

The Plattsmouth Journal

DAILY AND WEEKLY. C. W. SHERMAN, Editor.

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Official County Paper.

PRESSING THE TARIFF FIGHT.

Appreciating the fact that the fight for free trade has only just begun, and that the present status of tariff reform is but a short step in the direction of the goal toward which the destinies of the American republic are tending...

This plan comprehends the organization of a manufacturers' free trade league. The very name sounds paradoxical at first, so accustomed have the ears become to the republican yawp that "protection benefits every American manufacturer..."

The necessity of strong, sustained and united effort on the part of all friends of free trade at this time and during all the time between now and the next presidential election is apparent. A step has been taken in the direction of tariff reform in the adoption by congress of the amended Wilson bill...

It would be a great mistake to suppose that the contest on behalf of this great principle of human liberty had been fully won, and that its friends can afford to relax anything of effort in its behalf. There are more than fifty corporations and trusts in the United States to whom the expenditure of \$1,000,000 each would be a matter of small importance...

And this was written in May of 1893! The handwriting on the wall at Belshazzar's feast was not half so clear, nor was the prophecy it set forth ever fulfilled more completely and exactly than have been the predictions that Mr. Wells made over a year ago.

Mr. P. J. FALTER, of the precinct, is mentioned by his friends as a suitable candidate for county commissioner in this district on the democratic ticket. Mr. Falter is well qualified for the office, and his popularity makes him just the man to give Candidate Dutton a good beating at the polls.

"THEY FAVOR A PARITY."

Crete Democrat.

The following is the resolution adopted by the Saline county republican convention at Wilber the 11th on the money question:

"Resolved, That we favor a parity of gold and silver as the coin of this country in such amounts as shall fully meet the requirements of commerce and the needs of the people."

This takes the cake. They want "a parity of gold and silver, in such amounts as shall fully meet the requirements of commerce and the needs of the people." If they had started out with the intention of not letting the rank and file of the party know what position they intended to take on the money question they could not have adopted a better plank...

REFORM IS DEMOCRATIC.

St. Louis Republic

Republicans took the sugar trust to Washington. The work of a tariff lobby, the insertion of an increased rate, the substitution of specific for ad valorem duties are as blackly republican as the presence and vote of a republican congressman.

If republicans had not dissipated the surplus, tariff reform would not have been beset with the many difficulties which arose from the necessities of immediate revenue. If the democratic policy, which, from 1846 to 1860, had almost entirely separated the question of business prices from the question of federal taxation, had not been interrupted by the rush of republicans to excessive protection under the guise of war taxes, there would be this year none of the disturbance and immorality which have disgusted the people.

Every tariff trust which threatens, buys and persuades legislators is a creation of the republicans. Under democratic rule such vampires could never have been begotten. There might have been trusts, but not trusts for tampering with the tax power.

Give the democratic party ten years of consecutive power and it will purify the revenue from scandalous bargains, as it did in the ten years ending with the law of 1897.

Legislation on great controverted questions has always responded to reason somewhat slowly. Legislation which involves manifold interests on one side and reason on the other is seldom better than a compromise. Aware of this rule of events, the next generation will wonder that the democratic party could accomplish so much for tariff reform in 1894.

Reform could not put its finger on a schedule without calling out protests, influences, money and casuistry. There is scarcely a schedule of the McKinley bill which could not number tariff reformers among its friends. Reform everything else, but don't touch this—such is the story the democratic legislator hears from friends whose spirit is willing but whose flesh is weak.

If a business has no government bounty, it expects none and sees the

incurable iniquity of the bounty system. Confer a bounty, and the bounty becomes a part of its assets. Try to take the bounty away, and it rallies all its strength and all its friends. Reform is forced to contend not only with the business itself, but with every social and pecuniary connection it can bring to bear.

Republicanism has been busy wherever there is a bounty in a democratic district or state. The influences of the bounty receivers have been gathered to menace and entice the democratic congressman or senator. Not in all cases has duty to democratic doctrine outweighed these concentrated influences.

Nor will it be until the tariff is for revenue only that the bounty disease will be eradicated. All the violent and insidious forms of corruption will appeal to the weakness of legislative character until the republican partnership between the government and private wealth hunters is dissolved.

Each session of reform will make the next easier. This session has witnessed the heaviest battle. Republicanism has been defeated in the open fight and in democratic caucuses. If the people will stand firm by the party of reform, the next congress will have a healthy revenue situation to deal with and can push out republicanism with clean principle. The fraud of specific duties can be rectified. Raw materials can be freed and manufactures be enlarged.

PROTECTION'S PET FRAUD.

St. Louis Republic.

Tom Johnson of Ohio is a radical free trader who cannot bring himself to apologize for the tariff bill.

Tariff reformers do not apologize for the protection that is in the bill, but for the free trade that conscientious effort managed to fasten down in spite of the trained opposition of long pampered protection forces.

With Tom Johnson the southwestern free trader is grumbling at the defeat of the Wilson bill. But he takes what a protectionist majority in the senate would give and is glad that a reduction was affected. The McKinley law would be a disgrace, while the new bill is only a disappointment.

The southwest will thank Mr. Johnson if he will unrelentingly teach around his Cleveland home the great fault of the bill. It is not a sugar tax or a raw material tax, but the maintenance of specific duties. That is the shame of the senate and of the bill.

Anybody can see how specific duties are frauds. For example, they defeat the advantages of modern improvements. We are sure that improved processes will cheapen production every year. But a specific duty remains the same until repealed.

At the time of adoption a duty of 50 cents a yard or pound may seem a fair impost on an article that cost \$2. But if new machinery, new transportation or something else reduces the cost in the world's markets to 50 cents, your duty of 25 per cent becomes one of 100 per cent and your people are outrageously swindled.

Specific duties are frauds also in grouping several grades of goods under one rate. It may seem moderate to charge 25 cents on all goods of a certain kind which cost not more than \$1. But when you come to look closely you will see that the great bulk of the goods cost only from 25 cents to 50 cents—often not more than 10 cents. So that the tax is really 50, 100 or 150 per cent.

The senate perpetrated a gross fraud when the ad valorem principle of the Wilson bill was changed to protection's favorite friend, specific duties.

Dwell upon the specific duties, Mr. Johnson. A sincere free trader will surely make converts by exposing how the fraud works.

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A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

Democrats in Nebraska have the opportunity to break down republican domination in that state forever by proper fusion with the populists. Will they do it, or will they give additional currency to the charge that the two old parties are dominated by the same forces by refusing fusion, putting an independent ticket in the field, and electing the republican ticket headed by "Tattooed Tom?"—Chicago Times.

The theorists who are speculating as to the cause of the sudden advance in the price of silver need not look to the war in the east for the reason. That grand declaration for the free coinage of silver which organized labor sent to congress the other day deserves more credit for the boom the white bullion is just now enjoying than all the gossip about a proposed Chinese silver loan.



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