

FIVE SPEECHES, ALL THE SAME, TO ONE AUDIENCE

How Local Spellbinders Amused Crowd Awaiting Senator Thurman.

REPORTER'S HAT THE TOPIC

Horrors of Protection as an Off Told Tale, Stir Applause and Laughter.

In 1888, when Cleveland and Thurman were the candidates for President and Vice-President, the Democrats of Wheeling, W. Va., got up a big demonstration and arranged for Senator Thurman to come from his home in Columbus, Ohio, to deliver the principal address.

When the great day came thousands of Democrats from West Virginia, eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania were gathered in Wheeling to greet the Vice-Presidential candidate, Senator Thurman left Columbus in a private car attached to a night Baltimore and Ohio train. The train was delayed and soon after daylight crowds at stations along the way had got the Senator out of bed to talk to them. The result was that when Mr. Thurman, an old man and none too robust, got to Wheeling he was all but exhausted.

Court House Square, with a big decorated stand for speakers, was jammed at 1 o'clock, the hour set for the speech, but there was no one to talk to the multitude. The reception committee had found Mr. Thurman unable to more than walk to his carriage and had put him to bed at the Hotel Windsor in the hope that in an hour or two he would be able to carry out his part of the programme.

In the meantime Col. Thomas O'Brien, the chairman of the meeting, had kept the bands playing and had announced that Senator Thurman was holding a reception at the hotel and soon would be on hand.

Half an hour passed and the crowd began to get restless. Col. O'Brien sent a hasty message to Col. W. F. Arnett, a spellbinder of some local fame, asking him to hurry to the platform and talk to the crowd. The Colonel was a slow witted Virginian who had seen service in the Confederate army. He was popular as a humorist and famous as a criminal lawyer, but he was even better known as a whittler. He had never been known to appear without a pocket knife in one hand and a stick of wood in the other. In court all the space around him would be covered with shavings and if he ran out of whittling wood he would attack the court penholders and pencils.

Col. Arnett mounted the platform after another wait, knife and stick in hand, and the crowd gave him a cheer. Col. O'Brien introduced him.

"Ladies and gentlemen and fellow Democrats," he began in an easy drawl, "I feel highly honored to be asked to address an audience that has gathered to hear one of our country's greatest statesmen in the greatest deliberative body in the world. I am moved by the vast numbers of people who have gathered here and I see in your patience and enthusiasm a sure harbinger of victory in November.

"I have just received word from the Hotel Windsor that Senator Thurman will soon be here to address you. He is somewhat fatigued after a long and trying journey, but he has gathered to the demands of his admirers and will give them words of encouragement and assurance of victory. These demonstrations of loyalty and affection must have moved our candidate greatly, but he called for responsive effort which has left that worthy gentleman in need of a brief rest.

"In the meantime I shall do what I can in my humble way to entertain you and I hope impart some information regarding the issues of the present struggle for the highest office in the land and control of the destinies of this great nation.

"Our party has made the tariff the chief issue in this campaign. It has declared that protection is robbery, that it is a tax upon the consumer for the plain benefit of the gentlemen who proclaim themselves the fathers of our infant industries, infants that have grown through adolescence to a pampered manhood that demands ever more and more tribute from the yeomanry of this nation, the farmers, the mechanics, the artisans, even the poor widow's mite.

"Now our country is in a state of feeding and fattening at the public crib, tell us that the tariff is not a tax, that the consumer is not the one who pays it, that by some incomprehensible house-pious the foreign manufacturer, the foreign laborer pays this tax that goes to make our American millionaires richer and more powerful.

"We contend that this tax is wrung from our own pockets through the increased cost of what we are compelled to buy.

It was early autumn, just at the close of the straw hat season, and a reporter sitting at a table at the Colonel's side had bought a new brown fedora the day before. This hat lay on the table. Seizing the hat Col. Arnett said:

"Now I will try to give you a homely illustration of how the foreigner pays the tariff tax. We all wear hats, and probably we all have hats that we have a protective tariff we'll all continue to pay tribute to the hat manufacturers.

"This hat, I judge, from its texture and the maker's name in the sweatband, cost my young friend here \$3.50. Am I right? My friend's nod indicates that I have guessed the price. Now an investigation made recently by agents of our tariff bureau has produced figures on the cost of manufacturing hats in both countries and the prices at which they are sold.

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A NEW WATER FRONT HOUSE FOR SALE Within easy commuting distance of Herald Square, every city convenience.

Remnants of Portuguese Empire. From the Westminister Gazette. The announcement that Portugal is to be linked up by wireless with all the Portuguese colonies is a reminder of the vanished greatness of what was once the leading colonializing empire in the world.

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SELECT APARTMENTS. BROOKLYN. EIGHTH AV. 704. (Corner Seventh St.)—Six rooms, bath, gas range, ice box, mantel, mirrors, closets, built-in private lavatory, electric lighting, good garden, furnished, reduced rent \$200. REFORMER, 273 Fulton st.

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