

SHAW STANDING PAT

SECRETARY OF TREASURY LI-BELS AMERICAN INGENUITY

High Prices Have Reduced Wages by Comparison With Profits of Capital—Cost of Living Must Be Reduced by Revising Tariff

The enormous overcapitalization of the trusts and combines renders it necessary for them to continue to exact high prices for their products or be unable to pay dividends on their fictitious capital. The protection the tariff gives them makes the high prices possible, as it prevents competition from abroad, so that the trusts have a monopoly of the home market.

Sheltering the Trusts

To make the American people pay these high prices the tariff must be preserved intact, not to produce revenue for the government, but to shelter the trusts. Secretary Shaw is defending this policy of trust protection and high prices on the ground that "cheap products of labor mean cheap labor," which is a new theory in economics that the protectionists have invented to hold workingmen to the support of the republican party in

its league with the combines and corporations.

Mr. Shaw, being secretary of the treasury, is supposed to speak for the administration on such economic subjects as tariff and revenue; so, although his "cheap" doctrines are absurd and his statements fallacious, yet as President Roosevelt allows him to continue on the stump it must be supposed that sounding the praises of high prices is endorsed by the administration.

New Arguments Needed

It is not true that "cheap products of labor mean cheap labor," says the New York World, nor was that libel upon American ingenuity wont to be uttered in the earlier days of tariff arguments. It used to be said that competition, coupled with high wages kept products cheap by compelling the improvement of the machine. Of late the trust makers have learned the trick of improving the machine, raising the price and pocketing the stupendous profit of progress.

The portion of labor in American production has generally increased within the past few years when measured in dollars and cents. It has not increased when measured by meat and rent and clothing. It has actually declined by comparison with the profits of capital.

G. O. P.'s Opportunity

The republican party has an unrivaled opportunity for public service in reducing the cost of living by revision of the tariff, and this service it is, by its reiterated pledges, bound to render.

It is bound to reduce tariff taxation which has proved unnecessary and burdensome. It is bound to seek such reciprocal arrangements for freer trade with other nations as Germany is just now anxious to make.

Nor can the question be dodged. It is unescapable. It is pressed by the woman with the market basket. It is urged by the growing deficit.

There are not so many ways in which the government's expenditure can be made to match its income. This can be done by cutting down expenditure and the only place where many millions can be spared is in our mounting bills for warlike preparation. It can be done by tariff reduction which shall stimulate foreign trade and so swell the custom house receipts. There is no other way.

It may be a distressing choice for the standpatters, but they cannot evade it by abusing cheapness, which is the universal demand of every citizen when he spends his wages.

OHIO'S FEDERATION OF LABOR

Declares for Referendum and Will Question Candidates

The Ohio State Federation of Labor at its late annual meeting at Cincinnati adopted resolutions, declaring for co-operation with all non-partisan organizations to secure a constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum. The federation also instructed its executive committee to question the candidates of all parties "whether or not, if elected, they will vote to submit a constitutional amendment and thereby give the people of the state a chance to express their opinion." But the members of the federation seemed to be practical politicians and determined on results, for they further resolved:

"That whenever any legislative candidate ignores the communication of the committee or declares himself opposed to permitting the people to vote on such an amendment, it shall be the duty of the committee to so inform all labor organizations within the district of said candidate, to the end that the members of organized labor may not be betrayed, by their negligence, into the support of their enemies."

That action indicates that practically all the members of the labor unions will be found voting, irrespective of

party, only for these candidates who have pledged themselves to install the referendum system. If only one candidate so pledges himself the labor votes will be massed on such candidates and in those legislative districts where the labor vote is numerous, will decide the result, and in many other close districts are liable to affect the result. When all the candidates pledge themselves the voters will follow their usual political affiliations. This non-partisan action has two great advantages, it will cause many legislative candidates to pledge themselves for the referendum, who otherwise would be indifferent, or even hostile, and it keeps the Federation of Labor out of partisan politics and yet allows it to be a strong force politically for the legislation it desires.

Two sailors were seated at a table before a cafe.

One sailor had a letter before him, and was reading it aloud, while at the same time the other sailor held his hands over the reader's ears.

The friendly waiter, impelled by an irresistible curiosity, paused before the table.

"Why," he asked, "do you hold your hands over your friend's ears while he reads that letter out loud to you?"

"Because," was the dignified answer, "the letter is from my sweetheart. Jack is reading it to me because I can't read myself. That is all right, but I don't want him to hear a word of what is written."

Experienced Travler

"Look here," demanded the irate hotel proprietor, "what did you say to that last guest?"

"Why," replied the waiter, "he didn't pass over a tip, so I said, 'I think you have forgotten something, sir.'"

"That's just it. After you said that he returned to the table and took three oranges and six pears."

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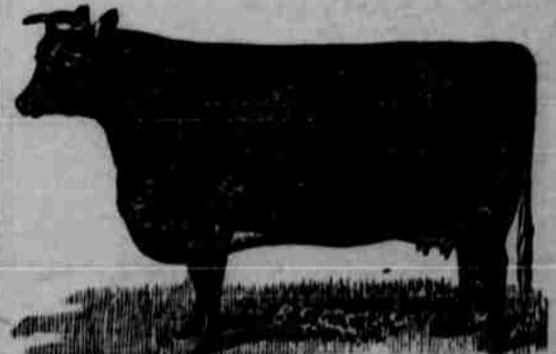
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