

## A Poem for Today

### OLD GRIMES

By Albert Gorton Greene

ALBERT GORTON GREENE, author and jurist, was born in Providence, R. I., Feb. 10, 1882, and died in Cleveland, O., Jan. 3, 1888. He was a lawyer by profession, but a scholar by natural choice, and took a deep interest in the intellectual development of his native state. The private library of Judge Greene, now in Brown University, contained 20,000 volumes. "Old Grimes" is the best known of his poems.

LD Grimes is dead, that good old man.  
We ne'er shall see him more.  
He used to wear a long black coat.  
All buttoned down before.

His heart was open as the day,  
He had nothing but the truth.  
His hair was some inclined to gray;  
He wore it in a cue.

Where'er he heard the voice of pain  
His breast with pity burned.  
The large round head upon his cane  
From ivory was turned.

Kind words he ever had for all;  
His kind words were design.  
His eyes were dark and rather small;  
His nose was julline.

He lived at peace with all mankind;  
In friendship he was true.  
His coat had pocket holes behind;  
His pantaloons were blue.

Unharm'd, the sin which earth pollutes.  
He passed securely o'er—  
And never wore a pair of boots  
For thirty years or more.

Thus undisturbed by anxious cares  
His peaceful moments ran,  
And everybody said he was  
A fine old gentleman.

## The Ligonier Banner.

J. E. McDONALD, Editor

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The death of John Weir is a distinct loss to the community and to the state. Mr. Weir was one of the strong men of our time, a man of sterling character and with splendid qualities of heart and mind. He was an excellent type of our American citizenship, sturdy, honest and patriotic. He always took an active part in the affairs of our community and was ready to espouse the cause that he thought for the best interests of all concerned. A man of strong prejudices and well grounded opinions, he, however, recognized the rights and opinions of those who differed with him. In politics he was always a Republican first, but many times an independent when he measured man with man and policy with policy. It was as a business man that the people of Ligonier and vicinity knew him best. For over forty years he had come in contact with our people and every body knew him and trusted him. His word was as good as his bond and his integrity was not in question. He has done much for Ligonier; with his partner, Bur-W Cowley, he built up and organized a vast business, one of the best and most enterprising in this part of the state. He has done much for the material welfare of the city in the way of substantial improvements and was always found as the advocate of public enterprises. Mr. Weir was one of the men who helped to make Ligonier what it is. We will all miss John Weir.

We have not seen a better statement of the philosophy of a protective tariff as we have it than that made by the New York Journal of Commerce, thus:

Nothing could be more demoralizing than to be shielded against skill, enterprise, ingenuity, superior methods and improved facilities, in short, to be protected against competition, which is the spur to progress. If a high grade and quality of products cost more to make, they will also bring more in the market, and the normal way of increasing profit upon them is to increase the number of products and shorten the cost. That does not mean lessening the cost of labor, or labor's capital, but increasing the efficiency of both. That is the great benefit of competition. It is the spur to superior production in both quantity and quality which can not fail to be a benefit to both capital and labor, for their return comes out of the values produced and not the figures of wages and price. The complex protective system has put the various industrial and trade interests upon such an artificial basis that correct calculation and straight reasoning are made difficult. It appeals to self-interest and selfish motives in a way to pervert moral sense and to distort mental action, and the sooner and more rapidly we can be relieved of the demoralizing effect the better will it be for the health and sanity of the nation.

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Mr. Foulke saw something in The Indianapolis News about Mr. Roosevelt which Mr. Foulke was convinced Mr. Roosevelt would not like. So instead of keeping it from the knowledge of Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Foulke sent to him a "marked copy" with a letter which suggested that Mr. Roosevelt should say something. The hint was hardly necessary. Mr. Roosevelt did say something. Indeed, he said several columns—and addressed the matter to Mr. Foulke with leave to print. That, too, was unnecessary. Mr. Foulke always prints what the President writes to him on public subjects. The publicity of the subject is less important, or less satisfactory, than the fact that Mr. Foulke is the bosom intermediary and favored fluffed channel of the President's views. \* \* \*

Everyone knows that had the corrections Mr. Roosevelt makes been sent to the editors or to the correspondents of the two papers they would have been published at once, but that would have made Foulke dispensable and if Foulke is not indispensable, Foulke is nothing, and Mr. Roosevelt's lambasting of the journalism he dislikes, and his praise or patronization of the kind he likes and is under contract to personally, would have been lost.

The President's last annual message will displace the President's tribe, and Foulke will have to find another placard at his leisure to wear on his front in the interest of his ambition to advertise "Me and the President." —Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

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The New York World moralizes over the placing of 15,000 fourth-class postmasters in the classified list by pointing out a higher spoils system an illustration of which it says is the appointment to be made of Congressman Burton to Mr. Taft's Cabinet so as to make way for Mr. Taft and the brother for the Senate. But others do not have to wait, says the World and continues thus:

Mr. Roosevelt announced yesterday that John D. Prindle, editor of the Labor World, would be appointed customs agent at Pittsburgh. The Labor World was one of the first labor papers to repudiate Gompers and declare for Taft. Samuel B. Donnelly, of New York, another labor leader who was a Taft man, and John J. Keefe, of Detroit, one of the vice presidents of the American Federation of Labor, who advocated Taft's election in spite of Gompers, has been appointed Commissioner General of Immigration. All these labor appointments were promised during the campaign, it is said, and the World knows of no reason for doubting the common report. When the American Federation of Labor officially endorsed Mr. Bryan, Mr. Roosevelt prostituted the patronage of the presidency to divide the organization. Not one of these labor leaders would have been appointed to office had Samuel Gompers not opposed Mr. Taft's election. There is a higher spoils system of which Mr. Roosevelt is the master, which he maintains intact and which he manipulates far more effectively than any of his predecessors manipulated the fourth-class postmasters. Apparently it is another of My Policies which Mr. Taft will inherit.

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The Kansas City Star says that the most audacious contention yet made before the ways and means committee is that of steel and iron men who demand that the present duties on their product be retained in the face of Mr. Carnegie's statement that the industry no longer needs protection and of Mr. Schwab's showing that it costs us only \$12 a ton to make rails where it costs the industry \$19. The contention is made not by the steel trust, but by the Independent, which the Star characterizes as allies and trust agents. The Star goes on to say:

Even these witnesses were compelled to admit that American steel and iron products are sold for less abroad than in the United States; yet they demand the retention of a duty of \$7.84 per ton on steel rails and proportionate duties on other articles. All of which simply means that in spite of the uncontested evidence now before the whole country, that duties on steel and iron are no longer needed under any consistent construction of the law, and that the bill will still be subjected to outrageous extortions to furnish tribute to interests, provided of course, that Congress will submit to this demand. But if Congress does submit, then what hope is there of any equity in any tariff law enacted under the present system of investigation and revision?

John Weir Dead  
Death came to John Weir, the well known hardware man, at Chicago last Friday night after a long and unequal struggle with what was pronounced a fatal malady six months ago. Early in the year, Mr. Weir who had been failing in health for some time, went to Chicago where he consulted a noted specialist who told him that he was doomed that he had a disease that science had been unable to cope with and that time would be measured by a short space. The disease is known as pernicious anemia or the disappearance of the red corpuscles of the blood.

Mr. Weir received the word like a stoic, returned home to put his affairs in shape for the end that seemed so near. He seemed to improve in condition for several months and his friends had hopes that the doctor was mistaken and that his years of usefulness would be lengthened but these hopes were groundless. The disease was still eating at his vitality and during the last two months the end has been drawing near with apparent strides. He clung to life however with that strong purpose that has always marked his being and it was with hope that he might get relief that he made his last trip to Chicago to consult with an eminent doctor. He made a splendid fight against frightful odds and lost. John Weir was born in Lagrange in 1840. Here he spent his boyhood and gained a good practical education. His first business venture was at Lagrange where he went into the drug business in 1861, continuing until 1864 when he came to Ligonier to start a hardware store. The new firm was Weir, Welch & Co. J. W. Welch, still a resident of Ligonier being one of the partners. Three years later Mr. Welch retired from the firm and until 1873 Mr. Weir was associated with his father in the business. At this time he assumed the responsibilities and until 1881 when B. W. Cowley purchased an interest was full control. In the last twenty-eight years the firm of Weir & Cowley has gained a wide reputation for enterprise and stability. They have maintained one of the best and largest stores of its kind in this part of the state. They also successfully managed a large and growing lumber and coal business.

John Weir was married in 1865 to Miss Aleinda J. Welch. Two children were born to this union, Fred E. Weir of this city and Henry W. Weir who was killed near Cleveland several years ago while in the performance of his duty as a trainman on the Lake Shore. Mr. Weir was a public spirited citizen. He took a marked interest in public affairs and was many times identified with the management of the local government. When the corporate government was changed Mr. Weir was chosen as the first mayor of the new city after a spirited but friendly contest with Hon. E. B. Gerber, the democratic candidate. He had much to do with the enactment of the leading ordinances that yet govern our city. He was several times a member of the school board and held other official positions with honor to himself and to the city. He was an honest public servant, a painstaking public official and a conscientious citizen. The funeral was held at the M. E. church Tuesday and was largely attended.

Judge Wrigley Issues Restraining Injunction  
At Columbia City last Thursday, Judge Wrigley granted an injunction restraining the board of county commissioners from taking action on the petition for a county local option election. The grounds upon which the injunction was sought were the unconstitutionality of the recently enacted county option law and the fact that no appropriation had yet been made by the city council to meet the expenses of the election asked for. The merits of these questions were not discussed. Attorney R. H. Minton of Indianapolis for the petitioners, consenting without protest to all presentation of the merits of the case being postponed until February 4, 1908, when the new legislature will have had time to re-enact the county local option law or to make whatever changes it may see fit. The petition filed by the anti-saloonists comprised 1,239 names of presumably legal voters of the county, being an excess of 261 over the required number to compel the calling of an election at the hands of county board of commissioners. The granting of the injunction until February 4 made it unlawful for the commissioners to order the election within that time.

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Warning to Hunters  
All hunters are warned not to trespass on the game preserve in Sparta township. Any person violating this request will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. LAND OWNERS.

Lost  
A pair of steelyards; between the packing house and Stone's Hill, under please notify H. JEA NNEHET.

Resolutions  
WHEREAS, The great Ruler of the universe is in His infinite wisdom, removed from amidst our worthy and esteemed Treasurer and Director John Weir, and

WHEREAS, The intimate relation held during his service as Treasurer and Director of this bank makes it fitting that we record our appreciation of him; therefore

RESOLVED, That the wisdom and ability which he has exercised in aid of our bank by counsel and service will be held in grateful remembrance.

RESOLVED, That the sudden removal of such a man from our midst leaves a vacancy and shadow that will be deeply realized by all and a loss to the city and the public.

RESOLVED, That we extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy and that these resolutions be spread before the trustees of our bank and that they be published in the city papers of Ligonier and that a copy thereof be sent to the bereaved family.

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