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FEELING HIS OWN PULSE

Mr. Roosevelt's ludicrous mistake as to the demand for his nomination reminds one of the physician who visited an aged lady patient while he was under the influence of liquor. He examined her tongue and then felt her pulse. Scarcely had he touched her pulse when he exclaimed, "Madam, you are intoxicated!" "I never tasted liquor in my life," she indignantly replied. "You are intoxicated," the doctor insisted: "Your pulse shows it." "Doctor," she rejoined, "if you will investigate you will find that you are feeling your own pulse."

Mr. Roosevelt has been feeling his own pulse and, of course, he found a demand for his nomination—a throbbing demand.

If the present campaign does nothing else it will convince the public that the democrats under estimated rather than over estimated the pernicious influence exerted upon republican presidents by the enormous contributions secretly made by the privilege-hunting class.

Mr. Morgan has won for himself a place in the republican hall of fame by the enormous contributions he has made in behalf of the republican candidates who are willing to continue the system of grand larceny now practiced by trust magnates like Morgan.

A school boy wrote an essay telling how a little boy made friends with a goat. One day when the boy was sitting on the river bank the goat butted him into the stream and he drowned. Question, which is the goat, Mr. Taft or Mr. Roosevelt, or both?

Mr. Roosevelt says that his friends are idealists. How he must have appreciated such idealists as Archbold, Harriman, Morgan, Frick and Gould when he needed campaign contributions.

If Mr. Roosevelt stands now where he has stood in the past he is still on the Wall street side. If he has changed, why doesn't he admit that he was on the wrong side when Wall street made him vice president and president.

If Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt represent the "Beauty and the Beast," it will be hard to tell which is which after examining the campaign contributions made by the trusts in their behalf.

Wonder if Mr. Roosevelt would have walked into the steel trust trap as meekly as he did if Mr. Morgan had forgotten to bait him with that campaign contribution of \$100,000?

Mr. Taft is having his laugh now. He can understand why he has been repudiated by the public when he sees how Roosevelt led him into the jungles of Wall street.

Governor Wilson is more than justifying the hopes of his friends. He gains strength daily.

The Commoner.

That "Difference in Cost of Production"

The republican platform of 1908, contained this plank with reference to the proper method of tariff-making: "The true principle of protection is best maintained by the imposing of such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries." President Taft, in his Topeka speech, made during the campaign, accepted this as the true measure, when he said: "All industries that need protection shall be protected by a tax equal to the difference between the cost of production here and abroad." The chief elements entering into the cost of production are the cost of material, the cost of labor and the interest on capital. The first element enters but very little into the computation of the proper tariff duty for the reason that in the purchase of raw materials for manufacturing the various nations stand much upon the same level, some below that of the United States and some above it. Interest rates vary little, not enough to make any appreciable difference. The whole question, therefore, ranges around the difference in labor cost.

There are fourteen schedules in the tariff law. The principal ones cover silk, cotton, wool, lumber, paper, steel and sugar. Of these only in the case of silk and wool does the production cost at home exceed that abroad. In steel, sugar, paper and lumber the production costs in the United States are lower than abroad, while in the case of cotton it is practically a standoff, the cost of spinning being more here and of weaving less than abroad. In the case of silk the reason lies in the fact that the principal manufacturing competition is in oriental countries, where labor is very cheap. In the case of wool there is a large mass of testimony of decidedly contradictory character, but there is plenty of testimony to substantiate the claim that the difference, when the actual work done by each laborer, machine for machine, is not very large. There is no doubt but that the American standard of wages is the highest in the world, but the difference in the daily wage is not the difference in labor cost.

The truth is undisputed that American mills are better equipped, better managed and better organized, and that because of the superior intelligence and industry that comes from living under American conditions, the difference in amount of work done often more than equals the higher daily wage. Here is the testimony of Charles M. Schwab, one time president of the steel trust: "I know that American laborers can produce more steel in a given time than any other workmen in the world. I know that they can put out better steel than any others. The Americans are the best workmen on earth, and I have been in contact with labor for years and know what it can do. The highest paid labor is the cheapest to the employer. The man that is employed at a cheap wage and goes slowly and makes blunders can not compete with the man that thoroughly understands his business and produces good material." Yet the duties on steel and steel products run all the way from 7 to 85 per cent of the value of the article produced, and runs through a wide range of articles of every day use. The republican party, in arranging the steel tariff, completely ignored this known fact. It did not apply "the principle of protection" as defined in its own platform.

Here is what the president's own tariff board says about costs in cotton manufacturing: "In the case of a large variety of plain goods the labor cost of turning yarn into cloth in the United States is not greater, and in some cases is lower, than in England. For cloths woven on automatic looms this is especially true." Yet the cotton schedule of the present tariff law carries average duties of 50 per cent of the value of each article, and runs as high as 88 per cent on some of the many articles in that schedule. The testimony before the house committee on ways and means with respect to the lumber industry was to the effect that the labor cost was higher in most Canadian mills than in American mills, with equal labor efficiency. Senator Brown (rep.) in his speech on the paper schedule said the testimony showed no difference in the labor cost compared with Canada, our only competitor, and quoted the American consul at Quebec as reporting: "Labor in the Canadian paper mills is as high

as in the United States, yes, oftentimes even higher."

Claus A. Spreckles, the best known sugar refiner in the country who is not interested in the trust, testified before the house committee: "We are refining sugar as cheaply as they are in foreign countries. The greater efficiency of the labor and the larger scale on which the business is done in this country offsets any difference in cost of labor. I would prefer absolute free trade to the present schedule, under which the sugar trust is the principal beneficiary." Yet the sugar duty is 35 per cent.

Senator Burton of Ohio, who is defending the Payne-Aldrich tariff law in campaign speeches, admits that the average duty collected under that law is 41.4 per cent. The United States census figures give the total labor cost of all manufacturing industries at 22 per cent. "The true principle of protection," said the republican platform and President Taft, "is best maintained by the imposing of such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries." If the total labor cost in America is 22 per cent and the average tariff duty is 41.4 per cent, then the republican tariff-makers must figure that the reasonable profit the American manufacturer should have is 19.4 per cent, or almost as much as the amount paid out to labor in producing those articles of manufacture. C. Q. D.

EDWARD F. DUNNE

Commoner readers are familiar with the name of Edward F. Dunne. The Commoner has taken occasion many times to pay deserved tribute to this stalwart democrat. As an Illinois judge and as mayor of Chicago he showed himself faithful to public trust. As a citizen he has been foremost in every movement for the public good; as an individual he has won the affection of all his acquaintances. Judge Dunne is now the democratic nominee for governor of Illinois. He ought to be elected by a large majority. Republicans as well as men of all other parties ought to vote for Judge Dunne, for he will dedicate his highest efforts to the public service.

WARREN WORTH BAILEY

Warren Worth Bailey, editor of the Johnstown Democrat, is the democratic nominee for congress in the Nineteenth Pennsylvania district. Mr. Bailey has been a power for good, not only through his great paper, the Johnstown Democrat, which has a national circulation, but in his capacity as an individual. The people of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania district will honor themselves by honoring Bailey. He will be one of the most faithful members of the house of representatives.

THE HYMN OF WHERE-WE-GET-ON

By Thomas Speed Mosby (with humble apologies to George Sylvester Viereck.)

The apopleptic thunders roll out of the crimson East,
The Day of Juggling is at hand, and we shall play the Beast.
What are the forty heads of him—why can not we be plain?
Perkins, Morgan, Rockefeller and others still unslain.
Into what cities leads his trail, in venom and baled hay?
Ask 'Frisco, ask Chicago, mark New York and Oyster Bay.
Where shall we wage the battle, for whom un-sheath the sword?
We stand where'er we get on and we battle for our board.

Like hell we'll snort our snarling boast, we shall not flinch nor quail,
Although in this great skirmish they may ride us on a rail.
Have they not seen the writings that flame upon the wall?
The writings true of Archbold, of Harriman and all?
The little lads coughed up where never sun sheds light,
But never mind the sobbing—it's all down in black and white.
These are the votes we carry—yes, we do, upon my word!
For we stand where'er we get on, and we battle for our board.

—Louisville (Ky.) Journal