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Prohibition

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Campaign Letter

New York:

The fact of the matter is that the democratic confidence of three months ago has been changed to doubt and desperation. Whatever argument is used concerning any issue, whether the work of the administration or the record of Congress the republicans have the best of it. The only remaining democratic hope is in factional differences, and these will disappear before the 8th of November.

Then came the announcement from the democratic press bureau that the so-called republicans would try to defeat the insurgents. This had full sail for a day and then it was exploded by Chairman McKinley not only denying the assertion credited to the democratic chairman, but stating positively that all republicans, no matter what might be their individual or factional differences, would work and vote for the regular nominees of the primaries or convention.

The congressional campaign, which is now in full swing, seems destined to be very much like preceding campaigns especially in the matter of political canards and democratic misrepresentations.

The accusation against Vice President Sherman by Senator Gore had the headlines for a whole day, and then came Mr. Sherman's denial and the subsequent crawling into the hole of the senator himself. It was very small politics for Senator Gore to enter into, and yet it is perhaps a fair sample of what we may expect continuously during the

campaign.

As usual, during the campaign the people must be warned against democratic misrepresentation. Before the assertions of a democratic paper or speaker is accepted they should be compared with the facts in the case and the fullest investigation should be made. It is believed that the voter of to-day is too intelligent to make up his mind before reading both sides of a story, and before the 8th of November there will be an opportunity to become fully informed upon all public questions and all campaign statements.

Then came the statement of what Mr. Taft would endeavor to do in the coming years of his administration particularly as bringing about retrenchments in expenditures and economy in all departments. This was met by slurs from democratic papers to the effect that some money might be saved on typewriter ribbons and other office appliances, but giving the President no credit for honest intentions, or for practical work in that line already accomplished. The people know that under Mr. Taft's administration millions of dollars have already been saved in actual expenditures and that nearly thirty millions less were appropriated at the last regular session of Congress than at the preceding regular session.

In spite of the canards and misrepresentations that have been started, there is, however, a most marked change in general observed in the press of the country and in the expressions of the people. In the first place, the new tariff law is no longer sneered at by any one—it is acknowledged quite generally that it is a most successful law. The changing of a deficit of \$58,000,000 to a surplus of \$15,000,000 cannot be controverted by any enemy of the tariff law, for it is an absolute fact. The immense increase of importation of manufactures' material proves that our factories have been busy and labor pretty well employed, and the increase in wages has added so much to the purchasing power of the people as to benefit all producers of both farm and factory.

The Reduced Tariff.

The completed statistics of imports for the past fiscal year reaffirm what has been already shown as the actual operation of the revised tariff. The great increase in importations is to be attributed to general revival of business activity, rather than to the effect of the tariff, though it is evident that at least this did not retard the revival. It was most directly operative in the increased proportion of goods imported free of duty, which formed a larger percentage of the whole than in any previous like period, except when raw sugar was admitted duty free.

The aggregate duties collected upon all imports under the revised tariff would average 20.95 per cent ad valorem. Under the McKinley law this average was 25.48 per cent; under the Wilson law, 21.92 per cent, and under the Dingley law, 22.12 per cent. Thus it appears that the actual taxation imposed by the present tariff is less than under the democratic tariff, which was denounced by republicans as favoring "free trade".

Upon all dutiable imports—excluding those admitted free—the average rate of duty is shown to be 41.19 per cent ad valorem under the revised tariff against, 47.10 under the McKinley tariff 42.82 under the Wilson and 45.76 under the Dingley law. Here again there appears a very distinct reduction of the average duties below that of any previous tariff.

Whatever attacks may be made against individual schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff the

contention that the duties were revised "upward" and not "downward" cannot be maintained in the face of these figures. Meanwhile the tariff has been bringing in such excellent results in increased revenues that there will be less and less disposition to disturb it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Praise for the President.

Whatever the people may have thought a few weeks ago, there is no question about it to-day. President Taft has made good. Few men realize what fixity of purpose, what strength, sagacity, good humor and patience were required to bring order out of the chaos that existed during the closing weeks of this session of Congress. Some people mistook his good humor for weakness, his patience for pliability; events have proved sadly mistaken they were. To-day there are few who do not know that the Taft smile is but a mask for dogged determination and an iron will.

Seldom has it fallen to the lot of any man to surmount greater obstacles in carrying out his promises than to the President. Beset on all sides by violent and unjust criticism, harassed by factional disputes, he remained serenely confident to the end, and the end was a triumph. He had determined from the beginning that party pledges were made to be performed. To-day these are the laws of the land.

No such programme of constructive and progressive legislation has ever been enacted at any session of Congress in American history. It is a record of magnificent achievement and the glory belongs first to the President of the United States.—Congressman Nicholas Longworth, son-in-law of Col. Roosevelt, in his address as temporary chairman of the Ohio Republican convention.

Exchange Value of Farm Products.

While the prices of practically all commodities have shown some advance during the last few years, the products of the farm show a much greater advance than do the products of mines and factories. The financial condition of the grain raiser, the general farmer and the dairyman is better than ever before and never was the purchasing power of farm products so great.

Senator Reed Smoot, in a speech before the United States Senate, May 27, 1910, declared farm land itself had advanced in value rapidly and everything produced on the farm had risen materially. Financially, the farmer has become independent. The rural free delivery and the telephone have placed him in touch with current events as is the city dweller.

The average prices of the principal farm products in March 1910, and March 1896, as shown by the bulletins of United States Bureau of Labor reveal in a striking manner the prosperity of the farmer.

The real value of any article is its exchange value. The real worth of farm products is measured by comparison with the value of articles which the farmer wants to purchase.

Figuring on the general wholesale price of articles, ten bushels of corn in 1896 would buy twenty-one pounds of Rio coffee, in 1910 seventy pounds; ten bushels of corn equaled in value fifty-three gallons of refined petroleum in March 1910, twenty three gallons in March, 1896; ten bushels of corn equaled in value 1,040 brick in March, 1910 and 519 in March, 1896; ten bushels of corn equaled in value 337 pounds of wire nails in March 1910, and 96 pounds of corn equaled in value 131 pounds of sugar in March, 1910, and 59 pounds in March, 1896, etc.

A 300-pound hog, when valued in merchandise at the wholesale rate, equaled thirty-six barrels of

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