

the democratic members of the committee in revising Schedule K and the cotton schedule. They all deserve well of the house and of the country. I am rather inclined to the opinion that my distinguished friend from Illinois (Mr. Mann) and myself know something about tariff bills, too. (Applause on the democratic side.) He voted against the Payne tariff bill—bless his heart for doing it. (Applause on the democratic side.) I yielded him 20 minutes time to make his speech, the best one he ever made in his life. (Applause on the democratic side.) The members of the tariff board are, no doubt, most excellent and learned gentlemen; but whatever

else they may be, they are not tariff experts. To hear certain persons tell it, all senators and representatives in congress are idiots, utterly ignorant of the tariff question, and should not be permitted to do anything touching the tariff except to register the decrees of the tariff board nonexperts. I throw out this gentle hint: If the tariff board is to be used as the president is using it in this case to delay tariff revision instead of expediting it, it will have a short shrift as certain as grass grows or water runs. The tariff board, if it continues to exist, should be made the servant and not the master of the representatives of the people. Why do not the little

Solomons, who go about asseverating that congress is composed of a lot of ignoramuses on the tariff, come to congress themselves and pass a model tariff bill? They do not come for the all-sufficient reason that they can not get votes enough. The people declared last November that they desired tariff revision, and they will not be enamored of those who block that work.

The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Campbell) voted for this bill. What change has come o'er the spirit of his dream? Is it the sweet odor of the fleshpots of Egypt or not? (Applause on the democratic side.) These gentlemen supporting the president's veto message have all said—every one of them who made a speech that I have heard—that this wool bill is unconsidered. The stand-patters are unanimous on that proposition.

I do not propose to have that kind of a statement go unchallenged to the country, because it is absolutely untrue. What happened? We called a democratic caucus of the democratic members-elect of this house on the 19th day of January. The purpose of that proceeding was to select the democratic members of the committee on ways and means that they might go to work preparing tariff bills. That was before anybody dreamed of this extra session. Some of the newspaper republican brethren said it was my "crazy scheme," but it worked like a charm. We chose the democratic members of the ways and means committee, and they went to work and spent nearly three months preparing this wool bill. (Applause on the democratic side.) I defy my distinguished friend from New York (Mr. Payne) to state that he and his committee ever spent three months on any one schedule in the tariff bill. (Applause on the democratic side.)

Mr. Payne. I wish to say that we spent more than 10 times as much time on this woolen schedule than you did.

Mr. Clark of Missouri. When was it? When did you spend it? I will give you a piece of history you seem to have forgotten. A tariff bill has 14 schedules in it. You and I and the rest of your committee began considering the Payne bill with the 14 schedules on the 11th day of November, and you reported that bill to this house with the 14 schedules on the 18th day of March. (Applause on the democratic side.)

Mr. Payne. I commenced the preparation of that bill more than a year before the committee met.

Mr. Clark of Missouri. And so did we, bless your soul. I have been preparing for the wool bill and other tariff for the last twenty years. (Applause on the democratic side.)

Mr. Payne. But I want to ask the gentleman what that has to do with this mongrel thing that comes from the conference committee?

Mr. Clark of Missouri. After the house considered this bill the senate considered it. The gentleman had to give up a good deal of his own bill two years ago, and sulked, and swore, and was peevish because he had to yield. That is the truth.

Mr. Payne. Well, he did not yield the whole thing.

Mr. Clark of Missouri. You yielded all you could.

Another thing, they say that we are playing politics. Whenever any man stands up and undertakes to do anything for the benefit of the great masses of people he is denounced by the "interests" as a demagogue and is charged with playing politics. But to stand up and advocate the cause of the "interests" is the highest evidence of statesmanship. As far as I am individually concerned, I sprang from the loins of the common people, God bless them, and I am one

of them. I labored with my hands in my youth, and would do it again tomorrow if I had to do so; and I unhesitatingly take my stand with the consumers of the land as against the "interests."

The president desires to have tariff legislation postponed till his tariff board can tutor him up sufficiently to write a tariff bill, which, when we consider his multifarious and onerous duties and his passion for long-distance traveling and frequent speechmaking, we must perforce conclude would be a faraway day in the sweet by and by. We do not want the people to suffer that long.

The president made a famous speech at Winona, Minn. The only part of that speech which was any good (laughter) was that part of it in which he said the wool schedule was too high and ought to be reduced. (Applause on the democratic side.)

Here are his exact words on that celebrated occasion:

"With respect to the wool schedule, I agree that it is too high and that it ought to have been reduced, and that it probably represents considerably more than the difference between the cost of production abroad and the cost of production here. The difficulty about the woolen schedule is that there were two contending factions early in the history of republican tariffs, to-wit, wool-growers and the woolen manufacturers, and that finally, many years ago, they settled on a basis by which wool in the grease should have 11 cents a pound, and by which allowance should be made for the shrinkage of the washed wool in the differential upon woolen manufacturers. The percentage of duty was very heavy—quite beyond the difference in the cost of production, which was not then regarded as a necessary or proper limitation upon protective duties."

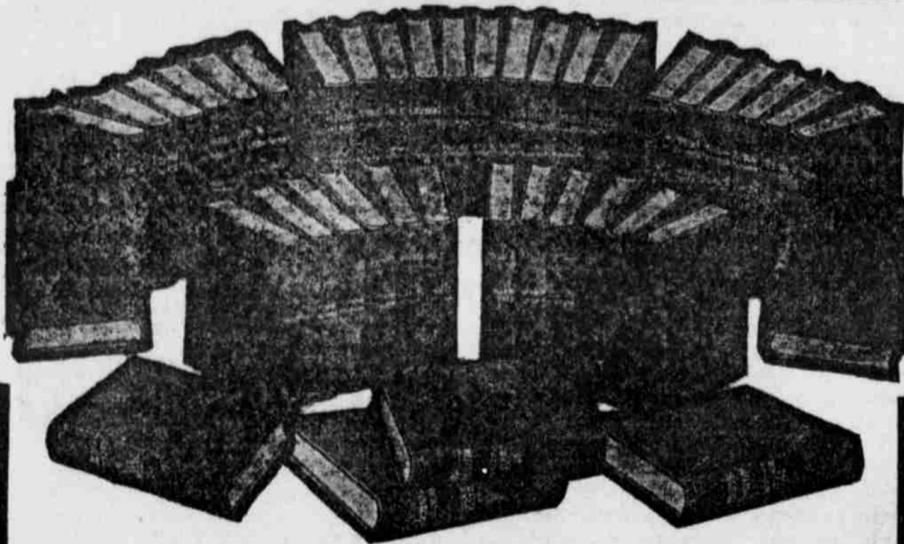
Those words sank deep into the minds of the American people. They made them the basis of hope for cheaper and warmer blankets and clothing. Now, so far as in him lies, the president dashes those fond hopes to the ground; but what's writ is writ, and those presidential words are part of the history of the republic.

It is asked why we took the wool schedule first. I will tell you. We took it because the president said that it ought to be reduced (applause on the democratic side), because we faced a hostile senate and faced a hostile president. This bill is not what I would have written if I had had carte blanche; it is not what the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Underwood) would have written; it is not what any of us would have written; but we undertook to get a bill that would have the best chance possible of passing the ordeal of the house, the ordeal of the senate, and the ordeal of the white house. (Applause on the democratic side.) I was certain that the president would sign the bill cutting down the wool tariff; we took him at his word. That is the head and front of our offending in putting the revision of the wool schedule first. I never did believe he would veto it until the last two or three days. Then, we took the cotton schedule next, because it, too, is a textile schedule. I am violating no secret in stating that so soon as the revised cotton schedule was through the house, the democratic members of the ways and means committee began industriously to prepare the iron and steel schedule revision, having previously collected a large assortment of information on that subject.

We welcome the issue. We are not afraid to go to the people on it. We know that we stand for right and

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