



News Snapshots Of the Week

The return from Europe of prominent Americans was an event of the week. George J. Gould and his family and James Gordon Bennett were among the number landing at New York. Commander in Chief Samuel Van Sant of the G. A. R. is to be succeeded by another to be chosen at the national encampment at Atlantic City soon. Former Lord Mayor of London Sir William Treloar is visiting the United States. Captain Dow of the Mauretania raced his giant vessel across the Atlantic for a new record. Governor Stubbs of Kansas has called a meeting of governors and mayors to consider freight rates. President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton will lead New Jersey Democrats in race for governor. Mary Mannering, the actress, is recovering from an operation in a New York hospital.

Metcalfe Bolts Head of Ticket

Richard L. Metcalfe, for some years acting editor of the Omaha World-Herald and now associate editor of the Commoner, although a life-long democrat, declines to support Mr. Dahlgren for governor, and gives his reasons in the following letter to Mr. Aldrich, the republican nominee for that office.

"LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 17.—Hon. Chester H. Aldrich, David City, Neb.—Dear Sir: I intend to give you my support in your candidacy for the office of governor of Nebraska. I have known your opponent, Mr. James C. Dahlgren, for more than twenty years and would not join in any personal disparagement of him. On the contrary, I respect him for certain sterling qualities I know him to possess. But his nomination was secured through the active and notorious interference in democratic primaries of the liquor interests and he represents, admittedly, everything the liquor interests desire in the way of legislation. He promises to approve a bill repealing the 8 o'clock closing law and to veto a county option bill and in every way stands as the frank, outspoken champion of the most obnoxious of all the special interests.

"It would be difficult to make an issue clearer than the one that has been forced upon the people of Nebraska through the bold and undisguised edict of the liquor trust. It is a bigger question than 8 o'clock closing and a more important one than county option. Besides the personalities of candidates sink into insignificance. Shall the people of Nebraska surrender political power into the keeping of the liquor trust; shall they put the stamp of approval upon that trust's executed threat to destroy a governor who dared go counter to its wishes? That is the issue as I understand it.

"I respect every man's opinion on this question, but I am unable to see it in any other light than that a vote for Mr. Dahlgren is a vote to deliver Nebraska into the merciless keeping of an institution that is responsible for too many tears and too much sorrow to be entrusted with the government of this great state.

"As a democrat from boyhood days has served his party, I am reluctant to

do anything that would even temporarily separate me from party organization. But the democratic primaries recently held were controlled by republicans, voting under the leadership of the liquor interests, rather than by democrats; and if we must follow republican leadership then I prefer to choose the sort of republican leadership I am to have.

"In the exercise of this privilege I choose you as my candidate, for governor and I am at your service. Yours truly, Richard L. Metcalfe."

Bryan Campaigning for Democrats.

W. J. Bryan has begun a month's campaign for the democratic ticket in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Indiana and Illinois. He made the following statement last Tuesday in regard to the situation in Nebraska, and the part he will take in the campaign in this state:

"I am just leaving Missouri and shall be absent practically all of the time for about a month campaigning in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Indiana and Illinois. After that I shall be at liberty to speak for Mr. Hitchcock, the democratic candidate for congress, and for the state ticket in Nebraska. In speaking of the state ticket, however, I shall not be able to present any arguments in favor of the election of Mr. Dahlgren. His position on the liquor question makes that impossible. I regret this exceedingly, for he has been a political and personal friend for twenty years, and it would give me pleasure to speak for him if I could endorse the

policy for which he stands, but he has chosen to make the liquor question the paramount issue, and makes his appeal on that issue. In spite of the fact that the last democratic state convention voted down a declaration against county option by a vote of 637 to 202 he says that he will veto a county option bill if passed, and in spite of the fact that the state convention endorsed the eight o'clock closing law by a vote of 810 to 163 he announces that he will sign a bill repealing it if such a bill is passed. He is making his appeal on non-partisan lines with liquor question for the sole issue. His courage is to be commended. It is an honest way of making a campaign, although it compels him to separate himself from friends who do not agree with him, and to rely for speechmaking upon those democrats and republicans who take this view of the subject.

"Possibly it is just as well to have the issue clearly presented so that it may be settled this year instead of two years hence. Troublesome as the question is now, it would be even more embarrassing if presented in 1912 when we have a presidential election on hand. If Mr. Dahlgren is elected it will be a declaration by the voters of the state against county option and against the eight o'clock closing law. If he is defeated, it will be a declaration in favor of county option and against the eight o'clock closing law. In other words, the voters now have opportunity to decide whether the state shall go backward or forward on the liquor question. To present arguments in favor of going

backward would not only contradict what I have already said on the subject but would embarrass me in the fight that I expect to make hereafter to save our party from being the odium of being the representative of the liquor interests."

Indians Make Records.

George Darling made use of a bunch of the Indians who are at the Fair by having them sing war songs into a phonograph. They seemed delighted with the opportunity of displaying their vocal talents and we presume that the records will be mighty interesting.

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 50c a copy of 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. Garret, Treasurer, Democratic Campaign Committee, 821-15th Street, Northwest Washington, D. C.

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TARIFF TO BLAME

Cause of High Prices, Says Minority Committee of Senate

FOSTERS THE TRUST EVIL

Majority Report Contradicted and Absurdity of Stand Pat Apologies Completely Shown Up—How to Lower Prices Without Lowering Wages.

The report of the minority committee of the senate on wages and prices of commodities, signed by Senators Joseph F. Johnston, James P. Clarke and Ellison D. Smith, has been printed as a government document. Every citizen who is seeking information on the causes of the high cost of living should have a copy. The report is ably written and contains some very damaging criticisms of the majority report issued a few weeks before. The minority find that the tariff is the main cause of the high cost of living, and they make a strong case for this view by giving specific instances of increases in price; also by comparing prices under successive tariffs.

The connection between high tariffs and high prices is shown as follows: "Since 1830 we have had four different tariff laws. The following table shows the average rate of duties actually collected under each and relative prices of commodities as reported by Bradstreet:

Tariff bill.	Dutiable goods.	All imports.	Relative prices.
McKinley, 1891 and 1894	48.00	22.35	7.625
Wilson, 1896-1897	41.25	20.00	6.453
Dingley, 1898-1908	47.47	23.15	7.831
Payne-Aldrich, 1910	9.239

"From these figures it appears that the duty on all imports averaged 7 per cent and prices 16 per cent lower under the Wilson bill than under the McKinley bill and duties 25 per cent more and prices 23 per cent higher under the Dingley law than under the Wilson. These are strange coincidences if the tariff has no effect on prices of commodities. These tables show a close relation between tariffs and prices that corroborates the Republican theory when they are framing tariff bills."

As to President Taft's statement that the Payne-Aldrich bill meant revision downward, the report says:

"The president was misled into stating in his Winona speech that because the duties in more items had been reduced than increased there had been a revision downward. This has been clearly demonstrated by Hon. Champ Clark in a speech in the house on June 22, 1910. He said:

The Dingley tariff consisted of items 2,024	
Of these there were unchanged	1,150
Leaving changes in	874
Of these there were raises in	230
Of these there were reductions in	644

"The president argued that inasmuch as 654 items were reduced and 220 increased there was a revision downward. It is an argument based on numbers, not results, and is fallacious. The 2,024 items (Dingley law) yielded duties amounting to \$39,100,842. Under the Payne-Aldrich laws: The 230 items will yield duties amounting to \$13,231,368. The 654 items reduces duties 7,638,330. So the net increase is \$5,642,608.

"This is forcibly shown in the cotton and hemp schedules, where 200 of the 654 items reduced are found, nearly 33 per cent of all."

Of the greed of the protected interests the minority say:

"Experience shows us that the more they receive the larger and more insistent becomes their demand. Take, as a good illustration, our knit goods industry. Our imports of stockings for the last ten years have never equal-

ed an average of 5 per cent of our consumption. Less than 5 per cent of the cheap foreign goods of pauper labor could float over the American tariff wall, and yet in spite of this fact and the fact that already they had a protective tariff of from 51 to 67 per cent they demanded last year and received an increase to 88 per cent on that class of goods used mostly by our citizens of moderate means or small income."

The majority had made the statement in their report that foodstuffs such as bacon, beef, mutton, wheat and corn were vastly dearer in Great Britain in 1900 than in the United States. The minority give the lie to this statement. They show by adding the freight rates to the American prices that no such difference in the price levels is possible. They add:

"Now, to say that the American exporter sold his wheat here at 70 cents a bushel instead of shipping to Liverpool at a cost of 15 per cent, where he could get an advance of 30 per cent, is absurd, or that he sold his corn here at 38 cents when he could land it in Liverpool at a cost of 26 per cent and there obtain an advance of 61 per cent, or that he sold mutton here at \$7.27 when he could land it in Liverpool at a cost of 9 per cent and there get an advance of 105 per cent, or sold his beef here at \$8.04 when he could ship to Liverpool at a cost of less than 8 per cent and get an advance of 32 per cent. All this is asking us to believe some very unbelievable statements."

Agricultural readers who think they derive an advantage from the tariff will be interested in the following:

"Whenever we produce any commodity largely in excess of the home demand the surplus must find a market in open and free competition with the producers of that article all over the world. This foreign market fixes the price of that commodity for the whole world, and no tariff we may impose

WHAT IS A LARGE FORTUNE?

New England Cotton Mill Owner Thinks Nothing Less Than Three-Quarters of a Billion Deserves That Description.

Our protected monopolists appear to have very different ideas of what constitutes great wealth to those entertained by the rest of the community. What we common people would call a very comfortable living they would call starvation, and what we would call being rich beyond the dreams of avarice they apparently regard as making a bare living. In these days of swollen expenses and sparse savings most people would think themselves well off if they had a fortune of \$10,000. But our bloated tariff beneficiaries have other standards. When they talk money they have no use for any denominator less than millions. Billions are the goal toward which their business plans are directed. The following passage taken from the tariff hearings illustrates this point. Mr. Lippitt, it may be explained, is a representative cotton mill owner in New England:

Mr. Longworth—I do not know whether I understood Mr. Lippitt correctly to say that no large fortunes have ever been made in this business in New England?

Mr. Lippitt—I think so.

Mr. Longworth—My impression is that most of the large New England fortunes have been made in it.

Mr. Lippitt—We are not accustomed to very large fortunes in New England.

Mr. Longworth—Then may I ask you what you call a large fortune?

Mr. Lippitt—I would regard a fortune of three-quarters of a billion as a large fortune.

Of course we must make allowance for the fabulous notions of our tariff pets. The illusions from which they suffer are of our own creation. We have lifted them into an unreal world where men reap without sowing and where the struggle for existence is unheard of. A period of severe self reliance would tend to sober them somewhat.

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