

## NOT FOR THE FARMERS

The Dingley Tariff Law Does Not Afford Them Any Protection.

## ALLEN'S PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Drawback Bounty for Manufacturers, but No Bounty for Farmers.

## Neutralizes the Duty on Hides.

The republican press has attempted to take great credit for its liberal treatment of the farmer in placing a duty of 15 per cent upon hides imported. If the paragraph had been passed as it was placed in the bill in the senate it would have increased the price of hides a trifle. Of course it would not result in any great good to Nebraska as it would also have increased the price of shoes. The little good it contained for the farmers has been defeated by a "proviso" attached in the conference committee. The law as passed is as follows:

"437. Hides of cattle, raw or uncurd, whether dry, salted or pickled, 15 per cent ad valorem: Provided, That upon all leather exported, made from imported hides, there shall be allowed a drawback equal to the amount of duty paid on such hides, to be paid under such regulations as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe."

It will be observed that the manufacturer who makes shoes for export gets back all of the duty he has paid on his hides. He will use American hides to make American shoes and foreign hides to make foreign shoes. The hide raiser will get practically no benefit from the law.

When the proviso was presented to the senate by Senator Aldrich of the conference committee, Senator Allen arose and asked him the pointed question:

"I should like to ask the senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Aldrich), why the proviso is placed in that paragraph?"

Mr. Aldrich. It was put there at the suggestion of the conferees on the part of the House of Representatives, in order that there might be no mistake as to whether a drawback was allowed upon leather made from imported hides.

Mr. Allen. Why should there be a drawback?

Mr. Aldrich. There is a drawback under the present law. I do not think this changes the law as it now stands. I have no question myself but what a drawback is permitted under the existing law for exported leather made from imported hides. It is only a question of identification.

Mr. Allen. Suppose the present law provides for a drawback, is not the effect of the proviso in this paragraph to pay out all the revenue the government may receive from imposing a tax on hides?

Mr. Aldrich. If they are all exported, yes, and that would be the effect of the law as it now stands.

Mr. Allen. I suppose, as a matter of fact, that the great majority of imported hides which are manufactured into boots and shoes, and in other forms are exported?

Mr. Aldrich. This provision would apply in that case.

Mr. Allen. Or when manufactured into leather and exported in that form, without being manufactured into boots and shoes, the result of it would be to deprive the government of the revenue which it might otherwise derive under this paragraph. So that portion which imposes a tax is neutralized by the proviso, and neither revenue nor protection will be the result of the enactment of this clause into a law.

I had supposed that the imposition of a tariff on hides was for a protective purpose. I understood that to be the announcement in the senate, and we agreed upon 20 per cent ad valorem finally. The first proposition was to impose a duty of a cent and a half a pound on dried, salted and fresh hides. This was changed by the committee to 20 per cent ad valorem, which we were sure, would be equivalent to, if not better than, the specific tax. Now all the benefit to be derived from the imposition of a tariff on hides is to be frittered away by a drawback; in other words, the government is to obtain the revenue in the first instance, I presume, and then that revenue is to be returned to the importer of hides, who may manufacture them into leather and export the leather.

I should like to ask the honorable senator from Rhode Island if he has made a calculation by which he can inform the senate and the country of the amount, or probable amount, of revenue that will be derived by this paragraph if enacted into law?

Mr. Aldrich. It is impossible to say from any statistics in the possession of the committee—unless the committee has had some statistics of which I do not know—just what the revenue will be. I should assume it to be from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars; but that is simply an estimate made without any data which might be called reliable.

Mr. Allen. Now, basing the calculation upon the present law, which the senator says is substantially the same as this, what would be paid back in the form of rebate?

Mr. Aldrich. Not a very large amount I think.

Mr. Allen. Would it be half the sum collected?

Mr. Aldrich. I should think not over a third.

Mr. Allen. What is the underlying policy of this proviso? Why should there be a proviso of this kind, anyway? What is to be gained by the enactment of such a proviso?

Mr. Aldrich. The underlying policy is the policy of the United States in regard to all imported articles which are exported, that they shall pay a drawback substantially equal to the amount of the duty.

Mr. Allen. It amounts to an export bounty.

Mr. Aldrich. This is simply the reenactment of the existing law.

Mr. Allen. Admitting that to be true, amounts, in substance, to an export

bounty on foreign hides which are brought here and manufactured into leather.

Mr. Aldrich. I do not think that is so. Mr. Allen. Will the honorable senator explain the difference between this kind of a drawback and an export bounty?

Mr. Aldrich. The government of the United States loses nothing, of course, by importing hides here and tanning them here and shipping them out, if that gives employment to our own people. There is no loss of revenue to the government of the United States. It is a policy which we have adopted, and I think with the acquiescence and support of the friends of the senator from Nebraska. Certainly they are in favor of increasing the export trade of the United States and making it as large as possible.

Mr. Allen. We are in favor of increasing the export trade. Here but a few weeks ago the senior senator from Utah (Mr. Cannon) introduced an amendment to this bill providing for the payment of an export bounty on wheat, oats, corn, and other farm products of the United States, amounting, I think, annually to about \$40,000,000, to the end that the farmers of the United States might derive some direct benefit from the passage of this bill. That amendment was immediately voted down. We were told the farmers did not need it. It brought about the united opposition of the republican senators, and it drew the opposition of some of the senators on this side of the chamber. The farmers were not to be protected in the slightest degree, except by the imposition of a slight tax on some few articles which they produce in small quantities; and yet every time we touch any of the manufacturing institutions of the country, that moment we had every one of them relieved in the form of a drawback or in some other form.

Of course, Mr. President, it is useless to argue the matter. The deers have gone forth from the other side of the chamber that enormous taxation shall be imposed upon the farming and industrial classes of this country. There is not a trust or a combination of capital in the United States, or a combination of foreign capital located in this country, that is not amply protected by every word and syllable in this bill. There is not an industry, there is no capital, owned by the farmers or by the industrial classes which receives the slightest protection from this bill.

Every burden in the form of high specific duties, added to which are large ad valorem duties, is imposed upon the industrial classes of our country. The bill is made prohibitory in many of its features. The American market is to be turned over to the American shark; the American commercial highwayman is to sail his black flag of piracy unchecked, and he is to fix the price of everything consumed by the farming and laboring classes of the United States. He has ample liberty under the provisions of this most iniquitous bill to impose largely in excess of reasonable profits upon what he may produce or handle.

But the singular thing about this bill, Mr. President, is this: When we come to manufacturing institutions, everything is done that possibly can be done to prevent those manufacturing institutions from paying their portion of the revenue. How idle, how simple, how foolish it is to suppose a tax of 15 per cent ad valorem upon hides and then turn around in the next breath and in the next sentence and pay out the revenue derived in that form to the men who bring these hides into this country and manufacture them and export them! We are told that this is statesmanship; that it involves a very high order of intellect to impose a tax of this kind. Mr. President, it involves about as much intellect as it does to play the deuce in seven-up and not much more.

All the benefits to be derived from the imposition of this tax and a similar tax upon manufactured articles, and all the revenue to be derived from it, are to be actually paid back to these favored institutions. When the deficits come in the revenue, as they will come, under this panacea for all industrial evils, shall begin its work and fail, as it will fail, then, Mr. President, we are to be treated, at the behest of the gold-money power of this country to the issuance of new bonds, to the increase of the interest-bearing national debt to meet those deficits.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other disease put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

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Warden Lehigh is doing the right thing in raising his voice at the proper time against sheriffs who are charging outrageous fees for bringing prisoners to the penitentiary. It is wholly out of fashion for one officer to open his mouth because another officer robs state or county, but Mr. Lehigh doesn't care much for fashion and puts in a vigorous kick without waiting until it will only be pronounced campaign lies. Mr. Lehigh showed that it had cost the state many thousands of dollars unnecessarily, and that it was a common practice among sheriffs to make a good big haul out of the state treasury when they had to come to the pen with a convict; but there was no adequate remedy then for the bills had been audited and paid, but now he proposes to put a stop to the robbery.—Auburn Granger.

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Government ownership of natural monopolies, means of transportation, government banks, and the restoration of unearned land grants, are all live issues to day.—Gibson Reporter.

## FROM THE CAPITOL.

LINCOLN, NEB., July 26, 1897.—(Special Correspondence.)—I had an awful experience last week. Yes, it was awful. No other words will describe it. I contemplated suicide, expatriation, absolute and eternal annihilation. If it had not been that a good Samaritan in the form of a free silver republican came to my aid and led me out of the dark wilderness of despair and into the land of hope I don't know what may have happened. I propose to give a true account and detailed description of that terrible day.

Early in the morning I went over to the state house and in the rotunda I met a friend of mine, a good, old middle-aged road pop. He had in his hand several republican papers. His voice was husky and his eyes were full of tears. I asked him what was the trouble. He replied:

"The papers say that all the pop officials are a set of thieves, that Governor Holcomb went in with Bartley and Moore to rob the school land, that the employees of the senate and house robbed the state, and, Oh I don't know what all, it's awful."

"But," I said, "these are republican papers, you know how they have lied about us."

"Well here is THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT," he replied. "It joins in the statement. It brings charges against the auditor, the superintendent of the blind asylum, the state superintendent of public instruction and others."

Then I went out, sat down on the steps of the capitol, lifted up my voice and howled. While I sat there howling, an old, white haired silver republican came along. He essayed to comfort me and I told him all my woes.

"Have you examined the public records to see if these things are true?" he asked.

I replied that I had not.

"Then come with me," he said, "and we will find out."

We went into the auditor's office, got the books, and this is what we found out:

For the legislative session of 1895, length of the session 67 days, the secretary of the senate received \$600 and the assistant \$400.

For the session of 1891, 64 days, the secretary got \$600 and the assistant \$400.

For the session of 1893, 68 days, the secretary received \$568 and the assistant \$408.

For the session of 1895, 60 days, the secretary was paid \$248 and the assistant \$328.

For the session of 1897, 74 days, the secretary was paid \$604, the assistant \$404.

"Now," said the old silver republican, "there is the official record of the amount paid to the secretaries and assistants of the senate for the last five legislatures. They are all about the same and the Call, News, and Journal never thought there was anything wrong till now."

"But," I replied, "there was one secretary, the one for the session of 1895; he only received a little over half as much as all the others. He must have been a disinterested patriot and worked for half pay."

Then the old man laughed until he fell off from the bookkeeper's high stool upon which he sat. He got up off the floor, held his sides and roared again. "Tim Sedgewick, a disinterested patriot." Then he roared again. "Well that beats the Dutch. He got more out of that job than any man who ever occupied that office. He is the chap who got out that 1895 Senate Journal for which he charged \$2.35 per page."

Then he took up the Senate Journal of 1895 and said:

"Look at this enormous volume. He padded the beginning of it with the biographies of thirty-four Nebraska statesmen, including John C. Watson and John T. Bressler, for which there was no authority in law for printing, and inserted Rev. Ludden's relief reports, all of which and many hundreds of these pages were printed, to pad out with and make more pages, making a whole line out of two or three words after this style: Imperial, 3-1-1895, Otto Fiesebach, 100 sacks flour, 1 barrel rice, 6 barrels molasses, 1 barrel of sugar, 1 keg kraut, 1 sack salt, 6 bushels beans, 125 bushels wheat, 210 bushels corn, 175 bushels oats, 3 pec. R. salt. In car No. 40492 C & N. W."

"The printing of many of these lines cost more than the value of the article sent the drought sufferers. Tim Sedgewick, a patriot working for half pay for the good of his country!" and then the old man roared again.

He then took me to his library and showed me the reports from other states.

"You see," he said, "that almost every where secretaries of the legislative bodies are allowed for over time, for the reason that their work only begins when the body adjourns for the day. If night sessions are held it is only one legislative day for the member, while the secretaries working nights are allowed over several days the pay of their employees goes on, but not that of the members of the legislature, this makes a difference in the time for employees and members."

The trouble with you, is that you expect pop officials to be saints. If they only crowd all the money they are entitled to under the law that is all you can expect from ordinary human beings. When Neb's commonwealth arrives and human nature is changed, then office holders will not draw their full salaries, but turn a good part of them back into the public treasury."

Now let us look a little further into the expenses of the Nebraska senate."

The old man went to the books again. "You see," he said, "that the records show that the employees of the senate were paid:

For the session of 1899, \$24,965.40. For the session of 1891, \$26,762.40. For the session of 1893, \$16,913.81. For the session of 1895, \$21,327.50. For the session of 1897, \$20,457.50.

In 1895 the senate had 107 employees. In 1897 they had only 74 employees. The session of 1895 was 68 days long and that of 1897 74 days, covering a period of 84 days, being the longest session ever held. Here is a big cutting down of the expenses of the senate, especially when we consider the extra long session. The next time you can reduce it some more perhaps, but there is nothing to howl about in this record. In fact, instead of howling, you should

be bragging about it on every street corner. Here is every state institution in splendid condition, warrants up to par, the expenses of the state government reduced over \$200,000 in two years, not a dollar embezzled, and every state officer doing his whole duty, what more can you ask? What are you howling for, anyhow?

That was what the old man said.

T. H. TIBBLES.

"THE INDEPENDENT joins in the statement" appears in the above. The INDEPENDENT did not and does not join in the statements made by the republican papers, that Holcomb ever had any dealings with Bartley and Moore in the improper manipulation of state funds. When the republican papers accused Holcomb of irregular transactions with the treasurer, they lied. The INDEPENDENT did condemn nepotism, (favoritism to relatives) wherever it was known to be practiced. The INDEPENDENT believes that the present state officials are not only the best the state ever had, but that they are thoroughly honest and capable. A man may be honest and capable, and yet that is no defense to the charge of nepotism if it is true. He may be honest and capable and yet from inexperience make an error. No man is infallible. The newspaper that serves the interest of the people best, is the newspaper that tells the facts.

Concerning the charges in the Senate, the INDEPENDENT has already published a statement showing expenses for six sessions. The readers of this paper have sufficient intelligence to form their own conclusions.—Ed.

Everybody Says So.

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As might have been expected the state house leech—the State Journal—howls and feels sore, because it has lost another monopoly that it uninterrupted enjoyed without interference until Eric Johnson in 1893 had the temerity to encroach it by compiling and publishing a new Legislative Manual, conceded by all good judges superior to the old stereotyped Journal edition, that had been reprinted year after year with very few changes and alterations. This new compilation by Eric Johnson did not cost the state a nickel, while for the Journal compilation the state treasury had been mulcted to the tune of \$500. Still the Journal company had the gall to charge the state \$1.40 for every copy of the blue book furnished each successive legislature. Like a pet pig it squeals every time it has to let go of a public test. It is a standing remark among the knowing ones that every brick in the Journal establishment has cost the state its weight in gold. The 1897 edition of the legislative manual, just published by Eric Johnson, cost the state only 95 cents per copy, a saving on 400 copies of \$180, as against what the Journal would have charged the state had there been no competition. In contents and making up it will bear just and fair comparison with any edition issued by the State Journal company. We shall in the near future make comparisons backed by facts, that the State Journal will not relish.—Wahoo Era.

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THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT is true to its name. It is independent enough to call attention to mistakes or wrongdoings among officials in its own party. In these days when party journals devote no inconsiderable portion of their space to denigrating, covering up, or whitewashing the delinquencies of their party officials, it is gratifying to find one that honestly calls attention to questionable acts or wrongs that need righting in its own political household. If this course were uniformly pursued we would have few Bartley declarations to grieve over. If, instead of ridiculing the charges brought against him in past years, the Journals of his party had honestly investigated them, and called attention to what they should have known to be wrong, no \$500,000 would have leaked out of the treasury sack. What are party journals as the center of political action for if not to advise us honestly and impartially of what is doing, and how it is being done—not alone of commendable action, but also of what is questionable or reprehensible.—Antelope Tribune.

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Sugar Trust and Congress.

To its cost the sugar trust has discovered that there is a different party in power now from what there was when it made its former attempt to run the government and enact laws for its own benefit.—New York Press.

For monumental check and undiluted gall the above takes the sausage.

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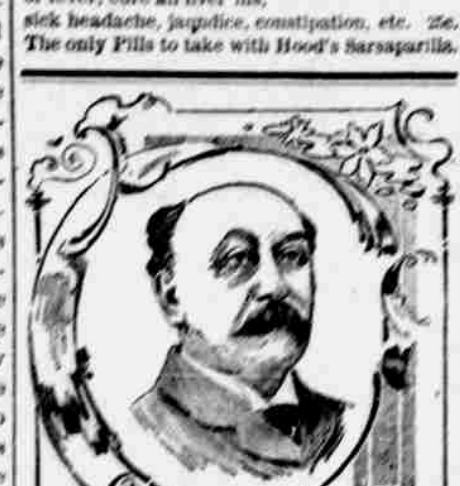
No doubt, however, the press is right when it remarks: "To its cost the trust is paying to gain its point with the present tariff framers.—Buffalo Evening Times."

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You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 22nd day of August, A. D., 1897.  
By A. E. HOWARD, his attorney.

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