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This Issue of The Democrat Contains The New Kansas Primary Law in Full. Read It.

FOR TARIFF REFORM.

A Manufacturing Friend of a Former Resident of Here Says Things.

We recently received a letter from Geo. Moss, now located at Beloit, Wis., in which he called our attention to an article written for the Beloit (Wis.) News, by a friend of his, an ardent and life long Republican, in which this friend makes some very pointed remarks concerning the tariff question. The article is good enough for reproduction, and is as follows:

Beloit, Wis., Jan., 6, 1908.

Editor Daily News:—I am in receipt of your letter requesting an article from me on the tariff question from the Republican standpoint, and would say at the outset that I am glad that this most important question is being given prominence in your journal and believe a campaign of education can not be started too soon.

I believe that the views of the rank and file of our party on the tariff question have undergone a great change, and today the sentiment for prompt tariff reduction in our party is very strong. I also believe the active politicians of both parties has been out of line upon this question for at least six years. I say both parties because, notwithstanding the professions of Democrats in their platforms of tariff reform, they have made no effort in Congress for years to this end, and at the present time are obstructing Republican measure of tariff relief for the Philippine Islands. With solitary exception, I think we may conclude that, for some unaccountable reason, our representatives of both parties in Congress have shied a discussion of the tariff.

The American peoples may be classified thus: 10 per cent politicians; 10 per cent socialists, anarchists, and other reactionaries; and 80 per cent, or great middle class, who do not aspire to office but are very willing to let the politicians run the government so long as they do fairly well at it, and they are left free to attend to their ordinary avocations. As one of this last class I wish particularly to address my remarks to them.

Hitherto we have blindly followed the directions of our leaders. It was always enough for me that Spooner advised this or that; I assumed it was right and governed myself accordingly. When we were told that the tariff was the source of all our prosperity, I accepted this view, marched in processions, arranged bonfires, hired bands of music and in common with the rest of the boys persecuted the tariff reformers, even to strange cities, whooping her up for protection. Several years ago I well remember participating in a tariff argument in the crowded smoking room of a sleeping car. I contended that it made no difference how high the tariff wall was built, home competition would bring the price where it belonged, and illustrated my point by the then price of iron and steel, ordinary bars one cent per pound, nails 90 cents a keg, steel rails \$16.00 to \$18.00 a ton; and had rather the best of the argument. One gentleman, I noticed, said nothing whatever, and when the rest had left the room, said he had something to tell me.

He said he was employed in the statistical department in the government service; and that a combination in the steel industry which would effectually throttle all competition was already formed, and that it depended for its main prop upon the excessively high tariff. He asked me if I

knew what the tariff on iron and steel was. I admitted I did not, but assumed it should be about the same per ton as it was on lumber per thousand feet, namely two dollars. I have since asked the question of a great many well informed people, and never have found one who knew any more about it than I did, and when he gave me the tariff list on iron and steel, I was amazed beyond measure. Tariff on steel rail, \$7.00 per ton; bar iron and steel in sizes above one half inch, \$10.00 per ton; size one half inch and under, \$16.00 per ton; tin \$30.00 per ton; The steel trust was formed according to program and the monopoly practically is complete; prices have jumped up and staid up; no competition worthy of the name exists. St. Paul on his way to Damascus was not converted quicker than I was, and I saw clearly that what this combination would do, similar combination based on other commodities could also do, all of which has come to pass until the American people are fast dividing into cliques, each trying to get one cinch on his neighbor. Of necessity labor has taken a hand with its cinch, and the day of the square deal when each man had an even show with his neighbor seems to have gone forever. All that seems to be left for the man without a cinch of some kind is to go back to the soil. Even this sacred refuge is being invaded by the trust ogre. The price of live stock at the various stockyards of the country is now said to be made by one man every morning with a margin of 15 cents per 100 pounds, within which all buyers must operate or stand a \$500,000 fine each if they exceed the margin. This is what ails the present price of livestock.

I asked the statistician if he could give me the data on the cost of producing the various forms of iron and steel. He replied he could do so although government clerks were not supposed to give out anything of this kind to the public. He convinced me clearly that pig iron was being produced at a gross cost of from \$6.00 to \$9.00 per ton, steel rails and iron and steel bars from \$9.00 to \$12.00 per ton, going through the items in detail; and these figure have since been corroborated by the testimony of one of the leading officials of the steel trust on the witness stand in a Pittsburg court.

I asked why any such tariff as imposed by the Dingley schedule was necessary he replied that Carnegie and the steel lobby at Washington who wrote the schedule, could probably tell me.

The prophecy of the government officials in the sleeping car that night has since been fulfilled to the letter. The great iron and steel trust has been formed, controlling the entire output either by absolute ownership or community "of interests" as Morgan calls it. They say to the few independent operators, "Come with us and you will wear diamonds; oppose us, and you will come out between the upper and nether mill stones". As most of the Independents have to procure some percentage of their raw materials from the trust they have no alternative but compliance.

At the above cost figures it would seem that \$12.00 for pig iron, \$18.00 for rail, and \$20.00 per ton for bars, was a good price particularly as under consolidation a great many economies have been effected, so that the labor cost per ton of output is away below what it was in competition days. The purpose, however, of such consolidation is not philanthropic. For some time prices were more than doubled, and held today a

little less than double the old prices. We instance the steel trust as a fair illustration of most all of the others. A good trust, as defined by the President, is one that is willing to divide the benefit of consolidation with the people. At the present time, such trust are too few to catalogue.

The industries of Beloit ordinarily melt 15 tons of pig iron daily. Since this steel trust got fairly under way, they have paid from \$17.00 to \$25.00 for pig iron which had previously cost them from \$12.00 to \$15.00. Averaging this advance at \$8 a ton it has cost the Beloit industries a total of \$1,200 a day, or \$360,000 a year. This is a hideous annual bonus for one little factory town in Wisconsin to have to pay on account of tariff which has netted the government practically nothing; is the tariff is so prohibitory no iron comes in from abroad of any account, and this is its only the pig iron item. Who gets the benefit of this graft? The apologists for this crime maintain that it is necessary to pay the advanced cost of labor. As a matter of fact, the cost of labor per ton of output has been greatly reduced; a labor's share reminds one of a crumb thrown to a dog under the table. Machinery has been substituted for labor from start to finish; steam shovels dig the ore out of the mountain; self dumping trains run down hill to the docks almost by gravity; there enormous ore barges are loaded in two or three hours, and made the round trip from Duluth to South Chicago and return, including unloading, in five days. At the mills mechanical contrivances of every kind meet the eye, and the old time, highly paid labor is reduced to a minimum. A chemical laboratory and comparatively few machine tender and repairs, at ordinarily fair wages, and a small army of Jolaks at \$1.75 a day make up the ensemble for whose benefit this gigantic tariff is supposed to be necessary. Prosperity was due this country in 1898, and we have all been so busy since, not an account of the tariff, but in spite of it that the people have had no time to investigate it; when we do, we will find that the great middle class have had a about 5 per cent benefit, and a few people, principally New York, have had about 95 per cent. These have found out ways of interesting the money stream that flowed to that center, and have spent their time diligently, with wash tubs and buckets, dipping it up. In this monopoly they have been chiefly assisted by the tariff. Now prosperity has burned itself out. The common people all over this land are wandering the streets out of business. Money available for business enterprises seems to have vanished. Most manufacturing concerns find they have done an enormous volume of business in the year of alleged prosperity, but with a surprisingly small amount of net gain. Again we turn to our politicians for advice and relief. Be patient; the quadriennial contests of the two great political parties is at hand involved in making their respective platforms. Blindly we have stretched out our necks like young robins, with wide open yellow mouths call for food, which our political mother bird has promptly filled with hay, straw, stubble, marbles, wind pudding, and some other indigestibles. We find the diet uncomfortable, and, solemnly blinking, ask each other what has mamsie been giving us? This illustrates the dope we have been receiving from our politicians.

The reciprocity treaties, negotiated by America's most brilliant statesman, James G. Blaine, and gotten into fine working order only to be extinguished by the Cleveland administration, have not again been reinstated. No attention whatever seems to have been paid to the warning contained in the last speech upon earth of our martyred President, McKinley, in which he admonished the people that the time had come for material changes in the tariff schedule, and pointed out the danger of permitting the present tariff system to continue. Six years have passed, and in the six annual messages of our president, this subject seems to have been studiously ignored, or relegated to a more convenient season. Our politicians have had but one voice upon this question, "Don't touch the tariff lest you bring on a panic." Let well enough alone, and the like. Mean while the trusts are fast riveting upon the common people a commercial tyranny beside which the tyranny of Nero was not a circumstance, and we are rapidly drifting into peonage. The panic has come, and that under the highest tariff ever known in American. When is the best time to reduce the tariff? During prosperity? No or you will bring on a panic. During adversity? No, or you will then remain under panic conditions. When then? Well, the next day after never is a pretty good time. This is the only deduction we can draw from the attitude of our politicians. It will be remembered that Congress man Babeok introduced a bill to take the tariff from all trusts articles, and it created a great sensation. It died in the pigeon hole of the committee to whom it was referred. Mr. Babeok's creis grew less and less, and in a very short time ceased altogether. Coincidentally, he blossomed out as a chairman of one of the most important committees in the gift of the party. I think, the National Congressional Committee; of course, not as a reward for his silence but for his eminent fitness. Several other inclient attempts have been made by some of our party leaders to bring up the question of tariff reform in Congress, but seem to have been easily quieted down. In conclusion, I would say I believe we have lost six years of very valuable time and should lose no more. I know no better issue for Republicans, one more important to the common people, for a Presidential campaign, than a proposition to strip down with no gentle hand behind which a trusts oppression has sheltered itself. I am fully in accord with the tariff theory of Governor Cummin of Iowa; namely, that the high tariff has long since completed its mission in promoting industries, and that the expenses of our government are now so great that a tariff sufficient to raise the necessary government revenue will be found abundant to protect labor and industry.

I hope to see a general and fair discussion of this question now. There is no better illustration of James G. Blaine's reciprocity theory than is afforded right here in Beloit. For lack of it, our two principal industries have been obliged to expend nearly \$1,000,000 in building and equipping unnecessary shops in Canada. This seems to me to mean unnecessary waste of resources. If the tariff boundary had been wiped out by reciprocity between the two countries, and the tariff on iron and steel had been reduced horizontally to \$1.00 or \$2.00 a month six years ago, there would be no shut down reduction of forces or wage at the present time.

John Stoskopf of Beaver was a caller Tuesday.

Obituary.

Jennie Case, daughter of John Case of Eureka Township died at her home in that township Sunday evening at 10 o'clock Feb. 23, '08. She was born on the same farm, June 2nd, 1883; being a little over 24 years of age.

The news of her untimely death came as a sad and sudden shock to the community in which she lived. She played as a child and grew to womanhood in the home that she has so lately quited.

Jennie was a girl of pleasing manners and a loving disposition, a faithful daughter, a loving sister and a trustful friend. She counted among her friends every person that she knew and her cheerful presence will be missed from among them for many a day. That one with all the possibilities of a young life before her should be laid low so soon seems hard indeed. She bore her brief illness without complaint and faced the end without fear. She leaves a father, one brother, Frank, and four sisters: Susie, Libby, Bertha and Nellie to cherish her happy memory. Funeral services were held at the Mt. Pleasant Church on Tuesday and the body was laid to rest in the Great Bend Cemetery by the side of her mother, who crossed over several years ago. The writer voices the sentiment of the entire neighborhood in extending the deepest sympathies to the sorrowing family in this their sad hour of bereavement. ***

Athenian Club.

The Athenians met Monday with Mrs. E. W. Moses and enjoyed a patriotic afternoon. Each lady represented the wife of a president appearing in costume of the period during which she was First Lady of the Land. The appearance of Geo. Washington and Theodore Roosevelt was a surprise to the ladies and the source of much merriment. Washington was especially fine looking chivalry. Roosevelt in rough rider costume, was as usual chiefly noticeable for glasses and teeth. Martha Washington and Mrs. Cleveland played a duet to the stirring strains of which the ladies marched. The club sang America, Columbia and the Star Spangle Banner and each lady gave an anecdote of the president whose wife she represented. Many old treasures were exhibited among them a Queen Anne teapot over 400 years old, a pair of rare band wrought East India gold bracelets and chain, a miniature by Trumbull, a newspaper printed 100 years ago, a carved ivory case of knitting needles, some handsome old embroideries, a set of silver knives with steel gold plate blades which are over 100 years old, a Lafayette tureen some old copper and brass cooking utensils, a pair of old candle snuffer and many other interesting old relics.

Tea, coffee, wafers and bonbons were served at the close of this most delightful afternoon.

Club meets with Mrs. Chapman next Monday.

Chas. D. Montgomery of Chicago representing the Mergenthaler Linotype Co. was here Wednesday and closed a deal with this office for one of his company's machines. Mr. Montgomery was a resident of Dighton during the boom days.

The new band under the direction of Mr. Kramer is getting along fine there will be about thirty five members and will soon be able to furnish music for all occasions. They will need encouragement and possibly a little in the way of finances later. It costs money to equip and maintain an organization of that kind there is no money in it for a local band man, but always money out.

A letter from California.

Los Angeles, Cal, Feb, 20th, 1908.

The Democrat:— Thinking that a few lines from us might be of interest to our friends in Kansas, I will write a short letter. We had a very pleasant trip to this place. Our first stop was at San Bernardino. It began to rain just as we got to the hotel, and it rained all the time we were there, two days. We found our son Will there, and he was glad to see us. Our next stop was at Los Angeles, and it rained there for three days, and then the sun came out and we went to Whittier, twenty one mile from Los Angeles to visit our relation M. B. Hutchinson and Henry Griffin. They both have orange and lemon farms. I picked oranges one day on M. B.'s ranch. The navals are nearly all picked now. There are between four and five hundred acres in oranges and lemons at Whittier and that many acres of Walnuts. The land sells for \$200 and \$250 per acre. I found a ten-acre orange and lemon grove for sale at \$200 an acre and I told the man I would take five acres at that price but he would not sell unless he sold it all so we went to another small ranch of three acres with a seven room house one mile from town all kinds of fruit on the place and the price was \$6500.

I think this is the finest country I ever was in. It is like summer here all the time now. We are now back in Los Angeles. Last week we took a trip to Long Beach and spent the day with O. A. Martin and wife and had a nice visit. They are all well. Long Beach is a nice place. We got a few shells on the beach. Two years ago there was a whale caught at the beach and it is now in the park near the beach. It is 63½ feet long. The length of its jaws 16 feet, diameter 12 and three tenths feet, and from the looks of its mouth I don't think it would have any trouble swallowing Jonah.

Getting back to Los Angeles again, our next trip was to East Lake Park, the Ostrich farm, and the Indian village. It was grand scenery. Last Sunday we took dinner with D. J. Newton and had a nice visit. Last Thursday we went to a Minnesota picnic at East Lake Park, and found a number of friends that we had known in Minnesota. I saw a preacher on the cars the other day by the name of S. H. Eneyart. He told me that the Methodist church at Great Bend was built while he was on that charge. We have spent nearly two days at the Chamber of Commerce. Yesterday we went to the ladies circle. Our next trip will be to the Santa Catalina Islands. We take the steamer at San Pedro, and after that our next trip will be to San Francisco. Yours Truly,

W. E. Durand.

Justus Sandrock has a fine team of colts on at his farm that arrived there Saturday.

Joe Jindrak went home to Pawnee County Wednesday after a business visit here. Joe is on a farm out there and doing fine.

Clarence Aldrich returned from a week's visit with his parents Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Aldrich and other relatives near Alva, Oklahoma. Mr. Aldrich has a farm down there that he was also looking after.

J. W. Hainline of La Junta, Colorado came in from the east Tuesday evening and will visit his daughters, Misses Irma and Josie Hainline and son, Jack Hainline and other friends. Mr. Hainline is the patentee of a dust collector that is being used especially in school houses, that promises to be a big financial success.