

## LOGIC, NOT THEORY.

WHY MR. BRYAN'S TARIFF REFORM SPEECH COMMANDED ATTENTION.

He Made No Concession to Protection, and Was Above Resorting to Buncombe. Although a New Member His Time Was Extended from One Hour to Three.

W. J. Bryan, the able young representative of the Nebraska Democracy, succeeded in gaining and holding the attention of the house on the tariff question for three hours. The time allotted to him was one hour, but when that had expired Republicans and Democrats joined in urging him to proceed, and even after he had consumed three times his allotted hour they shouted to him to go on. This was the more remarkable from the fact that Mr. Bryan is a new member, and his speech of Wednesday was his first on the floor of the house.

So far as one can judge from the brief report of his speech, Mr. Bryan commanded attention not only because he is a pleasing and eloquent speaker, but also because he took a radically right position on the tariff question—a position which could be defended with consistency and irresistible logic. He succeeded because he was master of his subject and scorned to stultify himself by addressing stuff to Buncombe county that was inconsistent with sound doctrine.

It does not appear that Mr. Bryan made any concession to protectionism by saying that grand larceny was wrong and petty larceny right, or that robbery as a chief purpose was wrong and injurious to the victim, while incidental robbery was right and beneficial to the victim. It does not appear that he tolerated in the least the false pretense of the McKinley sophists that "protection" is for the benefit of labor, and that "protective" taxes equal to an unknown difference in wages are necessary for the defense of the workman and the industries of the country.

Regarding this false pretense he quoted the statement made by the high tariff champion, Henry Clay, fifty years ago, that it costs the same to manufacture a yard of flannel in this country that it did in England. He also quoted the statement made by Mr. Blaine in 1881 in an official report to congress that the difference in wages in this country and in England in the cotton manufacturing industry was more than compensated by the greater efficiency and the longer hours of labor of American operatives. He also quoted J. B. Sargent, the head of the greatest shelf hardware manufacturing concern in the country, who was once a protectionist, as saying that while wages are higher in this country than in Europe the actual labor cost of manufacturing hardware is not greater in this country, and that under free trade he could pay the same wages and compete successfully against European manufacturers in the markets of the world. Thus, by the testimony of the great lights of the high tariff party, Mr. Bryan exposed the falseness of the pretense that tariff taxes are necessary to compensate the laborer in America for differences in wages and to maintain the American standard of wages.

Mr. Bryan seems to have planted himself on solid ground from the first, and to have staid there to the last, leaving no weak spots in his defenses through which the McKinleyites could make breaches. No doubt that is one reason why he commanded such close attention. The man who is radically right and who dares to accept the conclusions necessarily following from his right premises always commands attention and respect. Mr. Bryan may be criticized for supporting a bill which provides protection for a class of manufacturers, but he can reply that it is not inconsistent for a hungry man to accept a slice of bread when he can get no more, and that it would be foolish for him to reject the slice because he couldn't get the whole loaf. Or, when a workman cannot collect all the wages due him it is better to accept a part than to go hungry.—Chicago Herald.

**The Czar May Go as a Guest.**  
Ex-Speaker Reed is reported to be engaged in the occupation of setting up the pins for sending himself as a delegate to the Republican national convention. Mr. Blaine's admirers still insist that Mr. Reed shall remain at home. Perhaps a compromise might be arranged so as to allow Mr. Reed to go as a guest. That seems to be the popular caper this year.—Boston Herald.

**Candidates in a Pickwickian Sense.**  
Mr. Alger says he cannot withdraw from the contest for the presidential nomination without "shirking his duty." Well, the withdrawing will be done as painlessly as possible in the convention. Blair, too, means to hold on to his lightning rod till the storm is over.—New York World.

**A Possible Claim Disposed Of.**  
Really and truly, Mr. McKinley did not cause the enormous crops of the past season. Mr. McKinley would be the last man to do anything to prove that there is not a home market for the American farmer.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**They Ought to Be Withdrawn.**  
Senator Cullom has withdrawn from the presidential race, but his pictures are still appearing in the newspapers. The pictures are really what the senator should withdraw.—New York Advertiser.

**A Dangerous Combination.**  
If Tom Platt and Jerry Rusk are against the administration, the administration has something to fear. Tom and Jerry can floor the opposition if they get on the inside of it.—St. Louis Republic.

**From Ocean to Ocean.**  
Extremes meet—the Democrats have carried Portland, in Maine, and Seattle, in Washington, both Republican cities, by satisfactory majorities.—Philadelphia Record.

## TAXES AND PRICES.

The False Reasoning of the Devotees of the Protection Fallacy.

Universal business stagnation has forced down the prices of cotton, wool, iron and other staple articles below the average for many years, and some of the more reckless protectionist journals, willing to impose upon the credulity of their readers, have ascribed the prevailing cheapness to the operation of the McKinley tariff. As the tariff could be of no advantage unless it should increase the price of manufactured stuffs, and as the drop in prices in foreign markets has been concurrent with depreciation here, no one has been deceived into the belief that high tariffs bring low prices except the dupes who are the victims of their own ignorance.

Of this class, evidently, is Mr. J. T. Williams, who writes to The Record from Charlotte, Mich., how much cheaper goods are in 1892 than they were in 1890, and says that he has heard "that cotton ties, now made exclusively in this country of steel, are selling 20 per cent. less than when they were on the free list." Under the tariff of 1883 cotton ties were not free; they paid a duty of 35 per cent. ad valorem. The duty is now 1½ cents per pound on ties in a finished or partly finished state. But Mr. Williams is evidently ready to believe that the process of taxing an article tends to cheapen it, and he is also willing to ascribe to beneficent taxation the effects of overproduction, stagnation and sweeping commercial disaster.

How is it possible to deal with the Williamses and to lift them from the depths of protectionist superstition?—Philadelphia Record.

**Not a Statistical Congress.**  
Our esteemed contemporary, the Philadelphia Telegraph, is disposed to blame the present house of representatives because it hasn't devoted itself to the task of trying to pile up statistics. "What has been done during the winter?" asks this Philadelphia mourner. "What is likely to be done in the immediate future?"

What is necessary to be done except to pass the appropriation bills and keep them down to economical figures? The house will consider the tariff question thoroughly. There has been and will be plenty of discussion. The country is not pining for legislation. In fact, it suffers from too much legislation. But even if under and not over legislation were the rule, the house could accomplish little, the senate and the presidency being in Republican hands.

The house is all right. The country remembers from the example of the billion congress how dangerous, how meddlesome and how expensive is a congress run on the theory that a pile of legislation is a good thing. The more conversation and the less legislation there is in congress, the better, usually, and the cheaper for the people.

The Fifty-second congress is all right.—New York Sun.

**High Tariff Is a Fiction.**  
The Republican campaign managers in Washington are credited with circulating a "tariff novel" as part of a campaign of education. The people, however, have finished their education in that branch of instruction. They know the tariff better than a book. It was appropriate, though, that a work of fiction should have been the chosen means of propagandism.—Exchange.

**The Republican Brand of Harmony.**  
Can it be true that the president is conducting the correspondence in the Behring sea matter because he does not agree with Mr. Blaine? And yet he is insisting on the theory that the Behring sea is closed, while Mr. Blaine abandoned that contention long ago.—New York World.

**Where, oh Where?**  
There is great astonishment all over the republic at the charges of corruption brought against officials of the federal courts in Boston. If Boston Republicans cannot be trusted where are we to look for the right sort?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Grandfather's Hat or Grandson's Collar?**  
Editor Halstead suggests that all the delegates to the Minneapolis convention wear faithful copies of grandfather's hat. Is not the Harrison collar a sufficient badge of their political order?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Wherein Tracy Is Unavailable.**  
Secretary Tracy would make a very popular running mate for President Harrison, but his bank account is not quite up to Mr. Morton's. This is where he would fail to meet the emergency.—Boston Herald.

**No Barrel, No Nomination.**  
Vice President Morton seems to be lost to sight politically, though dear to memory. It is said that his campaign subscription in 1888 fell far below party expectation.—New York Advertiser.

**The Irony of Fate.**  
Senator Hoar would no doubt deeply regret his resolution for an inauguration shed were a Democrat president the first to get the benefit of it.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Mills' Advantage Over Crisp.**  
One consolation to Mr. Mills, on his return to congress, is that he won't have to be in the same room with Tom Reed and Crisp will.—Columbus (O.) Post.

**Wise and Otherwise.**  
The McKinley tariff is pronounced wise by a tariffite. The people of the country have pronounced it otherwise.—Philadelphia Record.

**At Last Protection Pays Something.**  
"Reciprocity is the homage which prohibitory protection pays to genuine tariff reform." Good for you, Mr. Cleveland.—Boston Herald.

**Like the Distinguished General?**  
General Alger's presidential boom appears to have taken a leave of absence.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Rep.).

## HARRISON'S POLITICAL JOBBERY.

The Reward of Judge Woods, Who Shielded "Blocks-of-Five" Dudley.

Judge Woods, of Indiana, the man who shielded Dudley in the nefarious blocks-of-five political game of 1888, has received his reward. President Harrison's appointment of this man to be circuit justice has been confirmed by the senate. But the confirmation was of a character to seal the president's action with the stamp of infamous political jobbery. He had the debt to pay, and hesitating long he at length met the obligation. But when it came to the senate we note with pleasure the unmistakable evidence that a few—a very few, to be sure—of the Republicans of that body entertained a sense of honor that would not bend, even before the ignoble importunities of the administration.

Harrison was in a tight place. A failure of the senate to confirm his appointment would compromise him hopelessly. Something must be done. The matter was accordingly made a strict party measure, the Democrats opposing to a man, and Peffer voted with them. Nor did the administration give a full party vote, several senators absenting themselves, not willing to oppose, but unable to support the measure undertaken by the president.

Where have we else such a spectacle? On what page of our nation's political history is to be found a blot like this? A base and shameless plot for political prestige in a campaign is not alone winked at by the man who owes in part his victory to it, but that same outrage figures afresh at the opening of a new campaign, and we, the American people, are treated to the inspiring spectacle of our nation's chief executive stooping from his high place and, potent through his proud position, rewarding with honors the man who shielded this cowardly crime.

A grand picture this—the principles of political party perverted, the American presidency prostituted to ignoble trickery. The case has had no parallel since the appointment of Wanamaker to a cabinet portfolio in consideration of his raising a campaign fund of \$400,000 for the Republican party.—Columbus (O.) Post.

**Raum's Refreshing Candor.**  
If there were no other evidence, Pension Commissioner Raum's own testimony before the investigating committee would abundantly establish the charge that his administration of the pension office has been scandalously partisan and something worse. He openly proclaims that he works the patronage and uses the functionalities of the bureau "for all they are worth" in politics, and, with a pleasing contempt for Mr. Harrison's pretenses of regard for civil service reform methods, proclaims his own defiance of them in the choice of subordinates for work. If Mr. Harrison had a wise regard for his own political interests he would have rid himself of Raum many months ago.—New York World.

**A Weak Dependence.**  
Senator Cullom has withdrawn from what he believed was the presidential race, with a recommendation in favor of President Harrison. But as the senator was not really in the race, notwithstanding his views on that point, his withdrawal leaves no gap and his recommendation is not of great potency. If Mr. Harrison proposes to base his claim to the nomination on the fact that Cullom has swung over to him, we greatly fear his title is defective.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

**"Hamlet" with Hamlet Left Out.**  
In the same breath wherewith General Alger declares himself a candidate for the Republican nomination for the presidency he rules himself out. He says he will not open his barrel at Minneapolis. Not open his barrel, forsooth! He might as well not have opened his mouth. Without his barrel his relevancy to the nomination would be a myth, a mist, a mizzle, a Michigan nightmare!—Philadelphia Record.

**Robbing Peter to Pay Paul.**  
According to the gleeful organs the McKinley law has turned Old World workmen out to starve. We must be sending them flour and grain to avert the dreadful calamity. It would seem quite as well for all concerned if these workmen were able to buy our farmers' grain. The policy of starving one's customers is not a large and wise one.—Toledo Bee.

**No Inspiration in That Gonfalon.**  
The Brooklyn Standard-Union is the only newspaper in the land to adopt Grandfather's Hat as a campaign symbol. It carries the hat at its masthead and it must be said that, as a gonfalon, it is neither picturesque nor potent.—New York Advertiser.

**Working Upward.**  
And so Prince Russell B. Harrison has been formally admitted into the press gallery in Washington. This illustrates what intelligence, perseverance and industry will accomplish for a young man in this land of the free.—Boston Herald.

**Whence and Whither.**  
Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, now speaking in Rhode Island, says he would like to know where the money that beat him came from. A question of equal interest to all good citizens is where it went to.—St. Louis Republic.

**"It Is Not the Coat," Etc.**  
Mr. Harrison should look with leniency on the man who wears a cheap coat. Many a man's wages have been reduced since Mr. McKinley's bill became a law.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**An Involuntary Retirement.**  
Senator Cullom says "he has not withdrawn from the presidential race." The race it was that withdrew.—Columbus (O.) Post.

**Why Harrison Is So Bellicose.**  
If Mr. Harrison can get up a war he thinks he will be able to get all the delegates.—Albany Constitution.



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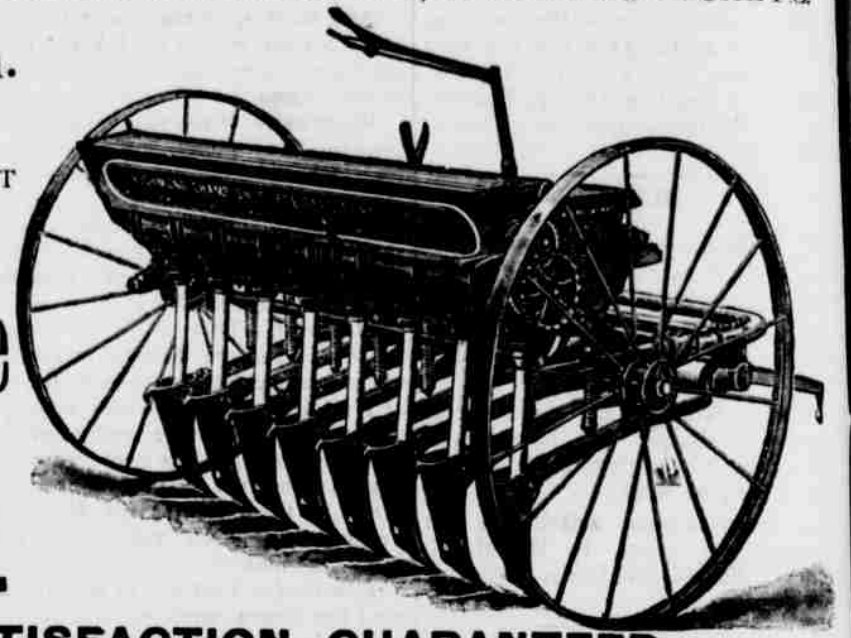
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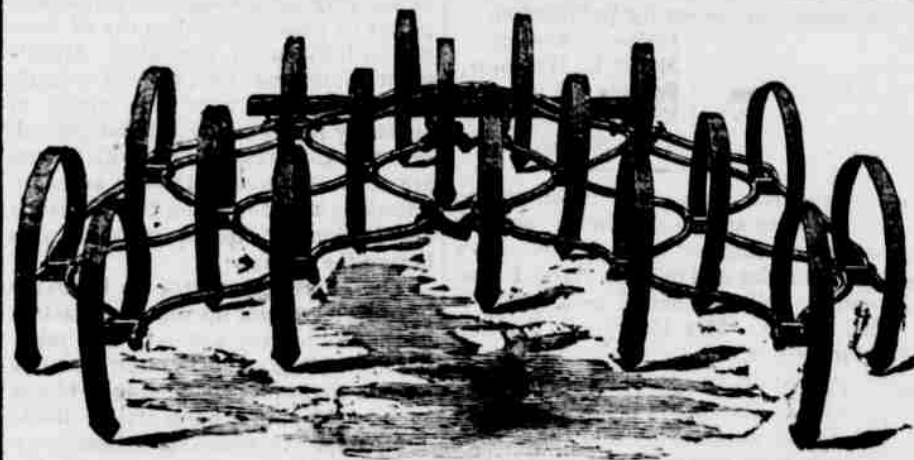
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