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THE TARIFF—FREE RAW MATERIAL

(Continued from Page 8)

and participated in the struggle which took place between the two houses on this question, and I assume that he must have been familiar with all these facts which constituted one of the most sensational political dramas of the times. He refused to follow these democratic senators then, because he knew they were the victims of sinister influences which they could not control and were not voting their true sentiments. The citation of this spurious instance, this "act of party perfidy and dishonor," as President Cleveland called it, only shows how difficult it is for the opponents of free raw material to find democratic precedent to support their position. If they are willing to accept democratic precedent on the question of iron ore, they should have no trouble in finding genuine instances. It is not at all necessary that they should take a spurious case. If they will go back to January 24, 1883, they will find that Senator Maxey, of Texas, moved to put iron ore on the free list and that every democrat in the senate save one voted for it. They will find that in 1884 and also in 1886 an overwhelming majority of the democrats in the house voted for bills providing for free iron ore. They will find that practically every democrat in the house voted for free iron ore in 1894.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us refer to a few expressions of other leading democrats on the subject of free raw materials. A very large number could be produced if time permitted.

Guthrie, a democratic secretary of the treasury, in his report to congress as far back as December 3, 1855, said:

"In recommending for the third time the remodeling of the schedules of the tariff act of 1846 and the reduction of the revenues from customs, I have felt constrained by a conviction of its propriety again to recommend, as one of the models of reducing the revenue, that the raw materials used in our manufactures be admitted free of duty.

"Under laws of great wisdom and forecast all manufacturing countries, except the United States, now admit the raw material used in their productions free of duty, thereby giving constant and profitable employment to capital and labor, and enabling their factories to furnish a cheaper article and better command of both the home and foreign market, with beneficial employment to their tonnage in making the exchanges."

Again, in his report to congress on December 1, 1856, Mr. Guthrie urged congress to put raw material on the free list. He said:

"It seemed to me that good policy required the raw material used in our manufactures to be exempt from duty and our manufacturers placed on an equality with those of Great Britain and other manufacturing nations who admit the raw material to free entry. A tax upon the raw material is calculated to increase the cost of the production by the profits of the importer on the tax on the raw material, and the profits of the manufacturer on his outlay for that tax, and the importer's profit thereon, and of the merchant through whom it passes to the consumer, interfering with the manufacturer's enjoyment of both the home and the foreign market on the same advantageous terms of the manufacturer of other nations who obtains the raw material free of duty. A single example illustrates the case: Great Britain admits wool—a raw material—free of duty, and the United States impose upon it a duty of 30 per cent. This enables

the English manufacturer to interfere with the American manufacturer in the American markets and to exclude him from the foreign market. It does more. It surrenders the markets of the countries producing the raw material to the nations who take it free of duty."

And in accordance with Mr. Guthrie's repeated recommendations, congress did, in 1857, put a long list of raw materials for manufacture on the free list.

In a letter addressed to the people of the United States on November 30, 1867, in which he denounced the protective system of the republican party, Robert J. Walker said:

"After a close investigation of this subject and after examining the tariffs and the manufacturing establishments of foreign countries in 1851-52 and 1863-64, I am convinced that to admit the raw material of manufactures in all cases duty free would greatly increase our wealth, augment our exports, imports, and revenue, and diminish the burdens of taxation. Let us remember that in taking the duty off the raw material the consumers, the people of the United States, get the manufactured article at a lower rate. This, then, is another step in the reduction of taxes."

Now let me quote what Hon. William L. Wilson had to say on this subject in a speech in the house of representatives on January 8, 1894. Mr. Wilson was at the time chairman of the ways and means committee and the democratic floor leader. He was a man of great learning and a democrat of the strictest sect. After a most brilliant career in congress, he was called to the presidency of Washington and Lee university, as a man whose high character fitted him to be the successor of Lee. In discussing the great work of tariff reform which the democratic party was then undertaking, he said:

"We begin our task by an effort to free from taxation those things on which the industrial prosperity and growth of our country so largely depend.

"Of all the reductions made in this bill there are none in their benefit to the consumer, none in their benefit to the laborer, that can be compared with the removal of the taxes from the materials of industry. We have felt that we could not begin a thorough reform of the existing system, built up, as I have shown, story by story, until it has pierced the clouds, except by a removal of all taxation on the great materials that lie at the basis of modern industry, and so the bill proposes to put on the free list wool, iron ore, coal, and lumber."

Again, Mr. Wilson said: "I have already said, Mr. Chairman, that I believe no tariff bill could carry any benefit to the American people comparable to the proposed release from taxation of the materials of industry. Better give a workingman untaxed materials to work with than give him untaxed clothing to wear. Better give him untaxed materials on which to exercise his industry than untaxed and cheapened necessities of life. His wages depend on the products of his labor. Whatever goes as a tax into the material he uses is a diminution of the wages of the laboring man. As you cheapen his materials you widen the market for his products. With untaxed iron and steel in its cruder forms, or even in the humbler beginning of the ore, with untaxed wool and coal and lumber, you enable him to put his finished products on the market at prices that will rapidly and indefinitely increase the number of his consumers, and in this way you secure him steady employment, increasing wages, and that personal independence he can never

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