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How Do They Know?

The inherent hypocrisy of the Democrats comes out stronger in the white they are now raising about a tariff increase in the cost of Bibles. Very few of them could prove themselves to be ultimate consumers in that line of goods.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Cold Storage Horror.

Reporters for the New York World have found in a cold storage plant in New York halibut, egg, meat, chicken, fruit, and other food products which have been in the great ice boxes for periods varying from one to three years, perhaps longer.

M. L. Fries For Governor.

Since Ex-Governor Sheldon has declined to be a candidate for governor this year it leaves the field open to aspirants. That there will be no dearth of candidates who are willing to yield to the solicitations of so many friends is already quite evident. Yet it is not always the best material that offers themselves for sacrifice because of the urgent demands of their friends. In order that the entire list may not be made up with self seekers we deem it well that others be brought out for the consideration of those who will be satisfied only with the best.

With this thought prompting us, we suggest to the list already announced the name of M. L. Fries of Arcadia.

Mr. Fries is a man well known over the state for his ability and unswerving integrity. He is one of those progressive republicans that is always found loyal to his party yet true to his conscientious convictions. While a staunch supporter of the Taft administration he is an insurgent along the line of Senators Burlett and Brown in relegating Cannonism to the rear.

On the question of temperance legislation, which will be one of the many issues of the campaign Mr. Fries will not have to adjust his views to meet the requirements of the campaign. His whole life and public utterances have been on the right side. He is a man of strong convictions and will give no quarters to the opposition to county option.

His many good qualities, as a citizen scholar and executive ability would make him an exceptionally strong candidate this year. Should he be selected as governor the republican party nor the citizens of the state, without regard to political affiliation would ever have occasion to regret it.

Gardner's Great Speech.

For more than an hour recently the House of Representatives listened to an illustrated lecture on high cost of living. The Republicans applauded vigorously and the Democrats kept silent. The lecturer was Representative Augustus P. Gardner, of Massachusetts, one of the insurgent leaders and a student of political economy.

No matter what is the cause of the increase in this country, it is not the tariff, Mr. Gardner asserted with the greatest emphasis and then proceeded to demon-

strate it with the aid of a pointer and two enormous charts placed before the Speaker's platform.

One of the charts showed in a graphic way the fluctuations in United States and Great Britain from 1878 to 1908. The other showed the actual prices paid for foodstuffs by the Massachusetts training ship Ranger in the Summer of 1908 in Boston and more than half a dozen large European ports.

He said the first table proved that during all those years, when the tariff of the United States was at different levels, the prices in "free trade England and high protection United States" went up and down simultaneously. That was absolute proof that the tariff could have nothing whatever to do with the question. The prices paid by the Ranger were lower in Boston for beef, corned beef, veal, pork, bacon, ham, fowl, frankfurters, hamburg steak, fish, and ice, or 11 of the 16 articles of food purchased on the trip.

Representative Burleson, of Texas, interrupted the Massachusetts member to ask him if he had seen a comparative table of prices in Detroit, Mich., and immediately across the border in Canada, which showed that in the majority of instances the American prices were higher on the same articles.

In reply Mr. Gardner presented a table of household prices on Feb. 2 in Montreal, which he obtained from W. H. Bradley the United States consul general there, and a list of prices on Feb. 6, furnished by the superintendent of the Washington market.

Mr. Gardner's illustration awakened the keenest interest among members of the Congress.

Stand by the Party and President.

In a most eloquent speech delivered in the House on Washington's birthday, Representative Nye, of Minnesota, said:

"Under our system of party government the majority of this House, whether Republican or Democratic, must intrench itself behind the party barricade and rally to party standard in order to accomplish legislation.

"I thoroughly and profoundly believe that it is the duty of the American citizen to express a fidelity to whatever administration may be in power and to the officers entrusted with the responsibilities of Government. More profoundly than ever do I feel that we have now—and I do not wish to make a partisan speech—a man at the head of this Government who should inspire the truest confidence and the deepest loyalty on the part of all men and all women (applause); a man who is broad enough and patriotic enough to embrace in his purposes and in his public service the general good of all his country and all of this great people. We may differ as individuals upon individual questions, but I feel that the great American people will in the last analysis stand by any great leader whose heart and purposes are for the permanent good of all and special benefit to none. His sincerity, his candor, his frankness, and his ability must inspire general confidence and make his leadership altogether worthy the royal support of his countrymen. (Applause.)

"He believes in the sacredness of the party pledge and the fulfillment of party promises. Full and perfect compliance with the letter of party pledges is not to be expected in all cases, but the country will recognize every honest effort toward a substantial compliance with such promises. Naturally, much must depend in the coming election on the good faith and honest efforts with which the party now intrusted with responsibility seeks to make good its pledges. Conditions are peculiar. Harvests have been abundant, the business and industries of the

country are active and apparently healthy beyond that of any former time, and yet there is much unrest and apparent dissatisfaction. It is a time, in my judgment, for calm, well-poised men like President Taft to be trusted. It is easier to tear down than to build up. It is easier to criticize than to commend even where commendation is deserved. We believe in a leader who can and will possess his soul in patience, one who will give us an administration not violently radical nor stupidly conservative; an administration that is progressive, which will carry out the principles of sound reform and not attempt to take the Kingdom of Heaven by violence. I firmly believe that time will fully justify the purposes, the motives, and the labors of this great leader in whom the people have placed their unfaltering faith confidence. (Applause on the Republican side.)

In his speech February 12, in New York City, he said the Government must enforce the law—

"And if the enforcement of the law is not consistent with the present method of carrying on business, then it does not speak American in Europe finds himself asking when looking about among wage-workers. Meat is usually from 25 to 100 per cent., higher in price than in the United States.

Mr. McKinley's own concluding words on the subject of high prices were:

"Higher prices, therefore, on any commodity cannot be attributed to the new tariff law, and those who raise the price and give the tariff as the reason are deceiving their customers by falsifying the facts."

This speech of Mr. McKinley has been put into a little 16 page document in convenient form for carrying in the vest pocket and for reading, and it is estimated that a million or more copies will be distributed within a few days. All readers of this paper who desire a copy can obtain one free by addressing the Republican Congressional Committee, Metropolitan Bank Building, Washington, D. C.

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Representative McKinley, of Illinois, chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee has done the people of this country a real service in presenting in readable and handy form the truth about the tariff and prices. Mr. McKinley very appropriately calls this a campaign spike and it certainly drives home a considerable Democratic misrepresentation and lying about the subject under consideration.

First presenting the tariff plank of the last Republican National Platform, Mr. McKinley in a few words shows that the pledge made in the plank was revised substantially and in accordance with the promise made at Chicago.

The question is then asked: Was the tariff revised downward? And this question the Representative from Illinois answers in the affirmative in several ways, showing that not only were there three times as many reductions of items as increases, but that considering the consumption value of articles upon which changes were made the decreases were fully twenty times the increases.

Mr. McKinley, however, does not stop there in this argument, but mentions some half a hundred articles of necessary everyday use upon which the tariff was reduced, and to clinch his claim quotes President Taft and various Congressmen in substantiating his assertion that the tariff was most materially and substantially revised downward.

The next question which Mr. McKinley asks is: Was the tariff changed wisely and successfully? And this he answers by



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saying that under the operation of the new tariff law the revenues have increased by over \$45,000,000, and while there was much idleness and industrial depression when the new law was passed, now there is full employment and unusual record breaking industrial activity in all parts of the country.

The question of high prices is then taken up, and while no attempt is made to give the real cause or all of the cases for the present high prices, which Mr. McKinley shows are not confined to the United States, but are world-wide, and particularly apparent in free trade Great Britain, yet he does prove that these high prices can in no way be attributed to the new tariff law, but, on the contrary, if prices were governed by the schedules then they should be reduced in most cases and not increased.

Various statistics concerning our agriculture and commerce are shown, which are exceedingly interesting as giving comparison between the present volume of production and preceding years.

Among the interesting points presented by Mr. McKinley are the facts that whereas there were 3,000,000 idle men when the tariff bill was passed, there are really none at present except the sick and voluntary; whereas the number of idle freight cars when the tariff was passed was 200,000 now there are none; whereas the Treasury deficit on February 21, 1909, was over \$69,000,000, on February 21, 1910, it was only \$23,000,000.

There were fewer failures in 1909 than in the preceding year, considering both number and total liabilities; the value of farms has increased during the last ten years 44 per cent., while the value of farm products has increased 100 per cent. during the last ten years; the bank clearings of 1909 amount to \$165,000,000,000, a considerable excess over any previous year.

In his portion concerning high prices, Mr. McKinley shows that there has been an increase in per capita circulation of money in 15 years of almost 50 per cent., and an increase of total circulation of almost 100 per cent., while the increase of the world's production of gold in the same period has been about 225 per cent., all of which he thinks must have had their effect in producing the present price situation.

In this connection a very interesting quotation is given from an article by Samuel Gompers in the American Federationist of January, 1910, who says:

"How often do these people eat meat?" is a question the well for the present methods of conducting business, and they must be changed to conform with the law."

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