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A FIELD DAY.

Vance and Cowles win Honor and Praise.

Washington, Jan. 19. Last Monday (January 14th.) was a "field day" for North Carolina, in both Houses of Congress. In the Senate, Senator Vance made an able and lucid exposition of the iniquities of the salt duty, or in plainer English, the tax on salt. From 1846 to 1860 there was no tax on imported salt, and the price was 26.4 cents per bushel. At the latter period a duty of 18 cents per hundred pounds was imposed, and the price rose to 45.4 per bushel. In other words, the price was increased by the amount of the tax and one cent over; and yet it is stoutly maintained that the tariff is not a tax on customers. This tax and range of prices continued in force until 1873, when the tax was reduced to 8 cents per hundred pounds, and the price fell to 35.4 cents per bushel.

The Senator presented a table of invoice prices of foreign, compared with domestic salt, from the year 1868 to 1881 inclusive. The table shows that in the former year the invoice price of imported salt was a fraction over 83 cents per barrel, while that of Michigan salt was 185 cts. per barrel, or nearly twice as much. But the price of the domestic article gradually fell down, year after year, until 1877, when it reached the figure 85 cents. It rallied

from this point in 1879, but fell again to 76.33 cents in the year 1880, and in '81 the price rose again to 87 cents. Meantime the foreign article, after some fluctuations in price, stood in '81, at 84 cts and one-third, or one cent higher than in 1868. The great fall in price of the domestic article was owing to the enormous increase in the production, which, in 1870, was 17,600,000 bushels, and in '80, 29,800,000. But it is manifest that if the salt boilers of Michigan could turn out salt at 87.8 cents per barrel, in 1881, in competition with the foreign producer at 84.3, the price paid by the people in 1868 for the domestic article was due to the extortionate and wholly unnecessary tax.

"Many Senators now present," said Mr. Vance, "will remember a speech that Mr. Bayard made in 1882 or '83, when in the Senate, in which he told us of a visit that he made to the Kanawha Salt Works. He described how nature had located every thing for the convenience and cheapness of the manufacture of salt. Right upon the banks of a navigable river the salt wells were found. One bucket which went up filled with the brine from the dissolved salt rock let down another bucket into the well of fresh water which was to replace the dissolving process in the rock, and within 250 or 300 yards across a little space of level soil there was an outcrop, in the edge of the mountain, of coal, and a tram-railway upon an inclined plane led up to that coal, and the loaded car that ran down the inclined plane full of coal and dumped it into the furnace that boiled the salt, pulled up the empty car to be filled in its place. There, upon the bank of the stream, with almost the whole operation automatic in its character, and self operating, the salt was boiled, put into barrels or packages and rolled down an inclined plane into a flat boat whence it was floated down the river to Cincinnati, at that time containing the greatest meat packing establishment in the United States, where more of it was sold than elsewhere.

"Yes that institution for the manufacture of cheap salt and many others in the neighborhood and similarly situated, as under what is called a dead rent; that is, the men from Syracuse, N. Y., had paid so much money to the proprietors of those salt works to keep them from making salt, to keep them from supplying the wants of the people of this country. I am told that the same thing was done by the Canadian Salt Works across the border, and that a number of them were under a dead rent to the people of Syracuse, or perhaps of the State of Michigan—I do not remember which.

The Senator contrasted the treatment of this necessary of life, without which neither men nor animals can live, with the liberality of the Re-

publicans in allowing the free importation of luxuries. Salt burdened with an 82 percent tax, and the Otter of Roses, on the free list! The tax gatherer permits all sweet-scented things to come into the country free, while he follows up salt wherever it is to be found, whether in the great pork-packing houses of the north-west, or in the cabins of the poor, in the grounds that hang in their chimney corners.

Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, inquired if the Senator from North Carolina had figured out what the salt tax cost to each man, woman and child in the country.

Mr. Vance replied that that had been done for him by a gentleman on the other side, whose estimate was, that it was 3 cents per head, to which Mr. Vance answered, that if it was big enough to STEAL, it was big enough to SAVE.

Doubtless the estimate of the gentleman on the other side was confined to the amount paid per head, upon imported salt to the government and overlooked the tax paid by the people to the home manufactures, which is generally five or ten times as much as goes into the Treasury.

Senator Plumb, of Kansas, thought to be very sharp and smart in arraigning Mr. Vance as inconsistent, because he had not proposed a reduction or abolition of the taxes imposed by the bill upon rice, ground peas, mica and sumac. But the latter replied, "He has no right to say what I am going to do in relation to the duty on rice, for I have not yet been called upon to vote on it. But I have this to say to him and to all others, that there is no product of my State on the dutiable list (and there are only two or three) that I will not go as far as he, and a great deal further than he, in reducing those of his State.

In the House of Representatives, on the same day, Mr. Cowles, in "the easiest way in the world, made a ten strike," and upset the calculations of the protectionists, by introducing a bill to amend the Internal Revenue laws. It is numbered 12,131.

The Speaker said the bill will be referred to the common Ways and Means.

Mr. Cowles. I ask that the bill be referred to the committee on Appropriations. I do so for the reason, that on the 17th day of last December, I introduced a resolution to that effect, which was referred to the committee of Ways and Means, but that resolution has met with no response.

The Speaker. It is not debatable.

Mr. McMillan, of Tennessee. Let the bill be read.

Mr. Cowles. I will state to the gentleman from Tennessee, that it contains, verbatim et literatim, the provisions of the Mills bill relative to the Internal Revenue.

After some conversation, and opposition to the reference proposed by Mr. Cowles,

a vote was taken, when, on motion to refer to the committee on Appropriations, the yeas and nays were 126, nays 91, absent 106.

So the bill was referred to the committee on appropriations.

The effect has been to disconnect the proposition to amend the Internal Revenue laws from the Mills bill, the main features of which is the reduction of duties on imported goods.

It is well known that Congress will not agree on that subject, while there is reason to expect that the repeal of the tobacco tax may get through both houses. If such should be the result, Mr. Cowles will have achieved an honor of which any man in either House would have reason to be proud. There is a growing feeling that all taxes upon industry are injurious and impolitic, and this consideration will reconcile many to the repeal who would otherwise oppose it.—D. R. Goodloe, in State Chronicle.

The Tariff and Trusts.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25.—Ex-United States Senator Carl Schurz delivered an admirable speech, a few evenings ago, to the Commonwealth Club, of New York. Though a prominent friend of tariff reduction, he arose above party, and gave wholesome advice to the incoming administration. He warned Mr. Harrison and his friends of the danger in the delay of reducing the tariff. The demand of the people for a reduction of duties had only begun. Yet it was the strong point in favor of the election of Mr. Cleveland. If the discussion had begun a year or two earlier, he would have been re-elected by a great majority. He everywhere gained votes in the manufacturing districts, among the operatives—the class in whose behalf, it is pretended, the high protective duties are imposed. But he lost ground in the agricultural districts, among the farmers, where discussions are less frequent, and where there is less opportunity for an interchange of idea. Mr. Schurz maintained that no future event could be more certain than that we are on the eve of a great revolution of public opinion on this subject; and the danger was, that when the revolution shall come, the reaction against the protective policy will induce a too sudden change of system; that by sweeping away all protection at once the manufacturing system would be wrecked, and that a financial crash would follow. It would not do for the Republican statesmen to be led by the manufacturers. They will never let go their hold. Their motto is to make hay while the sun shines.

This is good advice to the incoming Republicans, but it is not even remotely probable that they will heed it. How can they resist the dictation of the vast money-power that sustains them?

When the pensioners on the bounty of the government revolt against it, and refuse their quarterly drafts upon the treasurer, we may expect to hear of the revolt of the Republican managers against the manufacturing and railroad monopolists.

The Mills bill only proposed a reduction of tariff duties from forty-seven to forty-two per cent. But when the great revolution of opinion comes, the people will not be satisfied with any such reduction as that. Mr. Calhoun and the free-traders of his day insisted upon a strictly revenue tariff, which they placed at twenty per cent. ad valorem; and they were not over-anxious to pay even that low rate.

The truth is, that of all methods of raising revenue, that of imposing taxes on foreign imports is the most expensive to the people, and the least productive to the government. For, in the first place, even a strictly revenue tariff must discriminate in favor of domestic manufacturers, or the result will be the destruction of the manufactures. A uniform rate of even twenty per cent. upon all articles imported, would tax some or all of the raw material of most articles manufactured in this country; and thus, the foreign manufacturer, who receives his raw materials free of duty, would be protected by our laws at the expense of our manufacturers. It is therefore necessary, when we tax the raw materials of American fabrics, to impose a double tax on the foreign fabric of the same kind. On the other hand, if we make free, or put on the free list, all raw materials of our manufactures, we exempt from taxation the very articles that would be most productive of revenue. For it is manifest that the taxes imposed on articles that are not produced in this country, all go into the treasury; while, for the most part, taxes imposed on foreign articles of the kind produced by our people, go into the pockets of the domestic manufacturer, in the proportion of ten or twenty to one into the treasury.

But it is the policy of protectionists to exempt from taxation every article of foreign production which is not grown or manufactured here. And this policy is dictated by the two-fold reason, that the effect is to make higher duties necessary upon their productions, and, at the same time, to bring them to the foreign article, of which they are consumers, and not producers, at the least cost.

The protectionists avow that their purpose is to impose taxes so high on foreign goods imported, as to exclude them altogether from our markets. They have done this, as far as practicable; and the effect has been to raise up, in many instances, a domestic competition which has destroyed, or would destroy, all the advantages that were expected to result

from the exclusion of foreigners from our markets. But they have found a remedy for this evil. That remedy consists in the organization of what they call "Trusts." The word fails to convey the idea, and is a misnomer. What they denominate trusts are merely combinations or written agreements among the leading manufacturers, when their wares fail to command the prices they expected, that they will not sell until that price rises. The high tariff protects them against foreign competition, and if any smaller manufacturer in this country ventures to put his goods upon the markets, the great members of the trust immediately pounce down on him and ruin him. They flood his market with their goods, at a cheaper rate than he can afford to sell and thus break him down at once; when they again resume their prohibition policy until the prices rise. In English law, this practice is called "forestalling," when applied to the necessities of life, and is severely punished. Its application to cotton, leather, iron, coal and other goods, is a modern American invention, which could not be practiced but for the exorbitant protective tariff. The protective tariff has produced "trusts," and "trusts" supplement the tariff. The tariff protects the manufacturer against foreign competition; and the trusts protect the great manufacturers against their lesser domestic competitors.

Free trade will kill both of these schemes of robbery.

Mr. Shurz also spoke of the rapid demoralization of the parties, their resort to bribery to achieve success, and the necessity of civil service reform. He also lamented the destruction of American forests, and expressed the opinion that it was an irreparable evil, and therefore, even greater than the protective policy, which may be repealed. D. R. GOODLOE.

North Carolina: In the Supreme Court (Watauga County) prior Court. Enma Johnson) Suit for Divorce.

J. R. Johnson) It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, That the above named Defendant is a Non-Resident of this State; and that personal service of summons cannot after due diligence be made upon him; and that the plaintiff has a good cause of acting for a divorce absolute against him. It is therefore ordered by the Court that service of Summons be made upon him, by publishing this notice in the Watauga DEMOCRAT, a weekly newspaper published in Boone, N. C., for 6 successive weeks, and the defendant will take notice, if he fails to appear at Spring term 1889, of Watauga Superior Court, and answer or demur to the complaint which will be filed in said action during the 3 first days of said term, the plaintiff will demand thereof then asked. Joe B. Todd C. S. C. This the 28 Jan, 1889. W. B. Council Jr. Plif's Atty.

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