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SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

The demand for special legislation by various industries in the United States is constantly increasing. This is a logical sequence to the teachings of the high-tariff-for-protecting-the-infant industries. At a recent meeting, in the booming city of Sioux Falls, the alleged National Congress of Farmers demonstrated that some of its members were quite as familiar with the methods of milking the public treasury, as they were with manipulating the dugs of meek-eyed cows.

An erudite and able paper was presented to that assemblage of tough-muscled and sweating plowmen in favor of a ship subsidy of ten millions a year. The author—a gentleman of vast and world-wide experience in manufacture and commerce—declared that we Americans must have a line of steamships to carry away the surplus products of our industrial plants and our farms or be smothered in our own grease—extinguished under an avalanche of cereals, fats and fruits.

The next day a learned professor informed the National Congress of Farmers, which represented by delegation less than half

the states and territories of the republic, that the arid plains of the west containing more than six millions of acres of rainless area ought to be and could be and must be aqueously fertilized by millions of dollars appropriated by the general government. Thus the peculiar proclivity for farming the farmers develops one hour a tremendous solicitude as to how we shall get a foreign market

for the bread and meat which we ourselves can never eat and the next a paroxysmal patriotism for plowing more farms, producing more surplus and more effectually drowning in their own fatness the bucolic citizens of the United States by irrigation to be paid for by the people themselves out of the National Treasury.

The advocates of a tariff for protection which shuts out foreign products and shuts in our own, which might have gone out in exchange for those, have come now to attempt to domesticate their fallacies and apply them here in the United States. Thus they seek to tear down one industry and build up another by congressional legislation. Thus they invoke the power to tax—which was vested, by the Constitution, in the federal government for the sole purpose of raising revenue,—to kill competition in a business which is profitable when it has a monopoly of the market, without rivals and is free from competitive antagonisms. The pre-named congress at Sioux Falls which convened on October 1st, 1901, was especially favored by a gentleman who believes in protection, in having two editions of the last speech made by President McKinley on September 5th, 1901, at Buffalo, New York, reprinted and generously distributed among its members and spectators. But the admonitions of that speech did not seemingly quite penetrate the false membrane of protection which seems to have completely enveloped their brains in some of the more virulent cases.

President McKinley said in that last speech of his:

“* * * What we produce beyond our domestic consumption must have a vent abroad. * * * We must not repose in fancied security thinking that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing. * * * The period of exclusiveness is past. * * *”

These extracts are enough to indicate that the late President McKinley had been going through similar mental processes to those which in January, 1846, were confessed and portrayed by Sir Robert Peel in a speech before the British Parliament. In that declaration Peel said: “I will not withhold the homage which is due to the progress of reason and truth, by denying that my opinions on the subject of Protection have undergone a change. * * * It

may be supposed that there is something humiliating in making such admissions; I feel no such humiliation. * * * I should feel humiliated if, having modified or changed my opinion, I declined to acknowledge the change, for fear of incurring the imputation of inconsistency.”

The parallel between Sir Robert Peel in 1846 and the President of the United States in 1901 as to mental conclusions and moral bravery is strikingly strong. And yet there are citizens of this republic who ignore the logic and wisdom of the economics of both Peel and McKinley. Thus they seek enactments by the Congress of the United States which shall crush one industry to build up another.

The dairymen of the country are organized, disciplined and drilled as an

army of importunate to solicit the enactment of a law

which shall tax ten cents a pound all oleomargarine or butterine colored yellow. Congress gets echoes of their prayers and petitions from every section of the country on every day of the year. These very unselfish butter makers, butter manipulators, butter renovators and butter protectors have an abiding and irrepressible solicitude for the digestion of the American people. They are so philanthropically anxious as to the microbes of dyspepsia which may possibly develop in the human stomach which has secreted in its marvelous laboratory of assimilation a few globules of oleomargarine that they maintain an elegant assortment of able lobbyists at Washington to bring about laws that will at one and the same time protect American digestion from the terrible assaults of any and all butter substitutes and the patriotic churn-workers of the dairies from all competitive assaults, on the fields of exchange, by the diabolism of butterine and oleomargarine. There has never been a more determined effort to domesticate the tariff for protection. There has never been a more beautiful and lovable example in all the history of manufacture and commerce of perfectly disinterested benevolence. The butter makers ask this enormous and destroying tax on all butter substitutes of ten cents a pound if they are colored yellow. The butter men ask for a patent, a sole right, a monopoly, a trust on the color of yellow—“the June tint” of yellow