

The Plattsmouth - Journal

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The consumer is entitled to some consideration in the adjustment of prices of things to be consumed. The Aldrich tariff law is conspicuous because it cares only for manufacturing interests and the trusts.

According to a statement given out by Congressman Champ Clark, the average of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law will show an increase over the average of the Dingley law, of 27 per cent. This is what some Republican newspapers style a "downward revision."

Only a few more days till the great Merchants' Carnival. Are we ready for it? There will be many strangers here who were never here before. Let every business house be suitably decorated for the event. And by all means let each individual cut the weeds about his premises, and let the city employ parties to cut the weeds along the streets. Some farmers in town Saturday say that the weeds are higher here in town than they are on the roadsides in the country. This should not be, and we all know it.

Senator McCumber complains that Washington is fast becoming a city of official families. He points out that promotions and appointments in the census bureau go largely to the wives and daughters or sons or nephews of nieces or cousins or wards or half brothers of department officials. While the fact would indicate a laxity in the enforcement of the Civil Service laws it proves a certain amount of thrift and industry in the salary drawing line on the part of the said departmental officials. And all this during the period when Theodore Roosevelt, the foster parent of Civil Service, sat, or rather moved about, in the White House!

When shortly before his death, John C. Calhoun suggested, as a defense for the south, that the Union be divided into a southern and northern section, each to have a president, and each president to have an absolute veto on all legislation by congress which would be adverse to his section, the country saw that this scheme was wildly absurd. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, a Populist chieftain when the Populist party was here, goes Calhoun two better. He wants the country cut up into four parts, a north, a south, an east and a west. Apparently, too, he favors making each section entirely independent of the others. Under the Watson scheme there would be four little nations in place of the one big one which is here now. We would dislike to see anything of this kind occur. But the people west, north and south are getting pretty weary of the manner in which they have to pay tribute to the east through the Payne-Aldrich tariff law. Something must be done to rid the country of the trusts, to whom the common people have to pay tribute, or something will happen in the next ten years.

GUESSING AT THE TARIFF.

(Saturday Evening Post.)

"The true principle of protection," says the Republican platform, "is best maintained by the imposition of such duties as will equal the difference between cost of production at home and abroad." That has long been the cardinal theory of protection. So it would seem that, in framing a tariff bill on true protective principles, the first step would be to ascertain the difference between cost of production at home and abroad.

No such step has ever yet been taken. All the tariff bills have been passed substantially upon the ex parte

testimony of interested persons. Even after it was well settled that a new bill would be framed in 1909, the protectionist party in congress refused to authorize a scientific investigation of the facts in the case. Even now the country is without authoritative information as to the relation between a given duty and the difference in cost of production at home and abroad. It may have Mr. Gary's statement on one side and Mr. Carnegie's on the other, or a glove manufacturer's allegations and the contradictory allegations of a glove importer; but there is no impartial, determinative finding to which it can turn.

A revision of the tariff is a fearsome thing; but one revision will be followed by agitation for another until the country knows the truth. Until we have the report of an impartial, scientific commission, this subject of import duties will continue an open and lively one.

A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP.

(Nebraska State Capital, Rep.)

The new Aldrich tariff bill is one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated on the American people.

It is in no way what the Republican party promised in the last campaign. It is a raise in tariff rates above those of the Dingley tariff, of more than 3 per cent. Yet a swarm of congressmen and senators, part of them crooks and part of them blockheads, voted for the bill, and sent word home to their constituents that it was a "nearly perfect bill" and a "great improvement."

The ready-made clothing of men and boys gets a raise of \$125,000,000 a year. That is about \$4 apiece extra. That is one "improvement."

The cotton and woolen cloths, and the ready-made clothing bought by women, all get raised in price. That is another "improvement."

There were over 4,000 items in the tariff bill. President Taft asked for changes in eight of them. He gained his point in five, and signed this "almost perfect" bill.

On the face of the bill the increase in revenue is \$4,188,480. But there are important reductions along the line. If any of you common people in Nebraska want to buy steel rails, or arsenic, or iron ore, or some rawhides for chemical and mechanical purposes, you come in for the benefit of the lower tariff. If you are building and want some flooring rough on both sides, or some ceiling unplanned and without grooves, you can get some of the "benefits."

But when you go to your stores and buy the common necessities of life, you will have the pleasure of paying higher prices on all along the line. In this the merchants are helpless. They have already received notice from the jobbers and manufacturers of the higher prices.

The average reduction in the sugar schedules is one-fiftieth of 1 per cent. Remember that when you buy sugar, and pay whatever price the trust dictates.

If you want the official figures, showing the exact rate on every item of the new tariff, and its comparison with the Dingley law, ask your senator or your congressman to get for you Senate Documents 155 and 156. Don't take the word of any cheap politician, or any hungry office-hunter, or any sneaking whiffet of an Omaha editor, but get the official figures, and get them quick.

Then, while you are digging down into your pockets for the increased price of the things you must pay, remember that a state convention instructed the Nebraska delegation to vote for whatever tariff was put up to them by a president who had given it but a casual examination. Remember that a gang of blockheads in that convention thought more of

catching trains for home than they did of the welfare of the people of Nebraska whom they pretended to represent.

What the Republicans of Nebraska need is honest, able and courageous leadership. What we need is a solid delegation in Washington pledged to wipe out Cannonism and Aldrichism, and pledged to restore actual representative government to the people.

There are good and able men in Nebraska—as good and as able as in any other state in the union. Let them be called forth to serve. Let us have open war now against the interests that are combined to choke the life out of the country.

Give us some real men.

The ticket nominated by the Democrats of Cass county last week is one of the best ever placed before the voters.

Many Republicans in Cass county boldly express their determination to vote for Ed. Tutt for sheriff, because they believe two terms ought to satisfy most anyone.

Every farmer in Cass county should arrange to attend the stock show on Wednesday, September 1. There is already a large number of horses and cattle registered for entry, and some fine hogs.

Only one more week till the carnival. Have you arranged to properly decorate your place of business? The people will be here in vast numbers, and we want to show them that we have the proper spirit of "git up and get there."

These Aldrich-Payne Republicans who voted for revision upward and then go about peddling the miserable apology that the tariff bill is "the best that could be secured under the circumstances," really rate themselves a little bit lower—if possible—than they are rated by the people.—Kansas City Star (Rep.).

Judge Archer deserves the support of every pioneer resident of Cass county. He is honest, well qualified for the position and everybody having business in that court will receive fair treatment. He will not let political prejudices influence him to do otherwise. And then another thing, he knows the law.

Judge Sedgwick "run like a

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skereed wolf," as the saying goes. Now they are blaming the railroads for his nomination, and it is possible they did have something to do with it. We know of one railroad attorney who had workers out for him an election day.

As an endorser of the national congress, no matter what it would do, the Omaha Bee is a howling success. In its endorsement of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, it knows that it only expresses the sentiment of a few hide-bound leaders of the Republican party, who get their bread and butter by standing in with the east as against the west.

And Snyder, the Democratic candidate for register of deeds, is a farmer, but a gentleman eminently well fitted for the position. He is a young man, and one very popular with all who know him. Quiet, unassuming in his deportment, but possesses all the necessary essentials to make an official upon whom the people of Cass county can look with pride. He was reared in the county.

There seems to be considerable squirming in the Republican papers on account of the recent primary. A Republican legislature enacted the first primary law, and it was all right with them, until a Democratic legislature changed the form to an open ballot, and now it is all wrong. Ain't that funny? So the voters are satisfied, that is all that is necessary.

"The revision of the tariff on wool was substantially settled at Chicago on October 15, 1908, three weeks before election, at a secret meeting between representatives of the worsted interests and of the growers of heavy shrinking wool in the four states of the far west."—(Extract from the letter of Robert Bleakie of Hyde Park, one of the most prominent New England carded woolen manufacturers, in reply to Colonel Albert Clarke of the Home Market club.)

The G. A. R. reunion began at Weeping Water today. The City band of Plattsmouth will furnish the music. On Thursday a base ball game takes place between the Plattsmouth and Weeping Water teams, and this will be the big day of all. A special will be run over the Missouri Pacific in the morning and returning will leave Weeping Water at 9 o'clock in the evening. Make

your arrangements to attend this one day, anyhow.

ENACTED PROSPERITY.

As another step in the process of enacting prosperity by statute the Republican party will next undertake a revision of the currency system. This revision will be in charge of the same eminent leaders of the party who controlled the revision of the tariff, to-wit, Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon.

The nature of the revision to be expected is indicated by the action of Speaker Cannon in deposing Congressman Fowler of New York as chairman of the banking and currency committee and naming as his successor Congressman Vreeland of New York. Fowler is perhaps the greatest authority on the currency question now in public life. Vreeland, as the Indianapolis News truthfully describes him, is a man "who is quite unable to see anything west of Wall street." Together with Aldrich he was the author of the present makeshift "emergency" currency law, which has been wholly inoperative, and whose sole object was to furnish a half million dollars more of bond-secured currency for the uses of the Wall street gamblers.

New England, New York and Cannon made a new tariff law, the purpose of which is to "promote prosperity" by enabling the trusts to charge higher prices for their output, and to earn larger dividends on their watered stocks.

New England, New York and Cannon will next make a new currency law, the purpose of which will also be to "promote prosperity" by providing for a bond-secured currency. The bonds to be used as a basis for the legal tender money of the country are to be the securities of the railroads and the great industrial trusts. This, of course, is expected to help speculators, speculative banks, exploiters, stock-thimblers, gamblers, by creating a market for new securities and conferring added value on those already afloat.

In a sense, all this will make for "prosperity." But it is a Dead Sea prosperity, the fruit of which will quickly turn to ashes in the mouths of the people. High prices and big profits for the trusts means a prosperity for plutocracy, in which, for a time, and to a very limited extent, the labor that plutocracy em-

plloys will share. A bond-secured currency, inflated and deflated at the will of the stock gamblers, adding fictitious value to water-logged securities, will promote speculation, make more made and maddening the gambling saturnalia, and result in a kind of fevered "prosperity" drunkenness such as brought on the last collapse.

Through it all, in fair weather and in storm the same, the cold-blooded, clear-headed, calculating and merciless pirate of high finance will be adding, day by day, to their riches. Tariff laws, currency laws, will conspire to favor them—to make their work easier, their rewards even larger than before. Into their hopper, at last, will come a large share of the wealth production of the country. Through the tariff laws they will wring added extortion from the consumer. Through their control of the currency, and their currency-inflated stocks, they will rake in greater winnings from investors, speculators and small business men.

But poverty will persist. It will grow deeper and broader. Just as those at the top grow fatter will those at the bottom grow thinner. And they who are in the middle, oppressed by the growing weight above them, will be forced nearer and nearer to the bottom.

A prosperity made for their privileged classes—a prosperity which those on top grind out remorselessly from the sweat and groans of those beneath—a prosperity which looks only on Captain Kidd and the crew among whom he distributes a share of his blood-money, and loses sight and memory of the victims who must walk the plank—this is the kind of prosperity Aldrich and Cannon and Vreeland in the name of the Republican party, are enacting into being.

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M. G. Kime, the popular and well known Democrat of Nebraska, came up Saturday to attend the meeting of the county central committee and to visit with friends. Mike is justly popular here with all the people, who know him, and is one of Nebraska's best and most enterprising citizens.