

The Wisdom of Doing Right.

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and what is there back of the tariff? During the time that we have had a protective tariff we have had the laws written on that subject by the men who received the benefit of the laws. They talk now about tariff commissions; who will be on the commission if one is ever appointed? The men who pay the taxes? No. The men who are interested in the industries that are protected by tariff—these only will be eligible to appointment. When I went to Washington I had a letter to a democrat, to one who in 1896 went out and helped the republicans under the pretense of helping the Palmer and Buckner ticket. I had a letter of introduction to him from one of his friends in the west and when I presented it, he said: "Mr. Bryan, I shall be very glad to do anything I can for you; just call on me whenever I can help you in any way." I was afraid I might not see him again right away, so I called on him then and said: "I would like to be on the ways and means committee, and if you can help me I shall appreciate it." He said: "That is impossible; we put men on that committee who are from the manufacturing states." I said: "Why not put on somebody from the states that use the manufactured articles?" He replied: "That is not customary." A United States senator, speaking of the McKinley bill, said that he had submitted the bill to the manufacturers of his state and had found that in every instance but one the schedules had been prepared by the manufacturers themselves. Having made the laws and laid the taxes on the people these manufacturers have contributed to campaign funds and these campaign funds have been used to corrupt the politics of the country. John Burns, the great labor leader of London, objects to the protective tariff that they propose to establish in England, and why? He calls it a moral issue and points out that the members of the English parliament are now above suspicion, not because they are better men than are found in the American congress, but because parliament has not undertaken to make men rich by law. He warns Englishmen that, if parliament assumes the responsibility for creating industries, aiding enterprises and voting aid to business undertakings, then the halls of parliament will be thronged with lobbyists like the halls of the American congress, and that the same demoralization will be witnessed in parliament that is witnessed in our congress. Are you surprised at what is going on in this country? Are you surprised that two United States senators have been indicted for making a profit out of politics? Are you surprised that a member of congress has been convicted? Are you surprised that government officials have been interested in government contracts and making money on the side? How can you be surprised at these things when you see a system of legislation devised for the purpose of helping men to get rich by law by putting their hands into the pockets of others? That is what is going on, and the result? People have come to regard government as a scheme for private enrichment and when questions come up they ask, not, Is it right? but, Will it pay? Our attorney General in Nebraska started to enforce the law against a trust which had a branch in one of our cities. The people of the town got together in public meeting and protested against the enforcement of the law. If a laboring man protests against the enforcement of a law he is called an anarchist, but

business men can protest and they are called patriots and are said to have the interests of their community at heart. This is what you find. It is because the public conscience has been seared; it is because of the demoralization that class legislation has brought into American politics. If we are going to fight the tariff question I believe we must fight it upon the moral principle involved, and what is the moral principle involved? I have spoken of the demoralization that comes from having lobbyists around the halls of congress, but there is another moral principle involved, and for fear you may think that I speak too harshly and use language too strong I will refer you to a supreme court decision. I am so conservative that when I want to be emphatic I quote what somebody else has said and when I want to be very severe I quote what some republican has said, either on the bench or elsewhere. The court said that to take money from the people by taxation and give the money to some industry in the town was larceny under the form of law. Now, is larceny immoral? The command, thou shalt not steal, was being violated, according to that decision.

Now, the moral principle involved in the protective tariff is the same as the moral principle involved in a bounty. If I were to propose to tax the people in this audience one dollar each, and collect it forcibly, and then give the money to some man upon this platform, you would rise up and say it was larceny under the form of law, and yet, my friends, a protective tariff that makes it impossible for you to buy abroad without paying a certain amount as a fine embodies the same principle. Some of the manufacturers conspire to take advantage of the tariff and charge you that much more on the goods that they produce and that you must buy and I insist that the principle is exactly the same and is more dangerous because its operation is less visible to the eye than the operation of the direct bounty. If instead of giving a protective tariff we had given a bounty all these years it would have cost the people of the country less and the laboring people would have received a larger percentage of the money voted. We have given it to the manufacturers and the manufacturers have grown strong and rich and powerful, but the laboring men have not received their share. It would have been hundreds of millions of dollars cheaper in the form of a bounty instead of a tariff. If we are going to appeal to the conscience of the American people on the tariff question it must not be a question of schedule whether it is 45 per cent or 43 per cent or 41 per cent or 39 per cent. If we are going to win our battle on this question, instead of discussing mere figures we must challenge the republican party to defend

a system that turns over the functions of the government to private individuals and allows tribute to be collected according to the selfish interests of those who make the laws.

There is a moral issue involved in the trust question also, and I want to speak on this question for a moment. To hear some men talk you would suppose that we had two kinds of trusts, good trusts and bad trusts, and the ones you hear about are gen-

erally good ones, according to these people. You would suppose that there were benevolent trust magnates and stingy ones, and you have even heard men justify a trust magnate in collecting millions from the people and then giving back a small proportion to churches, schools and libraries. They talk about the benevolence of these trust magnates and they tell you that the trusts sometimes reduce

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How To Test Coiled Spring Wire.



Take a piece of No. 12 wire and coil it firmly around an inch rod of iron, as shown in figures 1 or 2. Try to pull the coil out of it. You may think you have done so, but upon releasing, it will assume shape shown in figure 3. Then look along the wire as you would a gun barrel; it will appear as shown in figure 4—has the appearance of a tube. This explains the great advantage of COILED SPRING WIRE and how it provides for contraction and expansion. The weave of our fence is so perfect that full strength of every wire is preserved. Every twist is an expression of strength. Good enough to last a lifetime. We make it HORSE HIGH, BULL STRONG, PIG AND OHIOKEN TIGHT, Using only High Carbon Heavily Galvanized Coiled Spring Steel Wire; get this good enough we make it ourselves. Best wire makes the best fence. We ship any style of fence we make DIRECT TO THE FARMER ON 30 DAYS TRIAL, AT FACTORY PRICES. Freight prepaid. Please write us. We want to send you our Catalogue. It is free. KITSELMAN BROTHERS, Box 215 Muncie, Indiana, U. S. A.



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