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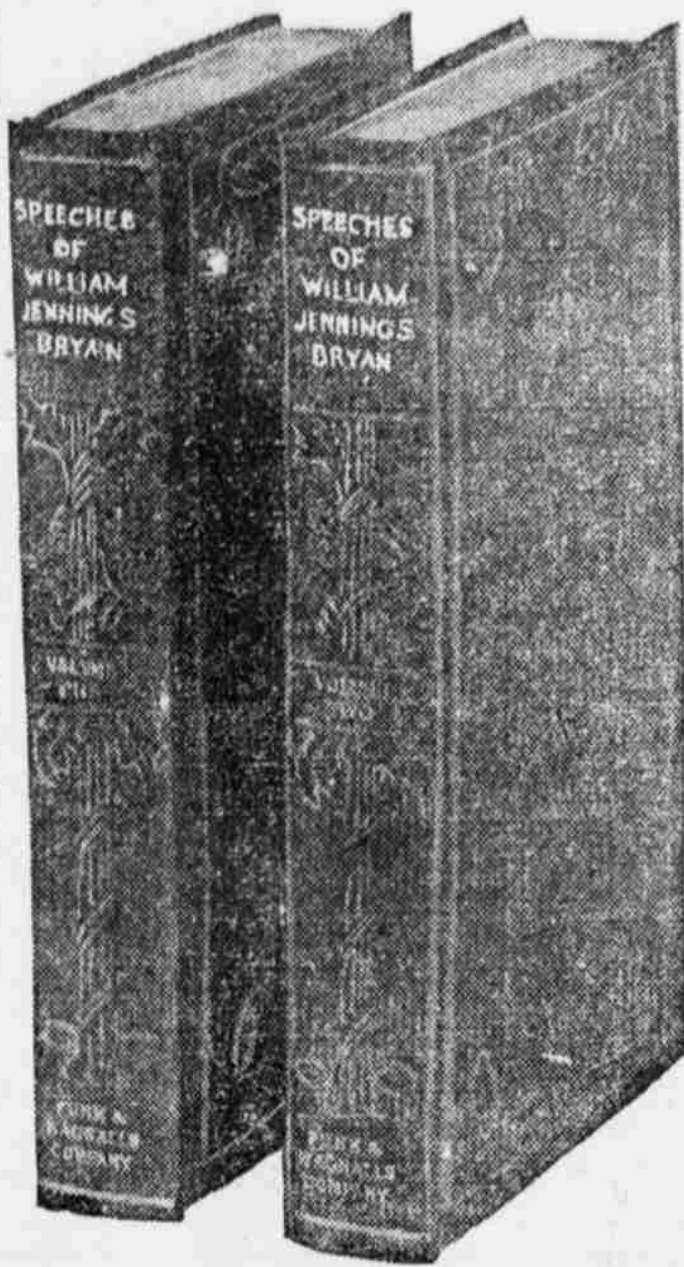
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would make revision possible upon scientific lines.

"We are in this country, in respect to every business, on a protective business," said the president. "I do not mean that every business needs a protective tariff to enable it to live, but I mean that there are so many businesses that are dependent on a protective tariff that they may live that to take away a protective tariff from them would disturb the whole business foundation of the country.

"Therefore it is essential that when we, who are charged with authority as to the adoption of laws and the formation of tariff bills, attempt to amend them, we should know that we are touching the business of the country and probably affecting its prosperity. Reforms are all right, and I am much in favor of them, if I see that they are real reforms, as anybody, but the thing that makes most for happiness is good business and prosperity."

Laws that affect the business of the country and may prove a menace to prosperity, the president said, should not be made by "rule of thumb" or with "blacksmith's tools" but upon sound information and advice.

Wholesale prices of food products increased 2 per cent in 1911 over the previous year, although wholesale prices generally of 257 articles declined 1.7 per cent. An investigation of the bureau of labor into wholesale prices, results of which were announced, disclosed the facts. There was a noticeable decline in the prices of metals and implements. Wholesale prices in 1911 were only 2.10 per cent below the average of 1907, the year of highest prices within the period of 1890 to 1911.

THE FINDINGS OF THE LORIMER COMMITTEE

The action of the Lorimer committee did not come as a great surprise to the general public. The Washington correspondent of the Record-Herald, and other correspondents as well, had predicted a 5 to 3 vote on the fundamental issues—the validity of Mr. Lorimer's election. The several resolutions adopted by the same vote are all technical and not in the least impressive. No one supposes for a moment that public sentiment is likely to be affected by the resolutions. The popular verdict has long since been rendered.

What is causing perplexity and wonder is the resolution exonerating Mr. Hines and declaring that he did not raise or contribute money to aid improperly in the election of Mr. Lorimer. Messrs. Kenyon, Kern and Lea did not vote on this resolution—doubtless because they could not perceive its relevance. Mr. Hines was not on trial before the senate committee; he was one of many witnesses, and it was no more necessary to "vindicate" him than it was to pass on statements which implicated other witnesses. The Hines' resolution was wholly gratuitous.

Moreover, the language of this resolution is peculiar. It ignores the fact that the testimony of Clarence S. Funk was simply that he had been solicited to contribute money toward defraying the cost of "putting Lorimer over." There is no inconsistency between Mr. Funk's statement and the finding that Mr. Hines did not raise, contribute or spend money corruptly. To "solicit" is not to obtain. The testimony of Mr. Funk remains direct, unshaken, positive, and the public has accepted it as literally true.

The pro-Lorimer resolution has to be passed on by the senate. The majority of that body can not study the old and new testimony in the case without forming the conviction that, while there is no evidence against

Lorimer himself, there is conclusive evidence that bribery and corruption of the most cynical and shameless kind brought about his election to the senate. The case was deliberately reopened; it is open now, and the plea of "res adjudicata" is belated and technical. Let the senators vote on the Lorimer title conscientiously and solemnly, brushing aside sophistry, strained legalism and arguments which insult the reason and honor of the senate.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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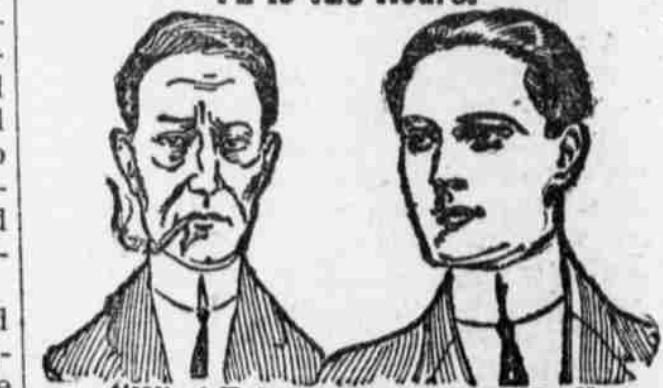
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