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IN FAVOR OF TRUSTS.

WHAT A VOTE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY MEANS.

Some Facts Over Which the Wool Grower Will Do Well to Ponder Before the Coming Election—Competition He Has to Meet.

It is rather singular that about all the products of the farm that have no real tariff protection are advancing in price very materially but wool, the one product that is protected to the verge of prohibition, is standing still, and in some classes even declining in price. Cotton has been bringing more than the average price the farmer and sheep ranch men are getting for wool. There is no tariff on cotton, no protection fosters its growth, while the tariff on wool is eleven cents a pound. How can our protection enthusiasts explain this anomaly, which, according to their theory, shows that the duty on wool is still too low? Why don't they amend the tariff and give the farmer more protection instead of standing pat? The imports of foreign wool are increasing. The last report of Commerce and Finance, issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor, gives the imports of wool for the eleven months ending November 1901, 161,631,318; 1902, 163,278,392. Thus for the same period foreign wool has been coming in the past year at the rate of over fifty million pounds more than in 1901.

What is the reason for this increased competition of the foreign wool growers with our home product? In spite of nearly 100 per cent protection the sheep industry is not so prosperous as it was when we had free wool under the tariff of 1894. The price of woolen goods is declining from the inability of the great majority of our people to buy wool clothing. Cotton and shoddy have largely taken the place of wool from the sheer necessity of the family with limited incomes to meet the increased cost of living. The importation of foreign wool is principally of the coarse grades, used in the manufacture of carpets. That class of wool our wool growers cannot supply in sufficient quantity to supply the demand, and the high tariff only adds to the cost of the articles made from it. The farmer, when he buys a carpet or other product made of coarse wool, pays a big tax on it, with not even the compensating advantage of an increased profit on the wool he himself raises. Those farmers who do not raise sheep are practically unprotected by the tariff, although nearly all agricultural products are included in schedule G of the tariff law, yet the surplus of agricultural products raised above what this country can consume, when sold abroad, must compete in the world's markets and the price is fixed by the foreign buyers. The price paid in the home market is controlled by the price the surplus brings, so in that case protection does not protect the farmer. There are a few exceptions to this rule, including those who raise sugar cane, rice and wrapper tobacco, but the trusts that control the market for those products get the largest slice of the profits. Some farmers who live near the Canadian border may be slightly protected from their Canadian neighbors by the lack of competition on eggs and vegetables, but this advantage, if any, is more than overcome by the increased price of what they purchase.

The farmer that votes to continue the protective tariff votes to protect and foster the trusts, and not only pays the tariff tax to the government but a much greater tax on about all he buys to the favored corporations.

SECRETARY SHAW ASSAILED.
Republican Officeholder Denounces His Statements as "Miserable Untruths."
The report given out from Republican sources that Secretary Shaw is soon to retire from the cabinet should be true, if the charges made by Gen. H. H. Thomas are substantiated. He accuses Secretary Shaw of violations of the civil service law and of playing petty politics in his removal from the office of appraiser of the port of Chicago. In a letter to Secretary Shaw, General Thomas says:
"On the 17th of December last you wrote, ostensibly by direction of the president, requesting my immediate resignation on the pretext of 'securing more vigorous administration.' Had you stopped there I might have had some respect for you, but you evidently thought a little further would sweeten the bitter dose, so you told me the resignation was not wanted for the purpose of giving somebody a place, and that there was no politics in it. I will not characterize the statements as lies, for that might be construed as unparliamentary, but I will say they are miserable untruths, and you know them to be, and must have known that I knew them to be. Had not you agreed with Senator Hopkins in August to appoint Hoy, and haven't you carried out the contract?"
"But I have other and more serious charges to prefer against you. The Republican party prides itself upon its devotion to the civil service law, and you have sworn to enforce that as well as other laws. Let us see the performance. In April last there occurred a vacancy in the tobacco examiner's office, which carried a salary of \$1,800. There being no eligible to select from, you appointed Mr. Lahan for a thirty days' term at \$10 per day. You reappointed him each month until Sept. 2, when a competitive examination was held, in which he participated and failed to pass. A half dozen of them did pass and some of them well up in the nineties, and the law made it one of your duties to appoint one of the three highest, but you set aside the law and have appointed Lahan five times since."
Secretary Shaw has appointed in place of General Thomas Luman I. Hoy, who was manager of the campaign which resulted in the election of A. F. Hopkins to the United States Senate, so that one charge is proven, for there certainly is "politics in it."
Secretary Shaw may try to pose as a civil service reformer, but from the appointments to office he has made he must be judged to be a spoilsman of

the rampant stripe. From the partisan standpoint there is nothing to complain about in the effort to reward political strikers, but as the Roosevelt administration claims to be most ardent in the cause of civil service reform, the double dealing and subterfuge employed in rewarding its friends with official positions is deplorable. As the president directed Secretary Shaw to carry out this political deal, it will be but retribution if his own head falls in the basket, when somebody more politically useful demands it.
"To the victors belong the spoils," is the strenuous way politics are running nowadays.

Republican Bluff—Or Worse.
The Republicans have fooled the people so often and so long, or at least they think they have done so, in regard to prosperity and its causes that they think the people will believe whatever the Republicans tell them. This is having a demoralizing effect upon the Republicans and is making them even more reckless of facts than formerly. If the Republican leaders in Congress assert that black is white they fully expect a majority of the people to believe it, at least on election day.

The Republicans have but one cause for prosperity—the Dingley tariff act, and continued Republican administration. Good crops in this country with high prices, occasioned by scarcity abroad, cuts no ice, in their plan of salvation, for all of those things will be reversed if the wicked Democrats should get control of the government; at least so the Republicans unhesitatingly tell us, for haven't we had experience in the past?

Now that we are in the midst of a severe depression in industry and that hundreds of thousands are out of employment entirely, while millions are working at reduced wages, the Republicans continue to prattle about "Republican prosperity" and to assert that we are more prosperous than ever before. When the Hon. J. G. Cannon was nominated for speaker of the House, he said, in a speech to the Republican caucus:
"The people never were so well and perfectly employed as now."

In a speech in the House on Dec. 1, Congressman Hepburn of Iowa unblushingly stated:
"To-day every man in the United States who wants to work finds employment in the great labor fields of the United States, and at a compensating wage. When has there been a time when the distribution of wealth was as great as it is now, and when the humblest and the poorest had so large a share of the accumulations of each year as now? There never has been a time."
Of course the Democrats quickly accept such challenges as to the present condition of industry and business. They are having long lists of wage reductions and closed mills printed in the Congressional Record. They are also printing numerous statements from leading Republican papers and from trade journals which freely and frankly declare that we are now at the beginning of what appears to be a period of depression and are discussing the probability of the extent of this period. But what do the Republicans care for those facts when they are confident that they can delude the voters into believing that everybody is prosperous? Are the people really hypnotized on election day by these leading Republicans? Will the people ever open their eyes and see the facts for themselves? When they do there will be a big and varied collection of Republican statesmen out of jobs. Times will surely get bad right away; very, very bad.

Miles and Young.
If an added proof were needed that President Roosevelt and Secretary Root went out of their way to administer a snub to General Miles, it may be found in the fulsome compliments paid to General Young in the order retiring him when he reached the age limit. General Miles was dismissed with a cold and blunt order, and administration apologies claimed that it was not permissible to do otherwise. But when Gen. Young retired it was with extreme difficulty that the secretary of war found words enough to express his compliments. By calling attention to their own littleness the detractors of Gen. Miles only emphasized his greatness.—The Commoner.

Secretary Shaw Again Effervescing.
Secretary Shaw finds much time these busy days to get away from his irksome treasury work at Washington and to make stump speeches in various parts of the country. And when he does get away, he puts even Senators Foraker and Lodge in the shade as original Roosevelt men. He bubbles with fine adjective descriptive of the Rooseveltian administration. He told the members of the Marquette club at Chicago on Lincoln's birthday that no issue and no candidate could beat Roosevelt. He said, "Be the issue what it may, the result of the next election is assured." Of course that settles it.

Whole Session of Congress Wasted.
A horse can be led to the water, but cannot be made to drink. Likewise President Roosevelt can call a special session of Congress, but he cannot make the Republican majority of that body pass legislation that he recommends as urgent and important. The late extraordinary session of Congress in November enacted one important measure; that is, it was of the greatest importance to the law-givers, but, as far as the public were concerned, they could very well have awaited the regular session for its passage. This sole law was a joint resolution providing for the payment of mileage to the members.

Our Economic General.
Attorney General Knox, in reply to an inquiry, reports that in the last year he has expended about \$25,000 of the \$500,000 voted him to assist in prosecuting the trusts. At the rate he is working the appropriation will run his department for twenty years. Even a Republican Congress expected about twenty times as much activity as he has displayed.



The Light in the Window.

—Courtesy of The Commoner.

Commoner Comment.

RAILROAD BONDS AND FARM MORTGAGES.
Secretary Shaw has permitted the acceptance, as security for government deposits in the national banks, of all the state of New York permits the savings banks to invest in. As a result, the secretary accepts first mortgage railroad bonds of companies which have paid dividends on their stocks for a period of ten years.
It will be remembered that the Aldrich bill introduced in the senate provided for the acceptance of railroad bonds. The Aldrich bill did not pass, and, indeed, received small encouragement outside of financial circles, and yet Secretary Shaw has undertaken to demonstrate that he is a law unto himself.
The Wall Street Journal does not approve of Secretary Shaw's action in this respect. The Journal says that it would not be inclined to enter serious objection if this were but a temporary expedient, and not to serve as a precedent. The Journal takes the pains to say that it has no intention of "casting discredit upon railroad bonds, which constitute some of the best securities that the world presents; but we find that the Journal fears the logical result of the acceptance of railroad bonds. It explains that in the light of Secretary Shaw's action "the farmers of the country may legitimately claim that if the government is to place its money on railroad bonds, it should not discriminate against their mortgages."
That would seem to be very natural; and yet, it is not at all likely that Wall street generally will agree that the farmers could legitimately make such a claim.

A few years ago the populists proposed that the government should loan money on farm mortgages, the proposition was met with sneers by the Wall street magnates; and the plan was not at all popular throughout the country.
And yet, when it is proposed to loan money on railroad bonds, Wall street is very generally favorable to the plan, while there does not appear to be, throughout the country, any considerable disquietude with respect to the proposition.

Perhaps American people have become quite accustomed to accepting the Wall street view as being the correct one, however inconsistent his protests against one plan may be with its championship of another plan.
It is but a short step from the acceptance of railroad bonds as security for government deposits and the acceptance of railroad bonds as the basis for national bank circulation. If the secretary of the treasury can, without express authority of law, accept railroad bonds as security in the one case, there seems to be no reason why he may not, without authority of law, accept railroad bonds in the other case.

To a man like Congressman Shafroth the words of praise bestowed upon him for his mainly active are worth more than congressional honors or the salaries emoluments thereof.
It is worthy of note that the only congressman who ever resigned a seat after learning that he was not honestly elected is a Democrat.

A dispatch to the Cincinnati Inquirer, under date of Live Oak, Fla., February 16, quotes Mr. Bryan as saying: "Mr. Hanna has grown in public estimation during the last eight years, his recent election demonstrating his increasing hold upon the people of his state. He won his place at the head of his party in the senate and in the nation by his extraordinary executive ability and by his skill in organizing the forces that control that party. Even his political opponents recognized the strength of his personality and his many admirable qualities. He was one of the most forceful men in modern politics."
Judging by the appointment of "Doc" Jamieson, it must be evident that President Roosevelt is a strenuous civil service reformer only when the appointment of spoilsmen will not serve his purpose better.

If it is true that Mr. Schwab, speaking of the shipbuilding trust, said: "All is lost save honor," then, indeed, are his assets pitifully small.
It seems that the only thing doing at the headquarters of The Hague peace tribunal is the matter of Jan. 1, 1902, when the railways accumulated in the deserted room.

CLEVELAND ON TRUSTS.
The Montgomery Advertiser in a labor editorial attempts the defense of Mr. Cleveland in his last annual message, December, 1896, denouncing the trusts in the strongest possible terms, declaring that "their tendency is to crush out individual independence and to hinder or prevent the free use of human faculties and the full development of human character."
Yes, he used those words after the election of his successor and after his surrender to the corporations, had caused his repudiation by his party. But why did he not do something to destroy the trusts? He did not enforce the existing law any better than President McKinley or President Roosevelt, neither did he recommend any specific measure for the extermination of the trusts. After a term of inaction during which the trusts constantly grew he went through the farce of kicking at them as he left the White house, but the insincerity of his effort is shown by the fact that he would be the unanimous choice of the trusts today if they were allowed to select the democratic candidate, provided they thought he could be elected. The trusts would contribute more liberally to his campaign than to the fund of any other man who could be named by the democratic party, for they would feel more certain of being allowed to make the money back out of the pockets of the people, regardless of its effect on the democratic party.

INSTRUCT.
A casual reading of the corporation dailies is enough to convince any one that there is a concerted plan on foot among the reorganizers to prevent instructions. "Select good, conservative men," they say, "and leave them free to act according to their judgment." In every district they are working for a delegate who will follow the dictation of Wall street and if they can succeed in sending these men uninstructed, Wall street will write the platform, name the candidates and control the organization. If the voters are hooded at all they must be heard in the primaries and in the county conventions. A motion to instruct for the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform will draw the line between those who want to make an honest fight and those who want to surrender the party into the hands of the financiers.

The Sioux City Journal says that Wall street is coming around to Roosevelt, which is proof that a great light has "dawned upon Wall street." The Journal is mistaken. It is not a new organization. If the voters are hooded, the fact that its attempt to hoodwink the people was a dismal failure.

Pending settlement of the vexed question as to who is "father of the new navy" it might be well to help the child get rid of a whole lot of useless nurses who get most of the baby's matted milk.

J. Adam Bede's contention that the democratic party should disband may be founded on the fact that he can not understand why it did not after he left it. J. Adam mistakes the size of the hole he left.

J. Sloat Fassett still insists that we are under treaty obligations to Korea. Stranahan that J. Sloat fails to keep up with the procession. Were we not also under treaty obligations to Colombia? And what's a little matter like a treaty with a wild power when that power wants to gobble something?

Postmaster General Payne has issued an order that only Bell telephones shall be allowed in postoffices. Why? Well, the fact that Mr. Payne is a stockholder in the Bell Telephone company may have had something to do with the order.
Dr. Harper says that criticism of Mr. Rockefeller is not barred from Chicago university. Certainly not, but neither is any professor in the university barred from thrusting his head into a lion's mouth if he really wants to do it. Dr. Harper is too awfully innocent.

SURRENDER DEMANDED.
Some of the organizers profess to believe that the silver question is the only obstacle in the way of harmony. As evidence that complete surrender is demanded it is only necessary to cite the recent experience in Ohio. The democrats of that state made a fair test of this matter last fall. Mr. Clark, the man named for the United States senate against Mr. Hanna, was a better man in 1896 and made speeches for the Palmer and Buckner ticket. On other questions he was with the party and had shown his sympathy with the people by supporting the reforms for which Johnson was contending. Believing that his sympathies were right, the democrats at the request of Mr. Johnson, nominated him and the silver men as a rule supported him, but in spite of the fact that the republican papers took pains to advertise that he had not changed his opinion on the silver question he was defeated by a overwhelming majority. His advocacy of the gold standard did not save him, nor did it conciliate the reorganizers. They make a great deal of noise about 16 to 1, but they are not content with a surrender on that point. They insist that the platform, candidates and the party organization shall represent organized wealth on all points and that the democratic party shall be a miniature edition of the republican party. Nothing less than this will restore the kind of "harmony" they want.

BE BOLD AT THE PRIMARIES.
The Louisville Post says that in 1896 and 1899 the democratic party repudiated the platform of 1892, and added: "Now if the democratic party has again changed its opinion there is no reason why it should not have the equal boldness to repudiate the platform of 1896 and 1900." Are the Post and the people whom it represents willing to make the test of the election of delegates to the national convention the question as to whether the national platforms of 1896 and 1900 shall be repudiated? If the Post really desires to be bold, will it be willing that the boldness be displayed at the primaries rather than reserved for the convention floor, after delegates have been elected on the so-called harmony platform.

FOUNDATION OF MORALITY.
In his address at Chicago, Bishop John L. Spalding sounded this warning: "If the present methods continue a few individuals and trusts will soon control the means of production and distribution and this in an era in which money is the mightiest form of social influence and dominion. To these few individuals and corporations will be joined an authority and power greater than any history makes known—an authority and power which are incompatible with political liberty and popular institutions. If our national welfare cease to rest on a foundation of religion and morality it will vanish."
It seems that an investigation has brought out the fact that 50 per cent of the gas meters in New York City measure too fast and that the gas was in many cases adulterated. This is the natural result of a private monopoly, but would not exist under municipal ownership.

It will be observed that the newspapers that head longest about "yellow journalism" have nothing to say about the criticism and buff tendencies of the administration managers of Washington court etiquette.

The Washington Post says: "Mr. Bryan declares that no one will be admitted to the St. Louis convention who is antagonistic to the Kansas City platform. Annapolis was struck dead for just such misrepresentation, but owing to changes the Post paragrapher is safe—for a time."
The Iowa anti-trust law has been declared unconstitutional on a technicality. Some of these days it may happen that the taxpayers will benefit by a technicality, but it appears to be a very faint sort of a hope.

A democratic administration purchased with trust money would be worse for the consumers than a republican administration. That's the only difference.

When a "captain of industry" goes the mills to defraud it is called "able bodied bootlegging." When anybody else does the same thing it is called a crime.
It seems that China is destined to get humped if the door is open, and badly jammed if the door is closed.
The pass find will have some difficulty in snaking into heaven that way.



Hymn Scared the Crows.
The daughter of a country rector taught the choir boys a new tune at a Monday evening's practice, to be sung on the following Sunday. Sunday morning came.
"Well, Sammy," said Miss X—, "I hope you haven't forgotten the new tune, for we depend much on you."
"Naw, mam, not a bit. Why, I've been asking the crows with it all the week."—London Answers.

Scotch Dialect.
"I got quite interested in a book that a man left out in the woods the other day," said the first owl.
"Nonsense!" cried his mate; "you can't understand the human language."
"But this wasn't altogether human. It was by a man named McTavish MacPherson, and it was full of 'hoots!'"

Modern Sherlock Holmes.
Again the modern Sherlock, was victorious.
"I have discovered that it is a girl baby," he whispered.
"How did you find that out?" asked the mystified man.
"I gave it a newspaper to play with and it tore out the bargain sales first thing."



Sad Home-Coming.
"At the sight of his son the happy father fell on his neck."
"That," remarked the resident of the town in a whisper, "is one of our 'big guns.'"
"And who is the quiet little chap with him?" asked the visitor.
"The man behind the gun," replied the resident, "who keeps him from shooting off his opinions at the wrong time. He is the big fellow's secretary."

Dentistry's Religious Training.
Dentist (after struggling for twenty minutes in a vain endeavor to extract the tooth)—"I must say you—you have the finest tooth I ever had to deal with."
Patient—"I'm in nae hurry. It's yourn' practice for ye; an' it'll teach ye that we man a' work for our livin'!"—Stray Stories.

The Fireproof Drama.
"How did you enjoy the play last night?"
"I was a good deal disappointed. The fireproof paint on the scenery looked just like any ordinary paint, and I don't believe the new steel curtain is as heavy as 2,000 pounds as it has been advertised."—Chicago Tribune.

Six Months Ahead.
"I suppose things are rather backward in your business now," said the friend.
"Backward?" exclaimed the sporting goods salesman, "they're decidedly forward. The boss just told me if I wanted a vacation this summer I'd have to take it now while we're dull."

It All Depended.
"Don't we go any higher?" asked the facetious guest in the Chicago hotel when the elevator stopped at the twenty-fourth floor.
"Not unless the elevator drops, sir," answered the truthful elevator boy.—Judge.

Shutting Him Up.
"It strikes me, Mary," mildly observed Mr. Shovrin, "that those cakes would be decidedly better if they had a little more ginger in them."
"So would you, John," calmly rejoined the feminine end of the combine.

Tricks All Photographers Know.
"He claims to have invented a camera, that makes people prettier than they are."
"How is that?"
"By simply making the lens flatter."—Stray Stories.

Times Have Changed.



"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world"—not always.

Bench and Bar.
Judge Rowndes—Your face is familiar. I've seen you before.
Prisoner—Yes, your honor, quite often.
Judge Rowndes—Ah! what was the charge the last time I saw you?
Prisoner—I think it was 15 cents, your honor, I mixed a cocktail for you.

Asking Too Much.
"My dear," said Ariup, "I have made a little preparation for your future. Had my life insured for \$5,000 to-day."
"Oh, how thoughtful of you, John," exclaimed Mrs. A. "And can I get the money right away?"