

drained of his earnings for the benefit of the manufacturer and the manufacturer now shows his ingratitude by selling abroad cheaper than at home.

Q. How has the tariff been maintained so long when it is wrong in principle, unwise in policy and unnecessary?

A. The protected interests have contributed liberally to support literary bureaus and to campaign funds and have coerced their employes by the threat of shutting down. Advocates of protection have been able to organize, distribute literature and get out the vote, while advocates of tariff reform, as they could promise no special pecuniary benefits, have had to make their campaigns without funds.

Q. Is it true as often asserted by advocates of a high tariff that a high tariff always brings good times and that tariff reform always brings a panic?

A. No. Prosperity followed the low tariff of 1846, and the panic of 1873 occurred under a high tariff. The panic of 1873 not only occurred under a high tariff but twelve years after the republican party came into power and eleven years before Mr. Cleveland's first election.

Q. Is there any evidence of growth in tariff reform sentiment?

A. Yes. The farmers are no longer deceived by the home market argument, the employes no longer regard their wages as dependent upon the tariff and many manufacturers find the tariff more of an embarrassment than a benefit.

Q. When will the beneficiaries of protection consent to tariff reduction?

A. Never. A child gets so old that it is ashamed to nurse; a calf gets so big that it will wean itself, but no beneficiary of protection ever voluntarily lets go of the public teat.

Q. When will the tariff be reformed by its friends.

A. Just after the money lenders ask for a reduction in the legal rate of interest—that is, just before the millenium.

Q. To whom must we look for tariff reform?

A. To those who suffer—no abuse was ever reformed by those who profited by the abuse to be reformed.

Q. When should tariff reform begin?

A. At once.

Q. And how?

A. By putting on the free list those articles which compete with articles controlled by the trusts; second, by the reduction of the tariff on the necessities of life, and, third, by such other changes in the tariff schedules as will put "protection for protection's sake" "in the process of ultimate extinction" with a view of restoring the tariff to a revenue basis.

WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

Mr. Roosevelt's speeches at the New York convention are examples of strength and vigor. They are probably the best illustrations of forensic oratory he has given. He had a good subject when he denounced the bosses in charge of the republican party; and a man needs a good subject for a great speech.

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN BOOK

The democratic national congressional committee has issued its campaign book and is now distributing it. The committee has no funds save as it obtains them through contributions and is selling the book at \$1 per copy, or for 50 cents a copy in lots of ten or more.

The book is replete with valuable matter and is said to be the best campaign book ever issued. Every democrat should have it and in this year of democratic effort for supremacy should gladly contribute to the committee by purchasing the book. The committee did valiant service in

Maine with notable results, and if democrats everywhere will rise to the occasion, by their dollar contributions, the democratic sun will rise triumphantly—not to set for fifty years to come. Send your orders or contributions to F. F. Garrett, treasurer, democratic campaign committee, 821 Fifteenth street, Northwest, Washington, District Columbia.

ADDRESS OYSTER BAY

E. S. Richardson, M. D., Read City, Mich.—Relative to the inquiry of Dr. D. L. Cowden in last week's Commoner: I am pleased to say that information as to the construction of an Aeolian harp might be furnished by the contributing editor of the Outlook. The weird strains of music from this harp no longer has its charm on the public ear, and the bombastic musician will soon consign it to the republican political junk shop. Doctor, you can purchase it cheaply after election.

ROOSEVELT AND LAFOLLETTE PLATFORMS COMPARED

(From the Denver News)

The platforms of LaFollette and Roosevelt adopted yesterday by the republican state conventions of Wisconsin and New York, respectively, show many points of dissimilarity. The most notable lack of agreement between the progressives of Wisconsin and New York is seen in the Taft and tariff planks. Wisconsin mentions Taft only to disparage, and condemns the Payne-Aldrich tariff, while New York fulsomely praises both Taft and the tariff. Wisconsin demands the initiative, referendum and recall.

The salient features of the two platforms are shown below:

- NEW YORK
1. War against graft.
2. Taft administration fulsomely praised.
3. Payne - Aldrich tariff praised as revision downward.
4. Congress commended.
5. Courts praised.
6. Hughes' administration praised.
7. Improving condition of laborers.
8. Encouragement of agriculture.
9. Conservation of rivers resources.
10. Prevention and cure of tuberculosis.
11. Prevention of primary frauds.
12. Direct primaries.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.

- WISCONSIN
1. Condemnation of pernicious activity of breweries in primary elections.
2. No mention of Taft administration except to disparage it.
3. Payne - Aldrich tariff condemned.
4. Special interests in congress condemned for suppressing inquiries by country life commission.
5.
6. Services of LaFollette in congress is praised.
7. Regulation of working hours of women and children.
8.
9. National control of natural resources.
10.
11.
12. Second choice primaries.
13. Physical valuation of railroads and more stringent regulation.
14. Federal ownership of Alaskan railroads.
15. Initiative, referendum and recall.
16. Anti-lobby law.
17. Graduated income tax.
18. Home rule in liquor traffic.
19. Advalorem tax on corporations.
20. Employers' liability law.

Practical Tariff Talks

In order to placate the public, angered over the iniquities of tariff schedules, the information is being disseminated that the president intends to force a revision of the woolen schedule at the coming session of congress, and will be buttressed in his stand for a reduction by facts and figures furnished him by his tariff commission. Just what guarantee the president can give the voters that the senate, after having this information in its possession, will act as he desires is not apparent. Practically all of the information that the tariff commission can give was laid before the senate by two eminent republican senators, Dolliver and LaFollette. The records of senate proceedings for the second and third weeks in June of 1909 contain many pages of facts and figures presented by these two protectionists, entirely justifying their demand for a lowering of the duties and a readjustment of the rates contained in the woolen schedule. Yet scarcely a paragraph therein was changed. The vote in each instance was decisive. The information presented by the two senators was comprehensive and authoritative. It might be supplemented by the work of the tariff commissioners, but their facts are incontrovertible.

The figures presented by Mr. LaFollette were gathered by a special agent of the department of commerce and labor, a bureau that, in fact, has a large mass of similar information relating to manufacturing costs that render unnecessary and duplicatory much of the work of the commission. The expert in this instance was W. Graham Clark, and his researches are printed in a comprehensive bulletin which anyone may get from the department named. Mr. Graham is a graduate of Harvard, and supplemented his general education with technical courses in textile schools, followed by actual experience as a mill manager. He traveled, in quest of this information, in all of the principal foreign countries where the textile industry is established. He was selected for the work on the recommendation of the textile manufacturers of this country, woolen and cotton both. His work, says Senator LaFollette, was deemed highly satisfactory until he reported on the labor and other production costs of the woolen industry. After that he was a target for many attacks.

Mr. Clark gives a detailed analysis of the cost of production of eight typical samples of worsted and woolen cloths, and these Mr. LaFollette presented in detail to the senate—and they didn't change a single vote. Mr. Clark's tables show the wages in all countries and he gave as his deliberate opinion that the highest efficiency of labor was found in the United States. In presenting the matter to the senate Mr. LaFollette said that he would base his calculations on the theory that labor efficiency was the same in England as the United States. He worked out the cost of labor in England in each instance, and taking the figures of Mr. Clark that the average wage in the United States was twice as much as in England, he found the difference in labor cost to be 21.3 per cent on a high grade fancy worsted suiting, and approximately the same on the other samples. He added to this the compensatory duty allowed for shrinkage when the wool is imported by the American manufacturer, and found that the total duty ought to be, if the difference in cost of labor is to be the measure, 42.5 per cent, whereas the tariff law carries a protection of more than double, or 97 per cent.

The figures submitted by the Wisconsin senator as to the remaining seven samples showed the following to be the excess duty in each instance: No. 2, 52 per cent; No. 3, 54 per cent; No. 4, 56 per cent; No. 5, 49 per cent; No. 6, 44 per cent; No. 7, 63 per cent; No. 8, 55 per cent, an average for the eight of 53.8 per cent excessive duty. This was not the testimony of a man employed to bolster up any theory, nor from any prejudiced or biased person, but of a disinterested man employed by the government to secure truthful and trustworthy information. In view of the fact that this testimony was ignored and flouted by the senate majority and the old schedules re-enacted, with all of their excessive duties, may it not be pertinently asked, what will the same senate do with the information that the tariff commission presents?

C. Q. D.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of October. Take advantage of this offer at once and send in your renewal.