

HARRISON'S LETTER.

A STUMP SPEECH DISGUISED AS A LETTER.

A Bold and Unblushing Bid for Votes Which He Will Not Get—Daring Adaptation of Protection's Paradoxes—Food Made Both Cheaper and Dearer.

President Harrison's letter of acceptance is simply a stump speech in the form of an epistle. It is less a document to elucidate his views or to explain his party's purposes than an attempt to gain votes by accommodating those views and purposes to a hostile public opinion.

Four years ago Mr. Harrison had only contempt for "cheapness." Now he argues that the law passed to increase prices has really lowered them. The paradoxes of protection never had a more daring adapter than the president. According to him the same law has increased prices to the farmer and made food cheaper to the consumer, has lowered the cost of manufactures by taxing their raw materials, has enabled the producer to pay higher wages by reducing the price of his product.

In one respect only has Mr. Harrison the entire bravery of his bourbonism: he defends the billion dollar congress from its initial usurpation to its closing outrage. That the people condemned this congress, and incidentally his administration, by a majority of more than 1,000,000 is calmly ignored by the president. He says that "a vote of want of confidence is asked by our adversaries," as if that vote had not been given in 1890 and repeated in 1891. The election this year is simply a demand for judgment upon a verdict once rendered and confirmed.

President Harrison's tardy recognition of Mr. Blaine's action in forcing the partial amelioration of reciprocity upon a bill that had no original saving clause will hardly atone for his previous action in claiming all the credit of it. Good as far as it goes, this so-called reciprocity is still "a sham," as the Democratic platform declares it to be. It untaxes foreigners only. It applies to our poorest instead of our best customers. And it favors other countries at the expense of our own.

The president's contention as to the effect of tariffs on wages is thoroughly disingenuous, not to say dishonest. He knows that the duty under the McKinley law in many schedules is more than the entire labor cost in the articles protected, and yet he repeats the deceptive claptrap about the necessity of covering "the differences in wages" between this country and Europe. He claims that "protective duties strongly tend to hold up wages, and are the only barrier against a reduction to the European scale," when he knows that the wages in free trade England are from 30 to 100 per cent. higher than in any protectionist country in Europe, and that the variations in wages in the same industries in different states of our Union under the same tariff are as great as the difference between the average wages here and in England.

It is characteristic of this nefarious system of false pretenses that it should convert the letter of acceptance of a president into the dishonest screed of a special pleader.

The passage upon the force bill will be variously interpreted, but fairly read it seems to be an abandonment of the extreme policy embodied in that odious measure. Two years ago the president tried to press a force bill through congress. He now talks soothingly of a nonpartisan commission to devise some scheme for counting the negro census as Republican votes. He affects to see, however, in the "new political movements" in the south and "the recent decisions of some of the state courts" a hope that "the arbitrary and partisan election laws and practices which have prevailed may be corrected by the state, the laws made equal and nonpartisan and the elections free and honest." Such a solution, he says, would be received with rejoicing by his party—the party of Wainwright's pharisaism, Quay's corruption and Dudley's bribery—inasmuch as "a healthy and patriotic local sentiment is the best assurance of free and honest elections."

This is the Democratic doctrine, and while the smooth sayings of a candidate cannot be accepted as binding upon his party it is evident that President Harrison, like Mr. Reid and the other leaders of his party, is anxious to drop the force bill issue. At least he refrains from defending it, and definitely suggests another and far better method of settlement.

But, as we have said before, Mr. Harrison cannot wipe out the Republican record; he cannot hide facts with palaver.—New York World.

The Material Must Suffer.

The poor man has a certain number of outfits to buy, whether the material be good or bad, and if all wool suits do not come within his means he has to take the all cotton and shoddy. When he shivers in the keen winter wind he may or may not take the trouble to trace his sufferings to its source. Its source, when he finds it, is in the policy of "protecting" the manufacturing capitalist at the expense of the poor—the few at the expense of the many. Tariff laws made for revenue only would give the poor man and his family a practical untaxed outfit, not for the back only, but the kitchen, the bedroom and the workshop.—Minneapolis Times.

It Will Help Stevenson.

The greatest cry of Republican organs against Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic candidate for the vice presidency, seems to be that he turned down Republican postmasters to put Democrats in their places. What advantage can be expected through raising such a cry it is hard to see unless it is the desire to keep the prejudices of those Republican officeholders alive and thus prevent them from joining the popular tide that is flowing this year toward the Democracy.—Easton Argus.

TAXATION.

An Accurate Analysis of Its True Purpose.

To seek to make taxation, which is a fit contrivance only for raising revenue, an instrument for effecting some ulterior purpose, be it ever so just and legitimate; to seek to use it for the attainment of any other advantage than the obvious one of raising money, is to lose sight of a fundamental principle of every free government and to forbid all expectation of recognizing any other basis for the exercise of this great sovereign power of the state than expediency, which in turn will depend upon the actions, passions and prejudices of legislators, who may not be the same in any two successive legislative assemblies. Such a perversion of principle, furthermore, reaches its climax of absurdity in practice when its immediate beneficiaries claim to be the only proper persons by whom the incidence and amount of taxation can be intelligently determined, a claim that is practically equivalent to the assumption that privilege should take precedence of right in the theory of government.

The idea of using the power of taxation for other purposes than that of obtaining revenue for defraying the necessary expenditure of the government was one hostile at the outset to all the beliefs and habits of thought of the American people; was totally incongruous with the social and political system which they instituted and expected, and was reluctantly admitted under the idea that the industries of a new country might need some temporary stimulus and assistance at the outset. It was not until after our late war that anybody ventured to openly maintain or defend the proposition that protection was other than the incidental and not the main object of the exercise of the taxing power, although this perversion of principle was tacitly recognized by the imposition and continuance of taxes which had for their intent or resulted in a prevention of the raising of revenue.—David A. Wells in September Forum.

Nebraska's Next Governor.

The Democrats of Nebraska have nominated as their candidate for governor that eminent philosopher and tariff reformer, J. Sterling Morton, whose career while in congress attracted national attention to him. If Mr. Morton shall be elected governor of Nebraska he will be in a position to administer the affairs of the state in a satisfactory manner, for he has already held the office once. His nomination is therefore all the more of a compliment.

ment, as it shows that after one trial the people of his state still want him. Mr. Morton has frequently been called the "Father of Arbor Day" for the reason that it is in great measure due to his efforts that the growth of artificial groves has been so carefully looked after in Nebraska. Mr. Morton has lived in Nebraska ever since he was twenty-two, at which time he was married to a lady to whom he had become engaged at sixteen. He was born in New York state in 1832 and graduated from Union college in 1854.

The Milk in the Cooanot.

If Republican platforms lay down precise rules for laying duties, Republican lawmakers should conform to them. If difference of labor cost is to be the rule we want a self adjusting tariff that will remove some of the bounty when wages go down. Why did they not give the president the power to issue a proclamation to reduce the tariff as wages are reduced? It would be just as safe as giving him the power to tax or untax the people on sugar, coffee, tea and hides whenever in his judgment any foreign country is not trading fair. Somehow these legislative powers are conferred on the president only for the purpose of increasing the burdens of taxation, not to lighten them.—Louisville Courier Journal.

The Force Bill Plotters.

The force bill plotters looked forward to the time when southern election officers would not dare to declare a Democrat elected to congress, and when every southern Democrat for a month or so before and after a congressional election would feel as uncertain of his liberty as a Russian nihilist, knowing it to be in the power of federal spies and detectives to cause his arrest, after which he would be tried before a jury of "tried and true Republicans" and perhaps sent to a northern prison.—Florida Times-Union.

Despondent Republicans.

The Republican press is evidently worked up over the dark prospect that confronts its party. The outlook is so dismal that it seems to be necessary to charge the Democratic party with the most nefarious designs on the government. Everything that is lovely is credited to Republicanism and all that is pernicious is charged to the Democracy. And still the prospect doesn't grow brighter. Strange!—Binghamton (N. Y.) Leader.

A Task Indeed.

The recent terrible labor-capital warfare throughout the country shows in a very bad light the happiness and prosperity of the protected American laborer. What with the great Pennsylvania riots, the New York strike and the bloody east Tennessee warfare to explain, those upholding existing governmental methods have a task indeed before them.—Houston Daily Post.

Let Mr. McKinley Answer.

As Mr. McKinley claims to be a good lawyer, well read in the constitution, he ought to think matters over and tell the public whether it would not be just and lawful to deny public protection to every industry that has organized itself as a trust or monopoly. Surely the people ought not to be forced to protect public robbers.—St. Louis Republic.

REED ON EXTRAVAGANCE.

The Ex-Czar and His Humorous Charge Against the House.

Ex-Czar Reed is something of a humorist in his way, and he has seldom been more humorous than he is now in accusing the Democratic house of "extravagance," because with a Republican senate and a Republican president against it it could not repeal the sugar bounty act, the steamship subsidy act and such like acts passed by the Reed congress with the deliberate intention of increasing the expenditures of the government and making the increase permanent.

The Reed congress and the Harrison administration have run the annual expense for pensions alone up to \$140,000,000, so that with this and the \$10,000,000 a year for sugar bounties we have a permanent expense of \$150,000,000 a year altogether aside from what are properly the ordinary expenses of government.

Under the disability pension bill and other pension acts now in operation the annual expense for pensions will increase for some years to come. It will reach at least \$150,000,000 a year. The sugar bounty will be repealed as soon as the Democrats elect a president and a majority of the senate. Until then it remains with the other permanent charges imposed on the country by the most scandalous congress the country ever had.

With a Democratic senate these permanent charges can be greatly reduced. When Mr. Cleveland is inaugurated he will certainly renew the practice of that strict economy which characterized his first administration and resulted in the surplus which Harrison has dissipated.

In the meantime Harrison is responsible before the country for the increased expense of his radical administration. He is costing the country a round \$100,000,000 a year more than Arthur cost it. Where is the Republican who will say that Harrison is worth this much more for the country? It may be that we are to have another Republican president in the future. If so, let us get one who costs less and is worth more for the money.—St. Louis Republic.

Sowing the Wind and Reaping the Whirlwind.

Which Falsehood Shall We Believe? Republican organs are now busily engaged in telling their readers that the reason why the wages of the ironworkers are being reduced is because the price of iron has fallen, owing to the reduction of the tariff on iron. At the same time they tell us that the prices of woolen goods, tin and other products are reduced because the tariff has been increased. It is just such idiotic and false arguments as these that are causing the sensible people to vote against the Republican party. The people are not fools if the editors of the Republican organs are.—Bristol (Pa.) Observer.

Benevolence of McKinley's Tariff.

Is Mr. McKinley explaining to the Jersey people how imports have increased when he promised that his bill would check them? It is appalling to see how Americans stick to imports when they ought to buy nothing but what is made by home monopolies. Things will never be right until we adopt the Chinese policy completely and make a tariff that is absolutely prohibitive. As it is now nearly every American who has the money to do so appears to prefer buying importations rather than the home product.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The South Is Still Bold.

We do not believe that Virginia or any other southern state will go for the third party, or that enough votes will be drawn from the Democratic ranks by that party to give any such state to the Republicans. There will no doubt be considerable talk and some bluster, but when southern white men come to the polls in November, and consider that they are in reality voting either for or against the force bill, they will be very apt to take no risk, but cast their ballots squarely for Democracy, white rule and free elections.—Richmond Times.

Only the Capitalist Gets Protection.

Where does the "protection" come in? The American workman certainly gets none. The capitalist gets it all. He is permitted to fish money from the public in the form of exorbitant prices for his products, and not satisfied with that he must be allowed to rob his workmen. Just now, too, this high tariff protection includes a contribution of some hundreds of thousands of dollars from the people of Pennsylvania to pay the expenses of the state militia while protecting the Carnegie mills.—Rhode Island Democrat.

The Two Candidates.

At Buzzard's Bay, each happy day, The merry fish do bite, And Grover hears good news come in From morning until night, While fishing from the sandy bank With all an angler's might.

Beside the waters of the Lake of Leon.

Stalks worried Benny 'neath the pale, cold moon, Twists in his hands his old grandfather's hat, And says, "How can I get round that man Platt?"

—New York Journal.



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