

The Freeman

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Official Paper of City and County.

Any man who denounces wrong in high places invites the charge of demagogue.

Who will the joke be on if Canada refuses to ratify that reciprocity agreement?

We all like to see prices drop in the things we consume, but when it comes to dropping 'em in the things we produce it is a mule of another complexion.

Col. Roosevelt is doing a magnificent job of keeping quiet these days. This is another evidence of the versatility of the distinguished colonel.

These are the days of horseless carriages, wireless telegraphy and Bryanless Democracy.—Gate City.

If we could only add, "and jack-asses republicanism," the record would be all that could be desired.

If the enemies of President Taft have nothing more convincing than the so-called "Dick letter" to discredit the president's course in the Controller bay controversy, the sooner they shut up, the better.

The esteemed Webster City Herald keeps up a continual criticism of Senator Kenyon. If Kenyon had only made that promise to a certain state senator during the session of the legislature last winter, how different the attitude of that paper might be at this time.

President Taft, who denounced the wool schedule as indefensible some time ago, will put himself in a peculiar position by vetoing the LaFollette reduction bill when it comes to him for his approval. The Freeman-Tribune believes the president will sign it when it comes to the pinch.

It is noted with considerable satisfaction by the Freeman-Tribune that some of the big combinations of wealth are showing a disposition to obey the law. The latest is the electrical trust, which, according to report, is going to dissolve without fighting through the courts to the last ditch.

Southern democratic senators thought it great sport to "stand up for the people" when the proposition to take the tariff from wheat, oats, barley, etc., was under consideration, but when it comes to the question of a downward revision of the cotton schedules these same senators are suddenly seized with a severe case of cold feet.

It is the judgment of Judge Prouty that at least seventy-five per cent of the people of Iowa are opposed to the Canadian reciprocity agreement and the judge, according to a Washington special, is opposed to a fight in the next republican state convention, either against Taft or in favor of endorsing the delegation in congress.

Senator Bailey of Texas, who holds to the theory that the tariff on farm products is of little or no benefit to the farmer, opposes the present reciprocity agreement on the ground that we should not reduce the tariff on farm products unless getting something worth while. Such action robs us of the chance to make satisfactory trades later on, as we will have less to offer.

It is a waste of energy and space for the newspapers of this country to longer argue for or against the Canadian reciprocity agreement. It has been ratified by congress and is now before the people of Canada. If Canada accepts it we shall see it demonstrated by actual experience and thus discover its merits or demerits. The question is not one of such vital importance as may be believed. It is not a treaty and has no fixed tenure. If either country wants to repudiate it at the end of

a year they can do it. Surely the United States will not suffer much in that time even though the agreement is a mistake and if it proves a good thing we shall want it continued indefinitely.

President Taft is not thanking the democrats in congress for giving him such a scare about the wool schedule. The president may have courage, but there are times when the most courageous falter, even in the line of duty. Mr. Taft knows that if the wool bill passes congress it will be up to him to endorse or reject it, and that he will lose prestige no matter what he does, hence a little sidestepping on his part.

Down in Carthage, Mo., they are having a bitter fight over the post-mastership and one of the editors of the town has offered himself as a sacrifice. He declares that he will accept the office if no agreement as to other candidates can be reached and he knows his creditors would receive news of his appointment with delight. He hints that if his creditors are pleased there would be few to object. He certainly makes out a strong case for himself.

It might be observed that automobile drivers are not the only ones who disregard the law. It will be recalled by those having good memories that there is something somewhere in some of the laws of Iowa requiring the roads to be dragged and directing the cutting of weeds along the highways. One riding through some sections of the country would note no evidence of the enforcement of these laws. Still, that is no excuse for reckless driving.

Before accepting any more advice from such progressive newspapers as the Webster City Freeman and Jewell Record, in reference to who shall or shall not represent this district in congress, the people have a right to know why those newspapers supported Standpatter Conner, who never voted right, and are opposing Progressive Woods, who has never voted wrong.—Webster City Herald.

It was hardly expected that the Herald would confess that Conner didn't vote right when he voted for the editor of the Herald for United States district attorney.

"If Des Moines kickers paid their grocery bills with more promptness, possibly the grocers could sell cheaper."—Iowa City Republican.

Perhaps. But the Des Moines grocers or any other grocers should not add to the price of goods sold to people who do pay promptly in order to recoup losses on customers who do not pay at all. It is the business of the grocer to reduce expenses and he has no right to make the honest customer bear the burden of his mistakes in permitting deadbeats to get the better of him. Make the deadheads pay cash.

The Chicago Tribune has taken another of its celebrated polls (?) and finds nearly everybody in favor of an indefinite crusade of tariff ripping. The Tribune is the leading tariff ripping organ of the west.—Des Moines Capital.

The Capital evidently now understands the merit of these polls better than it did before the fraud poll perpetrated by itself was foisted upon the people of Iowa. It is safe to predict that even the author of the famous Conger dispatch forgery will not undertake a second poll (?) to refute the poll of the Chicago paper.

The Freeman-Tribune cannot bring itself to believe that an appropriation from the United States treasury to commemorate anything done by Confederate soldiers is the proper thing. It is well enough to be magnanimous and let the dead past bury its dead, but it is not well enough to raise monuments at the expense of the government in commemoration of men who tried to destroy that government. The bloody shirt has passed and it is well that it has. But one side was right and the other wrong in the great conflict of 1861-5 and the Freeman-Tribune believes the side that was right and wrong should not assist in glorifying and uplifting the side that was wrong and lost. We admire the courage and valor of the rebel sold-

iers. They were foemen worthy of the steel, but they were traitors to the United States government just the same and no government can afford to erect monuments to the memory of traitors.

Down at Washington they never seem to tire in trying to pull the wool over one another's eyes.—Sioux City Journal.

The Journal will not fail to note that Senate insurgents and Democrats united to pull a little of the wool off the people's eyes.—Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.

That's a fact, but it might also be noted that senate standpatters and democrats united to keep the eyes of the people covered with lumber and it looks as though the same combination is getting ready to add a little cotton to the bandages. Lumber and cotton, you may observe, is the product of democratic states and you may also have observed that that makes all the difference in the world.

State Binder Chassell is receiving a remuneration from the state for his duties as binder that should entitle the state to his whole time, but he is apparently putting in this time that belongs to the state in a canvass for another soft place in the state capitol when his term as binder expires.—Eagle Grove Eagle.

The Des Moines Capital, as might be expected, reproduced the foregoing in its columns without comment. However, when Col. Young was drawing a salary of \$20 a day as United States senator and was spending most of his time in Des Moines promoting his candidacy for re-election, neither the Eagle nor the Capital saw anything demanding criticism in his conduct. And what is more: Judge Kenyon, the leading candidate against Mr. Young, was at that time busily engaged in the service of the government and took time for only a few days in Des Moines during all the months of the senatorial contest. The Eagle and the Capital were not so insistent then that public officials should devote all their time to the duties of their office. Verily, "politics is a great game."

MORE ABOUT RECIPROCITY.

Mr. Editors: I confess to no little surprise at the long and labored effort in Wednesday's Freeman-Tribune to misrepresent me and my views on reciprocity and to slam me on my ability to make sharp bargains and on my superficial knowledge of history and information as to the views of McKinley and Blaine on reciprocity. Is it possible that such deep, broad and profound minds, such upholders of truth and clean politics as you claim to be could so soon forget what I said in your paper over my own signature a few days ago? I said in substance, and now repeat it, that neither Blaine nor McKinley ever advocated free trade in competitive products; that the reciprocity they had in mind and advocated was not free trade in what the farmer had to sell and protection in what he had to buy, as is substantially proposed in the so-called Taft treaty.

I was always an outspoken, enthusiastic supporter and admirer of Blaine and McKinley and heartily in favor of what I understood to be their views on reciprocity and I believe in the doctrine as they taught it stronger today than ever and no one knows this better than you and what puzzles and surprises me is that you should persist in misrepresenting the truth. I know that Blaine negotiated reciprocity treaties with Brazil, Guatemala, the West Indies and other tropical countries that produce what we want to buy and not what we have to sell and it was these articles that were embraced in the Blaine reciprocal treaties. When these treaties were negotiated Blaine said that "It would be a betrayal of the agricultural interests to make a reciprocity treaty with Canada."

I do not know why these southern treaties were abrogated. Will you not please enlighten us? I have always believed that they were beneficial and should be in force today with others of like character. I hope you will not again deceive yourself or others by classing them with the present proposed treaty and will you not in dealing with my shortcomings tell your readers where you stand on this treaty forced through Congress under club pressure and largely with the aid of democratic free traders? This will be far more interesting to your readers than is my superficial information as to why McKinley, for cowardly reasons, (as you claim) al-

lowed the Kasson treaties to lapse into "innocuous death." In dealing further with my superficial knowledge of this subject please remember that my mind was not broadened and deepened and my education obtained by licking my stamps and looking through the general delivery window of the postoffice in a small town.

Your advice as to selling Hamilton county land and buying Canada land is bad, yet many will no doubt take it only to repent when this unjust treaty is wiped from the statute books as it will be as soon as the grand old republican party is returned to power as it is sure to be after we have a full dose of free trade now in sight.

As to my shrewdness in deals and dollars I must admit that I do my own thinking along these lines and when I get my next dividend from the Freeman-Tribune stock I may consider Canadian investments. You see I do not control a "soulless corporation" with the right to fix my own salary and absorb its earnings which it is expected can be further increased by free admissions under the reciprocity treaty. However, it may turn out to be a blessing in disguise to the minority stockholders. Who knows?

J. L. Kamrar.

The Freeman-Tribune is not only surprised, it is shocked, at this display of temper on the part of Senator Kamrar, a gentleman usually of moderation, even poise, genteel manners and refined conversational qualities. This paper disclaims all intention of trying to belittle the senator, or of questioning his knowledge and mastery of the problems that so often baffle lesser lights. It was merely pointing, to a few things that he had forgotten for the moment, not presuming that he did not know. He had evidently forgotten that President McKinley had recommended the ratification of the Kasson agreements when he transmitted them to the senate, else he would not have made the statement that the president permitted them to die because they were not worth saving.

The Freeman-Tribune has not presumed to define the attitude either Blaine or McKinley would take in regard to the reciprocity agreement urged by President Taft. It has no way of knowing what they would think of it. Both gentlemen favored, as everybody knows, reciprocity when in their judgment just agreements could be arranged. McKinley said in his last address in Buffalo that the day of exclusiveness had passed, and that if we had tariffs no longer needed for protection, they might be used to increase our markets abroad. Whether or not McKinley would now believe the tariff upon farm products is needed longer no one knows. Of course it is easy to assume what he would believe, and Mr. Kamrar can do that if he so desires.

In speaking of the futility of trying to establish the real attitude of public men by quoting only short and disconnected paragraphs from their writings and addresses, regardless of times and occasions, the Register and Leader of recent date well says:

Mr. Cousins gave the state an illustration of what may be done by this method of interpretation in his quotations from the speeches of Senator Dolliver. Probably nobody in the audience failed to understand the course Dolliver had pursued with regard to the tariff. And yet Mr. Cousins succeeded in making a record that, taken by itself, would put the senator in a wholly wrong light.

There has never been a more heated dispute in our politics than over what Blaine meant by reciprocity. Blaine had been the champion of the protective system so long and had made so many arguments suited to special occasions and special interests that it was easy to secure from the record almost any sort of condemnation of lowering the bars to foreign trade.

And yet there is no reason for this dispute, for Blaine set down in black and white just what he aimed at, and that in a formal letter to President Harrison, urging upon him the encouragement of an American commercial union. In this letter, which may be found on page 684 of Gall Hamilton's life of her distinguished kinsman, Blaine said: To escape the delay and uncertainty of treaties it has been suggested that a practicable and prompt mode of testing the ques-

tion was to submit an amendment to the pending tariff bill, authorizing the president to declare the products of the United States free to all the products of any nation of the American hemisphere upon which no export duties are imposed, whenever and so long as such nation shall admit to its ports free of all national, state or municipal or other taxes, our flour, etc.

There can be no misunderstanding of this paragraph, and it is a paragraph he would not have written to the president, as a working platform for the administration of which he was a part, if it did not convey his full meaning. Neither would he so staunch a protectionist as Gall Hamilton have given this letter the place or honor if it had not summed up his philosophy of trade.

No one can go over the record of Blaine's service in the Harrison cabinet without coming to the conclusion that he contemplated a commercial union of the western hemisphere under which markets would be substantially as free as they are today between the states of our own union.

The senator confesses to not knowing why the "southern treaties were abrogated," and seeks information on that point. In the first place, they were not "treaties," but only agreements which had received the ratification of congress and President Harrison. Had they been treaties, abrogation would not have been so easy. But just as soon as the democratic party secured power in 1893 they began to upset a number of the good things they found in operation, and one of the first works of the republican party and of James G. Blaine to fall under democratic rule, was the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the Harrison administration.

The senator departs somewhat from the subject when he calls attention to the fact that he did not receive his education licking stamps and looking through the general delivery window of a postoffice. At the time the editor of the Freeman-Tribune was engaged in that occupation the senator had just graduated from a wagon and blacksmith shop in Webster City—a fact, no doubt, Mr. Kamrar is proud of. We had supposed the position of post-office clerk was no less honorable. But this is all foreign to reciprocity and has no logical place in this discussion.

As to whether we have misrepresented Mr. Kamrar, the reader may judge. Who is dealing in misrepresentation when Senator Kamrar infers that the Freeman-Tribune has advised the selling of Hamilton county land and buying Canadian real estate? It merely suggested that a gentleman of the business sagacity of the senator might be expected to dispose of some holdings here and invest in Canadian lands if he believed reciprocity would prove so disastrous to Hamilton county farmers and so profitable to Canadian land owners as he professed.

Mr. Kamrar seems to be somewhat concerned over Freeman-Tribune dividends. But to show that the senator does not really believe the insinuations he flings at the Freeman-Tribune, it may not be inappropriate or discourteous to reproduce the following:
Webster City, Jan. 27, 1910—The Freeman-Tribune Pub. Co., Webster City, Iowa. Gentlemen: I wish to thank you for your favor of the 25th inst. with check for \$42, a 7 per cent dividend on my stock. This is certainly a good showing. I consider the F-T. Pub. Co. one of the best business propositions in our city. Wishing it continued success and prosperity, I am, very sincerely yours,
J. L. Kamrar.

Spread of Leprosy not Expected.

Northwood, Ia., Aug. 4.—Dr. H. M. Bracken of the state board of health of Minnesota declares there is no danger of a spread of leprosy on account of the case now existing in Moscow township, north of here. In fact, there would be but little known of this case were it not for the fact of who should care for her and the trouble the authorities are experiencing in placing the children. The laws of Minnesota provide that the county shall take care of paupers and the township of diseased persons.

Mrs. Louis Hanson is the afflicted person and she is a sister of the man who recently died where she has been living in Moscow township. Mrs. Hanson makes light of her

COTTON BILL IS PASSED

Democrats and Insurgents Unite to Pass Another Revisionary Bill.

IS NOT AN AMENDMENT

New Piece of Legislation Goes Through Untouched and is Followed by Loud Cheers From Coalition Members.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 4.—Supported by all the democrats and by thirty insurgent republicans, the democratic cotton tariff bill, the third of the big tariff revision measures brought forward by the democratic house of representatives, passed that body early last evening 202 to 91. The bill cuts the average tariff on cotton manufactured goods from 48 to 27 per cent ad valorem, a 21 per cent reduction in duty that the democratic leaders estimate to reduce revenue by about \$3,000,000.

Not an amendment was offered to the bill, although the republicans attacked it vigorously on account of alleged increase in certain items over the rates of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law.

Scarcely had the cheers that greeted the passage of the cotton revision bill subsided when Democratic Leader Underwood, calling up the free list bill as it passed the senate a few days ago, accomplished as strategic move which surprised the republicans.

He asked for a conference on all the amendments to the free list bill, except that of Senator Gronna of North Dakota putting cement on the free list. He urged that the house accept that amendment, adding to it lemons.

Pacific coast republicans made ineffectual attempts to stop this sudden and unexpected putting of lemons on the free list, but the amendment carried.

Last night the republican leaders in both houses of congress called in absent members from all parts of the country in preparation for a threatened attempt of the democrats to pass the wool tariff bill over President Taft's veto. The democratic leaders in the house have asserted, within the last twenty-four hours, that they have the necessary two-thirds majority to pass the wool bill over the president's veto, and have been doing effective missionary work in the senate today. The republican managers in the house insisted last night that they have enough votes to prevent the two-thirds majority in support of the wool bill.

trouble, thinking that it is nothing more than erysipelas, but there is no question but that it is leprosy. Dr. Bracken thinks that if the children can be separated from their mother soon there will be no danger of them contracting the disease. Mrs. Hanson, it is said, contracted the leprosy while taking care of her brother.

Fine job work at this office.

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