

THE OLD GUARD BACK ON THE JOB

By Senator Robert M. LaFollette in LaFollette's Weekly.

The return to Congress of a number of the old stand-pat leaders from States and districts in which Aldrich has been the ideal for a quarter of a century is hailed with joy by special interest press and politicians. Business is to be revived and labor is to be rewarded.

Already the first number of the program of a new administration is announced—"restore the Payne-Aldrich tariff." They propose to "rescue our perishing industries. They are already counting upon "a large increase in duties all along the line." Of course it will raise prices and increase the cost of living. The consumer will have to pay the piper. But what of that? We must have "prosperity" at any price.

And the Wilson administration has been "disturbing business." Its principal offense is that it has reduced the tariff.

That there should be some business disturbance following a reduction of the high tariff duties was inevitable. That much of the depression was artificial cannot be disputed. Does any rational human being doubt that the tariff interests would fight to the last ditch to maintain their unlawful profits? They had many times warned the public that it would be unsafe to interfere with them. It was an open boast of stand-pat statesmen at the beginning of the tariff session under the present administration that "the protected interests would make the American people pay dearly for their folly in the election of 1912; that when a few million laborers had been laid off, and the balance had suffered a cut in their wages; that when the banks reduced the credit line and people were made to feel the pinch, they would be eager to bring Aldrich and Cannon back and beg them to make the wheels go round."

The interests could afford to take a small present loss on a manufactured depression to restore their privileges of monopoly and huge profits for another long high-tariff period.

And so we have had our season of "business depression"—a small measure of it the logical result of tariff changes, necessary during the period of readjustment from the false, artificial, inflated basis to a sound, honest, stable basis of actual values. There was no reason for a business depression of a radical or general character.

Democratic tariff duties on the schedule of manufactures, with the exception of some of the more highly finished products, accorded to those industries a fair measure of protection against foreign competition. On wool and sugar and most of the products of agriculture, the cut was unwarranted. For the most part it is true that the farmer cannot be materially benefitted by tariff duties upon his products; but upon many things grown upon the farm, he has foreign competition maintained under conditions which entitle him to the same measure of protection accorded to the American manufacturer. This he did not receive in the Democratic tariff bill. But on the whole the bill was a PROTECTIVE TARIFF MEASURE, and infinitely better and fairer to the American people than the Payne-Aldrich law.

The investigation of Taft's tariff board proved beyond dispute that many favored industries were entrenched behind the tariff duties of the Payne-Aldrich law, ranging from one to two and three hundred per cent more than "the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad."

No such tariff monosity can ever be maintained. It may contribute to the political success of a few Senators and members of Congress from pro-tariff States to contend for such legislation. **BUT IT IS SUPREME FOLLY FOR GREAT INDUSTRIES TO HOPE TO ESTABLISH BUSINESS SECURITY AND REAL PROSPERITY ON A BASIS OF WRONG AND INJUSTICE.**

Remember 1908, 1910, 1912. Like conditions produce like results. Let that not be forgotten.

INDUSTRY, ECONOMY, INTEGRITY

Edmond Sebastien in the National Magazine.

The basic function of education has to do with the development and direction of will in the child. The fundamental lesson to be learned by all human beings is industry—application to the execution of a task. This requires an exercise of will at the outset and continuously though the will is strengthened and the tasks lessen in difficulty and relative repugnance with practice. The decision to work, when it would rather play, represents the first and most vital achievement in the development and life of a child; and to bring the will up to this decision is the first task and duty of education.

Next comes the lesson of self-control; and it is closely allied to the first. Indeed, it is involved in the first, as self-control, in a marked degree, has been attained by the child who proceeds to do a thing that is not agreeable, though a sense of duty, necessity or obedience to instructions. But the lesson of self-control goes further and extends to the whole of personal conduct—to the regulation and inclination and appetite.

Economy is the lever of the educator here. The child that is always satisfying its craving for sweets, for instance, is cultivating indulgence and extravagance, the two main materials of loose character. On the other hand the child that is taught to restrain the continuous indulgence of its inclination and senses is being shaped for useful citizenship.

Industry and economy, therefore, as developing will power and self-control, are the first and main goals of education; and they are so, properly, as they do more than anything else to prepare the character of the child for the growth of the seed of sound integrity; which completes the trio of the cardinal virtues of mankind, upon which the security and progress of society rest.

SOME STRIKING POINTS IN PRESIDENT WILSON'S SPEECH

If I were not ready to fight for everything I believe in I would think it my duty to take a back seat.

I love the Democratic Party, but I love America a great deal more than I love the Democratic Party, and when the Democratic Party thinks that it is an end in itself, then I rise up and dissent.

There are Democrats who are sitting in the breeching strap, who are holding back, who are nervous. I claim to be an animated conservative, because being a conservative I understand to mean a man who not only preserves what is best in the Nation, but who sees that in order to preserve it you dare not stand still.

Politics in this country does not depend any longer upon the regular members of either party. There are not enough regular Republicans in this country to take and hold national power, and I must immediately add that there are not enough regular Democrats, either. This country is guided and its policy is determined by the independent voters.

What seems perfectly evident to me is this, that if you made a rough reckoning you would have to admit that only about one-third of the Republican Party is progressive; and you would also have to admit that about two-thirds of the Democratic Party is progressive.

The Republicans have not had a new idea in thirty years; they have not known how to do anything except sit on the lid.

This country is bursting its jacket, and they (the Republicans) are seeing to it that the jacket is not only kept tight, but is riveted with steel.

There is one thing that I have got a great enthusiasm about, I might almost say a reckless enthusiasm, and that is human liberty. Until this recent revolution in Mexico, until the end of the Diaz regime, 80 per cent. of the people of Mexico never had a "look-in" in determining what their government should be.

The country is theirs. The government is theirs. The liberty, if they can get it—and God speed them in getting it!—is theirs, and so far as my influence goes while I am President nobody shall interfere with them.

Have not European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilled as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs, and shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak? No, I say!

I want to ask the business men here present if this is not the first January in their recollection that did not bring a money stringency for the time being. I have asked bankers if that happened this year, and they say, "No, it did not happen; it could not happen under the Federal Reserve Act." We have emancipated the credits of this country.

TAKE A LOOK AT CANADA

From the Milwaukee Journal (Rep.)

Some of the Tories who have been scolding President Wilson for not keeping the American dinner pail full should be greatly enlightened by reading a little industrial history now being made in Canada. It would reveal, for instance, that the Grand Trunk Railroad proposes to reduce the wages of 14,000 employees. It might be added that the earnings of the Canadian Pacific have fallen off many millions since the outbreak of the war. Canadian cities have hosts of unemployed men in spite of the industries that have been stimulated by the demand for war materials.

This, in Canada, the State where the corporations are so "fairly treated," where railroad and Trust commissions are not treading on the heels of the beneficent rulers of Big Business. With all these wholesome Canadian laws, carefully designed to promote and encourage expansion of trade, Canada still has a depression.

Why not blame Mr. Wilson for the depression in Canada as well as that in the United States? Since any Democratic Executive must bear the brunt of crop failures and panics both before and after his administration, why not unload the depression of Canada upon his shoulders as well? Why such deference to a high office and an overworked President?

OUR TOWN

Formulated and distributed by the Chautauqua Association, of Swarthmore, Pa.

My Creed

I believe in our town.
I believe in our boys and girls.
I believe in our churches and schools, and in our stores and industries.

I believe in clean entertainment for our town
I believe in clean streets and alleys, in flowers and grass plots and in buildings both sightly and useful.
I believe that much of my happiness depends upon the happiness of my neighbors.

I believe that much of my prosperity depends upon the prosperity of my neighbors.

My Pledge

I will work for our boys and girls, for our churches and schools.

I will help provide for wholesome recreation and clean entertainments for our town.

I will work for my neighbors.

I will give a deaf ear and a bridled tongue to all scandal about my neighbors.

I will delight my own and my neighbors' eye with grass plots instead of rubbish heaps, with flowers instead of weeds.

I will insure my own and my neighbors' health by keeping alleys and barn lots clean.

I will bury any grudge against my neighbors.

When prices are no higher, I will aid myself and my neighbors by buying at the stores in our town.

I will help make our town the best town on the map.

WAR AND INDUSTRY

The New York Commercial discusses the above subject most interestingly as follows:

Comment was made recently in this column of the fallacy of the theory that the costly wars of modern times cannot be financed for more than six months without exhausting the resources of contending nations. The present world war has exploded another fallacy, the theory that industrial prostration of the belligerent Nations necessarily must attend a prolonged struggle. It was on this theory that the price of cotton broke last fall from 12 cents to 6 cents a pound. The trade believed that consumption of cotton would be curtailed to such an extent through prostration of the textile industry that there would be no demand for the staple. During the first six months of the war, with two of the largest consumers of cotton almost completely isolated, the cotton market saw the largest foreign buying movement in years and the volume of exports of the staple constantly expanding. The heaviest buyers have been the warring peoples.

The facts seem to be that the first clash of arms was a severe shock to industry throughout Europe. The summing of workers to the colors, the interruption of systems of transportation and the dislocation of foreign commerce gave industrial enterprise a tremendous setback. For the moment paralysis was complete. Then followed a readjustment which has been continuous ever since. This industrial revolution is now almost complete and instead of increasing depression the unexpected phenomenon of gradual recovery to normal conditions is witnessed.

The remarkable recovery of British industry is disclosed in the White Paper issued on that subject by the Board of Trade. While private business has fallen off to an unprecedented extent government requirements have so expanded that the labor market at the end of the calendar year presented the appearance of a veritable boom. A striking feature of the industrial transformation caused by the war has been that the transference of labor and machinery was affected with a minimum of unemployment. The report shows that there were actually 2.7 per cent fewer men unemployed in December than there were a month before the war broke out.

It will be answered that the summons to the colors accounts for the decreased number of unemployed. The point is granted but with reservations for the report shows conclusively that the percentage of employment has risen steadily during the period of the war. Thus, according to this interesting compilation, whereas the reduction in the number of male work people employed in October was 10.7 per cent compared with the previous July, by December the reduction in the number of workmen employed had fallen to 10.6 per cent. The proof of increased industrial activity is also had in the fact that the number of workers on short time was reduced from 17.3 per cent in October to 10.8 per cent in December while the percentage of overtime rose from 5.2 per cent in October to 13 per cent in December. The improvement in the industrial employment of women workers in Great Britain is shown to have been almost equally marked.

The trades which show greatest contraction of employment are the cotton, the building and the furniture trades according to this White Paper, but it appears that this is due less to the stoppage of consumptive demand than to a shortage of skilled labor due to enlistments in the army. The work is there to be done, but plants cannot run to the capacity of their orders because they lack skilled workers. After allowing for enlistments the number of cases in which employes have been taken on is considerably in excess of the dismissals.

What has occurred in England is more or less typical of conditions in the other warring Nations. There is reason to believe that industrial conditions in the war zone will continue to adjust themselves to a state of belligerency and that the improvement already noted will increase rather than diminish.

SING A SONG OF GLADNESS

Have you tried to measure the depth of Europe's woe?

Have you looked beyond the glare and glitter and pomp of marching armies to the horrors of battlefields which make all of Dante's imaginations of the Inferno seem tame and commonplace?

Have you opened your soul to a study of what it means to have 400,000,000 people in an agony of suspense, of suffering, of aching and breaking hearts, for every shell fired, though it miss its mark, yet strikes some woman's or child's heart?

Have you thought that never in the history was there such an awful weight upon so many millions of people and that never before did the angels of Heaven look down upon so much human suffering, physical and mental, as now?

Have you thought of the millions and millions who in their homes will suffer in deepest poverty, and who this winter will know more of famine and of starvation than the world has ever known before, while husbands and fathers and brothers and sweethearts will day after day be among the killers or the killed?

And as you think of these things, is not your heart so full of gratitude for the blessings enjoyed by you and every man, woman and child who has the privilege of living in this country, that there is no room left in your soul for worrying over the petty things that confront us in business?

Sing a song of joy and gladness—a song of thanksgiving every hour of your life. Make the best of the situation even though you may have many real burdens to carry, and the clouds will pass away ere you know it.—Manufacturer's Record.