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SUITABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The following books, a careful selection of the best things from the writings and speeches of Mr. Bryan, are offered as very appropriate gifts for the Christmas and holiday season. These books are all well printed on good paper, bound in dainty, artistic style, and will make gifts that will be thoroughly appreciated by the recipient, or welcomed as valued additions to the home library:

A Tale of Two Conventions. A carefully revised account of Mr. Bryan's reports of the Chicago and Baltimore conventions, as prepared for a syndicate of newspapers. Added to these are notable speeches made in those conventions, including those by Mr. Bryan himself, the last being his "Valedictory." An outline of the convention which nominated Mr. Roosevelt is also given, with his speech of acceptance and that of Mr. Wilson and comments on these, also the three party platforms, an introduction by Mr. Bryan, a number of current newspaper cartoons, etc. 12mo. Cloth. Sent prepaid to any address on receipt of price, \$1.00.

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The Signs of the Times. To which is added "Faith," an address delivered before several colleges. Mr. Bryan has made several formal and extended addresses, in different parts of the world, since the issue of his "Selected Speeches" in two volumes. None of these were probably prepared with more care, or were more worthy of preservation and study than "The Signs of the Times." And "Faith" happily supplements this, in this dainty book. 16mo., Flexible Leather, Gilt Top. Sent prepaid to any address on receipt of price, 75 cents.

The Fruits of the Tree. A notable address delivered by Mr. Bryan at the World's Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 17, 1910. A very dainty and acceptable gift book. 12mo., beautiful Art Board covers, illuminated with handsome design in full gilt. Sent prepaid to any address on receipt of price, 50 cents.

Any of the above books will be mailed to any address on receipt of price stated, and all orders will receive prompt and careful attention. A special price will be made for all five books sent to one address, as follows: For \$3.90 we will send the entire five books (including "Selected Speeches" in cloth binding prepaid to one address. For \$4.90 we will send the entire five books (including "Selected Speeches" bound in Half Leather) prepaid to one address. Send orders early to insure prompt delivery in time for Christmas. Address all orders to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

Hearst's New York American prints letters from Speaker Clark and Mr. Underwood in reply to the American's inquiry concerning tariff revision. The letters follow:

Washington, Nov. 28.—Editor New York American: Answering your far-reaching inquiry touching the duty of the party to the people in reducing the tariff, I will say that, while I have no disposition to thrust my views on any subject upon the public, it is my individual opinion and settled conviction that promises made to win an election should be religiously carried out after the election is won.

Men should say what they mean and mean what they say; and they should speak the plain language of the plain people so that all may understand. The voters of the land have a right to be treated honestly, candidly, fairly and courageously. They are entitled to that square deal of which we hear so much and see so little.

Robert J. Walker's report on the tariff remains to this day the greatest paper on that subject. In it he laid down this general principle: "The highest rates should be on luxuries; the lowest or none at all on the necessities of life." That should be the basis of our revision of the tariff to which we are solemnly committed.

The rates should be arranged so as to produce the maximum of revenue, while taking from the ultimate consumers the minimum of money in the shape of tariff taxes. That statement may appear paradoxical, but what it proposes is perfectly feasible. There is a maximum revenue-producing tariff rate on each particular item which can be ascertained, and which should be ascertained. The moment the rate on any article goes above the maximum revenue-producing rate the revenue begins to fall off, and the more the rate is increased the more the revenue dwindles until it disappears entirely, and the rate becomes prohibitive.

Such is the case with blankets nine feet long, worth not over forty cents per pound, an article of prime necessity on which the compound specific and ad valorem amounts to a tariff tax of between 165 and 182½ per cent.

Without going into wearisome details, it is safe to say that three-fourths of all the tariff rates of the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot tariff bill are above the maximum revenue-producing rates and should be reduced at least to a competitive point.

The truth is that the words "a competitive tariff" are more easily understood than the words "a tariff for revenue only." "A competitive tariff" is one which would give Americans the American market so long as they sell at fair prices, but would let in foreign products if Americans undertake to gouge Americans. "A competitive tariff" would in practice be "a tariff for revenue." The revenue can be increased more frequently by reducing rates than by increasing them.

The present tariff, if thoroughly overhauled, could be made to produce a great deal more revenue and at the same time not cost the taxpayers one-fourth of what they now pay, for under the present system where one dollar goes into the federal treasury four or five dollars go into the pockets of the tariff barons.

The rates in a new bill or new bills should be fully as low as the rates in the bills which we passed during this congress, and in some cases lower.

All the talk about the democrats wanting to injure business is absolutely preposterous.

What we want to do is to give every man an equal opportunity in the race of life, and not pamper a few at the expense of many. That plan would foster every legitimate industry in the land and injure none. That is one way in which congress can aid in reducing the exceedingly high cost of living, which is really the most pressing, vexatious, and important problem with which we have to deal. What the people demand is cheaper food, cheaper clothing, cheaper necessities of life generally, and any cuts in tariff rates which do not accomplish that are not worth the trouble and labor of making.

The revision ought to be and no doubt will be made carefully, scientifically and in harmony with democratic promises. **CHAMP CLARK.**

MR. UNDERWOOD'S VIEWS

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 23.—Editor New York American: Sir—Answering your telegram the democrats should carefully live up to its principles and its pledges in the last campaign.

These should be the compass that guides our actions in writing the new tariff.

The position of the party has been clearly expressed in detail on most of the important schedules to be revised, in the bills that were passed through the house in this congress. They were approved by the democratic national convention and ratified by the people in the recent election.

Details, of course, can be changed so long as they do not trench upon our principles and pledges.

In my judgment, the members of the ways and means committee should give an opportunity for all to be heard before they draft their bills. These bills should then be submitted to the democratic caucus for amendment and approval.

In the meantime, I think the part of wisdom for the democratic members of the ways and means committee not to rush into any expression of their individual opinions as to details. By refraining from doing so at this time they will be in a better position to unite the party on a constructive program when they present their bills to the democratic caucus.

OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD.

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND

From Washington (D. C.) Post: It cost the democratic party slightly over \$1,100,000 to elect Woodrow Wilson president of the United States. This expense was borne by 91,000 persons, who contributed in varying amounts to the popular campaign fund.

These two remarkable facts will be shown in a statement soon to be filed with the clerk of the house of representatives by Rolla Wells, of St. Louis, trustee. The law allows 30 days after the election for campaign committees and candidates to file statements of their receipts and expenditures. The democrats will not use all that time, for Treasurer Wells, now on his way to St. Louis from New York, stated that the books were practically balanced. A surplus in favor of the committee has developed, and this is another strange thing in connection with the work of campaign committees.

Although no accurate public record has ever been kept before, men who have led in the work of political parties state that there has been no successful campaign in recent years that cost so little as the one just concluded by the democrats. Likewise, and this fact also remains undisputed, the expense of no campaign for the presidency has ever been participated in by so many contributors.

The idea of a popular campaign fund was first put into operation four years ago in Mr. Bryan's contest. Then, it is estimated, something like 35,000 individuals contributed. Up to that time it had been the custom for a comparatively small number of patriotic party men to finance the campaigns of both parties. Perhaps before 1908 never had as many as 1,000 persons donated to pay the expenses of a presidential aspirant.

The bulk of the Wilson fund, the records of the committee show, was received in contributions of from \$1 to \$10. The largest single subscription was that of Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, who gave \$40,000. Cleveland R. Dodge, of New York, gave \$35,000.

Only a few contributions of more than \$10,000 were received. Less than 2,500 contributions went over the \$100 mark.

New York led all the states in the aggregate amount subscribed, with \$356,000. Illinois came second, with \$134,000. Then in order came Pennsylvania and Texas.

The aggregate amount sent in by the District of Columbia democrats was \$9,580.

The Wilson managers declare that not one penny of their fund was taken from a corporation, and that no money was taken from private parties if an ulterior purpose in giving was suspected. This was in accordance with a stipulation by Governor Wilson himself, made at Seagirt during the first meeting there of his campaign managers. The governor asked that no corporation money be accepted. At that time he also expressed the hope that the expenses of the campaign would be kept close to the million mark, it having been suggested by one of his advisers that it would cost \$3,000,000 to elect him.

The man largely responsible for the great number of individual contributors is Col. Robert Ewing, of New Orleans. As a member of Govern-