

MR. HARDY'S VIEWS

Criticizes Mr. De Hart's Suggestion That the People's Party Adopt "Protection as a Cardinal Plank"

Editor Independent: We would like to join issue with John S. De Hart on the tariff question. To start with, we would first lay down what the foundation of our government should be. It should govern with equal justice; it should grant equal privileges and afford the same protection to every individual, every community, and every state. The law should not help one class, one industry, or one calling to the detriment or loss of all the rest or any of them.

Will Mr. De Hart tell us how much higher price the farmers of Nebraska get for their produce under the present high protective tariff than they would under free trade. Then will he tell us how much more we have to pay for American manufactured goods under a high protective tariff than we would under free trade. The farmers of Nebraska do not get one cent more for what they sell and have to pay several millions more for the American manufactured goods they buy. This is not just and a protective tariff is unjust unless it helps all alike.

The European market governs the price of farm produce and we have to compete with cheap farm labor of Europe, India and South America. If we sell any of our produce in New York or Boston we have got to take less than the European price the same hour and if we buy any American manufactured goods there we have to pay European price with the high protective tariff added. The tariff on foreign goods goes into the government treasury, the same amount of tariff on American goods goes into the American manufacturer's pocket. The tariff is not just unless it helps Nebraska as much as it helps Massachusetts. Nine-tenths of the people think no tariff is paid, only on foreign goods.

Must the reform party fall in and swallow rank injustice because a majority of the people advocate it? It would have been no worse to have swallowed slavery back in the '50's. No, all reformers should continue to kick injustice no matter whether with the minority or with the majority.

All taxes should be equal on all selling values. All imported articles should be taxed the same per cent according to selling value. If anything is taxed more than other things, it should be luxuries and curses. Tea and coffee, silks and fineries should be taxed ten times as much as life necessities; opium, tobacco and intoxicating liquors should be taxed one hundred times as much.

If farmers can compete with cheap farm labor, why can't manufacturers do the same? They do compete if

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How much more sensible is this method than the barbarous torture inflicted by the knife and instruments? How much more satisfactory to be able to administer a simple effective remedy in the privacy of the home than to submit to the humiliation of an examination and operation in the physician's chair!

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Europe, for they send hundreds of millions of goods over there and sell them without the least high tariff protection. High protective tariff and railroads are the two big machines for making millionaires. It certainly would not be unjust to compel trust monopolies to sell their goods to us as cheaply as they sell in Europe.

Nebraska is the most exclusively agricultural state in the Union. We have no minerals of any kind, nor any timber. It is unjust to make the farmer work two days on the farm for one day in the factory. Repeal all special laws and then we would be on a just level with the manufacturers.

It would be just as sensible for Mr. De Hart to advise the people's party to adopt the gold standard, retire the greenbacks and sell the silver and allow to other money to circulate beside gold and wildcat bank bills.

H. W. HARDY.
Lincoln, Neb.

APPROVES DE HART

Populist National Committeeman Lawrence Fully Approves Mr. De Hart's Position on Protection

Editor Independent: It was with much interest I read the article of John S. De Hart in the last Independent.

Up till 1892 I was a free trader. But Cleveland's last administration proved to me beyond a doubt that tariff for revenue only will not do this country; and now I am a protectionist and you will find the cotton mill men of the south are fast becoming protectionists. I believe the time is not far distant when the south will change fronts in politics. The politicians have been howling "nigger" for years and now most of the states have disqualified the negro and the democratic politicians have about lost their grip.

The article by Mr. De Hart throughout was to the point and fully meets my approval. S. A. LOWRANCE.
Moorestville, N. C.

(Without discussing the merits or demerits of "protection," The Independent would suggest that the Wilson bill, after being thoroughly Gormanized and made protective, was not enacted and effective as law until more than a year after Cleveland's inauguration in 1893. The panic of 1893 began under the McKinley law; it was intensified by the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. Quite naturally the cotton mill men of the south "are fast becoming protectionist." Why shouldn't they? The protective tariff is for their especial benefit.—Associate Editor.)

AN IDAHO VIEW

Mr. Moore Rejects Mr. De Hart's Proposition to Have the Populists Endorse "Protection"

Editor Independent: I have just read Mr. De Hart's article on protection. Mr. De Hart states that he supposes not many populists will take favorably to protection. In this I think he is correct. Shall we endorse the mother of trusts and then denounce the offspring? Shall we, the populists, who have time and again denounced this robber tariff system as one of the greatest curses that was ever imposed upon the American people, come out and endorse it?

Mr. De Hart also states that whether Bryan or Cleveland controls the democratic party, it will die next year, and it will die on the tariff issue. Ever since I can remember this same old tariff (tax) has been a bone of contention between the democrats and republicans, and still this old tariff-for-revenue-only party lives on.

I do not believe the populist party would gain one vote by endorsing protection. On the other hand, I believe the party would lose thousands of votes. It is not because of our protective policy that our people have lost faith in the populist party, but because of fusion with the old parties which we have become disgusted with and left. Down in some of the southern states, in democratic strongholds, the populists and republicans fused to beat the democrats. Four or five years ago I was down in Oklahoma (Woods county); there the democrats and republicans fused to beat the populists.

Mr. De Hart, what became of the protection idea at this time? To protect American labor we must buy the American product. To derive revenues we must buy the foreign article. I am a farmer; my surplus grain must come into competition with foreign grain. True, there is a duty on grain, but we do not import much grain into this country. We always have enough and some to spare.

Mr. Editor, I have heard many a man howl for protection when the poor devil hadn't a dollar to his name, and still he had lived under this old robber tariff system all his life! Don't

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tax the wealth of the country to support the government, but levy a tax on what the people eat and wear to support the government, is the theory of the republican party. If we want the populist party killed, I think it cannot be done any quicker than to endorse protection.

G. W. MOORE.
Rigby, Idaho.

It would be a very serious thing for this state if some of the Lincoln dailies should get even a slight circulation down in Boston. The Independent has a time of it with the Boston critics. What would one of those critics say of the following sentence, taken from the News: "Reach towards the ephemera of the daily press as the summum bonum of didactic literature." The word "ephemera" means lasting but a day; "summum bonum" means the thing most desirable, and "didactic" means intended to teach. So that sentence says: "Reach towards the lasting for a day of the daily press as the thing most desirable intended to teach literature." That sentence without doubt will convince the mullet heads who read the News that they ought to "stand pat" and always vote 'er straight.

The Springfield Republican remarks that "some time may yet elapse before canal digging begins under the authority of the United States government." The probabilities are that the Republican will celebrate another semi-centennial before that happy day arrives. It most certainly will, if the trans-continental railroads continue to have as many senators in the upper house of congress as they have been able to keep there for the last thirty years.

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