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OVATION TO SPRINGER

Congressmen Do Homage to Their Colleague Who Vanquished Death.

A Spontaneous, Affectionate Tribute From Republicans and Democrats.

The Able Illinoisian Presents a Brilliant Argument for Free Wool.

Experience of the Past in Relation to Free Methods of Trade.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—It is not often that it falls to the lot of a man to receive the generous ovation that the house of representatives today extended to Hon. William M. Springer, of Illinois, chairman of the ways and means committee. The welcome which greeted this man, who has been so near the jaws of death, was all the more significant because it was a non-partisan one. It was the welcome which friends give to a friend, by the hearty hand-clasp, that greeted the distinguished Illinoisian. There was all that thankful sympathy and emotion that only the shadow of death could call forth.



WILLIAM M. SPRINGER.

The announcement that Chairman Springer would make the tariff discussion in favor of his free wool bill was a surprise to all who did not understand the indomitable determination of the man, and as a result the galleries were well crowded. At the same time, the congressman entered his committee room, and was received by his colleagues of the ways and means committee. By his side was the devoted wife who was his constant companion and nurse through all his severe illness. Shortly before her appearance in the house some friend, as

A Delicate Compliment to the Illinois leader, distributed several scores of carnations (the congressman's favorite) throughout the hall. Almost instantly a carnation was seen in the buttonhole of nearly every member of the Democratic side. The desire of Mr. Springer, which had been unoccupied for six weeks, was decorated with bouquets of carnations, roses and huge calla lilies, and the reply to the speaker's desk.

At the first sight of Mr. Springer, who entered the hall resting lightly on the arm of the congressman, his eloquent young lieutenant of the ways and means committee, the house burst into one great spontaneous cheer of applause. The applause only deepened when Chairman Blount turned with a welcoming smile to the sick man, and as Congressman Springer mounted the three steps of the rostrum and grasped the hand eagerly extended by the chairman of the committee, the ovation reached its climax. It is not often that the business of the house of representatives is suspended for ten minutes to do honor to a man who is a living statesman, but that was done today.

As Mr. Springer took his seat the applause began to subside, and then the members commenced to file up the aisle to grasp him by the hand and welcome him to the house. Politics were forgotten for a few brief minutes, and as Congressman Springer, Burrows, Hopkins and other vigorous campaigners of the Republican side crossed over and were followed by dozens of their colleagues, the speaker's desk was slightly dimmed by tears of gratitude as he grasped their extended hands. During this reception the clerks stood idle, and the chairman to be awaited the moment that the convalescent leader should express a desire to speak.

Mr. Chairman," said Mr. Springer, when order was once more resumed, "I had hoped to be able on this occasion to make some extended remarks on the pending bill, but the condition of my health is such that I am admonished that I cannot do so. I have prepared a brief statement, however, which I will ask my distinguished friend from Nebraska, Mr. Bryan, to read for me. It is a burst of spontaneous feeling, and these few words, which were clear and distinct, but not in that strong tone which characterizes his utterances in health. The eloquent young Nebraska, sitting next to the chairman of the ways and means committee, then read the following closing speech of the Illinois tariff reformer:

A Masterly Presentation. After touching on the values of wool during the past few years, Mr. Springer declares to show that the American wool growers do not receive any increase whatever in the price of their wool by reason of the tariff on foreign wools. Domestic wool, he said, is confined to a limited market. Its only purchasers are American manufacturers, and they purchase only what they can use to advantage. The remainder is left in the market or in the hands of the producers, and if there is a large yield, prices must be dropped. As the American producer of wool cannot sell abroad at a profit, he must await the pleasure of the American manufacturers, who are his sole patrons, and take such prices as may be fixed in the home market.

The price of wool in the United States varies, not in accordance with the tariff on wool, but in sympathy with the price of wool in the markets of the world; its value here is determined primarily by its value in those markets. It is not the tariff that controls the price of our wool; it is the value of wool in foreign markets. The mercenary wool merchants control the home market, and the price which the farmer receives is largely controlled by them, always having in view the fact that they must also accept values that are beyond their control. If the foreign wool increases in price, they will raise the price of their wool, why not let it come in without attempting to keep it out by a tariff of 10 cents a pound in the gross, 25 cents a pound washed, and 25 cents a pound scoured? And further, if the foreign wools do not displace the domestic, there is

No Competition between the two; and if no competition, the tariff on the foreign wools would not affect the price of the domestic. The fact that the foreign wools do not displace the domestic, but increase the market therefor, is precisely the position contended for by revenue reformers, and it will not be surprising if professionalists who still believe that the tariff on foreign wools is a protection to the organ of the wool manufacturers as a "free trade" shield in disguise, support the Golden Club with British gold.

During the year 1872 the imports of foreign wool reached 125,000,000 pounds, while the average imports of wool for the five years preceding was only 44,000,000 pounds for each year. This immense increase in imports brought the foreign wool into competition with the domestic market. The production of domestic wool for 1872 was only 150,000,000 pounds, while the production for 1869 was 180,000,000 pounds, thus showing a large falling off in production and a corresponding increase in the price of wool. The wool grower, therefore, has two facts explaining the conditions which prevailed in 1861, 1871 and 1872, and which have since been repeated, and which, by speculators, are. The general average for the thirty-five years showed less than half a cent a pound more in value in Ohio wool than in wool of the same grade of Australian wool in London.

The Producer's Mistake. The American wool grower must, under a home protective tariff, expect to produce wool for the market. However, he would only realize that protection does not protect him; that he has not the right to the highest price, and the highest protection as he would get without it, he need not be content with a small profit on his wool. An increased price of wool would produce an increased price of the wool, as well as the wool manufacturer and the American consumer. The experience of the past quarter of a century of high protective tariffs on wool and high prices for wool, has been disastrous to the wool grower, disastrous to the wool manufacturer and disastrous to the American consumer.

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