

WORKINGMEN, READ!

Do You Prefer Cheap Whisky to Cheap Necessities?

Mr. Cox Pictures a Republican Campaigner on the Stump for the Chicago Platform.

How can you go out and answer the questions, pertinent to this campaign, without entangling all your wits and confounding ideas?

Some taxpayer, tired of your protective exactions, asks:

Why should you, with 73,895 people, the pots of protection, be favored at the expense of over 700,000 people, the pots of poverty?

What for? The voice from the still—warm with the tears of widows and orphans—huskily answers, "For the whisky."

Why should we not cheer on clothes, blankets, and carpets by admitting wool free, since the woolen mills have a capacity for 6,000,000 pounds, and only 24,000,000 pounds are raised at home?

The answer comes like the blast of a thousand flocks, "Before clothes, or blankets, or carpets, take free whisky!"

But says an honorable recalcitrant Republican from Minnesota:

"Worthier, better, and juster, it seems to my mind, would it be to give our people, the toiling masses, cheaper food, cheaper fuel, cheaper clothing, and cheaper shelter, cheaper because released from our heavy, and unnecessary burden of high-tariff taxes."

"Pshaw!" says the hide-bound protectionist, "these articles must remain taxed to vindicate the American system." That system has its genius free whisky.

A taxpayer inquires of you:

"Have not the American people paid in sixty years over \$20,000,000,000 in the hope of getting goods cheaper by and by, after the infants have attained their majority? What, my Republican brother, will you do now?"

The brother answers, "Free whisky."

"Has invention done nothing for us?" asks the impoverished mechanic. "What do you show us as the result of our American genius for a century in mechanics?"

The answer comes: "We tender you the worm in the shell, the finest invention of the devil. It may take away your brains and improve your families, but you must stand! We offer you untaxed, cheap, free whisky!"

Another inquirer asks: "Why do you not take the tax off my coat of reversible nap?"

This answers freely: "Protect ion first, but always free whisky!"

An old lady of West Virginia asks with anxiety: "Why must I pay sixty cents in addition to every dollar for the chicken from which I derive my sustenance?"

"Ah!" says the protectionist, "is not whisky better than tea?"

A series of questions and answers might be framed off in the following order:

"Are you going to allow that reduction proposed by the Mills bill from forty-seven per cent. duty to forty on carpets?"

"No, but we will repeal the tax on cigarettes for our young boys, and add free whisky."

"Won't you suggest that reduction of ten per cent. on cotton goods?"

"No, but I would love to lower the whisky tax."

"Won't you reduce the tax on castor oil below 194 per cent. its present rate?"

"No; I won't condescend to help anybody but those who want the cost of whisky reduced."

"Please help us reduce the tax on cheap woolen cloth from eighty-nine per cent. to forty per cent., as Mills proposes. Will you not?"

"No; I do not want to engage in anything else till I have taken the tax of ninety cents a gallon from whisky."

"We are making a last effort: to reduce the duty on wool hats from fifty-four per cent. cheap hats. Won't you help us?"

"No, sir; the Republican platform does not say anything about cheap hats. It does advocate taking tax from whisky, and I stand by it."

"The worsted goods for my family is taxed 68 per cent. Help me pull that down to 40 per cent., will you not?"

"No, sir; let your worsted goods go to grass! Whisky is more than a dollar a gallon. I want to take the ninety-cent-gallon tax off of it."

"Now, my friend, the Mills bill proposes to take eleven and one-half millions tax off sugar; won't you help pass it?"

"No, for it does not propose to cheapen whisky one cent."

"It makes salt free. Won't you favor that?"

"It makes salt free? Salt ain't in our platform."

"It makes the tin, of which our tin stove vessels, and cans, and roofs are made, free; won't you give us that?"

"Tin is not in the platform; whisky is."

"It makes lumber for our houses to keep us warm, free. Won't you favor that?"

"No. I want to legislate to warm the inner man, not the outer one. Give us free whisky."

When these questions are answered, let me read as a summing up to the gentleman what was said by an old farmer friend of mine in Iowa. He had been recently perusing Sidney Smith on taxation:

"I never wore any clothes that were not increased in price by this policy of making an almshouse of every possible factory. I used to rise on Sunday morning from my humble cot in a log farm house, throwing off the bedclothes taxed 40 to 100 per cent., and donning my clothing taxed 35 to 100 per cent., eat my breakfast from dishes taxed 45 per cent. on a table cloth taxed 40 per cent., and when the Sabbath bell, taxed 35 per cent., sounded its inviting notes, I took my Bible, taxed 25 per cent., and went to the church built of lumber taxed 20 per cent., and there, in a day-school shoe book taxed 35 per cent. (and all these taxes paid to the objects of my charity, not to the government), I read:

"Far out upon the prairie
How many children are well
Who never read the Bible
Nor hear the Sabbath bell!"

[Great laughter and applause.]

What is the relief my farmer friend receives from you and your platform?

"Free whisky."

Does this give comfort to his family, his purse or his soul?

Now, you gentlemen want to go among the men, women and children of this country and say:

"We will not take the tax off of cheap clothing, cheap lumber, cheap food, but we will take the tax off whisky, to make it cheap and common, and mean nothing to soul and body."

Is not that an inspiring issue for a party of moral elevation?

O, gentlemen, it is the old, old story. You gentlemen must have often heard it sung:

"O what a tangled web we weave
When first we practice to deceive."

"PLAYING TO THE GALLERY."

The Ridiculous Attitude of the Republican Senate on the Fisheries Question.

[From the Chicago News, Independent.]

The Republican Senators, the journals of the party, and its big and little henchmen, formerly so belligerent on the fishery question, now that the President has sent in a message to Congress which is simply the logical sequence of all that the Senate had up to that point said and done on the contention, sing exceedingly small. It is, in fact, at this particular moment, the piping time of peace with one and all of them. At the same time they take occasion to denounce the President for "playing to the gallery," as one or two of them express it, at such a critical juncture as this, when so many material interests are involved.

The cool impudence of such a charge as this, after all the bellicose swash which for months past has disgraced our upper legislative body, is positively refreshing.

Take, for instance, as "a specimen brick," a proposition from that ancient representative of the staid old Bay State commonwealth, Senator Hoar.

At a time when the British Government was in the very act of making an earnest attempt to settle this unfortunate fishery dispute, Senator Hoar introduced a resolution which was duly referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee. By this motion the President is requested to open negotiations "with a view to the settlement of all differences between her Majesty's Government and the United States."

The Dominion of Canada to be represented, its concurrence being indispensable to the object sought, which is "the annexation to the United States of the whole or any portion of Canada," the political union is to be "in accord with the Federal system and Constitution of the United States;" no consideration for this wrestling of one of the colonies of the empire

therefrom is defined, except it be a vague flourish on the subject of other possible treaties for "the future peace, harmony, security, and general welfare of her Majesty's dominions and of the United States."

Yet it is in the face of such a proposal as this, by a leading Republican Senator, that the President is charged with "playing to the gallery" when he merely proposes, after the failure of all other means, to carry out the policy of the Senatorial majority.

NO SNEER INTENDED.

How the Republican Organs Speak of the Working Classes.

[From the New York Herald.]

One of our Republican contemporaries in a leading editorial referred to the great Democratic party in the following way recently:

"The worst elements in the country hope to elect President Cleveland for another term by the aid of an element which thinks itself the least. No sneer is intended."

The Democratic party, as is well known, represents very largely the men who get their living by the sweat of their brows. They are all dumped together, however, in one pile as worthless rubbish, and with a supercilious shrug of the shoulders, stigmatized as "the worst elements in the country." A fair paraphrase of the above statement, therefore, would be something like this: We, the Republicans, are the people of this country, and the Government should be run in our favor and for our protection; you Democrats are the fellows in short sleeves and breeches, with your petty labor organizations and your peevish demands for higher wages and your horrible strikes; you are the grabbers of the soil—mere ploughshare patriots—who have got to be put down and kept down.

Well, it is very handsome in the Republican organs to come out in this candid way and say just what they think. If they have really reached the conclusion that the common people are no good; that the time has arrived in the history of this country when the fundamental belief that "all men are born free and equal" may be successfully denied—is an insult to the cultured and wealthy classes why, that is extremely interesting fact, and we shall regard the reception of the new doctrine with considerable curiosity, but, we confess, without a particle of fear as to the result.

The Republican platform illustrates this novel phase of politics. It announces a determination to lift the tariff still higher rather than to lower it. That, of course, would make the cost of living more expensive. You must pay more for the necessities of life and manage to get along without any of its comforts. The large dealers are to be protected. The business of the country is to be placed in the hands of the few, while small dealers who have made a fair profit, and who employ the great majority of the population, are to be driven out of business, and their place taken by a few more of the same kind.

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