

The Charlotte Observer.

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WHY DID THEY DO IT?

Except for the reason of excessive egotism the action of Rockefeller and Carnegie in rushing into the papers with statements that they are for Taft is difficult to account for.

There are men who think their money gives them popularity or at least influence over the minds of the public, when their very wealth is a source of unpopularity to them and gives them no power whatever except as they put it out.

O, CONSISTENCY!

The opening sentence in a special from Wilmington to The Observer of yesterday ran this way:

"Fred B. Rice, of this city, formerly deputy collector of customs at this port, but for the past nine years inspector of steam hulls, United States government inspection service for the Wilmington and Charleston districts, has been requested by the Civil Service Commission at Washington, to head in his resignation, under penalty of dismissal, the charges against him being political activity, after repeated warnings to desist from such."

What a spectacle! The head of the national Republican campaign is not the head of the ticket, not the chairman of the national Republican committee, but the President of the United States, who for three months has been down in the dirt throwing mud with the best of them.

MR. MILES ON THE TARIFF.

After full consideration of it, we are prepared to say that we have never read or heard so powerful and conclusive a presentation of the Democratic argument for a righteous tariff as that of Mr. H. E. Miles, of the National Association of Manufacturers, a protectionist and a Republican.

We could not hope to add anything to Mr. Miles' illuminating discussion of the tariff question by elaboration of it. We only again beg our people to read it.

And likewise none of the patrons of the Charlotte opera house who much praise and popcorn during the performance were born in North Carolina.

You can enjoy your time better by reading a last year's almanac than by reading the election prophecies of any national chairman.

IF IT HAD BEEN UNDER PARKER

Just suppose Parker had been elected in 1904 and this blooming panic had come off in the third year of his administration! In 1893 Cleveland took over a well-grown panic from the Republicans—plates for panic bonds had actually been made and the Harrison administration was begging financial magnates day by day to ride it along until Cleveland's accession; yet Republican pleaders have shown themselves so dishonest and so presumptuous upon popular gullibility as to declare that panic of Democratic origin. It was as truly and exclusively a Republican panic, except for the protracting influence of the misguided free silver agitation later, as the panic of 1873.

THE PASSING OF "OLD FIGGERS."

We have been vaguely conscious all along that this political campaign lacks something, and now we know what it is. In The Chicago Record-Herald we find an anxious inquiry whether Gen. Charles H. Grosvenor intends giving out any figures on the result of the election. Sure enough, there are no figures from this hitherto unflinching source.

"Though, white as Mount Soracte When winter nights are long, His beard flowed down o'er mail and belt, His heart and hand were strong; Under his hoary eye-brows Still flashed forth quenchless rage, And if the lance shook in his grip 'Twas more with hate than age."

When Governor Malcolm R. Patterson, of Tennessee, fully held his own in joint debate against the redoubtable Carmack throughout a bitter primary campaign he revealed some qualities whose strength had hitherto been little suspected. Now he energetically seconds the efforts of the law to avenge itself upon the Reelfoot murderers, regarding neither his personal conveniences, nor threats against his life.

With great force, and with good reason behind the statement, Chairman Mack says that "President Roosevelt's denial of the relations between the administration and the Standard Oil Company loses its force when it is remembered that he made a similar denial four years ago when Judge Parker declared that the Republican managers in charge of Roosevelt's campaign were receiving money from corporations." That is, exactly, how can President Roosevelt, in consideration of his record, expect the public to believe anything he says about any matter in which he has an interest?

The last good man to come to the aid of the party through the medium of The Observer was R. S. Eskridge, Richmond, Va. This was sent last night to Mr. Vanderbilt and this is the final transaction of The Observer in connection with the Bryan-Kern campaign fund, for which it has gathered a total of \$760.00.

WALL STREET'S GULLIBILITY.

The way of the promoter is almost as hard to understand as the four ways which Solomon found too much even for his remarkable intellect. Many people are familiar with one or more of the various types, outside the field of legitimate promotion, which represent nothing more than a voracious brain and a plausible tongue. First easily convincing himself, the promoter addresses others with a conviction which is contagious. Usually he need do no more than make believe at convincing himself; certainly he very seldom lets his hopes stand in the way of his interests as distinguished from the interests of his clients. Sometimes, of course, he is a swindler, pure and simple. A very interesting fact about this game of shady promotion is that players of very crude type, who might be supposed transparently fraudulent or foolish-fraudulent, often meet with much success. If they prey only upon the credulous multitude, as many do, there would be little cause for wonder, but they are continually victimizing men of the largest experience in the financial world.

Morse had acquired control of a string of New York banks by the pyramiding process; that is, he employed the stock of one bank as a credit basis upon which to acquire control of another, using the second bank to acquire a third, and so on. While he thus exercised no little financial power for a time, it very early came to be recognized by men well informed about things financial that he was a dangerous figure in the situation—as his downfall, an important panic excitant, later proved. His practices as a banker were glaringly frenzied. Nevertheless he succeeded three years ago in associating with himself some of the leading men of the financial world in what was already a disreputable speculation, his ice trust project. Among these associates were the ex-president of the United States Steel Corporation and present head of the Bethlehem Steel Company, the treasurer of the American Smelting and Refining Company, the president of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, not to mention that unshamed plunger, John W. Gates.

The readiness with which the magnates took Morse's bait forms perhaps the most noteworthy part of the story now coming out on the witness stand. "When questioned," summarizes The New York Evening Post in remarking upon their credulousness, "Mr. John W. Gates declared that he bought ice stock because Morse told him it was 'selling at less than its value.' Mr. Charles M. Schwab's recollection was that he bought it because 'Morse told him ice securities were a good thing to hold.' Mr. Isaac Guggenheim bought 10,000 shares in the 'pool,' no doubt on similar convincing grounds, and later raised it to 20,000 at Morse's request. Mr. John F. Carroll's motive for joining the group, aside from habit—he had been in ice with Morse for ten years—was suggested by a loan of \$114,000 to him from one of Morse's banks and a letter from the bank's cashier stating that the loan would be taken care of as per what Mr. Morse had said." To the extent of their subscriptions, all these esteemed magnates fared precisely like Morse's other victims.

Promotion schemers have a field boundlessly wide. They extend their activities into every quarter. Because unwilling to "equal" even when the law might be invoked, men of reputation in the financial world are highly desirable as victims, and we have just seen that no class is immune. It has been shown by the Morse bank-wrecking case testimony as by many an event before, that few easier marks dwell under the sun than the average Wall Street magnate.

"If Archbold were to declare that Hearst had made material changes in the letters stolen from his office, which one would the public be inclined to believe?" asks The Wilmington Star. "Hearst," it adds, "starts out with the bandage of reading letters charged against him with having been stolen, which charge he has not had the face to deny." Behold the two! One a corrupter of weak public men; the other the purchaser of stolen goods, knowing them to have been stolen. A precious pair! Which is the more deserving of credence? We give it up. There is no choice among spoiled fish.

Nobody could expect other than that Rockefeller and Carnegie are for Mr. Taft as the representative of the Republican party. Unless they are heartily ingrates they could not be expected to be unmindful of the favors received from the Republican party, and unless they are fools—as they are not—they know what party to look to for future favors. They are in sympathy with the Republican party because it is in sympathy with them.

We note with great interest in The Western North Carolina Times, of Hendersonville, that while Asheville and Waynesville had real snow storms last Thursday, snow lying on the ground at Waynesville to the depth of four inches, there was only a "skin" at Hendersonville.



TARIFF MAKING—FACT AND THEORY

BY H. E. MILES, Of the National Association of Manufacturers, Chairman Central Committee on Export Tariff Commission, Representing Fifteen National Organizations.

We are introducing herewith the second instalment of the remarkable paper of Mr. H. E. Miles on the tariff, the first section of which was printed yesterday. Mr. Miles continues his attack upon the existing tariff law and the manner in which it was made says:

THE WAY OUT. Nothing is easier and simpler than the making of an honest, scientific and helpful tariff. I do not mean by this that it can be done in a pocket, nor with amateur care. It requires the ceaseless patient endeavor of high-minded men, expert in manufacturing processes, in international trade relations and in tariffs of this and other countries.

Four principles heretofore wholly disregarded must be constantly and thoroughly respected. These are: 1. Protection to the consumer. 2. Domestic competition. 3. International costs and foreign competition. 4. Reciprocity, with maximum and minimum schedules.

PROTECTION TO THE CONSUMER. The benefits of the tariff should accrue to all the people and not to a few politicians and manufacturers only; nor to the manufacturers and their dependents in Congress and in Wall street. The money in the pockets of the public belongs to the individuals who comprise that public, and cannot lawfully be taken from those pockets except upon full and fair equivalent.

The shoe is now on the other foot. The taxpayer is held to be the property, as it were, of the manufacturers and promoters. Instead of the manufacturer proving that he is entitled to a certain tariff, he is held to deserve the tariff, and all its increase. Consumers are not expected to assert either rights or interests in the charges made against them.

Competition was for many years considered a cure-all for tariff abuses. In competition Congress took refuge as against all criticism. Mr. Carnegie showed the relation of the tariff thus placed upon this when he said, in 1884, concerning steel: "We are creatures of the tariff. If ever the steel manufacturers attempt to control or have any general understanding among themselves, the tariff would not exist on any session of Congress. The theory of protection is that home competition will soon reduce the price of the product so it will yield only the usual profit. Any understanding among us for mutually being an attempt to defeat this. There never has been, or ever will be, such an understanding."

Mr. Carnegie did not foresee what would occur. Greedy, dishonest, and unreasonable rates made by Congress and the administration have been the principal inducement for the formation of trusts for fifty years, during which time a very great number of the tariff rates have been protective in any sense, but have been prohibitive. Prohibition of imports is not protection.

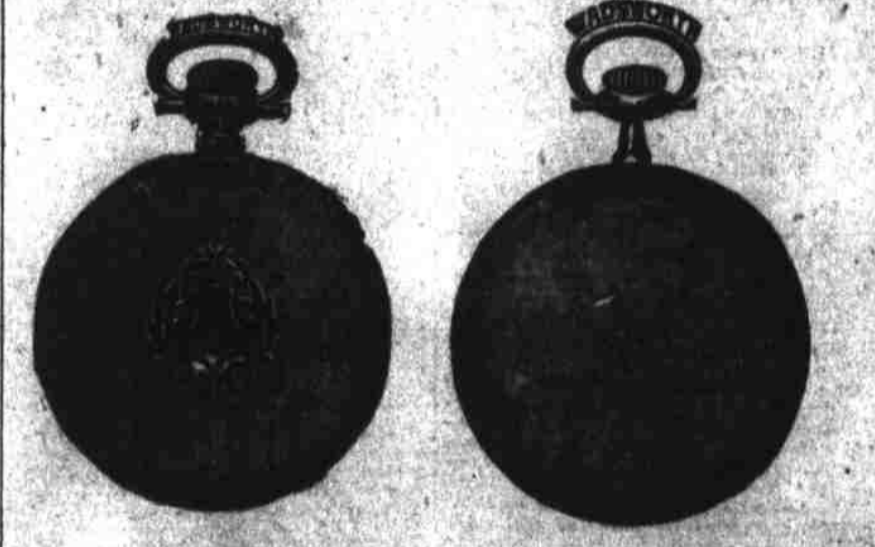
Congress might almost as well decide that there shall be no competition as to give, as it now does, to the American business men rates that are practically prohibitive of imports upon billions of dollars worth of the requirements of the people. In my own business, for instance, a protection of 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. is necessary, but Congress gave us, under an omnibus clause, 45 per cent. In doing this it permitted, if it did not invite us, to consolidate, and to add to our sales prices about 10 per cent. and triple our profits, possibly quadruple them. At any rate the strong arm of the government will not permit of foreign competition, and so by our elimination of domestic competition, that is, a high, and only as high, as is required to place domestic and foreign producers on a parity, that provides for reciprocal trade agreements in the interest of a larger foreign trade, American industries will prosper by honest and equitable methods.



GIGANTIC Watch Sale

Saturday, Nov. 7th.

FIFTY 12-size 20-year GUARANTEED Gold Filled Watch Cases, with French STEMS and SOLID GOLD BOWS; Plain Polished, Roman and Elgin Turned (exactly like cuts). Fitted with 7-jeweled Elgin and Waltham movements.



Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents Spot Cash. No extra charge for monograms. Our guarantee goes with every one. They have all been timed and regulated, in the cases and ready for delivery.

Snappy, Good Fitting, Well Tailored Clothes Will Grow Popular. We find by selling only a well tailored, good fitting garment that our clothes grow more and more popular each day.

Swell, Stylish Suits and Overcoats—Latest Models and Newest Suitings—\$15.00 to \$30.00. Boys' Knee Pants Suits, 3 to 17 years, Knickerbocker or Plain Pants, \$2.00 to \$10.00, and there's no "East-side" makes in these.

We bought a lot of broken sizes in Wool Fleece, Silk Fleece, Gray Natural Wool and Brown All-Wool medium and light-weight Shirts and Drawers worth up to \$1.50 a garment. Come take your choice for 75c.

A Strong Assertion as to Ladies' Fine Shoes. We are sole agents for the "Sorosis" for Women and Men and we state positively there's no better Shoemaking comes to this town than is in our Woman's Sorosis at \$3.50 and \$4.00, or in the Man's at \$5.00 and \$6.00.

We sell the best makes of Shoes to be had for Men, Women and Children at popular prices.

