

FARMERS AND THE FREE LIST

Republicans of the Ninth Iowa district in convention adopted this resolution:

"We oppose the proposed Canadian reciprocity treaty as being detrimental to the farming interests of the country, and we pledge the nominee of this convention to oppose the adoption of said reciprocity measure and urge our United States senators to use their efforts and honorable means to prevent the passage of said measure. We denounce the proposed

free trade of the democratic house of representatives as a measure injurious to the interests of American industry and dangerous alike to farm and shop."

With so much of the resolution that concerns Canadian reciprocity this newspaper has no quarrel. If republicans choose to denounce the pet measure of their administration, that is their affair. If they choose not to stand by their president, that also is their affair. The democrats are not of mind to settle the scrap in the neighboring yard. They know that the kingdom of heaven awaits the peacemaker, but they have been so long out of heaven that they want to approach it by easy stages, avoiding shocks, and they prefer to pass through the offices enroute.

But with so much of the resolution as relates to the farmers' free list bill, democrats are concerned. They want to know wherein it will be injurious to the interests of the American farmer to enable him to buy more than 100 articles free-listed in a free trade market, without paying tribute to sheltered trusts, and without swelling the tariff graft that in a single year amounts to more than all the graft of all the insurance companies of all time. The obiter dictum of the republicans of the Ninth district is not enough to convince the Iowa farmer that his interests are going to be hurt by enabling him to buy flour, farm machinery sewing machines, wire fencing, cotton bagging, salt and scores of other things at a price as low as these articles, American made, are sold in foreign countries in competition with the world. Politicians consulting no higher interest than a purely selfish one may meet and disclaim to their hearts' content against the farmers' free list

bill but there has yet to be raised against the democratic measure a single protest by a single Iowa farmer considering the bill as a farmer and not as a partisan or a politician.

Until the farmers rise in protest against the free list bill framed especially to benefit them, it may safely be assumed that the inspiration for the protests is in the offices of the trusts whom the bill hits and in those republican politicians who recognize the harm to their party in having this measure of necessary relief originate with the democratic party.—Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald.

ALARMING TENDENCY

Read what Justice Harlan said in his dissenting opinion on the Standard Oil case not dissenting from the declaration that John D.'s trust is illegal and oppressive—but sharply criticising the statement of the other judges that ANY combination in restraint of trade may be "reasonable." Harlan said:

"The opinion today means that the courts may, by mere judicial construction, amend the legislation of the United States and amend the statutory laws.

"In a decision today this court has construed the safety appliance law. It has previously construed the same act; the question at issue being the lives of men. The court was asked to write into the law words not there; it has refused and has declared that the law must stand as enacted until amended by congress. In the case of men's lives, those interested must go to congress for relief. In the case of overshadowing combination of vast wealth and power, which may be a menace to the general business of the country,

a law which has bestowed a wholesome rule is to be interpreted in such a way that it will not be necessary for those who have appeared here as defendants to go to congress to have it amended.

"If the law as written is to be amended, congress is the only constitutionally co-ordinate branch of the government with power to amend it. It does not rest with this court by a process of judicial legislation wholly unjustifiable to read into the law words not written there by the legislative branch of the government.

"The most alarming tendency in my judgment so far as our institutions are concerned is the tendency of judicial delay. When men of vast interests are concerned and they can not get lawmakers to enact amendments to the law as they desire, they spare no effort to get some cases before the courts in an effort to have the court construe the constitution and statute to mean what they want them to mean."—Omaha Daily News.

The six leading states in the salt industry are Michigan, New York, Ohio, Kansas, Louisiana and California.—Ex.

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