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THE INFAMOUS FREIGHT RATE ABUSE.

Everybody knows that for years the railroads in this State have discriminated most outrageously against the people and the industries of this Commonwealth, from one end to another.

The freight rates which the railroads charge in Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and other adjoining States, are certainly high enough, yet the railroads have charged higher rates in North Carolina than any of these States, and to such an extent that it has been charged by hundreds of intelligent men, from the Chief Justice down, that such discrimination amounted to from twelve to fifteen million dollars' robbery a year.

During all of these years of such outrageous discrimination there has been no serious or intelligent effort made by the State Railroad Commission of North Carolina, or by the Governor, to correct these abuses.

The protests from merchant, manufacturers and from the people generally grew so large while the last Legislature was in session that that body felt called upon to appoint a Commission to negotiate with the railroads to try to get some relief. The railroads have just spurned the appeals of the Governor and the Commission, appointed by the Legislature, by refusing to offer any material reductions. The Governor of the State has just issued a statement expressing his surprise and disappointment at the action of the railroads. A number of the Democratic newspapers of the State have expressed surprise and disappointment. It may be that the Governor and these newspapers have just waked up to the fact that Senator Simmons mortgaged the State, a number of years ago, to the railroads and the trusts in North Carolina.

The terms of the mortgage provides that we shall be robbed and discriminated against to the complete pleasure of the railroads and trusts and that as long as the Democratic party is in power they should not be disturbed in their robbery. In this connection it should be remembered that Governor Craig was Senator Simmons' candidate for Governor, and therefore, it would be well to look with some suspicion upon his present declaration of indignation against the railroads.

WHY NOT ALL REVENUE BY INCOME TAX?

The Democrats have always declared that the income tax is the fairest tax in the world, and on the other hand, they have always declared that the tariff was the most vicious tax. Indeed, they have declared that tariff protection was robbery and unconstitutional. Now since the Democrats have an opportunity to pass an income tax law, to be consistent, they should raise all of the revenue from the income tax and abolish all revenue tariff taxes of every kind.

As unwise as we think such a course would be, a little more unwise, indeed, than the present Democratic tariff bill, yet, since the Democrats have accidentally gotten the power, why should not they have the courage of their ignorant platitude?

Certain Democratic Senators are now busy investigating the civil service. Presumably the object of the investigation is to see if the civil service rules have been properly enforced. But wait and see if the real object of the investigation isn't to throw every Republican out of office that can possibly be removed on any pretext in order that their places may be filled from the great army of Democratic office-seekers.

It has just been announced that our State Treasury is again in a bankrupt condition. We would like to inquire what has become of the money collected from the people under increased taxation, and what has become of the more than a million dollar bond issue, by the last Legislature?

"STATES RIGHTS," AGAIN.

The State of California wants a law in that State that will prevent Japanese and other foreigners from buying up land and eventually controlling their State. President Wilson doesn't want California to exercise her prerogatives in this matter and sent Mr. Bryan to California last week to try to persuade the Legislature of that State to keep such a law off their statute books. The News and Observer, which paper has been hollering for "State's Rights" for many years, now comes out with the following editorial:

"Roosevelt declared that Hiram Johnson, Governor of California, would be a fine article as President of the United States. The alien land bill trouble in California, however, confirms the idea of the people that Hiram is a fire brand."

What a change! The News and Observer has beat the chameleon to it this time. Governor Johnson is "a fire brand" because he wants his State to exercise her rights.

The Simmons mortgage of the State to the trusts and monopolies is still in full working force.

"Blow-Your-Horn-Josephus" is still on his job, and is still out-doing "Blow-Your-Horn-Billy" of Johnston County.

We do not see why Mr. A. D. Watts should be made the scape-goat. If Simmons is good enough to be in the Senate, and Daniels who bargained with Simmons is good enough to be in the Cabinet, then Watts is good enough to behead "red-legged grasshopper" for the Western District.

Our Washington letter this week tells of a "joker" the Democrats have attempted to hide in their tariff bill which will mean millions of dollars to the steel trust. Our Washington letter this week is exceedingly interesting, and should be read by every one of our subscribers and then saved for future reference.

Those well-meaning gentlemen who are reminding us that they voted the Democratic ticket last fall should remember when they ask for "protection" that the Democrats promised no such thing to them.—News and Observer.

Judging from the sulphurous language many of them are now using to express their opposition to the Democratic free trade bill, it is presumed they will not forget how to vote the next time they have any opportunity to vote for their interests.

Says the Durham Herald: "But if we had a tariff board composed of Republicans it would believe in protection and if it was composed of Democrats it might believe the same way."

Guess the Herald is right about it, and that is probably why the Democrats do not want any tariff board. It is possible that even a Democratic tariff board might delve into the tariff question and find out that this country needs protection. It seems that they prefer going at the question blind-folded.

Senator Randsall, Democrat of Louisiana, has come out in open opposition to free sugar, and warns his associates that such a schedule in the tariff bill will defeat the Democratic party.

The Democrats are for free trade—for the other fellow—but you will find that the Democratic Senators are always ready to ask for protection on articles produced in their State. Louisiana furnishes the wherewith to make sugar, therefore Senator Randsall wants protection on sugar. Florida has fruits and wants protection on citrus fruits, and so on with nearly every State. So it would seem that it is only selfishness that keeps the Democratic party from a general protective tariff bill. They want protection for themselves and their household but don't want the other fellow to have it.

WITH THE EDITORS.

There has never been a time in this State when there were as much killing and other crimes being committed as now. This is rather a sad commentary on our laws and religious claims.—Hickory Mercury.

Neither protest nor reason will be likely to effect much against the Wilson tariff bill in the House. The Democrats are pretty well set in their ways and while they may not know so much about the tariff business it is their opinion that everybody else knows less.—Union Republican.

BILKINS IN WASHINGTON.

(Continued from page 1.)

great evil, may be persuaded to vote for an' work for what appears to be a very gude solution of a vexed problem. But when the great Creator of the universe said at an early stage of the history of the world: "Good an' evil I set before you; choose ye," awl wuz said that will be said or that can be said. Any man, any woman who falls into the convenient habit of adoptin' earth-made rules an' regulations az tom oral an' spiritual law, contrary to the laws laid down by the Creator, iz extremely ignorant or credulous an' never amount to a hill ov beans here or elsewhere, unless he or she takes up the real issues of life an' accepts the precepts laid down in the Bible, the foundation, the beginnin' an' the end ov everythin' in this life an' the life to come. "Good an' evil I set before you; choose ye." Like nearly every precept laid down in the great an' holy book, a vast deal iz expressed here in a few words, an' in such plain language that no man, no woman need to err if they be able to understand, to reason out the most simple words ever inspired by our Creator. In every sentence in the Bible will be found the plainest, the most pointed, the most truthful words ever reduced to printed language. Only the most extremely ignorant or the most deceptive hypocrits need to err therein. Hit iz wrong to indulge in strong drink to an excessive degree. The Bible offers no foundation for an excuse that will hold in the last great day. But, nevertheless, holy writ plainly says, "Good an' evil I set before you; choose ye." Az well attempt to blot out the crime, the sin ov murder by destroyin' the lives of awl mankind az to attempt to thwart the great Creator by passing cranky laws, deceptive laws, fool laws, which are not called for an' which man cannot give any excuse for enactin' into law through legislation, even on the plea of improvin' the morals of the community. The manufacture or sale of vinous or malt liquors iz not a misdemeanor unless hit violates some man-made law, which, so far az I know, iz totally unauthorized. Why should hit be a misdemeanor to take the delicious grape, the rosy peach or the splendid apple, the innocent, useful corn or rye, and convert hit into a beverage? Don't we read in the Bible that Noah an' dozens of other great an' good men, the chosen ov God's people, made wine, dealt in hit, etc? Why did Christ select wine for the last great supper with His disciples just previous to the day he wuz nailed to the cross? Both for the laws made by politicians of the present day, out ov awl harmony with those of the greatest ov lawgivers. Away with such absurd propositions. Such laws so-called are, az I said, out ov harmony with, contrary to awl reason, an' the passing ov them ignorantly or with the intention to deceive, in the present time is probably the crime of the age. Perhaps the object lessons given by the enthusiastic but dishonest advocates, in many cases, may serve some gude purpose. But what would you think of a professional gambler who would act az an' expert an' teach other men how to cheat in a game of cards? Prohibition hez no more real force az an implement for good that may possibly come out ov evil than the gambler who shows the tricks of his trade and pockets the ill-gotten gains at the same time, to warn his fellow-man ov the evil, the danger of gamblin'. Give us honesty, give us morality an' sobriety, but let hit come in the regular, the only honest way. There iz no short-cut to fame, there iz no easy, short road to sobriety. Satan, that prince amongst tricksters, helps "to finesse" whenever there iz danger that hiz kingdom in the lower world iz about to be undermined. Satan furnishes most of the arguments in favor of so-called prohibition; it pays him to do so. He iz not a deity. But he iz so far ahead ov ordinary men and hiz baneful influence iz so plausible that even good men may be an' often are misled for a time. Satan iz in close touch with awl humanity. We can only withstand him, can only defeat hiz sophistries, by gettin' close to the great Giver of all good. He alone having power to overthrow the individual or collective power of the managers, so to speak, of the lower region. Prohibition az per modern politicians, iz a more sophistry, az dangerous az hit appears to be innocent, I hev made somethin' ov a digression. But there never wuz a time when honest men should be more alert to expose and pull the protruding fangs or so-called moral politicians, they bein' so dangerous just now, az I see hit. I am a dymakrat an' would be willin' to move to a town ov that name if they iz one, an' I hope to be buried in a dymakrat graveyard, in a dymakrat coffin. But I'll be jumped up if Simmons, Daniels an' President Wilson hain't got me twisted an' befuddled till I don't know sometimes whether I am goin' forward or comin' back.

Well, I am still stickin' to President Wilson. I hear that the offis ov Commissioner ov Agriculture or Secretary or somethin', iz vacant. I am goin' to send the President the biggest pumpkin in the country if I kin buy hit an' see if he knows pumpkins—he don't know beans—that iz certain. But hit iz too early now to cabbage a real live pumpkin

an' he mite turnp his nose at me when I visit him at the White House in the next few days, az I hope to do when a few of the faithful die off. But he will tackle a real farmer when he gets hold on me. Awl my friends should stay awake for another week or so for I am goin' to remain in Washington, even if I lose a crop an' I'll tell how hit happened if I kin find any loose thread in the loom.

Az ever,
ZEKE BILKINS

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

(Continued from page 1.)

of the voters of the country, ought to have the courage to bow to the will of the majority as expressed at the polls, and not put through a practical free trade tariff bill, against which a majority of the people voted." He concluded his speech, however, with the observation that probably it was best for the country to take its medicine and to see exactly what a Democratic administration would do if it carried out its promises and thus cure the country from listening to such Democratic impracticable platitudes forever in the future.

A Nigger in the Wood-Pile Discovered

The Democratic tariff bill places steel on the free list, but it has just been discovered that there is a joker in the bill in favor of the steel trust. It seems that the steel trust controls the domestic output and manufacture of ferro-manganese, an important and essential element in the manufacture of steel. The duty on this product in the present Republican law is \$2.50 a ton, but the Democratic tariff bill, instead of putting this product on the free list along with steel, changed that duty to fifteen per cent ad valorem, which means, at least, a duty of eight or nine dollars a ton; nearly four times as much protection as given by the Republican tariff law.

The Democrats will, no doubt, claim that this increase of duty is made to raise revenue, but that explanation will fall flat when it is discovered that all of the steel manufacturers in this country are forced to buy their ferro-manganese from the steel trust and this duty of eight or nine dollars a ton is big enough to break up the independent steel manufacturers and give the steel trust a complete monopoly of the business.

So it seems that our Democratic friends, while stripping every particle of protection from American labor and from most American industries and hitting the farmers a hard lick at every opportunity, has been careful to give a rich plum to, at least, one of the greatest trusts in the country.

Bryan, California, and the Japanese.

When the Legislature of California was about to pass a bill prohibiting any Japanese from owning or leasing land in California, President Wilson rushed Mr. Bryan, his Secretary of State, across the continent to appeal to the Legislature of that State not to pass such a law which would violate treaty relations between Japan and this country.

Mr. Bryan's mission has been a failure. California has passed a law against which the President and Mr. Bryan protested. The next day after California's action, Arizona passed a similar law, and other States are threatening to follow suit. In this matter the present administration has shown want of capacity to handle this delicate situation in the West. When Roosevelt was President, the same situation arose, but he easily convinced the State authorities that the treaties of our country were the supreme law of the land and would be enforced.

However, it must be admitted that there is intense racial hatred against the Japanese in California. The people of the South know something about race hatred toward the negro race, but nobody in the South has ever objected to the negro owning or leasing land, indeed, it has been the policy of the Southern people to encourage them to buy and lease land in the hope that it would make them better citizens.

Therefore, it is hard for the people of the South, even to understand the cause for the depth and extent of the race feeling against the Japanese in the West. It may be the fear of industrial supremacy of the Japanese, an element of danger which the South has never had to fear from the negro.

Whatever the real cause of the race hatred may be, yet the fact that it has opened such a field for cheap politicians and the demagogue to play on race hatred, in order to divert attention from economic questions, will, no doubt, appeal strongly to Secretary Daniels to, at once, use the navy to import the Japs into North Carolina and the South. This would give a new cause for appealing to race hatred in that section where the negro question has already played out.

Just think how useful it would be to stir up race hatred against the Japs to call attention from high taxes, big bond issues, poor public schools, high freight rates and all broken Democratic promises?

No power on earth, nor under the earth, can make a man do wrong without his own consent.—Sharpless.



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