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SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1909.

Senator Aldrich's Challenge.

On Thursday Senator Aldrich challenged the Democratic side of the Chamber in this emphatic fashion:

"I have heard the protective system destroyed in words at every session of every Congress for thirty years, but there never has been a time in the history of this country when it was so fully approved by the American people as it is at this moment. This great American policy is so strong in every corner of the country from one end to the other, from Maine to Texas, that it cannot be overthrown by declamation. The hearts and the interests of the American people are welded to the wise policy of protection."

"Years ago there were Senators of great ability sitting upon the other side of the Chamber who believed in the policy of free trade or a tariff for revenue only. I could recite names that are known in American history of men who believed in the policy of free trade or a revenue tariff. Where are they to-day? Who have taken their places in this body?"

But two Senators responded to this challenge. Mr. Rayner, whose remarks called it forth, and Mr. Bailey, who denied that the Democratic party had abandoned its ancient and traditional doctrine, but demanded that the principles of protection be fairly and impartially applied. Senator Aldrich had already declared his purpose to be just to every interest in every Southern State entitled to protection, and had invited the Democratic Senators to call on him at his committee room and say what they wanted. Would those Senators be willing to have their conversations with Mr. Aldrich reported as public hearings in accordance with the spirit of the Bacon resolution? Probably not; and so we do not expect to hear anything more of that resolution, the purpose of which was to make the sessions of the Finance Committee open and aboveboard.

It would be better if they were, but we confidently anticipate that Mr. Aldrich will hold court to the end of the chapter, and that no rank outsider will be the wiser for what happens in the royal presence.

Senator Bailey presented in his most attractive form the new Democratic idea of getting the most out of a protective tariff bill. He puts it this way:

"If we were making a tariff bill along the lines of purely revenue duties, I would be in favor of applying those revenue duties fairly and impartially to all sections and to all commodities. But when we are denied the power of framing a bill according to our principles, and are presented with a bill framed according to the principles of our adversaries, we demand that they shall do when they have the power precisely as we would have done if we had the power, and shall so frame their bill as to operate equally and fairly in all sections and all commodities. It is not an abandonment of the principles of the Democratic party for a Senator to insist that the same principles which apply to other commodities shall likewise be applied to his. To say that these principles shall be applied without discrimination does not signify that we are in favor of applying them."

Now, the trouble with this policy is that it brings about the very conditions described by Senator Aldrich. It operates to extend the field of protection, to multiply its beneficiaries, and to trench the system in the industrial structure of the country, so that it is impossible to remove it. By so doing the Democrats are undermining their own position. While theoretically they may assert one thing, practically they are demanding another. As Mr. Aldrich says, protection cannot be overturned by declamation, and yet that is what the Democrats are trying to do, while they insist that the policy shall be applied in their own constituencies. This attitude virtually estops them from any effective opposition to the protective policy. Moreover, it hampers the efforts of tariff reformers in the Republican party to cut obnoxious tariff schedules, as in the case of lumber, coal, and iron ore.

That Mr. Aldrich overstated the strength of protection is improbable. In spite of the growth of reform sentiment within the Republican party, protection is as strong as ever, because it is now upheld by Southern Democrats theoretically opposed to it, but forced to suppress their active opposition by the opinion of their constituents. Mr. Aldrich understands well how to make the most of this situation, and the country will soon see how the South will be employed to counteract the reform sentiment of the Middle West.

After all, it appears the south pole was only discovered after the fashion in which the Democrats carry the national elections in the Augusts, Septembers, and Octobers of Presidential years.

Enforcing the Poll-tax Law.

Our Virginia contemporaries should read with care the opinion of Judge Staples, of the Roanoke Corporation Court, invalidating the local option election in that town, for its bearing on the prepayment of poll taxes by others than the voter and for suggestion of a possible remedy. In that case it was shown that poll taxes were paid in lump sums by political leaders. In two instances amounting to \$300 for the taxes of about 150 voters. It was the practice of the county treasurer to receive such payments without question and to place the names of the citizens whose poll taxes were paid by proxy on the list of voters as if they had been personally paid. In two years frequent payments by proxy were made, it being estimated that about 10 per cent of the poll taxes were paid in that way. It is the duty of the county

treasurer to certify a list of voters who have personally paid their poll taxes, and this list is in effect a second registration list. Because this list was so carelessly made up that it did not show whether some 375 voters were entitled to vote Judge Staples invalidated the election.

Judge Staples' opinion confirms our impression that the payment of poll taxes by political leaders and the corruption of the electorate thereby could be stopped by requiring the county treasurers to attend more strictly to their duties as defined in the constitution. The courts have held that it is the duty of the treasurer to ascertain to his own satisfaction whether the poll tax has been paid personally by the voter in accordance with the constitutional provision that it shall be so paid, and consequently he is guilty of a neglect of duty for which he can be and should be called to account if he accepts lump sums in payment of poll taxes without knowing whether the payment is in fact out of the personal funds of the voter. In making up a list of qualified voters the treasurer is required to affirm under oath that they have personally paid their poll taxes, and mandamus may issue to compel the performance of that duty.

Of course, where a political machine, of which the treasurer is a member, is in control of all the offices, it may be difficult to enforce the law. But elsewhere some energy on the part of public-spirited citizens would reduce the poll-tax evil to a minimum, if it were directed to seeing that the county treasurer complied strictly with his sworn duty.

Mr. Sereno Payne may be a great statesman, but he is probably no diplomat. He ought to know better than to advise the women to wear fewer gloves and shorter, in order to get even on the tariff tax. Or maybe he is deep and designing, and feels sure that very advice will influence them to wear more gloves and longer.

Hold the Fort, We Are Coming!

Plainly enough, it is up to The Washington Herald to rally forth to the rescue of Deacon Hemphill, of the Charleston News and Courier. The North Carolina villains are on his trail—pursuing him strenuously, indeed. That you may understand immediately just what his plight is—they are writing poetry about him! Heavens! That awful, awful product of Tarheels—a straddle Pegasus!

Moreover, the vanguard of this dastardly North Carolina posse poetasters is directed in its pernicious activity by that arch enemy of facts and strenuous disseminator of misinformation, Elder Caldwell, of the Charlotte Observer. And it is all because the deacon, as a good, conscientious deacon, mindful of the truth of history, should refuse to swallow that old fairy tale about a so-called Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence—a myth, pure and simple, and long ago shattered even more effectively than its twin iniquity of distorted veracity, the contention that Andrew Jackson was born in North Carolina.

Witness this outpouring from one of the Caldwell literary night riders:

In Charleston, South Carolina, That fair city where the stars and stripes Lives the Deacon in his glory, As happy as can be, A wise man in the Deacon, In all things up to date, Save when it comes to history, And the good old Tar Heel State!

He simply cannot understand (And his wife it surely heard), Why good old Andy Jackson, Wasn't born in his own back yard; And our Mecklenburg Declaration, Pride of Tar Heels' and small, Why, to listen to the Deacon, It happened not at all.

But we love you lots, Deacon, And like to read your stuff, And we hope you'll keep on, Deacon, We will never call you bluff, For we are on to you now, Deacon, That you have kept us on pins, But our greatest consolation Is that heaven, you can't win!

We are not saying this poetry is not quite worthy of the cause in which it is enlisted—poetry being very much in the habit of enlisting now and then, you know. It is as sound and well-fashioned as the average Tarheel argument in support of the Mecklenburg mistake and the Jackson jocosity. The bard contends that the deacon cannot understand "why good old Andy Jackson wasn't born in his own backyard." This shows the slipshod methods employed by these diversions of history to their own sinister ends. The deacon, as a matter of fact, understands very well why Old Hickory "wasn't born in his own backyard." There is absolutely no evidence to show that Andrew Jackson owned a backyard at that interesting period in his career; to believe such foolishness would involve the necessity of accepting it as a fact that Andrew Jackson owned a backyard before there was any such person as Andrew Jackson—a manifest and palpable absurdity, but entirely characteristic of Tarheel claimants, nevertheless.

We think we may rest on our oars here. Already we have exploded much Tarheel fallacy, albeit much more yet remains. We merely wish to cease firing at this point with one further dissenting opinion. We distinctly and emphatically do not think Heaven that Deacon Hemphill "ain't twins." The more deacons, the merrier. We cannot have too many of them. They are great sticklers for exactness and precision—and to whom else should the important written records of history be intrusted?

Hooroo for Mooley! Hooroo for Mooley! Hooroo for Mooley-oo-oo-oo-oo!

"In his last analysis, tariff is plain graft," says Mr. Joseph Folk. Oh, perhaps! But our tariff Alphonse and Gastons never carry the argument to its last analysis, Mr. Folk.

Let us hope, nevertheless, that the tariff tinkers will temper the wind to the stocking situation eventually.

By and by it may occur to the patient consumer to abolish the breakfast table altogether, and let it go at that.

Even if that Ohio minister succeeds in having church suppers abolished, however, it is not at all probable that oysters will be any cheaper.

There are a lot of common people in this land who would delight to illuminate the tariff situation with numerous more or less pertinent remarks, only they are

not quite sure, so far as they know, what that maximum and minimum business means.

"H—I is in Texas," says the Brownsville Herald. We applaud the veracity of this Texas member of the Herald family, even though we are more or less shocked by the strenuousness of its language.

Oh, insurgency, insurgency! How many comedies are enacted in thy name!

Less chewing the rag; more chewing the cud—revised status at the White House. Slanby, but it will have to stand.

"Mrs. Hetty Green has left Hoboken," notes the Omaha Bee. For the life of us, we cannot imagine one good reason why she should not have done just that.

The Payne tariff schedules at this date are like the average railway schedules—not guaranteed for to-morrow.

"Admiral Evans says the Pacific Coast needs twenty battle ships," according to the Boston Transcript. What it really needs, however, is one battle ship and twenty Admiral Evanses.

There is no April fool like an old April fool. They are all exceedingly young and fresh.

"A university president says intellectual laziness is the cause of lying," notes the Baltimore American. It seems to be generally agreed nowadays that lying is considerably more respectable than it used to be, strangely enough.

"The American flag has been hauled down in Cuba," says a contemporary. And, incidentally, for the last time.

All things come to "Uncle Joes" who wait, it appears.

We suspect that Crazy Snake is destined to learn that the modern warpaths of Indian glory lead but to the calaboose.

"Nothing has ever been discovered on Venus," that's so—if the pictures we've seen of her are authentic," says the Cleveland Leader. Evidently Venus was right in the "Salome" class.

Have you ever noticed how many Congressmen begin thus: "I lay down the proposition"—and then do not do anything of the kind for two or three hours?

Who dares to say there is not a slap at Mr. John D. Rockefeller in the proposed Payne tariff bill? The duty on wigs will be increased 25 per cent if that bill is made the law.

"All is lost save honor," says Castro the Peppery. And that appears to have strayed or been stolen.

The "grr" and the "teegee" will strike the colonel as fit subjects for a simplified spelling operation, doubtless.

"Garden 'saws' in Tennessee was never more cutting," says the Memphis Commercial-Appal. And even an editorial "saw" draws something better than a shooting scrape down that way this spring, eh?

Sympathy with the Dog.

A dog went mad at the sight of a spring hat and bit the woman who wore it. This is going to rather strong, but some way or other we have a lot of sympathy for that dog.

Reducing Value of a Kick.

In this "let-us-alone" period kicking is to be discouraged. The football experts accordingly have reduced the value of a goal from the field from 4 to 3 points.

Peaches in 'Em.

Perhaps they are called "peach basket" because most of them contain at least one peach.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A GOOD MARKET. The market's good for poetry; each magazine wants filler. And promptly pays For roundly. To print below a thriller.

The market's good for poetry; no bounds the poet's fetter. And quatrains sell Exceeding well And madrigals sell better.

The worst attempt at poetry will editors examine. Get busy, bo, For verses go Like waffles in a famine.

Prosperous Times.

"Times are prosperous, they say." "Never better. I just sold a poet a cash register, and he wanted the best, too."

By Easy Stages.

"I have a friend who was lost in the wilds of the desert for two years. Any sudden shock would kill him. He even has to get used to civilized food by slow degrees."

Food for Trouble.

The man who is some pumpkins, Or thinks he is a few, Gets, like us other pumpkins, Quite often a stew.

A Glided Youth.

"I believe I'll go in for ballooning a bit. It seems to be the thing."

"What kind of a balloon shall you buy?" "I'll have a touring affair, a cloud climber, a halloonette, and a light fly-boat for town use."

On a Jury.

"Why do you think a timid man and don't worry sit on no jury. I wouldn't like to settle a case the wrong way. I wouldn't like to do nobody a wrong."

Of Course Not.

"Engaged to me, and letting another chap hold your hand?" "Well, now, would you deprive me of such a splendid chance to show the ring?"

CONGRESS' PRIZE RING.

Fault Found with its Despicable Lack of Technique.

If the tariff is to be revised according to Marquis of Queensberry rules the decision on the important schedules ought not to be left to amateurs like Representatives Byrd and Fordney. Some real experts should be engaged, so that the thing can be done right. All the near-fights and real fights which have taken place in Congress have been a disgrace to the "manly art."

From the time that Brooks hit Sumner from behind to the present day, not even excepting "Tillman's Charge," every attempt, in either House or Senate, to decide important matters of legislation by personal assault have been a failure. This may not have been entirely due to the lack of "science" of the gentlemen in the ring, but every one of the belligerents in the attempts to reduce legislation to fistfights has shown such a deplorable lack of the knowledge of the latter art that it has been really mortifying.

If this sort of thing is to continue either the members of Congress ought to go into training at once or men ought to be sent there who already know the business of reducing an argument to its last terms by personal encounter. Probably only one man ever sat in Congress who was perfectly competent to legislate for the country upon the system which some of the members apparently deem so effective. He was John Morrissy, and it is not upon record that anybody ever gave him an opportunity to exhibit his statesmanship in the "ring" of the House.

Has the Wherewith.

Mr. Carnegie belongs to the Optimists' Club, of course, but, then, he can afford to.

MR. TAFT'S NEW MOVE.

Mr. Taft's establishment of a "Budget Committee" to supervise all department estimates before they are submitted to Congress may well prove to be the beginning of a great reform in our present vicious financial practice. True, the new committee, of which the Secretary of the Treasury is to be the chairman, lacks the sanction of law, and may be disbanded by any future President unless meanwhile established by Congress. But no President would, we think, object to so rational a plan of bringing some system into the crude methods by which our national funds are appropriated and expended. Moreover, in this country, as in England, some of the most important customs government work is done by the Treasury department, and it is in the Treasury that the most important work of the government is done. It is in the Treasury that the most important work of the government is done. It is in the Treasury that the most important work of the government is done.

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