

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 25, 1912.

Proof of Democratic Platform's Soundness Cited in Reports of Wage Investigations.

By FRANKLIN PIERCE.

For a hundred years of our history the manufacturers, believing that they received a benefit from the protective tariffs, have ingeniously devised plausible pretenses for imposing increased prices upon the necessities of life. At first they said that industry in our country was in its infancy and needed protection. When those industries had become strong and needed no aid the manufacturers invented the theory that the foreigner paid the duty. This theory was exploded, and they declared that cheap clothing meant cheap men and was not a blessing.

Driven from every one of these indefensible positions, their final and only argument left today is that the tariff is imposed upon foreign imports to enable the manufacturer to increase his profits and pay higher wages.

The Democratic platform declares that:

"In the most highly protected industries, such as cotton and wool, steel and iron, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our industries."

Wages in Cotton Industry.

Under the existing Payne-Aldrich tariff law actual imports of cotton cloth paid in 1910 average duties of 66.4 per cent.

In 1905, when work and wage conditions in the cotton industry were exceptionally good, the wages of 202,211 cotton mill operatives in the United States—men, women and children—averaged only \$6.47 a week. The average wage for men was but \$7.71 a week, for women \$6.30 and for children, \$3.21.

As to the profits, seventeen leading cotton mills, with total capitalization of \$25,110,000 and total surplus of \$21,863,501, paid in nine years dividends averaging 22 per cent.

The cotton manufacturers turned out in 1905 \$442,451,218 worth of goods and paid in wages thereof \$94,337,695, or 21 per cent of the value of the finished product.

Extortion of Wool Tariff.

Outside of the duties on two or three commodities of comparatively little importance, the duties on woolen cloth are the highest of any in the tariff schedules. According to Senator Reed Smoot, owner of a woolen mill at Provo, Utah, and chairman of the finance committee in charge of tariff legislation in the senate, wearing apparel valued at 30 cents a pound now pays 206 2-3 per cent duty.

This and other correspondingly high duties on the manufacturers of wool are made to enable the manufacturer to pay his labor an increased wage over those of foreign countries. But the duty on woolen goods is nearly five times the entire labor cost, while the American manufacturers in 1905 paid in wages only 18 per cent of the total value of their production.

At Lawrence in this most highly protected industry the laborers were obliged to strike even for a living wage. Thousands of adult males were receiving only \$8 to \$9 a week and many only \$5 to \$6 a week. As a result of the strike the American Woolen company gave its employees slight increases in wages.

The wool tariff bill vetoed by President Taft reduced the duties on raw wool from 42.20 to 29 per cent and on manufactures of wool from 87.65 to 48.36 per cent. Mr. Taft said he vetoed it because the proposed rates did not comply with the findings of the tariff board. Senator La Follette contradicted the president, saying that the proposed rates varied from 1 per cent lower to 11.6 higher than the tariff board's findings justified.

Low Wages in Steel.

Manufacturers of iron and steel in 1905 paid in wages only 15 per cent of the total value of their production, while the duty then would average about 45 to 47 per cent, and on all metals it now averages 34.51 per cent.

American wages are really the cheapest wages in the world when you take into account the amount of production per man.

An illustration of this appears in the Stanley report, investigating the steel trust, as follows:

"The labor cost of producing pig iron in Pennsylvania fell from \$1.25 a ton in 1902 to 82 cents a ton in 1909, yet the realized value of the pig iron output was \$15.64 in 1902, whereas it was \$17.44 in 1909. In other words, wage-workers in 1902 got \$1.25 for producing only \$15.64 worth of pig iron and in 1909 only 82 cents for producing \$17.44 worth."

While thus treating labor the industrial combinations that have grown up under the protection of the tariff have fixed the prices of commodities at the highest point the home market would stand.

When will the laboring men of the country cast off this delusion that the tariff is for their benefit and with their votes strike down this monstrous injustice?

Don't Wait.

Don't wait if you are showing symptoms of "ring trouble," but get a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and begin its use. Where there is weakness, obstinate cough, or spitting of blood its remedial action is marvelous. Mr. Cornelius McCawley of Leechburg, Armstrong County, Pa., "had eighty-one hemorrhages, sometimes spitting five pints of blood at one time" to quote from his letter. He was perfectly cured by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery." When there is constipation the action of the "Discovery" is assisted by the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

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Whatever organ or passage of the body it affects, and requires a constitutional remedy for its permanent cure. It depends on an impure, impoverished, devitalized condition of the blood, which keeps the mucous membrane in a state of inflammation, and causes a dilatation and generally offensive discharge; also headache, ringing noises, partial deafness, weak eyes.

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New Buggies and Carriages

Forrest L. Bullock, the Water Street dealer, has just received a carload of fine New Rubber and Steel Tire Buggies and Carriages. They are all the product of the Ligonier Carriage Co., and in workmanship, quality and finish can't be surpassed at the price.

If you are thinking of buying a new vehicle this spring you would do well to look this shipment over because he guarantees them and will sell them all at a figure that marks them as bargains.

Forrest L. Bullock.

Constitutional Amendments

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to article nine, section four of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the State to issue bonds to the amount of fifty millions of dollars for the improvement of the highways of the Commonwealth.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and the same shall be, in the words to wit: "That section four of article nine, which reads as follows:—

"Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed, in the aggregate at any one time, one million of dollars,"

be amended so as to read as follows: "Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed, in the aggregate at any one time, one million of dollars. Provided, however, that the General Assembly, in respect of any debt, may authorize the State to issue bonds to the amount of fifty millions of dollars for the purpose of improving and rebuilding the highways of the Commonwealth."

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT MCAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to section seven, article three of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, so as to permit special legislation regulating labor.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Section 2. Amend section seven, article three of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

"Section 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law authorizing the creation, extension, or impairing of liens:—

"Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys;—

"Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State;—

"Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys;—

"Relating to cemeteries, graveyards, or public grounds not of the State;—

"Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children;—

"Locating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties, or changing county lines;—

"Incorporating cities, towns or villages, or changing their charters;—

"For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting;—

"Granting divorces;—

"Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits or school districts;—

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Granting divorces;—

Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits or school districts;—

Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts;—

Changing the law of descent or succession;—

Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of, or changing the rules of evidence in, any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery, or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judicial sales of real estate;—

Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of officers, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables;—

Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses and the raising of money for such purposes;—

Fixing the rate of interest;—

Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enactment;—

Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury;—

Exempting property from taxation;—

Regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing;—

Creating corporations, or amending, renewing or extending the charters thereof;—

Granting to any corporation, association or individual any special or exclusive privilege or immunity, or to any corporation, association or individual the right to lay down a railroad track;—

Not shall the General Assembly indirectly enact any special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but laws repealing local or special acts may be passed;—

Not shall any law be passed granting powers and privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been provided for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for;—

Section 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law authorizing the creation, extension or impairing of liens:—

Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts;—

Changing the names of persons or places;—

Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases;—

Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys;—

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 2.
ROBERT MCAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Three.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to section three of article eight of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

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