"LABOR COST" PLEA

Discredited by History and by Present Day Facts.

MONOPOLY'S "LAST DITCH."

Hon. John De Witt Warner of New York Writes on the Tariff Issue In This Campaign—Wages Higher Because of Labor's Intelligence and Country's Resources.

According to the Republican platform, the "true principle of protection" requires "such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries." The addition of "a reasonable profit" is new in the history of tariff discussion and indefensible from any standpoint. If a protected American industry is put on a perfectly even footing with foreign competitors by equalization of the costs of production through tariff duties it certainly can find no just basis for any further demand.

Let us consider for a moment the claim that protective duties are needed to equalize the costs of production. This term is generally understood to refer chiefly to "labor cost." It is said that without "protection" our labor will be reduced to the level of underpaid foreign labor.

The pretexts for the establishment of our high tariff were the greater costs of production caused by the civil war internal revenue taxes and the insufficient supply of labor left after the raising of immense armies. These pretexts having been snatched from the employer by the abolition of the internal revenue taxes except those on spirits, by the disbanding of the armies and the introduction of foreign laborers on an enormous scale, the protected interests have rallied about the labor cost of production, not because of the inherent strength of this position, but because it is their last ditch. There is reason to suspect that it is because they have felt more and more the shallowness of this fortification, that they have now attempted to eke out their defense with the false and awkward breastworks of "reasonable profits."

The argument founded on differences in labor cost has no basis of fact to support it. The allegations on which it is based are simply not true. The question is not as to the daily wage of the American laborer as compared with foreign rates of wages, but as to the labor cost in a given product, and there is admittedly no considerable "protected" industry in which the efficiency of our labor and the enterprise of our inventors have not reduced the labor cost well below that in any competing foreign industry.

Alexander Hamilton, the first apostle of "protection" in America, said nothing of higher wages or "standard of living" as a basis of a permanent protective policy. His plea was merely for a temporary inducement to capital for the purpose of accelerating our development along natural lines. He explained that the somewhat higher wages then paid in America, especially in agriculture, would become equalized with European wages by importation of the best and cheapest labor from European factories. He even argued that numerous factories would make it possible to utilize the work of women and young children more completely than was possible in agriculture.

Later, in like manner, Henry Clay asked for a tariff in the interest, not of labor, but of manufacturing employers. He pointed out that ingenuity in the construction of machinery and adroitness in its use, together with large natural stores of raw materials, more than counterbalanced the lower wages of labor in Great Britain, "if they really existed."

After capital had thus had its "temporary inducement" the United States in 1846 abandoned the theory of "protection," reducing duties toward a revenue basis, and in 1857 most of the remaining "protection" was removed.

The high tariff of the civil war, adopted chiefly to allow the manufacturers of the country to get back from the people at large such taxes as the former had been compelled by the internal revenue system to pay for the support of the government, was accompanied by another measure about which little was said—the contract labor law of 1864. Under the guidance of Mr. Sherman in the senate and Mr. Morrill in the house this labor law, demanded by the manufacturers, was put through. It provided for official advertisement throughout Europe for laborers to come to the United States and gave assistance to American employers contracting for laborers abroad for the express purpose of reducing wages here, so that the veterans of our armies returning at the close of the war found their jobs gone and were forced to compete with contract labor.

This brief historical outline shows that the "higher wages" argument as the basis of the demand for tariff duties is merely an afterthought laid hold of as a drowning man snatches at a straw because nothing else is left.

Does "protection" raise wages? As already noted, wages are not high here when amount and quality of product are taken into account. But the real question is, Why are money wages high here?

In 1777 Adam Smith, noting the difference in money wages between British and American workmen, concluded that "plenty of good land and liberty to manage their own affairs in their own way seemed to be the two great causes of the prosperity of all new countries. Every colonist," said he, "has more land than he can possibly cultivate. He is, therefore, eager to secure laborers from all quarters and to reward them with the most liberal wages."

Alexander Hamilton noted the same fact and explained it in the same way, while Clay, reasoning on the same lines, argued that, though wages might fall on account of the importation of foreign labor, yet "the extent and fertility of our lands constitute an adequate security against an excess in manufactures and also against oppression on the part of capitalists toward the laboring portions of the community"—in other words, that our unprotected industries would always be a protection to labor against the oppression of protected capital.

In late years wages have advanced more rapidly in Great Britain than in the United States, and the same was true in Germany until her tariff legislation of recent years. This result, coincident with extremely high and increasing "protection" in America, suggests one of the open secrets of the general advance in wages. Another is suggested by the fact that the constantly improving physical and mental condition of the world's workingmen has made their hands and heads more efficient in production and themselves more plucky to insist upon an equitable share. In this country, about the only one whose inhabitants have never as a whole been hungry, whose children have never as a whole been wretched and whose women have never as a whole sunk under unwomanly labor, the result—the greatest prosperity since the sun shone upon Eden—is due to our free soil and the blessings of Providence, neither of which waited for or came through the custom house.

JOHN DE WITT WARNER.

TARIFF SUPPORTS THE TRUST

Cleveland's Secretary of the Interior Speaks on Paramount Issue.

It is useless for representatives of the Republican party to declare hostility to trusts while they maintain the protective tariff. The protective tariff which they made and which they support makes and supports the trust. The trusts, with their tariff protected monopoly, control the raw materials and therefore hold at their mercy the manufacturers as well as consumers. Individual enterprise is artificially checked, and the reasonable chances of the average man are destroyed.

For a long time an effort has been made to deceive the laborer with the claim that a protective tariff was intended to protect his wages against foreign pauper labor. With the combination of protected industries destroying competition among employers, with no restriction against pauper labor coming to take the laborer's job, with inflated stock and bond issues absorbing the profits from increased prices brought about by the tariff, this argument has failed. At last the Republican party pathetically admits that the high tariff is to give profits to those who hold the watered stocks of the tariff protected trusts.

The Democratic party not only represents the financial interest of the people on this question, but it represents the moral side. It is morally wrong to permit one class to tax another class. It is morally wrong for a few to destroy domestic competition by the aid of laws which cut off foreign competition and then to charge excessive prices for commodities so necessary to commerce, to industrial pursuits and even to daily living. The law may make it legal. It cannot make it right.—Governor Hoke Smith of Georgia in Letter to New York World.

Solving the Acrostic.

—De Mar in Philadelphia Record.

Fake Prosperity.

The steel trust denies that it will spend $6,000,000 in wages before election, chiefly in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and West Virginia, for the purpose of giving work to 100,000 idle men whose employment is not justified by trade conditions. But the "financial man" of the New York Journal of Commerce says that this story "comes from a source that is always interesting and often right." It is pointed out that if this should result in keeping the high tariff party in power it might be the best possible "investment," which is not a wild guess in view of the fact that the trust actually robs from the people many times the money purely as a result of the high duties on steel and iron. In past campaigns other contributions were the rule. Now a monopoly corporation can use its stockholders' money in creating a prosperity prosperity.

Death of Mrs. Martha Gaddis.

Another good woman gone. About six months ago this good woman was attacked with that awful disease (cancer) that has slain so many of the human race. She died October 18. Her suffering was great, but having that good uncomplaining disposition, not once did she develop that fretful spirit that is so common in such cases. I have known her all my life and I want to say something of the life she lived.

As she was submissive to God's will in her last sickness and death, and daily life, every day and every hour she carried with her that noble Christian spirit, and, not one went from her after holding conversation, that was not benefited. If she found there was a shadow in your life or in trouble, she was not like so many of us shun it, but she would lift the curtain, and the light would shine in as she showed her noble Christian spirit in that way she showed in many other ways, feeding the poor, clothing the naked, administering to the wants of any, who she thought needful. Never a child went from her door empty handed. She loved children and for miles she was known amongst them as Grandma Gaddis. The writer will never forget the last hand clasp when she said she was waiting for the summons to meet her up yonder.

I want to say to the children and grand children, weep not for her who died, having lived a good Christian woman. Take her life into your homes and hearts and live by the example she left for you.

A friend.
CYNTHIA ROYALS.

Why Colds are Dangerous.

Because you have contracted ordinary colds and recovered from them without treatment of any kind, do not for a moment imagine that colds are not dangerous. Every one knows that pneumonia and chronic catarrh have their origin in a common cold. Consumption is not caused by a cold but the cold prepares the system for the reception and development of the germs that would not otherwise have found lodgment. It is the same with all infectious diseases. Diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough are much more likely to be contracted when the child has a cold. You will see from this that more real danger lurks in a cold than in any other of the common ailments. The easiest and quickest way to cure a cold is to take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. The many remarkable cures effected by this preparation have made it a staple article of trade over a large part of the world. For sale by all druggists.

Japan has arranged to build in her own yards two battleships of 28,000 tons each.

A Boon to Elderly People.

Most elderly people have some kidney or bladder disorder that is both painful and dangerous. Foley's Kidney Remedy has proven a boon to many elderly people as it stimulates the urinary organs, corrects irregularities and tones up the whole system. Commence taking Foley's Kidney Remedy at once and be vigorous. Asheboro Drug Co.

Chile should be avoided by emigrants, warns the British Consul-General.

Saved His Boy's Life.

"My three year old boy was badly constipated, had a high fever and was in an awful condition. I gave him two doses of Foley's Orino Laxative and the next morning the fever was gone and he was entirely well. Foley's Orino Laxative saved his life." A Wolkash, Cashmer, Wis. Asheboro Drug Co.

China is buying lumber from British Columbia.

Married Man in Trouble.

A married man who permits any member of the family to take anything except Foley's Honey and Tar, for coughs, colds and lung trouble, is guilty of neglect. Nothing else is as good for all pulmonary troubles. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar contains no opiates and is in a yellow package. Asheboro Drug Co.

A Card.

This is to certify that all druggists are authorized to refund your money if Foley's Honey and Tar fails to cure your cough or cold. It stops the cough, heals the lungs and prevents serious results from a cold. Cures la grippe cough and prevents pneumonia and consumption. Contains no opiates. The genuine is in a yellow package. Refuse substitutes. Asheboro Drug Co.

New Zealand is a good market for timber and lumber.

The wholesome, harmless green leaves and tender stems of a long healing mountainous shrub, give to Dr. Shoop's Cough Remedy its curative properties. Taking on dry bronchial coughs quickly and safely yield to this highly effective Cough medicine. Dr. Shoop assures mothers that they can with safety give it to even very young babes. No opium, no chloroform—absolutely nothing harsh or harmful. It calms the distressing cough, and heals the sensitive membranes. Accept no other. Demand Dr. Shoop's. Sold by Asheboro Drug Co.

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