

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 28, 1910.

## Vast Expense of Living The Issue.

### Republican Policies Foster Trusts and Increase Prices.

The real issue in the pending campaign is the high cost of living. Political parties can't control the sunshine and the rain and party policies do not regulate the volume of the crops. But they have a lot to do with the distribution of the fruits of the soil and the rewards of labor, and those things in large measure determine the prices of commodities. The policies of the Republican party have been and still are promotive of high prices, not for the benefit of the producer, but in the interest of the distributor. That is what the people should oppose.

In the natural course of commerce prices would be determined by the cost of production and improved machinery, better understanding and enlarged opportunities would decrease rather than increase prices. But the policies of the Republican party foster restraints in distribution, create monopolies in the handling of products and take toll merrily from both the producer and consumer in order to swell the profits of distribution. Tariff taxation is the main instrument for manipulating these elements to produce the evil results. Tariff taxation is the fundamental tenet of the Republican party.

Tariff taxation can't possibly increase the wages of labor, for the reason that while the products of labor are taxed the labor itself is without protection. Nobody ever heard of a tariff schedule on bricklayers, machinists, coal diggers or even farmers. When laborers are scarce the employers have the wide world from which to draw supplies. The working men can be drawn freely from Canada, Mexico, Italy or China, and the moment wage earners ask for high wages requisitions go out to foreign labor markets.

But the things that the mechanics use are all tariff taxed and the prices are regulated by the tariff schedules. Trusts are formed to regulate not only the prices that the producers of the commodities receive, but the prices which the consumers of the commodities must pay. Thus they draw profits "coming and going" and find victims at both ends of their operations. By continuing the Republican party in power this injustice is prolonged. Without tariff taxes prices of some necessary articles might be high, but in that event the producer would get the benefit. Under existing conditions the only beneficiary is the trust.

High tariff taxation necessarily puts fictitious values upon commodities because the amount of the tariff tax is added to the price to the consumer. But even high tariff taxes can't do their worst unless assisted by trust manipulation or else the schedules are so high that they become prohibitive. For example, the Wilson tariff bill was a protective measure. As originally presented by the house committee on ways and means it was almost an ideal measure. But it was manipulated in the senate, in which the Democratic majority was small, and distorted into a protective law to a considerable extent. Nevertheless prices were nothing like as high under the Wilson bill as they are under the Payne-Aldrich monstrosity, as the following quotations prove:

In 1896 you could buy two pounds of salt pork for 10 cents. Today the price is 34 cents.

In 1896 you could buy five pounds of pork ribs for 30 cents. Today the price is 90 cents.

In 1896 you could buy four pounds of smoked shoulder for 28 cents. Today the price is 60 cents.

In 1896 you could buy two pounds of sausage for 14 cents. Today the price is 30 cents.

In 1896 you could buy five pounds of lard for 25 cents. Today the price is 85 cents.

In 1896 you could buy five pounds of corned beef for 25 cents. Today the price is 70 cents.

In 1896 you could buy four pounds of butter for 64 cents. Today the price is \$1.52—and you are not sure of getting genuine butter at that.

In 1896 you could buy two dozen eggs for 26 cents. Today the price is 64 cents—and packed eggs at that.

In 1896 you could buy one pound of cheese for 13 cents. Today the price is 30 cents.

In 1896 you could buy two quarts of beans for 8 cents. Today the price is 20 cents.

In 1896 you could buy a barrel of sour for \$4. Today the price is \$6.50.

In 1896 you could buy four pounds of fowl for 48 cents. Today the price is \$1.

In 1896 you could buy 21 pounds of sugar for \$1. Today the price is \$1.31.

In 1896 you could buy two pounds of steak for 32 cents. Today the price is 50 cents.

In 1896 you could buy five pounds of roast beef for 56 cents. Today the price is \$1.25.

In 1896 you could buy a bag of corn for 65 cents. Today the price is \$1.60.

In 1896 you could buy a bushel of oats for 28 cents. Today the price is 55 cents.

And so on through the entire list of family necessities.

In other words, a two weeks' store bill in 1896 amounted to \$9.76. A two weeks store bill today foots up \$18.96. Prices have doubled or more than doubled since 1896, but wages have not correspondingly increased.

The stand-patters declare that the tariff has nothing to do with increased prices; yet the fact is, the high prices became a fixed fact immediately after the adoption of the Dingley bill, and they mounted higher immediately after the passage of the Taft-Aldrich Cannon measure. It is well to bear these facts in mind.

## PHILOSOPHY OF MARKET BASKET

### A Wise Wife Points the Way For Her Husband.

The head of a big manufacturing concern in Long City said to his bookkeeper a few mornings ago: "Well, Franklin, I suppose you will as usual cast your vote for that grand old party of yours in spite of my efforts to reform you."

"No, not this year," replied Franklin. "I'm with you this time. My wife has taken of my vote."

"Why, what does your wife know about politics?"

"That's just what I asked her when she told me to vote for Mr. D.D. Her answer converted me. She said: 'I don't know anything about politics, Henry, but I know all about the kitchen.'"

### Berry Assumes Responsibility.

If the failure of fusion results in the election of John K. Tener to the office of governor, the responsibility for that shame rests upon William H. Berry. Webster Grim was fairly nominated after an open and manly competition by the Democratic state convention as the candidate of his party. William H. Berry was defeated for the nomination by that result. There could be only one reason which would justify the refusal of Mr. Berry to acquiesce in the judgment of the convention. That is that the candidate is morally or mentally unfit. That reason has never been alleged by any man. It is universally admitted that Webster Grim is better equipped and better qualified for the office than any other man nominated by any party.

Notwithstanding this clear and just title to the nomination Senator Grim frankly and candidly offered to withdraw from the campaign if Mr. Berry would do the same in order that the voters who favor good government might unite upon a candidate. The Democratic executive committee offered to nominate the former distinguished and militantly honest mayor of Pittsburgh, Hon. George W. Guthrie, as the candidate in the event that Mr. Berry and Mr. Grim would withdraw. But Mr. Berry refuses to open the way for the certain election of such a man to the office of governor for the same reason that he refused to acquiesce in the nomination of Grim, namely because he has an abnormal and absurd ambition for office or else he is under contract with the Penrose machine to prevent a union of the forces in the electorate which are opposed to the Penrose machine.

In either event William H. Berry will be responsible for the election of John K. Tener if that unfortunate thing occurs. He is thoroughly familiar with the charges that have been made and substantially proved against the Republican candidate. Yet for the reason that he has a preposterous hope that he might himself be elected to the office if he remains in the field he refuses to withdraw. A more complete expression of selfish and sordid ambition has never been presented in this state. If Mr. Berry were qualified in every other respect, which he isn't, this action would give him unfit for the office of governor. It shows beyond question that he considers no interest except his own.

### Why Tener?

[From the Philadelphia Record.]

It was no compliment to John K. Tener when the Republican machine in Pennsylvania dictated his nomination for governor. Under various pretexts in the past ten years the cost of government in this state has been advanced from \$15,000,000 to \$30,000,000. The cost of municipal rule in cities under machine control has more than kept pace with state expenditure. A very large part of this advanced cost goes to grease the wheels of the machine. Mr. Tener is selected to see to it that the supply of grease (or graft) is not diminished. Late disclosures as to the past business activities of Mr. Tener serve to show that the machine has made no mistake in its man.

Forewarned is forearmed. The voter who goes to the polls in November and votes for Tener formally indorses the wholesale grafting of the machine and the lesser grafting of the candidate in his capacity of a promoter of speculative ventures. Let no such voter afterward complain of his tax rates, or of the hard times, or of the increased cost of living. As long as we sent Teners to congress, or to our state legislatures, or elevate them to governorships or other positions of trust in the management of public affairs, there will be no balk or stop in the career of general plundering and extravagance which has made our great republic the chief among spend-thrift nations.

We now know what Colonel Roosevelt's "new nationalism" means. It means a Democratic congress and a lot of Democratic governors in Republican states.

Taft sticks to Ballinger probably because there is nothing else left of the Republican party for him to stick to.

### Picturesque Japanese Peasants.

The most characteristic scenery in Japan is not the mountain, on which few Japanese dwell, but the rice field, which is to be found wherever there is a patch of level ground for the field and sufficient water for irrigation. Gentle slopes are made useful by terracing, and the cool, preparing the ground or cutting his crop, is the true Japanese peasant. He is a picturesque peasant in his blue cotton suit, his broad, conical straw hat and straw overcoat. He is a good natured peasant, absurdly contented with his earnings, though the agricultural laborer earns as little as 8 or 10 cents a day. His house is a light wooden frame surmounted by a heavy thatch, and he loves to plant a lily garden along his roof-tree. But he always has one thing which separates him from the Chinese and the East Indian—he lives on a platform raised above the ground. No hardened soil for him, no chilly pavement or brick or stone. A wooden floor, a piece of clean matting, a broom and a bathtub the poorest Japanese will always have.—Tokyo Letter to Boston Transcript.

### A Deceptive Air.

The bushy storekeeper surveyed Mr. Leonard with a contemptuous eye and then turned his gaze toward Jimmy Sloane, who was putting packages into the delivery wagon. Jimmy had the leisurely air of one with plenty of time at his disposal.

"You want to know how he'd be for your business down below?" said Mr. Gregg slowly.

"Yes," said the visitor. "I noticed him yesterday, when that crowd of young fellows were getting the piano into the hall; he seemed to work harder than any of the others. It occurred to me he might like a bigger chance than he has here."

"M-m," said the storekeeper. "Well, now, I can't say to that, of course, but as to his working harder than any of the other boys, I'll tell you what they say, and you can believe it or not, just as you choose."

"They all like Jimmy, for he's first rate company, but the truth is that when it comes to lifting, or such work, Jimmy's all take holt and mighty little h'ist."—Youth's Companion.

### Dark Walls Best For Illumination.

Some scientists who have been making investigations into the part played in the matter of illumination by light and dark walls have come to the conclusion that the dark walls are better fitted for good illumination than the light. In a room where the walls are dark and where the source of light is entirely behind the reader's field of vision a person who reads is impressed with the idea that the room is excellently well illuminated, but if now another light is brought into the room and placed within the field of his vision, though not shining on the paper he is reading, the pupils of his eyes will contract, less light will enter them from the paper he reads, and the reader will be impressed with the idea that the illumination has been reduced and the paper is becoming darker. These scientists say that the experiments show that if the walls are light colored the efficiency of the illumination may actually be diminished.—Pathfinder.

### The Picture in Disguise.

Of the strange vicissitudes through which many of the world's famous pictures have passed perhaps none was odder than that of "The Picture in Disguise," a magnificent painting that now adorns the residence of Lord Leigh in Warwickshire, England. This remarkable picture for many years appeared to be merely a painting of flowers. The floral study was, however, finally pronounced by an astute art dealer to be in reality a mask for another painting. With the permission of the owner he caused the painting of flowers gradually to be removed, whereupon there was discovered underneath a very fine portrait of Charles I. by Van Dyck. While no authentic record of this masterpiece has been found, it is supposed that the portrait was disguised by some royalist in order to guard against its destruction by Roundheads during the revolution.—Boston Post.

### Medical.

### Burdens Lifted

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### Bonheur's Humor.

Mlle. Rosa Bonheur (Rosa stood for Rosalie) was not without a sense of humor, so it is told of her that when presiding over a school of design in Paris, the pupils being girls, the artist was disgusted with the class because, imitative of their teacher, the young women had cut their hair short.

"Goodness," cried Rosa Bonheur, "how horrid you all look! This is not a class of boys. You silly creatures, let your hair alone and do your best so as to retain all the advantages of your sex."

### Easy Cure.

"There is a man who is always looking for trouble."

"Well, it's easy enough to cure him of that habit."

"How?"

"Get him put on the police force."—Exchange.

### Sarcastic.

"Do you sleep with your mouth open?" inquired a doctor.

"I've never noticed," was the sarcastic reply, "but I'll look tonight when I'm asleep."

### The Professor Remembers.

Professor (as the company is breaking up, missing one of his rubbers)—Has any of you gentlemen put on three rubbers by mistake?—Pileggi's Blatter.

### The Slippery Top.

Sillicus—We are told there is plenty of room at the top. I wonder why it is. Cynicus—I suppose most of the people who get there fall off.—Philadelphia Record.

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