

INSURGENCY AND THE TARIFF

Senator Beveridge's address at Indianapolis is the best statement of the insurgent position on the tariff yet made to the country.

There are distinguished men in Washington who neither think as Senator Beveridge does nor believe that the rank and file of the party are behind him and those who think as he does.

The explanation of this is simple. These distinguished men do not keep in touch with the people. Perhaps

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the affairs of state absorb so much of their attention that they are compelled to do themselves this injustice. Perhaps they have a reluctance, not unfamiliar in the great, to hear what is unpleasant though true.

The Tribune is not disposed to analyze their state of mind. But the Tribune permits itself to point out, as it has repeatedly pointed out within the last few months, that such a state of mind among its leaders is the only grave danger confronting the party today.

The Tribune has been at pains to test the sentiment of the people as best it could through the press of the country, east and west. The verdict was significant, was imperative. But it apparently has not reached the political judgment of the standpat leaders, although the results of two congressional elections have emphasized it forcefully.

Our readers have followed the discussion of the Aldrich-Payne tariff and of the tariff issue within the party in these columns and require no further discussion of the points made against the act by Senator Beveridge. But the Tribune wishes especially to indorse the demand voiced by Senator Beveridge and incorporated in the Indiana platform for "the immediate creation of a genuine, permanent non-partisan tariff commission, with ample powers and definite duties fixed in the law itself."

In the present temper of the country the Tribune believes such a commission is called for as an assurance that there exists in the republican party a practical purpose to deal with the tariff scientifically for the common welfare rather than to leave it forever at the mercy of contending special interests.

So far as the democratic party is concerned, the people know or should know from its record from the facts emphatically brought out by Senator Beveridge concerning the opposition by the democrats in congress to adequate tariff revision, that its public protestations bear a very slight relation to its leaders' purposes. The hopes for a broad and effective revision consistent with the public good still can be founded only on the preservation of a republican majority in both houses of congress.

As the Tribune believes, the issues between progressive republicanism expressing the sentiment and convictions and answering the needs and demands of the people, and, on the other hand, standpattism and reaction among some of the party leaders who, like many of the conspicuous men of the democratic party, have ceased to respond to the will of their own party rank and file or to sympathize with their ideals.

This conflict, expressed in the struggle over the rules in the house and apparent in the public temper throughout the country, must be understood in the higher party councils if party defeat is not preferred to factional surrender. There must be a more enlightened attitude toward tariff criticism, and there must be substantial progress shown in legislation upon the party pledges if the party is not to invite rebuke at the polls in November.—Chicago Tribune (rep.)

INDIANA

The indications are that there will be more politics to the square mile in Indiana this year than usual, and that is saying a good deal. Insurgency and democracy in that state are working hand in hand to defeat the Taft administration and they hope to be successful.—Sioux Falls Argus-Leader.

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