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S. 88.

JUDGE TURPIE ON THE TARIFF.

KEEN THRUSTS AT MONOPOLY TAXES.

TRUST ATTORNEYS IN THE SENATE
SHOWN UP IN THEIR TRUE COL-
ORS—WHY SHOULD THEY TRY
TO REDUCE TAXES PAID BY
FOREIGNERS—A TELL-
ING SPEECH.

[Congressional Record, Dec. 19.]

Mr. Turpie—"I wish to inquire
of the chair whether it would be in
order to move to amend paragraph
150."

The President pro tempore—
"An amendment to the paragraph
would be in order."

Mr. Turpie—"Then in line 568 I
move to strike out the words 'six
tenths of one cent,' and insert in
lieu thereof the words 'six mills';
and in line 570, to strike out the
words 'six tenths of one cent,' and
insert in lieu thereof the words
'six mills,' so as to read:

"150. Wire rods.—Rivet, screw
nail, fence, and other iron or steel
wire rods, whether round, oval, flat
or square, in coils or loops or in
any other shape, not smaller than
No. 6 wire gauge, valued at 3 cents
or less per pound, six mills per
pound; and iron or steel flat, with
longitudinal ribs for the manufacture
of fencing, valued at 3 cents or
less per pound, six mills per pound.
Provided, That all iron or steel
rods, whether rolled or drawn,
smaller than No. 6 wire gauge,
shall be classed and dutiable as wire.

The President pro tempore—
"The question is on agreeing to
the amendment proposed by the
senator from Indiana [Mr. Tur-
pie.]

Mr. Turpie—"Mr. President, if
I understand the progress we have
made in the tariff debate, para-
graph 150 is a part of what is called
an amendment to the original
bill. It is part of the amendment
offered as a substitute for the origi-
nal bill; and of the original bill
itself there is nothing left in the
report of the committee except
the enacting clause and the title.

"The title is a very significant
one: 'To reduce taxation and sim-
plify the laws in relation to the
collection of the revenue.' There
are two purposes expressed in this
title. Certain Senators are of opin-
ion that the first purpose as ex-
pressed has been very much im-
paired by the action of the com-
mittee and the sub-committee. I
am of the opinion that the second
purpose expressed has been lost
sight of altogether by the majority
who reported the substitute. It
certainly was accounted as of equal
importance with the first.

"The language of the substitute
is that of illusion and deception and
deception, not by design, but from
the utter want of any care or at-
tention to it. Take the expression
'six-tenths of one cent' occurring
twice in the pending paragraph,
and in paragraph 144 the expres-
sion is one and one-tenth cents,
one and two-tenths cents, one and
four-tenths cents, one and five-
tenths cents successively. The
whole substitute is full of terms
and phraseology of that character.

"What is the meaning of six-
tenths of a cent. A tenth of a
cent means a mill, and a mill may
be defined as the tenth of a cent
or the thousandth part of a dollar.
I do not know that it adds any-
thing to the perspicuity of a statu-
te to put in the definition of a
word instead of the word itself.—
When 'six-tenths of a cent,' which
constitutes the definition of six
mills, is meant in a bill, why is it
not preferable to say six mills?—
In the instance we had under con-
sideration the other day, with re-
spect to phraseology: 'One cent
and one-tenth of a cent,' 'one cent
and one-sixteenth of a cent,' with
various others.

"I might ask the learned and
honorable chairman of the sub-
committee whether he has made a
complete study of the subject of

lingual concealment or verbal am-
bush? I presume he has not, and
that there has been no study on
the subject at all. Else why was
a pound selected as a unit for tax-
ation instead of an ounce? For if
the paragraph had provided one-
sixteenth of a cent and one-tenth
of one-sixteenth of a cent per
ounce, the meaning would have
been the same and the mystery
would have been much greater.

"Of course, it may be asked who
would want to use one ounce of
structural iron? I ask who would
want to use one pound of struc-
tural iron? And it may be asked
again, why is not the ton in the
case of structural iron made the
unit of assessment with respect to
the tariff? It is \$20 a ton. Every-
body understands that, and the
most ordinary beam and girder
does not consist of a less weight.

"Why is it not based upon the
ton as a unit? Is there any de-
sire to hide the amount of the ex-
action? Not at all, sir; it is sim-
ply the want of carefulness and
the inattention to what we may
consider the plainest terms of
English or the vernacular of the
United States.

"What is the use of all this di-
am array of decimals and frac-
tions? The amendment ought to
be made in every section and pa-
ragraph of the substitute precisely
as it is offered here. The most
casual reader would then come to
the correct conclusion as to the
amount of tax assessed by the bill.

"I speak of these words as things
because in this connection they are
things, and they have the appear-
ance of belonging to the 'hidden
things of dishonesty.' They are
very far removed from that sim-
plicity which according to the title
of the bill ought to characterize its
text.

"It is sometimes almost as curi-
ous to note the wilderness of un-
meaning phraseology in a measure
as some of the reasons assigned
for its passage. I understood
the senator from Nevada farthest
from the chair [Mr. Stewart] and
the senator from Massachusetts
nearest me [Mr. Dawes] both to
have taken the position here that
taxes assessed by our tariff legis-
lation were paid by foreigners, and
it was stated by them with great
complacency that they were per-
fectly willing that foreigners should
pay our tariff taxes, and it was
stated with great earnestness that
no man anywhere should object to
such payment by foreigners."

"The bill is entitled a bill to re-
duce taxation, and I thought the
phrase reduction of taxation al-
luded to the taxes of our own peo-
ple. If it alludes to tariff taxes
paid by foreigners, as is here
claimed, it furnishes me only an
additional reason for being oppos-
ed to the substitute. I am not
myself in favor of reducing the
taxes of foreigners or the amount
of taxes paid by foreigners. I
would rather increase the amount,
if any such are to be so paid.

"It seems, from the remarks of
these senators, that the prohibi-
tory tariff trust is about inaugurat-
ing a period of commercial millen-
nium; that the divine apostolic in-
junction 'bear ye one another's
burdens' is to become not only a
rule of private conduct but a max-
im of international law and usage.

"The only possible defect in
such a policy would be that while
sometimes a balance of trade is
largely in our favor, as the foreign-
ers pay the taxes under our tariff
legislation, we must then pay the
taxes on exports under theirs; and
we would then necessarily pay a
larger share of the tariff taxes of
foreigners than the foreigners pay
of ours.

"What a very strange sort of
fiscal reciprocity, what a very
strange view of international eco-
nomics, this presents! I think
those senators upon this side, as
well as a majority of sane people,
healthful and wholesome-minded
people, on the subject of federal
taxation, still retain the notion that
taxes imposed by an act of con-
gress of the United States, and
that they are as local to the peo-

ple of this country as taxes for
sewerage or gas imposed by the
municipal authorities of New York
on the inhabitants of that city.

"The honorable senator from
Iowa opened this debate with a
protestation of very unusual ve-
hement in relation to the good
faith with which this measure was
proposed, stating that it was not a
partisan measure, nor offered with
a view to benefit any party, and
that the sub-committee and com-
mittee had no other motives in it
than those of subservience to the
best interests of the republic.—
The same disclaimer was aided by
a similar declaration of the very
able and accomplished senator
from Rhode Island [Mr. Aldrich]
the principal coadjutor or the
chairman of the sub-committee in
this relentless raid of the monop-
olies against the people.

"Upon this side we are disposed
to give full credence to those dis-
claimers, and to give as full cre-
dence without the disclaimer as
with it. What was the reason of
this earnest and gratuitous pro-
testation in advance by the com-
mittee in relation to their purposes
and objects in the introduction of
this substitute? Had they con-
ceived that there would be any-
thing of reproof from this side of
the chamber for the policy con-
tained in the bill?

"The committee and the sub-
committee may be deserving of
much reproof, but they are also
yet more of sympathy. The ma-
jority of the committee and sub-
committee and their coadjutors have
yielded to an irresistible and un-
controllable influence, the influ-
ence of a superstition—a super-
stition springing from the creed
taught now for so many years in
that school of political economy
so richly endowed by the incorpo-
rators of the prohibitory-tariff
trust, instructed in the maxim that
all mankind, all the labor, all the
capital in the country must be
taxed for the benefit of a few non-
laboring and non-producing class-
es.

"I suppose this superstition, like
others of the same character, must
have its cause. I suppose it will
have its day, like the South sea
craze in England, the tulip mania
in Holland, or the Darien specu-
lation of John Law in France. It
will have its day, and it will bring
disaster even to those interests
which it pretends to foster.

"Again it is said—and I have
heard that also with extreme sur-
prise—that no amendments should
be offered from this side of the
chamber; that every such amend-
ment was a request for special
privilege; that whether the amend-
ment provided that hoop-iron for
the hay-maker and the cotton-
raiser should be put upon the free
list, or the enormous tax imposed
by this measure simply reduce,
in either event the exemption or
the diminution proposed was a
special privilege that was asked
for, and that no one should be ex-
empted from the rate of taxation
as thus fixed in this substitute.

"It seems to me that this is a
complete reversal of the act and
the whole theory of the proposed
legislation. Everything that has
been said in this chamber in be-
half of the substitute or amend-
ment has been a special plea. The
substitute itself is a gross mass of
special privileges of the most
offensive kind.

"It now appears that the presi-
dent last December was perfectly
right in informing the country that
there was a surplus in the treasury
and in asking also that taxation be
reduced. The point misconceived
was as to where the relief should
come, he being of the opinion that
relief should come to the tax-pay-
ing many, the multitude of the
people; whereas it seems that, after
all, the relief should come to the
maimed, crippled, wounded, mori-
bund corporations engaged in the
manufacture of the protected ar-
ticles, doomed to decay or destruc-
tion unless they be perpetually
pensioned for total disability by
the provisions of this bill.

"Instead of any amendment be-

ing a special privilege, the bill it-
self is a vast conservatory of choice
plants of monopoly to be fed and
forced by the sweat of the labor-
ing masses and by every kind of
unjust, oppressive and unnecessary
exactions. This measure itself is
a paradise, the very garden of the
gods of unjust monopolies, a pa-
radise situated hard by the country
of corruption and decay, and situ-
ated also very near the level of
that Dead sea which concealed
alike the ashes and the iniquities
of Sodom."

ROMANCE ALL ROUND.

Pretty Polly Clifford paused a moment
on her way home from school to look at
the picturesque old mansion of Holmsby
hall. The owner was traveling in Europe
it was known, and Polly thought what a
pity it was that such an elegant home
should be given over to spiders and mice.
As she stood there a young man stepped
out of the copse and addressed her.

"I think I have lost my way," he said.
"I found the hall locked up and deserted;
could you tell me the way to Holmsbor-
ough?"

"With pleasure," she replied, with an
attempted dignity. "I hardly think they
expected you so soon, Mr. Holmsby."

The puzzled expression in his face
gradually died away. "And who is this
little fortune teller who has divined my
past and present?" with a smile.

"I am the district school teacher, Polly
Clifford, and as Holmsborough is some
distance away I am sure my brother will
be glad to receive you at our little cot-
tage."

"I hardly expected to receive such
courtesy," bowing, "but as I am tired I
shall gratefully accept. Perhaps," with a
smile, "when I am settled in the hall I
shall be able to return your hospitality."

Polly's simple heart fluttered as she led
the young her home in triumph, and
with ambitious thoughts in her curly
head.

Jabez Clifford and his rosy-cheeked
wife looked rather surprised when Polly
entered with her prize, but when they
were introduced they gave the guest an
old-time welcome and prepared a nice
little supper for him. While the stranger
was recounting his travels to the farmer
Polly ran away to tell her sister-in-law the
circumstances of that romantic meeting.

"Wasn't it singular, Ellie?" she asked
as she hurriedly twisted a rose-colored
ribbon through her curls. "And—oh, Ellie,
if I should be the lady of Holmsby hall!
Don't you think he's handsome? And isn't
his voice low and deep and sweet, just like
Edgar Ravenswood?" And—

"He's well enough," said Elvira, as she
lifted the steaming tea-pot off the coals of
the kitchen fire; "but he isn't as good
looking as George Bird."

"George Bird?" cried Polly, contemptu-
ously. "A mere pink and white dandy!"
"For all that," persisted Elvira, "there's
a disagreeable look to Mr. Holmsby's
eyes and a sort of sneer to his lips. But
come, Polly, tea's ready now."

Mr. Holmsby made himself exceed-
ingly agreeable that evening—so much so
that even Elvira was converted to a more
favorable opinion of him and little Polly
sat with pink cheeks and glittering eyes
listening to his eloquence.

"Isn't he splendid, Jabez?" she cried,
when at last the guest was invited into the
"best chamber," where there was a "store
carpet" on the floor, and the snowy linen
sheets smelt of sweet clover and dried rose
leaves.

"He's a smooth-tongued fellow enough,"
Jabez reflectively added. "But I don't
exactly like the way he talked about some
things."

"That's because you haven't traveled in
Europe," said Polly, disdainfully.

She rose early the next morning and
dressed herself in her prettiest blue al-
paca, wearing ribbons to match the color
of her eyes, and a late rose in her belt.
Breakfast was waited for Jabez, who had
been dispatched to the village store for
white sugar to take the place of the every-
day brown that was in the cupboard.

Presently Jabez returned, flushed and
breathless.

"It beats all!" he exclaimed, setting
down the cone-shaped brown package on
the table. "Do you know, Polly, Holms-
by hall was broken open yesterday after-
noon and all the silver and linen stolen!
And—"

"And I can tell you who did it," said
Mrs. Elvira, jumping woman-fashion to
all immediate conclusions: "that young
man up stairs with the smooth tongue and
the disagreeable droop to his eyelids.
Don't stand staring there, Jabez, but run
up this minute and see if he hasn't slipped
off in the night, taking the whole side of
the house with him!"

Jabez made haste, accordingly, while
Polly and Elvira stood looking mutely at
one another, as pale as the bleached da-
mask table-cloth that was the pride of the
latter's housekeeping, and in a minute he
came down again.

"He's gone and so has Elvira's grand-
mother's silver cream-jug that was on the
mantel, and the money out of the broken
china match safe that I put under a pile
of linen sheets, and my best Sunday suit,
and Elvira's black silk dress. 'No, no,
wife, don't cry,' he added, kindly; 'as
long as he has left you, and the baby, and
Polly, we won't fret. Only, Polly,' with
a good-humored twinkle in his eyes, 'you
must be a little more careful about the
company you invite home with you.'"

And Polly's tears were tears of genuine
mortification at this unlooked for ending
of her enthusiastic dream of romance, and
before the summer was over she was glad
to become the wife of George Bird.