

parity with gold until it was deprived of its legal tender quality and mint rights through the act of 1873, and subsequent legislation, and there seemed to be no valid reason why its parity could not be re-established by restoring its former position beside gold. No man has a monopoly on wisdom or intelligence in this world, and therefore, no man can say advisedly that Mr. Bryan was not right.

In 1900 Mr. Bryan waged his campaign with anti-imperialism as his battle slogan, and again went down to defeat under the sentiment created by our victories over Spain and the successful conquest of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, with the help of a few more millions poured into the campaign by the big financial interests and the beneficiaries of the tariff.

The wisdom of Mr. Bryan's position in that campaign is becoming apparent, through constant preparations for war, with a tremendous drain upon the country's resources for battleships, coast fortifications and other war equipment. The time-honored Monroe doctrine has been discredited in the house of its author, and we have invited war with Japan by our stand for the "open door" in Manchuria. Further than being a benefit to the sugar and tobacco trusts, the Philippines are only a source of enormous expense and a menace to our place with other countries, with which we formerly sustained friendly relations. Whether the persistent rumors of threatened invasion of our territory by Japan are or are not well founded, the fact remains that the mikado is constantly preparing for war, and in the event that war should occur, the Philippines would undoubtedly be the first United States territory invaded and would be found a source of great weakness because of the fact that our fleet would necessarily be divided, leaving our western coast, in a large measure, at the mercy of an invading army. Then if the mikado happened to have an European maritime power as an ally, we would find our thousands of miles of coast line on either side of the continent very difficult of defense. That the rumors of war preparation on the part of Japan is more than idle rumor is evidenced by the recent arrest of Japanese army engineers while engaged in planting mines in the harbors of Luzon, and others were arrested while erecting wireless telegraph stations on the coast of that island. It was also reported that maps and charts were found on the persons of these men. The constant addition of the most modern men of war to the Japanese navy, together with the purchase of other war equipment and supplies, last but not least being the reported purchase recently of 100,000 tons of rice in China and India give a decidedly vivid coloring to the war rumors.

Representative Tawney, chairman of the committee of appropriations of the national house of representatives, said in a speech recently, regarding the expenditures by this government for war purposes:

"We have expended during the last ten years in preparation for war alone, within four hundred million dollars as much as the entire bonded debt of the United States at the close of the civil war. We have expended during the last ten years in preparation for war four times the aggregate loss of the people of the United States and Canada by fire in the last eighty-five years. We have expended an amount that would build five Panama canals. We have expended four times the entire cost of the Spanish-American war."

A few years ago when Mr. Bryan had returned from his trip around the world he hinted in his speech at Madison Square garden that probably no effectual control of the railroads would be accomplished without government ownership. He was scathingly criticized for the statement, but a similar declaration by Theodore Roosevelt, a few years later scarcely attracted passing attention, and after several years of attempted control, with but small results, many people of high standing are willing to admit that probably Mr. Bryan was right.

In the campaign of 1908, Mr. Bryan advocated a system of bank deposit insurance similar to the system which has been in operation in Oklahoma several years with results satisfactory alike to the public and the banks.

But the big financial interests of the country were opposed to the system and of course Mr. Taft had to oppose it. In his speeches he characterized the idea as "paternalism and socialism," calculated to revolutionize existing institutions. The Oklahoma system met with so much favor that similar laws were enacted in Kansas and Nebraska, but their constitutionality was tested in the courts. Being sustained in the lower courts, the cases were taken to the supreme court of the United States and that tri-

bunal has just recently handed down a unanimous decision finding that a class of "paternalism and socialism" which gives the people much needed protection against bank failures is within the scope of the constitution—thus incidentally placing its O. K. upon another of Mr. Bryan's theories.

Col. Bryan is a disciple of the good old democratic school of statesmen who safely conducted the ship of state during half a century. He believes in the Monroe doctrine and in confining our imperial possessions to the territory embraced within the treaty boundaries of the United States on the North American continent; in the largest opportunity for individualism, with special privileges to none. Nearly every policy ever advocated by Mr. Bryan has been approved by the people or is growing in favor.

As the first great champion of equal rights in a generation he drew the fire of every favor-seeking interest and went down to defeat under a storm of ballots cast by those whose interests he sought to defend. Whether or not he shall outlive the unjust prejudices created against him remains to be seen, but one thing is certain, political sentiment is becoming broader and Mr. Bryan is yet a comparatively young man. There is bound to be a great political revolution in the United States within the next ten years, and who can say that the Moses who led democracy out of the wilderness may not yet be president.—Aberdeen (S. D.) Democrat.

Practical Tariff Talks

An illuminating exposition of the manner in which tariff schedules are made can be secured by any inquisitive person who will compare the silk schedule as it appears in the Payne-Aldrich tariff law with the one submitted to the ways and means committee, when it was preparing to draft the bill, by the silk association of the United States. Some may be of the opinion that congressmen, when making a tariff bill, hear all of the testimony and secure all of the information available, and then draw the schedules as their judgment dictates. This idea would be rudely shattered if the advice contained above is followed. The silk schedule that the manufacturers of America drew up may be found in volume 6 of the tariff hearings, on pages 5843-5869. It is practically identical with the silk schedule as it appears on the tariff law, about the only changes made being those of about the same character a conscientious adapter of another's ideas might make when he took to rewriting what the other had set down upon paper.

Ad valorem rates are theoretically always the fairest, but the silk manufacturers objected to them as they appeared in the Dingley law because, as they said, the unscrupulous importers would undervalue shipments. They, therefore, asked and secured from congress a law which generally substitutes specific duties per pound—which inevitably means that higher prices will be possible for the home manufacturer. The silk association made no secret of what it desired. It appointed a revenue laws committee, and that committee secured the adoption by the house and senate of the schedule it drew up. It is not difficult to guess, therefore, in whose interest it was drawn.

The brief filed by these manufacturers discloses a pitiable condition in that trade. They insisted that there is no such thing as market value for silk goods, the prices being dictated by the freaks of fashion in women's dress. They averred that silk goods of the same texture may vary 25 per cent in price today, while two months later that which sold at the higher price may be sold for the lower. It was also contended that in the silk industry American labor is not more efficient than foreign labor, as in most manufactures; that the Japs and the Chinese have been making silk for centuries and their soft hands and supple fingers make for efficiency far more than the Irish, Swedish, German and Polish laborers the American manufacturer must hire. The lower cost of foreign labor, they said, made it possible for the foreign manufacturer to use cheaper materials than it would pay to handle with our high-priced labor. Then they proceeded to draw up a schedule that would practically bar this cheap silk.

As the schedule built up by the silk manu-

facturers is printed, the argument for each change is placed opposite the changed suggested. Commenting on one change, it is stated: "It is estimated that in this paragraph the duties will average slightly lower, but as there is a considerable range of value to the same number it will be a higher duty on the low grades and a lower duty on the high grades." This idea seems to permeate the whole scheme of tariff-making, putting high duties on the cheaper grades and low duties on the more expensive ones. It is frankly confessed, in advocating the change in duties on velvets and plushes, changed from mixed ad valorem and specific to straight specific, that this drops the saving clause that at least 50 per cent of the component material must be silk to come thereunder.

Hatters' plush has heretofore come in under a 10 per cent duty. The silk manufacturers told congress that this was so low that they couldn't make any, and wouldn't congress please put it so high that the foreign manufacturer couldn't import any. Congress did so. They also called attention to the fact that the importers were bringing in too many yards of velvet and plush ribbon, and they submitted a classification that would put a stiff specific duty on instead of an ad valorem. And congress adopted it. The same obliging disposition is noted in almost every one of the remaining paragraphs of this bill. The evidence is so plain that the silk association of America wrote the silk schedule that nobody would probably deny it. In defense of the advanced rates the president of the association told the committee that this would affect only the rich because "the laboring class can escape them altogether by not indulging in purchases thereof." C. Q. D.

"FREEDOM FOR 1912"

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 23, 1911.—Editor The Commoner: Please find enclosed clipping from Saturday night's "News-Bee." I like the plans it suggests that the rank and file of the parties have a chance to express who they want as their candidate. I have wanted to write you for some time in regard to this same plan. Why can't we do that way before a candidate is nominated? That would give a lot of fellows like I am a chance to express ourselves. We are too small to cut any figure in the councils of the party. I don't like to see the honors go to some one who has not done anything to bring this better state of things about. I would rather vote for a rank stand-pat republican than vote for the half-hearted democrat. I did that last fall, here in Ohio. I wish to express my appreciation for your valuable paper and pray you may live long to edit the same; also, that you will consent to be a candidate again if the people want you. I don't believe you have been defeated by the people yet. Yours for good government. R. B. BREHART.

"It's a large order, but some of the most earnest and trustworthy reformers in the United States have launched a plan to bring 'freedom in 1912' to pass. They have formed the Progressive Federation. It is composed of prominent men of both leading parties who want the country to go forward on progressive lines—republicans like LaFollette, Cummins and Pinchot; democrats like Bryan, Newlands and Folk, with the editors of most of the advanced periodicals like McClure's, Collier's and Success.

"That's the first point—that it is a bi-partisan movement and aims to control both parties, just as the big interests have done.

"Next, it invites all legal voters to participate in a postal ballot, naming their first, second and third choice for the presidential nomination of their party—republicans naming three republican candidates in the order of their choice, and democrats naming three democrats. By this means it is expected that millions of voters will have expressed their preference long before the national conventions.

"The voters are also asked to sign a pledge agreeing to 'attend the elections within my party for the coming two years, and to vote only for progressive delegates to state and national conventions, delegates who have declared for a first, second and third choice for presidential nominee.' By this means it is hoped to harvest results and make both parties squarely progressive in 1912, instead of permitting both to be reactionary as might otherwise happen.

"It will require work, vigilance, and, above all, good faith. But the end sought is momentous. If you believe in it get busy and push it along."—Toledo (Ohio) News-Blade.