

# Forty Years Ago

Paul W. Cole, St. Paul, Minn.—I enclose the following brief excerpts from a speech made forty years ago in St. Paul by Ignatius Donnelly. It is not unlike the situation today. I hope this may find a place in your excellent paper:

The following brief excerpts are culled from Hon. Ignatius Donnelly's caustic remarks regarding the republican party, high tariff and other matters in his speech at Ingersoll's hall:

The question, as I understand it today, is whether the republican party is ready to walk back and step into the boots of that old defunct whig party and take up the standard of high tariff which the latter laid down in defeat. There were two great parties which took issue on this question; one the democratic party, whose platform was a tariff for revenue only, the other the whig party whose platform was protection or a high tariff to exclude foreign goods; and the war was waged on this issue for years. It pervaded all parts of the country from Maine to Texas, and what was the result? The whig party, with every increase of experience and knowledge on the subject, was driven year after year into the minority in nearly all the states of the union. The democratic party controlled the legislation of the country. The whig party was compelled gradually to whittle down its doctrines; and it was a common remark that when the last national whig convention was held there was little difference between its platform on the tariff question and the democratic doctrine. In other words, they had to abandon their distinctive principles in the hope of success.

Now, my friends, I say that this high tariff question never was a doctrine of the republican party, and never will be. Turn to the platform on which General Grant was elected president. It reads: "It is the duty of the nation that taxation should be equalized and reduced as rapidly as the national faith will permit." Now, as the tariff is only a form of taxation, this plank clearly pledged the republican party to the reduction of the tariff.

Mr. Donnelly illustrates the practical working of a high protective tariff thus: You live in St. Paul. Suppose you make a law that in the Third ward no man shall buy manufactured goods in any other ward. The merchants of the Third ward, having a monopoly, put up their prices—this

is human nature; mankind, on the average, will ask all they can get. The people of the Third ward, paying higher prices for everything, are soon poorer than their neighbors in the other wards. Trade between the Third and other wards ceases because prices have been raised so in the Third ward that the goods can not be sold elsewhere where the goods are cheaper. Hence the Third ward exports nothing; and the law prevents it from importing largely. Thus commerce diminishes. The people are robbed at home, while at the same time they are cut off from the external world.

Take the one article of paper, so essential to the spread of intelligence. The amount manufactured in 1868 was \$25,000,000. The amount imported for the same period paid a duty of \$35,000, and to get that sum the people are taxed to the amount of \$5,000,000 on the paper made in the country, and you pay for it in every newspaper and every book you buy. But if a person makes the least remark about it they bring party lines down upon him. They fear the robbery will be stopped.

These fellows have no idea of what the republican party is for. They consider it in the same light that matrimony was regarded by an old Mormon lady. A young man in Salt Lake City fell in love with a beautiful young girl, who was a Mormon, and proposed to marry her. She could not endure the thought of parting with her family, which consisted of several sisters, her mother and grandmother, and so the young man proposed to marry the whole family. When the old lady was informed of this she exclaimed: "Thank the Lord! Now I'll get my gruel regular!" These fellows think the only object of the existence of the republican party is to furnish them their gruel regularly.

I think the republican party, the democratic party and the whole people are under obligations to me for stirring things up. There was a preacher down east who used to read the most dreary and long-winded sermons Sunday after Sunday, and as an invariable rule his parishioners would nap while he preached. One hot summer day he noticed a wag of a boy in the gallery, who, with his pockets full of white beans, was engaged in throwing them at the fat old fellows who were comfortably asleep, bringing them up wide awake with a start. The preacher cried out: "What are you doing, you young villain?" "Go on with your preaching," said the boy, "I'll keep 'em awake!" Now, I represent that boy. I am neither torpid nor asleep, and I propose to keep 'em awake.

### YOUTH

Deep in my heart a Spirit dwells  
That cheers me on my way;  
His laughing face and merry spells  
Enliven all my day.

His hopeful smile, his happy shout,  
His mien so full of fun,  
All care and worry put to rout  
As clouds before the sun.

Ah, little guest, I prithee hold  
Thy Kingdom strong for Truth—  
Thou treasure richer far than gold,  
The Spirit of my Youth!  
—Harper's Weekly.

### FINANCIAL ETHICS

Mr. Carnegie's plan for puncturing bloated wealth is simplicity itself. "Let men make all the money they can in their life time," he says, "but when they die, let the state take half

of it." Why let the state take any of it if the men make it? The state isn't a pirate. At any rate it ought not to be. And if the men don't make it but only take it, why should the state let them keep it until they die? The state doesn't protect men in piracy. At any rate it oughtn't to.—Louis F. Post, in The Public.

### THOUGHT IT A HAT

Miss Yangkie—"And what has Lord Chichester done that you think him so interesting?"  
Lord De Fendus—"He won a Derby, y' know."  
Miss Yangkie—"How lovely! On an election bet?"—Cleveland Leader.

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