classes to competition with the world, while it enables the rich manufacturers, by means of combinations and trusts, to extort their own prices for their products from the people, violates the federal constitution as well as the fundamental principle of the democratic party that tariff duty shall be levied and collected for the purpose of revenue only." This last declaration announces the proposition that raw material shall not be put on the free list in order to maintain a protective duty on manufactured products, because that would manifestly contravene the democratic doctrine that duties shall be for revenue and not for protection. This is not the place to discuss the question at length, but it is proper to say that this declaration accords with the last national platform and the principle of the Walker tariff of 1846, the nearest approach to an ideal tariff the country has ever known. The act of 1846 was framed along the lines laid down by Robert J. Walker, secretary of the treasury, which is thus stated by him in his report:

The Walker Platform

- "1. That no more money should be collected than is necessary for the wants of the government, economically administered.
 - "2. That no duty be imposed on any article above the lowest rate which will yield the largest amount of revenue.
 - "3. That below such rate discriminations may be made descending in scale of duties, or, for imperative reasons, the article may be placed in the list of those free from all duty.
 - "4. That the maximum revenue duty shall be imposed upon luxuries.
 - "5. That all minimums and all specific duties shall be abolished and ad valorem duties substituted in their place, care being taken to guard against fraudulent invoices and undervaluation and to assess the duty upon the actual market value.
 - "6. That the duty should be so imposed as to operate as equally as possible throughout the union, discriminating neither for nor against any class or section.
- "It will be seen from this that a revenue duty on all imports was the

rule and free importations and only for imperative reasons was the exception."

These are still the views I entertain on this subject and the lapse of years has only confirmed and fixed my faith. The plank in the state platform of 1896 rests upon absolutely unassailable ground, and I have the utmost confidence that the democracy of Texas will take no backward step with reference to it. The national platform of 1896, while not so explicit, is, as I said in first announcing my candidacy for the senate, in accord with the state platform and with the report of Secretary Walker. Indeed, the national plank is almost in the very language of the Walker report and it is significant that in this report Secretary Walker denounced the tariff of 1842 because "It discriminates in favor

of manufacturers and against agriculture by imposing higher duties upon the manufactured fabric than upon the agricultural product out of which it is made."

Did Not Write 1896 Platform

I did not write the state tariff plank of 1896 at Austin, as has been suggested, and if I ever knew I do not now recall its origin and history. I did, however, assist in preparing the state platform of 1896 which nominated the state ticket at Fort Worth. Judge Reagan was chairman of the platform committee at the Austin convention and as such reported the platform. He made a speech in the senate in 1890 to which I referred in my letter of March, 1898, in which he denounced the practice of placing raw material on the free list with high duties on



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