

VOORHEES' SPEECH

(From 1st Page.)

WOOL.

Speaking of this schedule in my place in the senate I said: "If any one questions this statement, let the schedule in the bill answer for itself. In its very first line there is an increase from 54.78 to 60.25 ad valorem, almost 6 per cent. added to existing rates, on that class of wool which constitutes practically the entire amount imported into this country. Of this class of wool, costing 30 cents per pound and less, we imported in 1887, 22,607,856. 60 pounds and only 587,878 pounds of all other kinds. The increase of revenue growing out of this increase of duty, every dollar of which the consumer pays, will amount, according to official estimates, to \$239,073.89 a year.

"On combing and scoured wool of the value of 30 cents or less per pound and on wool of the value of over 30 cents per pound, embraced in class 2 of the schedule, an increase is made in excess of existing rates of duty of a little more than 4 per cent. ad valorem, and on carpet wool in class 3 the duty is increased about 2 per cent. more than it is now.

"But passing from wool in its unmanufactured condition. we find in this bill not only no system of reform, but a gross exaggeration of all the worst features of our present vicious system of overtaxed, enslaved labor.

"With an overflowing and almost bursting treasury, surfeited with a surplus of millions, and with an outcry on all hands for a reduction of revenue, it would be intensely gratifying to me to know from the other side of the chamber why, on the manufactures of wool and of the hair of the alpaca, valued at not exceeding 80 cents per pound, the tariff tax has been raised from 89.84 \$102.66 per cent ad valorem, an addition of nearly 13 per cent., to an already outrageous burden imposed on the people for the benefit, growth, and power of monopoly. Also, I would ask, in view of the condition of our revenues, why the tax duty on woollen clothes, valued at above 80 cents a pound, has been increased in this bill from nearly 69 to over 75 per cent. (leaving off fractions for convenience), and thereby enhancing the cost of such goods \$334,484 per annum to those who purchase and use them in this country.

"This bill is a cheat and a fraud in every part of its detail of its frame-work. Belold that humble, hardworking woman, as she hurries along the street to her daily task, or on her return home, facing the keen wintry wind, and gathering tight about her shivering shoulders her plain, thick shawl, her one staunch friend, her vital protector. Sir, bearded men and manly men in the world's affairs, where they are free to follow their own good hearts, stand here in this body, coerced by the merciless, unsparing rapacity of the monopolists in manufacture and trade, and demand that the price of that shawl shall be enhanced to the poor, struggling woman by a tariff tax increased from 89 to 102 per cent.

"The rate of duty as it now exists compels the women, and those who care for them, to pay nearly double the real value of shawls with which to wrap their persons, but the senate bill, the authorized expression of the republican party, compels them to pay 2 per cent. more than double. A five-dollar shawl is made to cost more than \$10, a twenty-dollar shawl is made to cost more than forty, and a fifty-dollar shawl more than a hundred. Those who are willing to appear as the open, avowed oppressors of women in the matter of their clothing, and take their reward in the hideous embrace of protected avarice, may do so; I will not.

"What, however, shall be said as to the article of flannels? Why is it, except for the purposes of legislative plun-

der and legalized robbery, that on the cheapest manufactures of this great want of mankind the tariff tax, in the name of impost duty, has swollen under the whip of monopoly coercion from 67 to 94 per cent. ad valorem? Over \$30,000 a year, in addition to the unjust profits of the existing law, will thus inure to the greedy monopolists in the manufacture and sale of flannels. An increase of 27 per cent. over the existing rate on this one article of universal consumption is something so rank and flagrant in its wrong and oppression that it will go far to educate the people as to the true intent and meaning of tariff revision by the republican party.

"A lesson also on the subject of blankets will greatly assist the public mind in reaching a correct conclusion in regard to what is going on here. On the lower priced blankets, such as cover the poor man's bed through the long winter nights, valued at between 60 and 80 cents per pound, the duty is raised by this bill from 69.36 to 95.22 per cent in order to give the American manufacturer an additional margin of nearly 16 per cent. for higher prices, richer profits, and more perfect protection against foreign competition. A pair of blankets rightfully worth \$3 are to be put upon the market at \$5.85 by protecting the manufacturer from the rivalry of imported blankets to the extent of 95 per cent. I think it will be difficult in the long run to convince plain laboring men and women that high tax ought to be allowed to creep into their beds with them, and like a hideous and perpetual nightmare, rob them of their rest, and all for the sake of furnishing soft couches, downy pillows, and sumptuous houses to a few protected millionaires.

"Sir, a close inspection of this partisan measure discloses at every step its consistent and coherent character as a brutal fraud upon the tax-paying people of the United States, brought forward at the behest of insatiate monopolies, dishonest combines, and arrogant and conspiring trusts. Let us linger a little longer on the wool schedule and point out a few more of its iniquities which are no more respectable



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than a formed design to commit both grades of larceny, grand and petit. Will some friend of this bill, or substitute, or whatever it may be styled, tell me why it is that the price of woollen and worsted yarns is to be enormously enhanced by an increased rate of tariff tax—on the cheaper grades over 29 per cent., and on the more valuable 4 per cent?

"The duty on the cheapest grade of balmorals is raised from 67.72 to 154.05, on the next grade from 65.59 to 112.74, on the next above that from 68.15 to 100.25, and on the highest grade from 66.25 to 75.11. I assert in the hearing of the senate and of the country that there is not a single article in this entire schedule on wools and woollens which has escaped an increased tariff tax. The avaricious clutch of the protected monopolist is made still tighter and broader on

(Continued on 4th page.)

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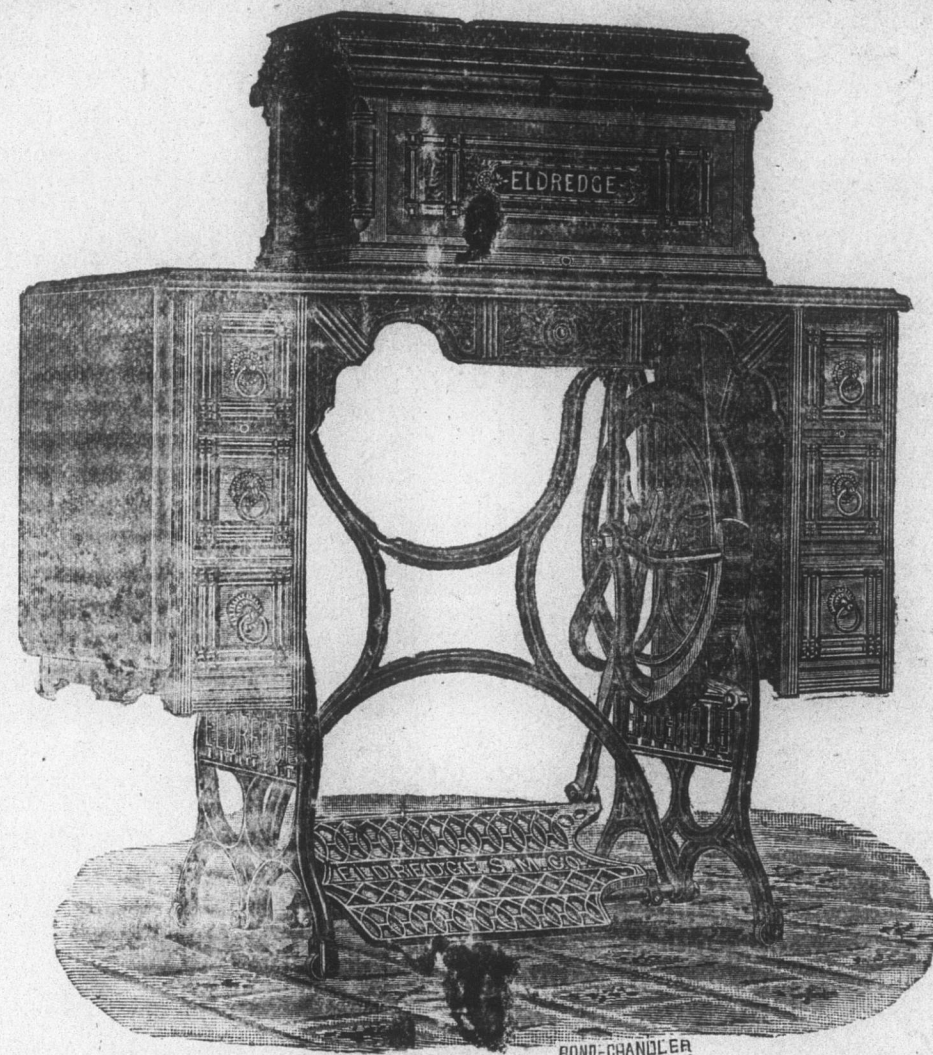
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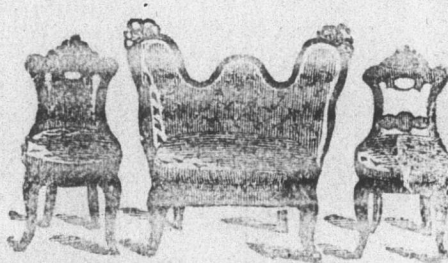
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