

# Daily Standard.

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CONCORD, SEPT., 12, 1896.

### WHO PAYS THE TAX.

One of the points on which Senator Pritchard dwelt with peculiar fondness, an apparent force in his speech Thursday night, was, that under the Republican tariff system the foreigner pays the taxes necessary to meet the expenses of our government, and appealed to the voters that if they wanted to pay the taxes themselves to vote the Democratic ticket, but if they wanted the foreigner taxed to pay it, vote the Republican ticket.

Now let us see about this thing. To begin with, we thought the American people were a high toned, dignified people who would disdain to ask any other people to pay the necessary expenses of the government of this, that we call the grandest country in the world. When we remember too that most of these taxes come from the laboring classes of the world and that it

is claimed by Mr. Pritchard himself that European and Asiatic laborers go almost without clothes and fare much less well than American laborers, how could we in the light of fairness and humanity take the bread and clothes of foreigners to pay our taxes for a government in which we enjoy a higher degree of freedom and happiness than they do, if Mr. Pritchard's statements are to be relied upon. They are probably true with regard to some foreign laborers and false with regard to others.

Again if the foreigner pays our taxes when we collect a tariff from him, do we not in turn pay his taxes when we deal with him? What is the use for him to pay our taxes and we pay his taxes? This is sure to be the case (according to Mr. Pritchard's theory) with all countries that collect a tariff on imports. It is true we do most of our trading with free trade England and if Mr. Pritchard's theory (not an old exploded theory to which Mr. Pritchard adheres with wonderful tenacity) is correct we are succeeding in getting something for nothing when we trade with her, that is we are making the capitalist or the laborer, or both, in England pay the expenses of our freedom and our protection. Democracy does not ask any such unfairness but is willing to pay her own honest debts and settle her own bills honorably.

But does the foreigner pay the tax? We thought that had been so successfully disproven that a man of Mr. Pritchard's apparent smartness would dare to suggest it to an audience, embracing much of the best talent in and around Concord. If that were true we would not now be burdened with monopolies and trusts as we are. If that were true we would not today find the wealth of our country absorbed by the few at the expense of the many.

Let us take clothing as an illustration. It is prominent among a considerable schedule of articles. The McKinley tariff was very high on woolen clothing but we will, for illustration, take a suit of clothes that the English importer could bring into our ports for ten dollars. He is met at the port by the collector and must pay five dollars tariff. He goes to the wholesale dealer to sell his shipload of suits. The dealer says you can make a profit on this clothing at ten dollars a suit. "Yes," says the importer, "I can, but your collector has made me pay five dollars for the privilege of bringing in this suit." The dealer might say "very well, I'll buy my clothing from an American manufacturer," but finds the American manufacturer ready for him with a price of exactly fifteen dollars, for, says he, "you have to pay that foreigner that price and I am going to have the same." So the price is fixed on the market at fifteen dollars instead of ten. Then who pays the five dollars tariff? Clearly it is the man who wears the suit of clothes, and away goes that petty theory that the foreigner pays the tax. It does seem too clear to be discussed that the consumer pays a tax equal to the difference between the price he must pay and the price he might pay if he could get his goods at necessary cost of making and handling, and in the case supposed, the amount is exactly five dollars.

But further, when the American citizen buys a suit made by the

American manufacturers, the five dollars do not go into the United States treasury but into the pocket of the American manufacturer. With a part of this he pays his workmen the market price of their labor, and no more, and pockets the rest to add to his legitimate and competitive profits and grows rich.

The great McKinley tariff bill very distinctly stated that it was a bill to reduce revenue, as we were getting a surplus above the necessities of the government, and the tariff was put very high on many articles so that American competition became great on account of the immense profits. Too many wanted its benefits. Prices necessarily dropped, foreign competition was shut out, the revenue also dropped, manufacturing became crowded and competition became alarming, supply of goods too great, trusts were formed by buying out and closing mills, men were thrown out of work and it will take years to get back to a normal condition. If high tariff is to be resorted to it may help awhile, but will run to seed soon again and the consequences will soon be felt again.

We would say with all the powers within us, "Don't be misled by Mr. Pritchard's tariff speech. It is erratic and palpably so and is only the more dangerous because he is a speaker that is more pleasant than most Republican speakers."

## Sarsaparilla Sense.

Any sarsaparilla is sarsaparilla. True. So any tea is tea. So any flour is flour. But grades differ. *You want the best.* It's so with sarsaparilla. There are grades. You want the best. If you understood sarsaparilla as well as you do tea and flour it would be easy to determine. But you don't. How should you? When you are going to buy a commodity whose value you don't know, you pick out an old established house to trade with, and trust their experience and reputation. Do so when buying sarsaparilla.

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