

business of the senate on July 27, when advantage was taken of the opportunity to debate the bill.

The free list bill would place on the free list agricultural implements, cotton batting, cotton ties, leather, boots and shoes, fence wire, meats, cereals, flour, bread, timber, lumber, sewing machines, salt and other articles.

The exemptions are designed to take effect on the day following the approval of the measure.

IN NEBRASKA

Edgar Howard, in Columbus (Nebraska) Telegram: Men have said that the Bible story about the lion and the lamb lying down in peace beside each other was more of fancy than of fact. It is a true story, and the truth of it shone resplendent at Fremont last Tuesday, when the lions of the tribes of Dahlman and Shallenberger lay down in peace beside the gentle lambs of the tribe of Bryan.

It was a great convention, and the greater part of it was played long before the opening prayer was offered by the chaplain. On the night before there was a meeting between the leaders of the factions. The Dahlman spokesmen threatened to introduce resolutions denouncing Bryan. The Bryan spokesmen said they were there for peace, but primed for a fight, if it came, and they warned the Dahlmanites that the first club thrown at Bryan would be the signal for a finish fight.

With this understanding the platform builders went to work. Pretty soon the workers found their saws grating against a stubborn nail. After warmly commending the many democratic victories secured by Bryan principles in the recent session of congress, a proposition was made to indorse and applaud Senator Hitchcock and Governor Shallenberger. The Bryan advocates said no, but they said it firmly.

HON. JOHN W. TOMLINSON

Death has again invaded the inner circle of Mr. Bryan's friends. Hon. John W. Tomlinson, of Alabama, whose demise the democracy of the nation is called upon to mourn, was one of the original Bryan men. Several months before the convention of 1896 he began to urge Mr. Bryan's nomination and in the three campaigns in which Mr. Bryan was a candidate he had no more loyal or earnest supporter.

Why Major Stofer Will Not Support Martin

Washington, D. C., Times: Major Alfred Stofer, veteran Washington correspondent, and wielder of political influence in Virginia, has refused his support to Mr. Martin of Virginia.

In a letter to the political leader whose coming campaign promises to bristle with charge and counter charge, and with opposition drawn from Mr. Martin's votes on the tariff issue, and on the lumber schedules, Major Stofer sets out his reasons for withdrawing his support.

The letter is a reply to one which the major declares he received from the senator. In this letter Major Stofer quotes the senator as having written: "I am taking the liberty of writing to you in relation to my candidacy for re-election to the senate. I trust my course in the senate has met with your approbation, and that you can give me your active assistance."

Major Stofer is a member of the Gridiron club. He is well known in Virginia, and by reason of his years of service in the corps of Washington correspondents, and his familiarity with matters political, many of the voters of Virginia regard his opinions highly. His letter reads:

"The initial paragraph of your letter to me contains the following: 'I am taking the liberty of writing you in relation to my candidacy for re-election to the senate. I trust my course in the senate has met with your approbation, and that you can give me your active assistance,' etc.

"As I never mince words, let me say emphatically, inasmuch as at the close of your letter you invite a reply, that I do not think you are worthy of re-election.

"If there were no other reasons, your numerous votes on the tariff question while the Payne-Aldrich (as well as those on the Dingley tariff fourteen years ago) bill was under consideration in the senate would cause me to withhold my support from you.

"In the face of the democratic platform of 1908 you aligned yourself with Mr. Aldrich and other republicans to fasten upon the farmers in particular and the citizens generally of this country a high protective rate of duty upon lumber, in spite of the fact that the Denver platform contained a free lumber plank, reported unanimously to the national democratic convention by the committee on resolutions.

"In fact, it was by your vote in 1897 that the tax on white pine lumber, all of which was at that time, as it is now, practically controlled by the lumber trust, was retained, the vote in the senate being 33 to 32. On this vote you stood with the republicans against your own party associates, including the late Senator Daniel.

"The lumber trust is one of the most brazen and infamous in the United States, and only recently the bureau of labor issued a bulletin on the prices of the commodities of life, in which it was shown that lumber and building material during the year 1909, as a result, no doubt, of the action of the senate, increased nearly 11 per cent.

"I object to the political methods pursued by you in Virginia and the arrogant 'machine' of which you are the recognized head of the state and hope and believe it will be smashed.

"I object to the 'dark lantern' political schemes that were worked at Richmond when you were first elected to the senate, and I firmly believe now as I believed then, that you are the candidate of the 'interests' which the rank and file of the democratic party throughout the United States are demanding shall no longer control legislation either at the various state capitals or at Washington.

"You are a present what I consider, and what most observant men consider, only the nominal leader of the senate minority. You know, and I know, how that was brought about, and how narrow the margin was. And it is my earnest hope that even if you should obtain another term that arrangement will not last beyond the present congress.

"Men have recently been elected to the senate by the democrats, and still others are heading in the same direction, who are as certain to join the seventeen senate democrats who vigorously opposed you last spring, as that the sun rises and sets. You have voted too many times with the republican protectionists to suit their views.

"I do not think you have ever been in line on the tariff issue with the house democratic leaders in recent years—John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, Champ Clark of Missouri, and Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama.

"It is the first time during my twenty-six years' experience here as an active newspaper correspondent, and a careful observer of men

and events, that any one in the senate would accept a leadership if there was a contest. I have known four of the senate democratic leaders intimately, and not one of them would have had the position if it had been necessary to scramble for it. That is not the idea of leadership among men who value self respect.

"You say in your letter to me that if Representative William A. Jones were to be sent to the senate as your successor, he 'would be a new man at the foot of the ladder in the senate.' My opinion is that Mr. Jones, on account of the commanding position he has held in the house for many years, would be able to do even more for Virginia in the senate. The house is a large body, and he early forged to the front there. I consider him far better equipped in every way than you, and he has always been strictly in line with democratic sentiment on the tariff and all other questions.

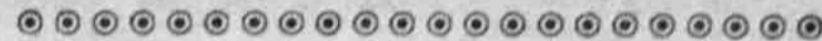
"I shall, therefore, with great pleasure vote for him at Culpepper on September 7, Providence permitting, with the sincere belief that it will be the best for the interests of my native state and the nation to have him succeed you in the senate.

"You enclosed me a pamphlet containing a limited number of press references to your record in the senate. I observe that you have used one from one of the republican newspapers of Washington. I have no doubt republican newspapers all over the land praised you for voting so many times with Senator Aldrich in the last congress and helping him to put in the tariff bill a section favorable to the lumber trust.

"Naturally, republicans would pat a senator on the back who repudiates the platform of his own party.

"It has been the talk among republican newspaper men here for years that whenever the republicans are 'in a hole,' sufficient number of so-called senate democrats manage to line up and pull them out by furnishing the necessary votes. That's exactly what you, Mr. Simmons of North Carolina, and others did in the last congress, and my opinion is that the day of reckoning for all of you is not far off. Yours truly.

ALFRED J. STOFER."



APPRECIATED IN INDIANA

John H. Eckles, Indiana.—I appreciate the noble effort you have made on the stump and through your "Commoner" of which I have been a reader ever since its commencement, and rejoice that you have been able to compel even our enemies to recognize and adopt so many of our democratic measures, but have been greatly disappointed that the enemy in front aided by the so-called conservative democrats (or near republicans) led by our jealous leaders in the camp have been able to encompass your personal defeat. I am only an insignificant member of the majority who believe in measures and principles for which you have so ably fought and so firmly opinion is backed by little if any force but may indicate the common feelings and conclusions of very many of the common mass of voters which have been divided and hitherto cheated. I fear the old democratic ship can never shake off enough of the barnacles to enable her to land a presidential candidate in the white house, who is a radical and I am sure I don't want any other. I voted for Judge Parker in obedience to your advice ("out of two evils choose the least") but you need never ask me again to support a conservative or near republican. If the special interests succeed in controlling the machinery of the two old parties in the next election it will insure a large vote for the socialist party and a good chance for a socialist president in the succeeding election. I am not a socialist, but if my only choice is to be between socialism or a continuance of the present rotten rule in favor of favored private interests I'll take socialism but with a desire that pure progressive, yea, radical democracy, may win. I am sending you herein \$5.00 for which please send The Commoner for two years to each of the following named persons.

