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### THE GENERAL TARIFF SITUATION.

Although spring is here, and out in the country the farmers are busy with the harrow and the plow; although the black lamb is still associating with the rest of the flock and the calf is being gently weaned to drink out of the bucket—although the trilliums and the blood roots are the object of the unremitting search of those with tin cans and botanical apparatus; and though the birds are being stared out of countenance by those who carry binoculars over their shoulders—there is something the matter with the spring. We cannot enjoy the spring because down in Washington there are certain gentlemen in the exciting business of discussing the tariff. We even have the idea that they know and want to know what the people think about the question.

The public has grown so agitated over the tariff that even the spring yields no solace. We have on the one hand the view expressed by Mr. Aldrich (who seems to have a strong predilection for affording help to our "infant industries") that the only way to do is to disregard the rest of the country. In support of this theory he brought forward a few weeks ago the statement that the republican party is committed to revision upward. His late debate with Beveridge over the lead schedule has given force to this statement.

We are not among those who think that any sort of revision will do the country good. We, like most of the people in the West had gained another idea of tariff revision as opposed to the view of the senator in question. It has been hinted that the senator has reason to stick by his principles and views inasmuch as they are not wholly distasteful to his friends—"the interests."

Senator Beveridge on the other hand has among those others of the Middle West been deluded by the declarations of Chicago which gave to the people of this section of the United States the idea that real revision is lower revision on most things which affect the trade of the country and the manufacturing interests which are not classed among the "infant industries." This has caused some friction between Beveridge and Aldrich and it is fair to believe that it will cause still more, not only before the senate, but when the people wake up to the fact that the situation is not materially bettered.

It does seem strange that there should be such a difference of opinion as to what the party is committed to. It seems to mean one thing in the East, another in upper New England and quite another thing in the West. It can only be pointed out that if these views are not sufficiently reconciled before long, in the tariff bill there will be something wrong when the time for explanations comes at the next congressional elections and the presidential election four years hence. This question and its answer in the finished product of the tariff bill will then give the republicans some pause if it be not successfully answered.

For those who cannot emulate the walking encyclopedia in the matter of tariff schedules it may be enough to remark that up to date there has been little revision that has not shown an upward tendency except on crude oil. Praise be to the Standard Oil company which had the schedule on crude oil removed which now allows that "infant industry" to get its Siberian oil into this country free where it can be refined and put on the market in competition with the independent refiners.

The suggestion of Mr. Taft that the

bills of the senate and the house of representatives be made to eliminate the bad points of both bills and retain the good points of both has a sad phase when it is recalled that the last time the senate and the house got together on a tariff schedule a few years ago, there was just the opposite effect. On a certain schedule both branches of congress were in conflict—one held out for fifty cents—the other for twenty-five cents—so they compromised on seventy-five cents after a long delay!

Although the senate will in all probability hand down its bill in June, even those who are saying that nothing can be done before the first of July are among those optimistic legislators who have their eye on the summer vacation.

That is why the spring is marred by the talk about the tariff—also why much of the debate is to empty galleries and why the congressional record is full of speeches and the newspapers of the country fuller of the comings and goings of senators and representatives to and from little meetings and conferences.

The American people may as well enjoy the spring—the clamor of the people, no matter how violent will not avail much unless the unexpected happens. The tariff will never be even satisfactory and can never be even comparatively so, until the matter is approached with definite knowledge gained by experts. The present system can never yield any thing which will approach the real tariffs of the world which are based on knowledge gained by careful research. Germany makes her tariffs after long years of study—Japan and England and France have the German system worked out with variations. America is content to let the tariff be wooled around by committees which are not favorable to any thing but infant industries or else are ignorant of conditions—even woefully ignorant of what the purpose of their party is upon tariff revision—whether upward or downward. (Witness Aldrich and Company).

Some day the people will awake to the fact that they ought to have a tariff made by proper methods and made for their benefit.

In the meantime they may as well enjoy the spring—the spring is less uncertain than the tariff made by the present methods.

### SOME VIEWS OF SOCIALISM.

It is a singular coincidence that in three magazines of the last month there should be references to Socialism. In some of the correspondence of the late Grover Cleveland a letter from one of his friends is quoted as saying that the teachings of Karl Marx are displacing the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson in the democratic party. The letter says:

I think Mr. Bryan will be a candidate again, and of course I intend to fight him. I see no indications that the democratic party as you and I knew it is ever to be restored. Under normal conditions a party should arise from the masses of the people to defend the necessary doctrines of strict construction of the Constitution and the use of the coordinate branches of the Federal government of the powers delegated to them, and no others. But conditions are not as they were when we were young. The press of the country no longer discusses constitutional questions; the spirit of socialism in its many forms is abroad amongst the masses of the people, and any movement arising from them is more likely to carry the doctrines of Karl Marx than those of Jefferson.

In another magazine there is a symposium of the leading socialists of the country on how they mean to bring about certain things; namely the ways and means of confiscation and the high hope of socialism that the state shall afford every man a living. The significant thing is that the letter of Eugene V. Debs is the most restrained of the lot while the views of certain others of the Upton Sinclair type predict the most violent changes and confusion. The author of the "Jungle" says: "Then with hunger parades in our streets, and Maxim guns also; with strikes in every industry and a Socialist meeting on every corner—the great change will be made by whatever party happens to be in power."

But though Upton Sinclair sets the date as 1913, Debs is not so confident—he is far more normal.

No one on earth knows how Socialism is to be introduced. First of all, no one knows how it will come, nor what the conditions will be at the time of its coming, nor, in fact, anything about it except that it is bound to come.

Of course no intelligent person believes that Capitalism will abruptly cease and Socialism as abruptly begin. The change will doubtless come gradually in obedience to the evolutionary forces which are producing it. As to how it will be introduced depends upon so many potential factors and so many possible contingencies that it is impossible for any one to say with any degree of assurance how it will come and what immediate changes will take place. As a matter of fact it will not be introduced, but it will adjust itself. If it comes in peace, or at least without great violence, as Socialists ardently hope, and if its representatives are permitted to carry out their plans and program, they will doubtless proceed by legal and orderly means to abolish the cap-

italist political state and establish an industrial democracy—that is to say, they will supplant the capitalist government of men with the democratic administration of things.

To this end they will doubtless proceed to the end, as rapidly as may consistently be done, the essential means of social production and distribution, beginning with those most highly centralized and monopolized and most perfectly organized.

From the first, the new administration will be able to assure employment to all, and thus one of the greatest evils of the present system will be overcome immediately after the transformation.

A new national constitution adapted to the new conditions arising under the industrial commonwealth will no doubt have to be adopted, and this will quite likely be a simple instrument. The senate, will surely be abolished, the supreme court shorn of its veto powers, and congress made directly responsive to the demands and needs of the people.

EUGENE V. DEBS.  
In the Scribners for May, Laurence Laughlin contributes an article entitled "Socialism a Philosophy of Failure," which deals gently with the ideals of socialism but makes the point that the only true socialism is idealism and that the "practical socialists" of the present day are more concerned with the material things than they are with the conditions of making men ready for the ideal state under which socialism can really exist.

Thus, while socialism appeals to an almost universal longing in human nature, it has, on the other hand, the obvious and inevitable inconsistencies of a theory detached from the tyrannical rule of fact. While idealizing the possibilities of human nature to suit an a priori conception of life, until this poor human nature is fairly unrecognizable, socialism proposes, as one means to its end, to obliterate the effects of existing conditions by the removal of competition in the struggle for material existence. That is, it suggests material means to bring about ideal conditions. It does not primarily put its emphasis on the improvement of human nature, but upon a change in the distribution of material wealth. The socialists are seemingly not concerned in building up an Altruism where the only end is goodness and where satisfactions are only spiritual. It is what seems to them the unequal distribution of material possessions which causes them to criticize existing society.

Whatever may be the short comings of the socialistic propaganda and however violent or peaceable their doctrine there is no doubt that we are going to have to take the matter into serious consideration. The thing cannot come in a day nor in a few years—that is not the way of history or of any permanent growth. Socialism, if it is to come will in all probability be so slow and unheralded that the gradual change will not be recognized as such when the millennium appears. If we compare the dreams of the past with our present system of government the philosophers of the past who had great visions would seem to have something to rejoice over in the very government which seems now so irksome to the socialists. And no doubt there would be quite as much discontent in the world were the wishes of the socialists granted at once. Those who pin their faith on the working out of history by evolution rather than by sudden governmental change will, whether they are socialists or not be nearer the truth than those who, like Upton Sinclair put the date at some definite period in the future.

### Items Gathered in From Far and Near

**Breathing Room.**  
From the Baltimore American.

The great atmospheric ocean presses around us everywhere; but at the bottom the currents are often sluggish and in the area of great cities where the life swarms in the gaseous ocean are dense the mass of the life fluid may easily become poisoned with gases. Every open space in the densely settled sections of great cities adds to the breathing room and so to the general wholesomeness. Parks and open squares are the lungs of a big city. They are not only places of resort that offer a gratifying change, but they actually assist the movement of air currents of the streets and alleys. The multiplication of children's playgrounds in large cities during recent

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years has resulted in immensely promoting the open-air habits of the growing generation. We are at last getting away from the theories handed down to us from our remote ancestors—the cave dwellers. We are coming more and more to imitate the ancestry that antedated the cave men—we are learning the tonic power that comes from living in the open air. In the summertime especially we need plenty of breathing space, and we should not be too squeamish about letting the sun shine directly down on us now and then.

In Honor of Longfellow.

From the Indianapolis News.  
The dedication of the statue of Longfellow in Washington is somewhat of a new departure in the art history of the capital. There are numerous statues in the city, including several of statesmen and soldiers, and notable men in other walks of life, but the statue of Longfellow will be the first distinct recognition of American literature in the outdoor statuary of the capital.

We think it will be generally conceded that the subject is well chosen. Longfellow was the first American poet to achieve not only national, but international fame, his popularity in England fully equalling that among his own countrymen. More than a score of editions of his works were published during his life by as many different English publishers, a hundred translations from his works were made in nearly twenty different languages, and his readers were numbered literally by millions.

Happily for the American people and name Longfellow's private and personal character were in keeping with his literary fame, and there is nothing in his memory to be covered up or apologized for.

**Texas' New Road Law.**

From the Houston Post.  
The new road law enacted by the present legislature ought to give quite an impetus to the building of good roads in this state. The law in question gives authority to any county, precinct, political division of a county or defined districts within each county, to levy a tax on petition of fifty, or of a majority, of the resident property, taxing voters in such section to be affected by the roads.

**Whiskey.**

From the Cleveland Leader.  
Dr. Wiley says that 90 per cent of the liquor that is sold as whiskey is a fraud. Some suspect the other 10 per cent.

**He'll Wake It Up.**

From the Boston Transcript.  
If T. R. catches the sleeping sickness that will be the end of it.

### TWINKLES

**Youthful Persiflage.**

"That new tip-tilted headwear of yours reminds me of the tariff," said one young man.

"Because it is something to talk about?" inquired the other.  
"No. Because there seems to be a doubt as to whether the brim shall be revised up or down."

**Requies.**

"People who claim to be epicures often eat strange and undercooked food."

"Yes; in order to be a real epicure you've got to have not only good taste but a strong stomach."

**In Ice Cream Soda Time.**

When summer girls sit up in line with headgear of a bold design Dame Fashion may discover that She must devise a folding hat.

**Breaking the Soil.**

"Do you never indulge in the pleasure of getting out and turning up the fresh earth?"

"It's no pleasure to me," answered the novice at golf. "Every time I go to the club, I get nothing but harsh looks for my activities in that direction."

**Finding Things Out.**

"What makes you so sure you know exactly how much money that man makes per annum?"

"I got him to express his honest opinion as to the figure at which there should be exemption from an income tax."

**An Author's Initials.**

Initials are sometimes the resort of the writer who is anxious to conceal his identity, and a glance through any one of the 700 volumes that comprise the catalogue of the British museum reading room will discover some strange instances. A theological book, entitled "Inquiry Into the Meaning of Demons in the New Testament," is attributed to T. F. A. P. O. A. B. L. C. O. S. Its real author was a certain Arthur Sykes, and the initials reveal his position as "the precursor and prebendary of Alton Borealis in the church at Salisbury."—London Chronicle.

**Revenge.**

"That organist Belle Jilted for the aged millionaire played a spiteful trick at her wedding."

"What did he do?"  
"Instead of playing them up the aisle with the wedding march, he struck up 'Old Hundred.'"—Boston Transcript.

**Prospects Brilliant.**

"I see you got married yesterday. Chloe. Are your prospects brilliant?"  
"Yess. Mah husband's friends brought me fo' mo' washin'."—Circle Magazine.

This world is to the sharpest, heaven to the most worthy.—Hamilton.

**MASONIC CALENDAR.**

Wednesday, May 12.—Webb Lodge, No. 24, F. & A. M. Entered Apprentice Degree.

Friday, May 14, 1909.—King Solomon's Chapter, No. 4, R. A. M. stated meeting.

Saturday, May 15.—Loyal Chapter, No. 12, O. E. S. Stated Meeting.

## FALL FESTIVAL WAS DISCUSSED BY THE MEMBERS

At Y. M. B. C. Meeting Last Evening Boom for Next Fall's Big Event Was Started With Great Energy.

ADVERTISING WILL BE STARTED SHORTLY

Report of the Saturnalia Committee Shows That About \$100 Was Cleared—Changes in Constitution.

In order that the merchants and citizens generally may talk over plans and arrangements for the second annual fall festival, to be held next fall, a mass meeting in the nature of a smoker, will be held at the city building next Tuesday evening, to which every one who is interested is invited. Plans for such a meeting were made last evening at the meeting of the Y. M. B. C. in the council chambers.

It was first the intention to hold a mass meeting to see whether the merchants really wanted a fall festival, but after several of the merchants present last evening, stated that they were unanimous for such, it was decided to hold a mass meeting so that the general public could suggest what would be desirable for the big event.

Will be Superior.  
According to the statements of several members of the Y. M. B. C. last evening, the affair will excel that of last year much more than is anticipated. The club has the experience and can profit by a few of its failures in connection with the affair last year. The merchants are expected to take a greater "working" interest in the affair.

The plans have yet to be worked out but they will be generally along the lines of those of last year. The displays this year will be larger and there will be a greater variety.

After some dispute as to whether the names of delinquent members should be posted in the club rooms for thirty days, the club unanimously adopted an amendment to the constitution, providing such. An amendment providing for a change in the term of service of the directors of the club was also adopted. Under the new provision the fifteen directors will be elected for two years.

Instead of having stickers printed with the club's motto and distributed to the merchants and manufacturers to be placed on their correspondence, William Locher of the committee reported the committee believed it would be better to print such monogram on the envelope. It was left to the judgment of the committee as to whether to offer a prize of \$5 for the best design to be used for such purpose.

Band Project Dead.  
The proposition of organizing the two bands of the city into one was dropped last evening, after Charles Kolp, of the committee, and other members of the club, who have been interested in the proposition, stated that it was useless to make further efforts. The committee was discharged by acting president, C. W. Merrill.

The report by Chairman Torrence on the masked Saturnalia shows that the club made about \$100, although all of this amount is not as yet in the treasury, owing to the delinquency of several of the ticket sellers to report to Treasurer Frank Taylor. The total receipts from the affair amounted to \$385.70 and the expenditures to \$305.08, leaving a balance of \$80.62. There are a hundred and eighty-five tickets to be turned in or the money for the same received.

Alchemy was originally based upon the idea that material substances were base and that by a series of tortures and eliminations the good or noble part could be separated from the base and that finally the pursuit of all substances, gold, would be the consummation.—Exchange.

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## G. A. R. "Vets" Sounded "Taps" Over a Confederate's Grave

Kenosha, Wis., May 12.—There was a strange intermingling of the blue and the gray in Kenosha yesterday afternoon, when twenty grizzled veterans of the civil war and former members of the Union army gathered at the city cemetery here to pay their last respects to William H. McDoniel, who had served with distinction in the Confederate army during the war of the rebellion.

The men were all members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and nearly every one of them had faced McDoniel in the battle during the war. McDoniel just before he died asked that the members of the Grand Army of the Republic be asked to carry him to his last resting place, and these men gave to him the tender consideration that they would have given to one of the members of their own organization, except that the coffin was not draped with the stars and stripes.

As the body was lowered into the grave by six members of the Grand Army, a former Union soldier sounded "taps," and the grave was marked with an army marker so that it will be decorated on Memorial day just the same as the graves of the Union soldiers buried there. McDoniel had lived in Kenosha for six years and was a great favorite with the Grand Army members.

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