

THE SALT LAKE HERALD-REPUBLICAN

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TWO REAL LEGISLATURE-FIXERS.

PARLEY L. WILLIAMS, counsel for the Oregon Short Line railroad, has been in New York for some days. Mr. Williams, it was announced when he left, went there to attend to some important railroad business, which is probably about half the truth.

The Rio Grande railroad owns the Utah Fuel company stock, bonds, mines and everything else, and that represents practically 99 per cent of all the coal mined in Utah. The Harriman interests own the Union Pacific Coal company, which controls the Wyoming mines.

Back in the New York offices of the Utah railroads, Parley L. Williams and W. H. Bancroft have been regarded as controlling the Utah situation, an opinion tenderly nurtured and carefully fostered by the said Williams and Bancroft.

Therefore, the situation having become acute again, Mr. Williams is called east to assure his bosses that when he enters the Utah legislative chamber next month in his role as lobbyist every senator will hasten to learn his wishes, so as to obey him instantly, and each representative will tremble as the earth oscillates from the thunder of the Williams tread.

Which is, of course, about as near the truth as two piffles and a splash. Neither Williams nor Bancroft ever had, or ever will have, any influence with a Utah legislature. The members of the legislature know little about them, and care less. They are useful to set afloat the story every two years, just before the biennial session of the Utah legislature, about the "new line to St. George," or the "new line," somewhere else, each line, of course, running in close proximity to the doorsteps of those legislators concerning whose views on the railroad commission question they are in doubt.

It is amusing to the Utah man who watches public affairs to learn of the opinion the railroad chiefs in the east have of Williams and Bancroft as "legislature fixers." Neither of them controls a vote in the legislature, and all that is necessary to insure a Utah legislator's for a bill is to have Parley L. Williams ask him to vote against it.

The sooner the coal trust finds that its pair of doughty defenders have no more chance of protecting it from outraged public sentiment in Utah than a gasoline dog has in chasing an asbestos cat through the place Dante wrote about, the better it will be for all concerned.

The idea of Parley L. Williams having any influence with the Utah legislature is enough to make Niebe shriek with laughter and E. H. Harriman turn in his grave. This is certainly the silly season.

PAYNE TARIFF BILL.

There is much food for thought in the showing of imports under more than a year of operation of the Payne tariff bill. The charges of our Democratic friends that the operation of the law was responsible for the high cost of living, that it gave the great trusts exclusive control of the American market and that it was impossible for there to be any competition with them are easily shown to be unfounded by a study of the reports of the treasury department as to the operations of the law.

The true test as to whether a tariff is prohibitive and is not a restriction upon the prices of American manufacturers is the importations, as is carefully pointed out by Senator Depey of New York. Under the operations of the new tariff law there have been nearly four millions more in value of cotton goods imported than there was last year under the old. Under the new tariff there have been five and one-half millions of dollars more of woolen goods imported than under the old last year. Nearly the entire cost of these cotton goods is manufacture, and one can readily understand what the benefit would have been to the workingmen of America if the labor had been done in this country.

By the workings of the Payne tariff the duty was increased upon champagne, which is not a necessity of life. The duties were increased upon imported wines, brandies and liquors, which are not vital to our existence; upon jewelry, silks and other luxurious articles of adornment for women who can afford those things and upon whom the imposition of the duty is not a hardship. The tariff was increased only upon luxuries, a fact which the Democratic orators carefully concealed from the voters during the campaign which closed in November.

The Payne tariff lowered the duty on shoes, sole leather and harness, on lumber, dressed meat, iron, steel, ore, hard coal, soft coal, wood pulp and paper, barbed wire, peas, cabbages, sugar, sugar beets, salt, lard, bacon and hams, which are necessities of life. The tariff measure now in effect, and which is so severely under the fire of the Democrats and their Republican insurgent allies was designed in the interest of the poor man. The average voter believed that the high cost of living was directly due to the Payne tariff bill, and he took his revenge upon the party that framed and passed that bill.

Had the voter been buying ex-

pensive jewelry, imported wines, silks and the like, then he would have been dealing directly with the Payne tariff and his purchases would have cost him more money as the result of it. Few of us, however, were doing that, and it is a simple fact that the tariff measure in no wise increased the cost of living. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson's annual report shows that the products of the farm, which enter largely into our scheme of living are doubled in price after they leave the farmer. The tariff certainly can have nothing to do with that.

The nine millions of dollars, the cost of manufacture of the cotton and woolen goods which came in under the new tariff over and above what came in under the old, went to the factories of Germany and France and were paid but to the workmen of those countries. The distribution of that sum among the workmen of America would have had a most salutary effect on business. The cry of hard times would not have been heard in many parts of the country.

SIMPLE JUDICIAL PROCEDURE.

One great crying need in the United States is cheapening of cost of litigation by simplifying judicial procedure and expediting final judgment. Under present conditions the poor man is at a wonderful disadvantage in a legal contest with a corporation or rich opponent. The necessity for the reform exists both in the United States courts and in all state courts. In order to bring it about, however, it naturally falls to the general government by its example to furnish a model to all states.

The above extract from the message of President Taft to Congress will commend itself to the layman, although we think we can see where the legal profession might not be altogether satisfied with it. There are a great many attorneys who barely go into court at all, and who are noted for their ability to keep their clients out of the courts; there are others who make their money exclusively by fighting in the courts before a judge or jury, or both. The latter class probably would not be envious of any system that would reduce its earnings.

But what the President says is true, and he might have added that the great mass of the people are becoming more thoroughly disgusted each day with the dillydallying of the courts. The judges themselves are not responsible in many cases, for the rules of practice are clear and distinct and are carefully laid down. But the absurd technicalities that are permitted to delay justice, to clog the wheels of the courts, to weary the patience of attorney, judge, jury, spectators, and all concerned, have been going on ad infinitum, ad libitum and ad nauseam for many years. Long

expensive litigation is fostered by the cumbersome legal machinery in most of our states. The condition is better in Utah than in most states. The expense involved is such, the long waits are so ever present, that it is possible for the man who has no money to present his case properly. We have no judge in Utah, and they are undoubtedly scarce all over the Union, that will not give the poor man even-handed justice. But he must have his case properly called to the court's attention, and to do that he must be able to endure the interminable delays and the expense. To the credit of the men who are holding judicial positions be it said that it is as repugnant to them as to the great majority of the people. The majority of judges would prefer to see a much simpler system placed in vogue and less intricate rules of practice observed.

If President Taft is able to do anything along that line he will deserve the thanks of a grateful people. But what he can possibly do to place into the hands of the poor man a more powerful weapon with which to battle for his rights in the courts against the rich man or the trenchant corporation it is difficult for the average man to understand. That condition has obtained since the beginning of the world. Long before Naboth lost his vineyard secular history gives instances of the oppression of the poor by the wealthy. We have less of it in this country than any other that could be named, but we have too much of it. More simple court procedure will go far to remedy this condition.

BLOW AT MUCKRAKERS.

President Taft's advice in his message to Congress that no more anti-corporation legislation be enacted until the laws we have are thoroughly tested will strike a responsive chord in every intelligent, fair-minded man. There will in all probability be an outburst from the muckrakers and those who think that every man of any wealth ought to be hanged on suspicion; they would apply to him the theory that if he hasn't just done something, he is just going to, which is not altogether fair. The President believes that when pending decisions of the United States Supreme court are handed down, the opinions set forth by the court will enable more intelligent legislation on the subject.

There has been too much talk, too much gossip, too much pandering to the uninformed opinions of those who do not understand the situation. It has been fashionable to roast corporations; every demagogue with his eye on a fat office has the idea that the best way to get it is to run amuck on the anti-corporation idea. The public at large wants the corporations to obey the law, one law for the rich and the poor, justice dispensed without reference to the status of the prisoner at the bar, but the average man is getting rather weary of the continual harping on the one string. He can see no good in threatening. He believes that the attitude that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty should obtain with reference to the corporation as well as the individual.

President Taft's attitude on this subject is conspicuously different with that of certain other high personages, but we believe the country at large will stand with Mr. Taft rather than with some others. The President yields to no man in his desire that all shall obey the law, and most people give him the credit of having the courage of his convictions. He takes the chance in promulgating this view of striking a chord that is unpopular and of furnishing the basis for the charge that he is the great and good friend of the corporations; but intelligent public opinion will sustain him in his course.

The President's stand ought to have a most stimulating effect on business. There is no disguising the fact that for many months past capital has coyly hidden itself in the money bags of the great bankers, who feared they knew not what, but were certain it would not be good for them. They were uncertain whether the President was going to recommend hanging them all in the market place, butchering them to make a Roman holiday, or whether he was merely going to send them all to prison for life. His conservative stand, firmly insisting upon obedience to law, and also firmly insisting that the man who uses his money righteously, and the corporation that does an honest business before the law, shall be protected, will do more to bring capital out of its hiding places, to set the factory wheels in motion, and to quicken the pulse of trade than all the bumper corn crops and the favorable balance of trade could do in a century.

It is apparent from the tone of the President's message that he hopes to see sanity return to the people along legislative lines. It is plain that the demagogue is going to get no encouragement at the White House. It becomes more certain each day that the people of this nation made no mistake when they elevated President Taft to the executive chair.

A Philadelphia woman has been convicted of being a common scold and has been placed under bonds to keep the peace. And still they say that Philadelphia is a slow town.

The Tribune's attempts to make itself believe that it is a newspaper are amusing. It recognizes the futility of attempting to make anybody else believe it.

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