

REVENUE REFORM.

Meeting of the Massachusetts Tariff Reform League at Boston.

The Evils of Protection and the Necessity for Reduced Taxation Set Forth.

Speeches by James Russell Lowell and Other Notables — Cleveland's Views Indorsed.

[Boston special.]

The meeting and banquet of the Massachusetts Tariff-Reform League at the Brunswick were highly successful, the arrangements being carried out upon a most elaborate scale. There were present a large number of prominent politicians and Government officials, both from Massachusetts and elsewhere, among the number being James Russell Lowell, Gen. John M. Corse, Patrick A. Collins, Congressman W. C. P. Breckinridge of Kentucky, W. L. Wilson of West Virginia, and Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama. Resolutions indorsing the message of President Cleveland were unanimously adopted. Officers were then elected, after which the party proceeded to the banquet hall.

After the banquet James Russell Lowell rapped the meeting to order. In the course of his address Mr. Lowell said:

"One of the reasons that chiefly suggested the opportunity of our coming together here has been the President's message at the opening of the present Congress. Personally I confess that I feel myself strongly attracted to Mr. Cleveland as the best representative of the higher type of Americanism that we have seen since Lincoln was snatched from us. But we are not here to thank him as the head of a party. We are here to felicitate each other that the Presidential chair has a man in it, and this means that every word he says is weighted with what he is. We are here to felicitate each other that this man understands politics to mean business, not chicanery, plain speaking, not paltering with us in a double sense; that he has had the courage to tell the truth to the country without regard to personal or party consequences, and thus to remind us that a country not worth telling the truth to is not worth living in; nay, deserves to lie told to it and to take the inevitable consequences in calamity. Our political call loudly for a broom. Mr. Cleveland, I think has found the broom and begun to apply it. But gentlemen, the President has set us the example not only of courage but of good sense and moderation. He has kept strictly to his text and his purpose. He has shown us that there was such a thing as being protected too much, and that we had protected our shipping interests so effectually that they had ceased to be protected by ceasing to exist. In thus limiting the field of his warning and his counsels he has done wisely, and we shall do wisely in following this example. His facts and his figures will work all the more effectually. But we must be patient with them that expect them to work slow. Enormous interests are involved and must be treated tenderly."

Mr. Lowell was interrupted frequently by storms of applause. At his first reference to President Cleveland Dr. William Everett, Jr., proposed three cheers for Cleveland, which were given with a will.

Upon concluding his speech Mr. Lowell introduced Senator John T. Morgan, of Alabama. The Senator said:

"I believe we are now about to relieve our country of some of the fatuous enterprises which have injured her and crippled our wealth. To me it is a pleasant thing that the men of the South and North are to-day conferring upon a question which is of interest to all of us. We find now and will find forever that there is no reason why the two sections should be embroiled. Sectional lines of distinction no longer exist and we are at last one people. I object to that system which wrings money from the people to bestow it upon political aspirants, be they friends or otherwise. The system of taxation for tariff has outgrown itself. The question is, shall we cut down the revenue to our wants, or shall we keep this revenue year after year, or shall we dry up the sources of this revenue and stop this wrong to the country?"

Congressman Breckinridge, of Kentucky, after speaking of the grave importance of the tariff question and the pressing need of Congressional action, said:

"Protection is never healthy, nor, in the long run, profitable, any more than the feverish strength and restlessness produced by stimulants are evidences of health. The present rates of taxation are unequal, onerous, and hurtful to the mass of those employed in the industries professedly sought to be protected; and so far as taxation is unnecessary for the necessities of the Government, economically administered, it is unjustly imposed and illegally gathered from the people. The reduction of taxation and the revision of the tariff, to which both the great political parties are pledged, must be made gradually and cautiously, with a constant remembrance that systems long established cannot readily be changed, and that grave and practical difficulties lie in the path of any reform. In the nature of the case all protective tariffs must have an element of instability and uncertainty. There are a few to whom this system is indeed a bonanza; to all others it is an injury and a wrong."

Congressman Wilson of West Virginia, Congressman Rogers of Arkansas, and others, followed in brief addresses. It was past midnight when the gathering broke up.

Farm Mortgages and the Tariff.

We commend to the farmers of Michigan, and especially to those who are paying interest on farm mortgages, the following from our esteemed contemporary, the *Ann Arbor Democrat*:

"The report of the Commissioner of Labor shows that more than half of the farms of Washtenaw County are mortgaged to-day at an average rate of interest of over seven per cent. It is estimated that the mortgage indebtedness of this county is over \$4,000,000. Never in the history of the county has the farming interest, as a whole, been more depressed than it is to-day. The causes of this state of things are two fold. First — The construction of the Suez canal and the vast extension of railroads in Southern Russia, Central Asia and India has brought those great wheat-producing regions into direct and easy

competition with the American wheat grower. Second — A high tariff has checked and ruined our foreign trade. All trade is really barter. And foreign consumers of wheat buy their wheat where they can sell their goods. Under free trade England has been made the workshop of the world. Free trade has also given her control of the world's ocean commerce, and when her ships carry out her manufactured goods to Russia, India, Australia and other grain-growing countries, they don't go back empty and come empty to this country to procure wheat, but carry back wheat from the country where they sell their goods. We have lived under high protection tariff for a quarter of a century, and the result is our commerce is driven from the ocean, and half of our farmers are on the verge of bankruptcy. And in the meantime England, under free trade, has usurped the commerce of the world, and the machinery and manufacturing industries of the little island do the work and secure to England the profits of 200,000,000 of laborers! When will the farmer realize that a tariff is nothing but a tax upon everything he buys, giving him absolutely nothing in return?"

Detroit Free Press.

An Inconsistent Moralist.

The *Philadelphia Press*, ultra-protection of the Pennsylvania sort, devotes considerable space to a lament over "The Boy and the Cigarette." It calls attention to the death of several young boys addicted to the habit of cigarette smoking. It quotes one medical authority to the effect that there are no less than 3,000 cases of impaired health in New York City growing out of this dangerous habit, and another to the effect that cigarette smoking stunts the growth of boys and sows the seeds of diseases which develop in later years — such as throat ailments, lung troubles and dyspepsia. It preaches the parents a touching sermon about their duties in the premises, and launches its invectives at the tobaccoists, and particularly the proprietors of school stores, who deal in cigarettes of the cheap sort along with slates, pencils, stationery and colored candies. It grows virtuous and demands the passage of a stringent law which shall forbid the sale of cigarettes or tobacco in any form to minors, except upon a written order from their parents or guardians. Finally it produces some appalling statistics as an argument against "The Boy and the Cigarette," and says:

"According to the reports of the Revenue Department of the Government there were manufactured last year 1,200,000,000 cigarettes, and as an equal number, probably, were made by the smokers themselves, there were at least 2,400,000,000 cigarettes consumed, and even this total does not include the 50,000,000 or more imported from foreign countries. This would give about 100 cigarettes to every male, and as the larger part of them are smoked by youths under 15 years of age the total for each smoker is largely increased. These figures may possibly impress parents with the enormity of an evil which has already done some appalling statistics as an argument against "The Boy and the Cigarette," and says:

"The paper which indulges in all this lamentation is an organ of the war-tariff advocates, who argue that, as tobacco is a necessary of life, the tax should be removed; and the *Press* is in favor of its removal in order that the tax on such superfluous articles of luxury as clothing, wool, salt, sugar, glass, iron, steel, household and farming implements may not be disturbed. But if tobacco is a necessary of life, why should it produce such alarming physical results, especially among boys, who have more vitality and stronger health than men?"

Farmers, Read This.

"I am very anxious," said Congressman McDonald, of Minnesota, to the Chicago *Herald* Washington correspondent, "that this Congress should do something with the tariff. My people are for tariff reform, and on that issue the whole State is aroused. There are many Scandinavians in my district, and throughout the State some thirty thousand, I believe, and it is their custom to vote solidly for what they want. In the old country they enjoy free trade. While they have affiliated in our State for twenty-five years with the Republican party, they are becoming weary and feel the party doctrine of protection somewhat irksome. When I was on the stump a year ago a great, tall, stalwart Scandinavian came up to me and said he had just been home to the old country to see his relatives and the old farm which gave him not only his birthplace but his name, after the custom of his people. He said: 'I bought a pitchfork to-day, and do you know, I bought the same make of fork for my old father in Christiana six weeks ago for just a third less than this fork cost me to-day. Now, why is that? We are plain country folks here, and when we vote for something we would like to know what it is and why we do not get it.' The man told the truth. It was possible for him to go to Christiana and buy American manufactured things for less money than he could do it here at home. It was the most powerful argument that I met with in the whole course of my campaign in favor of a lower tariff. A little fact like that will travel faster and accomplish more than the most powerful speech that will be made this session, and if I go home next summer I want to be able to tell my people that they can buy pitchforks just as cheap in Minnesota as they can in Christiana."

Just Look at This.

The beauties of "protection to infant industry" are well exemplified in the case of castor-oil, the imports on which by the United States are taxed 190 per cent. In 1880 there were eight establishments in this country engaged in the castor-oil business which earned a total of \$225,000 on an invested capital of \$174,000, while they paid out only \$44,714 to the 107 men and one boy that constituted the working force. The profits of the business amounted to five times the wages paid. During last year we imported 13,644 gallons of the oil, the foreign value of which was \$5,766, and on which \$10,915 in duties was paid into the National Treasury. The duties amounted to one-quarter of the wages and to only one-twentieth of the profits realized by the manufacturers, who use the law as a fence behind which to feather their own nests at the expense of the great public that pays for the oil.

The Wool Tariff Must Go.

It is quite certain that the wool tariff is ruining the woolen manufacturing industry of this country. The woolen manufacturers are demanding relief of some kind. Thousands of operatives have been thrown out of employment lately. Isn't the wool tariff rather costly protection? — *Savannah News.*

VOORHEES.

The Indiana Statesman's Reply to the Buckeye Demagogue.

An Able Defense of the President from Gross Misrepresentation by Republicans.

Unjust Taxation Denounced as Robbery and a Crime Against Every Home.

Mr. Cleveland's Premises, Arguments, and Conclusions Alike Impregnate.

In the United States Senate, on Wednesday, the 4th inst., Hon. D. W. Voorhees made a vigorous reply to John S. Sherman's speech upon the President's message. Mr. Sherman, Senator Teller, and other Republicans, in criticism of the President's message, as insincere and misleading, and asserted that by way of preparation for the coming Presidential election, Republican legislators and journals were endeavoring gross misrepresentations to put the President and the Democratic party in an attitude of hostility to American manufacturing interests.

Nothing could be more unjust or unfair. Under the leadership of Grover Cleveland, the Democratic party demanded such reduction of the tariff, such reduction of revenue and a surplus, and such administration of the powers of government as was most beneficial to all interests and most fully in harmony with the general welfare. The President's message would bear the light of discussion, analysis and debate. The frosts of next November would brighten Republican misrepresentations and rebuke the Republican Senators who characterized as "pitiful" the fearless, sound and statesmanlike message of the President.

The contraction of the volume of currency, he said, had always been a policy marked by disaster and suffering and accused by every friend of the general welfare of the country. But when that abominable policy was still further aided and executed, by snatching, as it were, the money of the people from their very hands at the rate of \$10,000,000 a month, without necessity, excuse or palliation, every honest mind had to revolt against such wanton robbery. It was a crime against every home, every business and every living man and woman in the United States.

It is a crime national in its proportions, gigantic in its strength, omnipresent in its visitations, and brutal in its rapacity. And yet the day before the recess the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Teller) sneered at the idea of the surplus being of any consequence. And the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) also declared (not by cable from Paris, but on the floor of the Senate) that it was fortunate for the country that there was a surplus of \$55,000,000 in the Treasury. It will be for the credit of the President next summer to explain to the people why it is fortunate that their money is deposited into the Treasury in excess of all the uses, prescriptions, and wants of the Government, instead of remaining in the pockets of the people.

There is in the Republican press, and among Republican politicians, a determined, persistent and brazen campaign of mendacity on this subject; and it will continue in the councils and in the war-tariff party day by day, morning, noon and night, until the frosts of next November come to within a month of the declaration of the last Democratic platform on the subject of taxation. That declaration was bold, explicit and peremptory.

I rejoice in every element of American success. I am proud of the inventive genius of the country and of its vast establishments which skilled labor abounds. I look with delight on the coal, the coal mines, the bituminous and the anthracite, the coal of the South, as well as on those of New England, Pennsylvania, and many Western States. I would encourage them in their gigantic career of development and usefulness, and I hold that the policy of the Democratic party has been always ample for their prosperity and progress. That is the only safe policy for American manufacturers themselves. If it is once clearly understood that the manufacturers, as a class, demand that they be enriched by means of fraudulent taxes, they will accept the guidance of the leaders of the Republican party and join in their praise, then indeed there will be no room for the Chinese to enter the market.

The Tientsin massacre of 1870 might have been quadrupled in atrocity but for a timely rain, which deterred the rowdies already on their way to the settlement. A portable shower would be one of the most perfect defenses a traveler in the hostile sections of China could desire. We are confident that a steady stream of cold water, delivered from a two-inch nozzle, would disperse the most violent mob ever seen by a foreigner in China in five minutes of solar time. Grapeshot would be much less effectual, for many would stop to gather up the spent shot, while cold water is something for which every Chinese, from the Han dynasty downward, entertains the same aversion as a cat. Internally or externally administered, he regards it as alike fatal.

The remote causes of their deep-seated antipathy to wet weather lie imbedded in the Chinese constitution, but the proximate causes, in our view, are two-fold — the porosity of cotton cloth and the absolute scarcity of dirt. To our readers the reasons will, no doubt, appear inadequate, not to say frivolous; but this, we believe, is because they have not reflected profoundly on the subject. Why the Chinese should persist in wearing cloth shoes we do not pretend to say, but wear them they certainly do. Damp feet are not only uncomfortable, they are dangerous to health. Oiled boots are luxuries for the few, and in seven cases out of eight he who goes abroad when it rains will do it in cotton cloth shoes, which will be ruined. He has no light sandals. He never washes his feet. Hence it is easier and more philosophic to stay at home — which he does.

Coming down to the practical question of taxation, he said that there were many objections to internal taxes, but on grounds far different from a desire to perpetuate enormous and unjust tariff taxes on the necessities of life. He appreciated the fact that for many years, and especially in several States, the whole system had been used as a party instrument of partisan political warfare and had been rendered odious to every free-minded citizen. He was also very sensible that it was a war tax and it should pass away in time of peace. All these opinions had their weight with him. But, while heavy taxes which had been laid by a war tariff on every article entering into the wants and necessities of the people were not reduced at all, he submitted that the work of reform and reduction should be pursued in that field and the internal revenue system should stand yet awhile, subject to no modicum of reduction.

As to tobacco, he suggested that the tax on cigars and snuff — producing \$12,500,000 — might be retained, and the rest of the tax — producing \$17,000,000 — abolished. But this, however, was afeat o' de o. and perhaps a matter of compromise. The great bulk of abatement in the present total unnecessary taxation of the people would have to take place in a careful and prudent review of the tariff, and we would have to leave to the future what might seem the best means and instruments by which to attain that end. As a choice between raising internal revenue or tariff taxes, he would rather cheapen woolens, linens, cot on fabr es, rice and salt, and other things of prime necessity. The Democratic idea is tax whisky and beer, and make the necessities of life cheap. Exchange.

The present administration has been subjected to a great deal of abuse for what its opponents term its unfriendly attitude toward old soldiers, but it appears that the pension list goes on increasing at a wonderful rate all the same. On Nov. 1, 1886, there were 369,551 pensioners on the rolls, and this number had grown to 416,648 by Nov. 1, 1887. The net increase for the first four months of the present fiscal year was 6,873 in excess of the net increase for the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. — *Chicago Times.*

CEASE ROBBING THE PEOPLE.

The Democratic party comes before the country with the straightforward proposition that the Government has no right to take from the pockets of the people \$100,000,000 a year more money than it has any legitimate use for.

Those who oppose the Democratic party would have the Government continue the policy by which this vast amount of money is annually taken from the pockets of the people.

The Democratic party declares against a policy which, look at it as you will, is unmitigated robbery.

There is no amount of sophistry; there is no amount of political chicanery; there is no amount of demagogism that can, by any means, obscure such political scoundrelism.

Those who oppose the Democratic policy place themselves on record as favoring a policy of downright robbery.

There is a large element in the Republican party that will not follow the freebooting flag of the Republican bosses who advocate robbing the people of \$100,000,000 a year.

Already the most influential Republican organs in the country indorse the Democratic policy as mapped out by President Cleveland.

The Republican blatherskite press contend that protecting the industries of the country can only be accomplished by robbing the people of \$100,000,000 a year.

They say, in effect, protection and robbery must be maintained at all hazards; that they go hand in hand; and they say this thing of robbing the people of \$100,000,000 a year, \$1,000,000,000 every ten years, don't amount to anything — the people can stand it, have stood it under Republican rule for many years — and they point with pride to the colossal fortunes that have been built up under a policy of robbery.

This blatherskite, robbery Republican press tells the people that to rob them of \$100,000,000 a year, \$1,000,000,000 every ten years, is good for them; that robbing them makes them richer, just as bleeding makes them stronger. But the people are no longer to be gulled by such clap-trap. They say taxes to the extent of the absolute needs of the Government economically administered — not one dollar more — that is the Democratic policy. Upon that policy Democrats are united, harmonious, in splendid fighting trim. The Republican party is split, demoralized. The honest and intelligent element — *vide* the Chicago *Tribune* and the New York *Times* — are with the Democratic policy. — *Indianapolis Sentinel.*

Chinese Dread of the Wet.

In Western lands it is a proverbial saying of one who is peculiarly stupid that he does not "know enough to go in when it rains." In China, on the contrary, the saying would be altered so as to read: "He does not know enough to stay in when it rains," and to a Chinese the idea that a human being has any functions which can be harmonized with the rapid precipitation of moisture can only be introduced by trepanning. They truly say of the streets and the people in them, "When wind blows, one half; rainfall, none at all." As the Chinese, in their way, are a particularly practical people — not less so than the Anglo-Saxon, though less energetic — there must be some good reason for their persistent refusal to be gullied by such schemes of plunder of which they were the victims. He could not believe, however, that the sagacious and patriotic business men of the country who controlled manufacturing industries would permit themselves for political purposes to be put in an attitude of unjust, selfish, overweening avarice and of unfairness toward the great mass of their countrymen.

If the Democratic party, with its record of more than fifty years in the administration of the Government, and its frank and constant declaration of principles, was to be charged with the folly of free trade every time an attempt was made to modify the tariff, the people would very soon and very clearly find out that such was the case. They would then accept the guidance of the leaders of the Republican party and join in their praise, then indeed there will be no room for the Chinese to enter the market.

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The Democratic idea to reduce taxation to an extent that will put a stop to raising surplus revenue has evidently secured popular favor. The Republican monopolist idea that taxing a man makes him richer, more prosperous and contented, and, if a workingman, advances his wages, has had its day and must go. It will go with the Republican land-stealing policy, with the bloody shirt and other Republican "great moral ideas." But the Republican idea is free whisky and taxed sugar, iron, blankets, hats and shoes, rice and salt, and other things of prime necessity. The Democratic idea is tax