



Our neighbor seems to take to heart the remarks of Mrs. Helen Gougar at the prohibition meeting and dips his editorial pen in gall to respond.

Senator Voorhees, last Saturday, at Scottsburg, this State, most unmercifully scored the monopolistic hordes. Now let the big organ—the Indianapolis Journal—set up a howl, so that its little monkeys over the State may join in the chorus.

The public debt increased during the months of July and August \$7,394,006. During the corresponding months of the four years of the Cleveland administration the decrease was as follows:

1885.....	\$11,541,842
1886.....	10,959,802
1887.....	9,654,371
1888.....	11,461,974

Senator Voorhees: The present high protective tariff is simply a huge, complicated, far-reaching, close-searching, insatiate, grasping and oppressive instrumentality of the plutocracy for the consolidation of the wealth and the power of wealth in the hands of a few at the expense of the many; it is a vast machine, put in motion by unjust and dishonest laws, to take hard-earned money out of your pockets, and place it to the credit of those who toil not, neither do they spin, but who, in bank account and dazzling riches, outshine Solomon in his greatest glory.

The Oxford Tribune soberly reproduces the following from the Page (Va.) Courier:

In 1861 it took just one bushel of corn to buy a pound of nails; now one bushel of corn will buy ten pounds of nails. Then it required sixty-four bushels of barley to buy one yard of broadcloth; now the same amount of barley will pay for twenty yards of broadcloth. It then required the price of one bushel of wheat to pay for one yard of calico; now one bushel of wheat will buy twenty yards of calico.

In 1861 the monopolistic protective tariff had not yet got in its work, and the country was moving along with the revenues derived from the tariff of 1846. Nails, broadcloth, calico, and everything else, except farm products, were cheaper then than now.

In 1861, the market reports in our files of that date give wheat at 85 and 95. Per contra, a farmer of this Marion township informed us one day this week he had disposed of this year's crop of wheat at 60c.

In 1861, corn, oats, etc., rated proportionally with wheat as quoted that year.

But the silliest, low-down, far-fetched lie contained in the Virginia organ of Mahone, accepted as so much gospel by our old friend Johnnie, and doled out by him to his readers as sober truth, is the statement that: "It then (in 1861) required the price of one bushel of wheat (85c. a 95c.) to pay for one yard of calico;" and that "now one bushel of wheat (60c.) will buy twenty yards of calico." Of course the Virginia organ of the republican confederate brigadier means that 60c. will buy 20 yards of 3c. calico. But when it says that in 1861 calico sold at 85c and 95c. per yard, it lies bad.

GOV GRAY'S SPEECH

(From 1st page.)

who are the least able to pay taxes and does not tax those who are the most able to pay; that taxes the poverty of the country and not its wealth, thereby protecting capital and oppressing labor, is not entitled to the name of protection and can not long exist before the scrutiny of a just and enlightened public opinion.

A quarter of a century has elapsed since the close of the war and yet it is insisted that the present war tariff, which was enacted during the war under the pretense of raising revenue to help defray the greatest war expenditure which the world ever witnessed, shall be continued indefinitely. No person in or out of congress pretended at the time of its enactment that it was for any other purpose than to raise revenue, and all agreed that it was intended only as a temporary measure, which is so expressed in the title of the acts, and had not the war come upon us, no political party or politician would have dared to propose such an increase of the tariff. There was great hurry after the close of the war to relieve the corporations and incomes of the rich of all war taxes and it was done. Now, my countrymen, do you not think it is about time that the farmers and laboring people were being relieved at least of a portion of the same war tax? You will remember, my countrymen, that during the last campaign, when the tariff reformers advocated a reduction of the average tax from 47 to 42 per cent., (a reduction of only 5 per cent.) what a torrent of opposition was aroused by the protectionists all over the country, and they poured their money out like water to carry the election and defeat the reduction. The protectionist and monopolist tell you, my farmer friends, that this war tax is a good thing for you and a good thing for the business of the country. Then why not put the tax back again on the corporations and incomes of the rich?

They tell you that high taxes are a good thing for you but not for corporations and the wealth of country. The truth of history is that the capitalists took advantage of the excitement of the war times and the exigencies of the war to procure the enactment of a tariff that would enrich them at the expense of the people. Its enactment was not dictated by patriotic impulses, but by avarice. Had the motive for its enactment been solely to raise revenue to support the government during the war, a much lower tariff would have been adopted. The present tariff was enacted to prevent competition and not to raise revenue, as the rate of duty fixed by the tariff that existed prior to the war would have produced more revenue during the war and the revenue would have gone into the treasury. The difference between a democratic tariff for revenue and a republican monopoly tariff for protection is, that under a democratic tariff for revenue the tax is levied and collected at the custom-house and paid into the treasury, while under the present republican monopoly tariff the principal part of the tax is levied and collected at the shops and storehouses of the monopolists and goes into their pockets. A democratic tariff for revenue is a tariff to support the government. A republican protective tariff is a tariff to support and build up private interests. Every citizen should be willing to be taxed to support the government. No citizen should be willing to be taxed to support private interests to build up private fortunes. The people have been taxed ever since the war to protect and support private interests, and the result of such a system has been to rapidly aggregate the wealth of the country in the hands of the few. Prior to the enactment of the present war tariff there were not twenty men in the United States who could be called millionaires, and only one man worth over two millions, and he had accumulated his fortune without the aid of protective legislation.

Now it is alleged by learned economists, who have taken great pains to collect statistics in relation to the wealth of the country, that there are over twenty-five thousand individuals in the country worth over a million of dollars each, and some of them worth as much as two hundred millions, and that these 25,000 individuals

own over half of the private wealth of the nation. Estimating our present population at only 60,000,000, one-twenty-four-hundredth of the population own half of the private wealth of the whole country.

Now let us contrast the present distribution of wealth with that which existed up to the time of the enactment of the present war tariff. Our present form of government may be said to have commenced when the constitution went into force, or when the first president was inaugurated, April 30, 1789, and from that date to the enactment of the present war tariff was seventy-five years—three quarters of a century. During all that time there were not twenty individuals in the country worth over a million of dollars each, the wealth of the country being diffused among the people. During the past twenty-five years—one fourth of a century—under the present war tariff, there have been created millionaires by the thousands, the wealth of the country has been concentrated in the hands of the few, monopolies, combined and trusts have been built up, which control the markets and dictates the wages of labor.

This rapid accumulation of great wealth by the few, through special privileges granted by the government, has created an inordinate desire for riches. It is rapidly taking possession of the public mind and threatens to become the ruling passion of the nation. All history shows that when avarice becomes the ruling passion of a nation, its days of usefulness to mankind are numbered. Daniel Webster said in one of his great speeches that "liberty can not long endure in any country when the tendency of legislation is to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few."

The question of tariff reform should receive the immediate and continual attention of the people. Neither party ties nor religious creed should prevent the people from giving it that serious consideration that its importance demands. The present tariff should not be allowed to exist until the reaction against it may become so violent as to demand legislation that will embarrass capital. Capital should not be wrongfully assailed nor unjustly legislated against, but capital can take care of itself without special legislation in its favor. It is the masses of the people—the poor—who need the fostering care of the government.

Abraham Lincoln said in one of his messages to congress: "There is one point to which I ask attention. It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with if not above labor in the structure of the government. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering a power which they already possess and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement to such as they and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of their liberty shall be lost." Again he says: "Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and never could have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is much the superior and deserves much the higher consideration."

The republican party of to-day is radically wrong, and its position as indefensible on the question of taxation as was that of the proslavery advocates during the days of slavery. The pro-slavery advocate contended that slavery was the normal condition of society; and that it was right for capitalists to own slaves and to appropriate the fruits of the slaves' toil to his own use.

The republican of to-day contends that it is right to tax the laboring and producing classes for the benefit of capital. In other words, that it is right to tax one man for the benefit of another man. The principle in each case is the same; both are founded in injustice and oppression, and the people will ere long turn by their ballots the present system of unjust and oppressive taxation as deep as they busted the oppression of human slavery.

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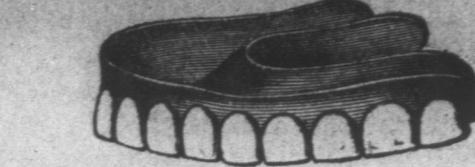
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