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TARIFF REFORM WITH A STRING TO IT.

Secretary of the Treasury, Shaw, is not making much reputation for himself by his trimming on the tariff revision question, trying to keep in with the protected interests and the trusts while pretending to be in favor of tariff revision, provided the revision be done by the friends of protection and done a little at a time, so as not to stir up any commotion in the industrial world.

When a man occupying the high and responsible position of Secretary of the Treasury is put forward as the spokesman of the administration which he represents the presumption is that he will say something above the ordinary, something original and give some light that the people did not have on the political and economic questions which he discusses. But Secretary Shaw is not doing this. He has not originated a single new idea, while he has resorted to mere quibbling and stooped to trickery of speech that would do no credit to a bush-whacking stumpster. We commented yesterday on this feature of the speech delivered at Morrisville, Vermont, Tuesday. We are not alone in this view, for it has struck other papers in the same way, one of which, the New York Times, thus comments upon it:

The new Secretary of the Treasury whom President Roosevelt has brought out of the West is a disappointing man. We had hoped that his independence of character and of his almost austere manner of living. It was known that he had fearlessly proclaimed his opinions in the region where silver interests abounded. Hope dashed here in the East that Mr. Shaw might prove to be a man capable of doing his own thinking, that his independent Republicanism in the region of Washington might yield fresh, original, and striking things and give the country another agreeable surprise as in his experience in the region of the West. He has not done this. He has accepted the Treasury portfolio in the second Great Administration. Secretary Shaw's speech at the Republican rally in his Vermont home is a disappointing performance. He exhibits himself as a man quite destitute of ideas, content to follow the dusty, beaten track of Republicanism, and one not above employing the old tricks and devices of party stump speaking to fool the farmer in the old way and strengthen the Republican hold on power by his own arguments. He has grown smaller by two generations of repetition and is as void of truth now as when they were first employed.

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A mere trimmer, a political schemer, who takes advantage of the prestige his high office gives him to fool unsuspecting people who may attach more than ordinary importance to which he says on account of the position he holds. The Times from which we quote, is an independent paper politically but believes in tariff reform.

The Washington Post, another independent paper, and a friend to protection, thus comments on Secretary Shaw's revision.

Again we hear from the administration on the stump in the person of Secretary Shaw. This time, as on a previous occasion, the Secretary discusses the question of tariff revision. And this time, as before, the scene of his effort is in Vermont, a State which is much less interested in that subject than any other in the New England group. But it happens that the Republican party in Vermont is in trouble by reason of a family quarrel. Hence, the necessity for unusual activity, and hence, the appearance of the Federal administration on the side of the regulars.

Mr. Bear and his company are associated with and hold large interests in some of the mines in which the strike is going on. The meaning of this is that the Lord has given the mines to the men who are running them, that they hold them by Divine right and appointment and therefore, logically, have a Divine right to run them as they see fit and to rule as they see fit the men whom they employ, whom they look upon as mere machines or animals subject to their rule and will. This is precisely what this cheeky, presumptuous and hypocritical cant means if it means anything.

The way they have treated their workmen is a sufficient answer to this pious, or rather impious, sordid. They give them nothing that they are not forced to give them, take every advantage of them and rob them of their scanty earnings through the system of company stores, after having packed their mines with the very cheapest labor they could import, replacing the labor they once had with Russians, Poles, Hungarians and others of the lowest and most ignorant class of immigrants.

They are reaping some of the fruits of this now, for these are the strikers who are giving them the most trouble. So much for the cant about the "rights and interests of the laboring men" being "cared for" by such blood-suckers.

How the trusts pull together. We have had evidence from time to time showing how the trusts pull together and help each other. We know about the black lists they keep of the workmen with whom any of them have trouble and how the gates of all are closed against those workmen if they quit work or are discharged. The following, which we clip from the Brooklyn Citizen, is another object lesson showing how they pull together and try to crush enterprises that might be objectionable to any one of them.

Of course, the trusts deny that the tariff is the thing they depend on to make their oppression of the public possible, and they deny that there is any oppression; but the way in which the truth is confirmed now and then is convincing and sometimes amusing.

Just now a Boston syndicate that wants to build a seventy mile railroad from Sioux City, Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska, is prevented from buying steel rails from any member of the Steel Trust, because its road would conflict with the "allied railroad interests."

Thus we see how one Trust helps the other to victimize and oppress the public, and how they depend on the tariff for success; for, with a duty of nearly one-third of a cent a pound on steel rails, they think the Boston syndicate will not go abroad for them. But it says it will, and has already opened negotiations with English, French and German railmakers.

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They refuse to sell this company steel rails and force it to go abroad for its rails and pay the heavy duty imposed to keep foreign rails out and give the Steel Trust a monopoly of the home market. They say the tariff doesn't foster trusts, or help them to extort from home purchasers. How is it in this case? The Steel Trust not only takes advantage of the monopoly it has but tries to crush an enterprise in which the people of that section are interested because that enterprise might conflict with the interest of the "allied roads" to which the Steel Trust sells a good deal of steel rails.

One of our State exchanges tells a story illustrating the extravagance and thoughtlessness of some men. A farmer came to town, sold his truck, bought ten cents worth of beef, put it in his vest pocket, went home and forgot all about it for three or four days, when he was reminded of it by the odor, which was not of cologne fragrance.

Rev. W. F. Sweet, of Everett, Mass., is a preacher of energy and execution, who believes in action. When they neglect to put noses and such things out of the sweep of his arms, they generally have to sweep up the fragments. Last Sunday he jested a \$100 one into a multitude of pieces. There is something in a name after all.

Former Secretary of War, Alger, says he isn't hankering to be U. S. Senator from Michigan, but if the people ask him he will consent rather than disappoint them. He's been there before, and generally when a fellow has been there once he wants to go again, and keep a going.

A gang of Pensacola, Fla., negro burglars can't get it through their hool how it was the policeman lit upon them and took them all in. Each of them wore a hoo-doo bag, for which he paid \$125, and which was guaranteed to make him "invisible" while pursuing his avocation.

A Washington dispatch says Attorney General Knox is slated as successor on the Supreme Court bench to Associate Justice Shiras, who will soon retire. This knocks out some of the other law artists who had been looking wistfully in that direction.

Last year the farmers of some of the Western States became so elated over \$1-a-bushel Irish potatoes that they planted a whopping big acreage this year, and now you can get as many as you could whistle at for 18 cents a bushel.