

GOV. W. W. KITCHIN ON BEHALF OF Progressive Democracy VS. SENATOR F. M. SIMMONS

SUBSTANCE OF EVIDENCE BY EMINENT DEMOCRATIC WITNESSES:

NOTE: Comment in brackets is mine.—F. R. M.

Woodrow Wilson

In opposing nomination for Senate of James Smith, Jr., of New Jersey, on the sole ground that he was not a Progressive Democrat, said:

Mr. Smith was one of a small group of Senators, calling themselves Democrats, who, at that critical and hopeful juncture in our politics, utterly defeated the program of the party. (Wilson Tariff Bill.) His election now might bring the party face to face with a similar disaster and disgrace.

(Senator Simmons was also one of a small group of Senators calling themselves Democrats who opposed tariff program of the party. Substitute "Simmons" for "Smith" and read the above. See?)

I have not heard anybody but orators on the stump say that the tariff was intended for the benefit of the farmer, because you have to be on the stump to keep a straight face when you make a statement like that.

(Senator Simmons says tariff helps farmers—so does Aldrich. Wilson says NOT. See?)

We already have a very queerly assorted Senate of the United States. There are some Democrats, some NEAR-DEMOCRATS, some Republicans and some ex-Republicans.

(Who are those Wilson calls near-Democrats? Overman and the majority or the "small group," Bailey, Simmons & Co.? PUZZLE: Find Wilson's near-Democrats!)

If the Democratic Party does not keep its promises now it will never have another opportunity to do so.

(Senator Simmons did not keep party's promise of free lumber, etc. Who does Wilson's "promise" cap fit?)

Progressive Farmer

(Clarence H. Poe, Editor. Also Editor of Life of Chas. B. Aycock)

All candidates for either the Upper or Lower House of Congress ought to be judged solely by their attitude toward great issues affecting the public welfare. For any man to ask for votes on the ground that he has got or can get bigger appropriations from the Federal Treasury than anybody else, is little less than an insult to the intelligence and morals of the people. We have quoted it more than once before but we cannot refrain from repeating what Robert Toombs, the great Georgian, said in the United States Senate fifty years ago when he spoke against an appropriation proposed for his own State. "I am just as much opposed to an abuse in Georgia as I am to an abuse in New York," he said; and then he uttered this sentiment which ought to be immortal:

"Wherever the system shall be firmly established that the States will enter a miserable scramble for the most money for their local appropriations, and that Senator is to be regarded the ablest representative of his State who can get for it the largest slice of the treasury, from that day public honor and property are gone and all the States are disgraced and degraded."

In another editorial this paper said:

For ourselves, we cannot escape the conclusion therefore, that the policy of a Protective tariff is diametrically opposed to the interests of farmers as a class.

Carolina Union Farmer

The biggest rascal that ever betrayed the people and served the special interests in Congress can come before the people with a bold and plausible defense of his "record." With all the brass and bluster and bravery that it is possible to bring into play, certain machine partisan demagogues are now engaged in standing before audiences telling how they have served the "dear people" when they belong body and soul to "the interests" and now have the solid support of the corporations and "special interests" of the State. The strange part of it—the deplorable part of the whole business, is that there is such a large element of dense ignorance among the voters and so many local "machine" politicians who care nothing for principle and who are out for the "spoils" only. Perhaps the most corrupt thing in North Carolina is modern "machine" politics—which is simply a scramble for political office.

Baltimore Sun

With interrogations and reproaches that stung like a birchen rod, Senators Reed, Kern and Williams cited the Denver platform in favor of free lumber and forced an admission from Senator Simmons that he repudiated that plank in deference to the lumber sentiment in his own State. The Senate leader in putting Mr. Simmons on the grill in the midst of a desperate fight he is making for re-election in North Carolina, simply protected the party from the effects of his Protectionist votes and his present attitude on reciprocity in defiance of the great bulk of Democrats.

Indianapolis News

It is a great array, that of the pro-Lorimer. There are men among them who know something of the INTERESTS. Ten of them are lame ducks, left at home because the people had got tired of being represented by such men. Naturally, they would be for Lorimer. The Democratic Senators who supported him co-operated most cordially with Senator Aldrich in the manufacture of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law.

Savoyard, Democratic Washington Correspondent

Then there is Simmons, of North Carolina. He is a Democrat of the Martin brand, though a little bolder. He makes no concealment of his position on the tariff. He will vote for any duty on lumber that the most insatiate standpatter can propose. It is notorious that Lorimer owes his seat in the Senate to the activity of the Lumber Trust in his behalf; whether corruptly or not. Simmons not only voted to vindicate the Chicago boss, but he made a labored argument in his support. ALDRICH, PENROSE, SMOOT & CO., WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH A DEMOCRATIC SIDE MADE UP OF MARTINS AND SIMMONSES.

BEFORE THE COURT OF LAST RESORT---THE PEOPLE INDICTMENT---That Senator Simmons is a Reactionary, an Ally of Aldrich and out of Harmony with Woodrow Wilson and Democratic Party.

Democratic Text-Book, 1912

Protectionists always insist that their solicitude for the poor laborer, or farmer, leads them to put high duties on every article that can be produced in the country.

The farmer has for fifty years been trying to figure out some profit to himself from the Protective tariff, as he sees his expenses increasing and his profits decreasing. He cannot figure out any profit in Protection—to him—BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANY.

This measure (Reciprocity) was supported by the Democrats because it WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES of reducing the duty on food products, and made a breach in the high Protective tariff wall of the Republican Party. It WAS, therefore, an advance from a Protective policy to a DEMOCRATIC COMPETITIVE POLICY.

(Senator Overman and 31 other Democratic Senators voted for Reciprocity; only three Democratic Senators—Bailey, Simmons and Clarke (of Ark.)—voted against Reciprocity.

Senator Bob Taylor, of Tennessee

"Simmons makes himself clear" (on the tariff), commented Senator Taylor, of Tennessee (in the Senate). "He reminds me of the fellow in Nashville who had a broken clock. Friends gave him the clock but it would not run. He took it to a clocksmith to be repaired. 'What's the matter with it?' asked the clocksmith. 'Well,' answered the owner of the clock, 'the gong strikes half-past six when its hands say it is twenty minutes after four, when, as a matter of fact, it is only ten minutes to two.'"

Chattanooga News

The Progressive Democrats of the Senate—and they far outnumber the others and are steadily increasing their numbers and expect to still further increase after the coming November election—are believed to be fully determined to smash precedent in that august body and designate as their aggressive floor leader, if they have the opportunity in 1913, a man better equipped in every way than Mr. Simmons, and at the same time select one who has a tariff record from a Democratic standpoint as "clean as a hound's tooth," according to a saying in many parts of the country.

Harper's Weekly

We haven't forgotten his speeches and his votes during the passage of the Payne bill through the Senate. SIMMONS DID NOT THEN SHINE AS AN OPPONENT OF PROTECTION. On the contrary, he stood distinctly for the idea that Democratic Senators ought to get what they could for their particular constituencies. He belonged to the group of Democratic Senators who, by acting on that idea, really played into Aldrich's hands and enabled the Protectionist leader to get what he wanted. Simmons openly repudiated the perfectly plain demand for free lumber in his own party's platform. The course he and his fellows followed kept the Democratic party from getting out of that struggle the credit it might have won. He and his fellows are still the source of the chief danger to Democratic tariff reform. It has more to fear from Democrats who are subservient to protected interests in their own States and districts than from any Republican.

Dallas (Texas) News

The prospect of Senator Simmons' retirement is a contingency that patriotism, irrespective of its partisan complexion, can contemplate with a good deal of equanimity. SENATOR SIMMONS HAS BEEN ONE OF SENATOR ALDRICH'S READY RESCUERS, one of the most dependable in helping the leader of Reactionary Republicanism out of his troubles.

Senator Simmons says he discovered, on returning home, that his party could not carry the State unless the free lumber plank was repudiated. He would have us infer that the prospect or the promise of cheaper lumber has caused the masses of North Carolina to rise in arms against him and the party. Senator Simmons' attempt to make it appear that in repudiating this plank of the party's platform he was bowing humbly to the mandate of the masses of his party would be funny if it were not for the low estimate which it puts on the popular intelligence.

Gilsen Gardner, Washington Correspondent for Sixty Papers

Senator Penrose is following the footsteps of his predecessor, Mr. Aldrich, in trading across the party line when it comes to protecting the high tariff schedules. The other day, when the Pennsylvania Senator reported his suggested revision of the wool schedule, Penrose held a little informal meeting in the Senate lobby with Senator Simmons of North Carolina. The writer stood by and heard this conversation:

"Simmons: 'What do YOU want US to do? Do you NEED any votes?'"

"Penrose: 'No, I think I can put it over; you fellows vote for your own bill.'"

"Simmons: 'You don't NEED any of our votes then?'"

"Penrose: 'No, you fellows vote for your own bill. I'll take a chance on putting it over and then I'll FIX IT UP in conference.'"

The Elizabeth Times (New Jersey)

The country at large, from the most humble citizen to the metropolitan press, holds Lorimer guilty. He is not more guilty, however, than those Senators who fostered him upon the people of this country. The evidence that Lorimer's seat in the Senate was bought was unmistakable. Three elements went to make up the forty-six votes he received:

1st. THE BI-PARTISAN SENATORS, REPRESENTING THE SPECIAL INTERESTS.

2nd. The MACHINE-CONTROLLED partisan Republicans.

3rd. A maudlin sentiment that played and preyed upon the emotions of certain aged Senators, who are really in their second childhood.

Bryan's Commoner, October 11, 1912

SENATOR SIMMONS ASKS THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR RE-ELECTION. HE OUGHT TO BE DEFEATED. NORTH CAROLINA IS IN REALITY A PROGRESSIVE STATE. IT IS ENTITLED TO REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE OF A MAN WHOSE HEART IS KNOWN TO BE IN SYMPATHY WITH THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE. MR. SIMMONS IS NOT SUCH A MAN. HE WOULD DO VERY WELL AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STANDPAT REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE WILL NOT DO AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IF THAT PARTY IS TO BE TRUE TO ITS PRINCIPLES.

(Bryan's Commoner Aug. 30, 1912)

In North Carolina, where Senator Simmons is a candidate for re-election, A PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED. HE IS NOT A PROGRESSIVE and it is a mystery to the outside world WHY a State like North Carolina has tolerated him so long.

Fort Mill (S. C.) Times

No man can serve two masters. Simmons is a corporation Senator and, being such, he is not in position to serve the people. The Democratic party cannot afford to trifle with the interests of the people by electing to Congress men who are not in sympathy with the remedial legislation which the country is demanding. Senator Simmons' tariff record from the Democratic point of view, is indefensible and furnishes sufficient reason for any Democrat to vote against him.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

The pitiless glare of naked truth must be especially trying on Senator Simmons of North Carolina, Bailey of Texas, and Thornton and Foster of Louisiana. To use the expressive phrase of the New Orleans States, THESE NOMINAL DEMOCRATS "ARE SERVING REPUBLICANISM IN A DEMOCRATIC UNIFORM" by defending Protective tariff principles in the course of the debates on the Reciprocity agreement.

Memphis News Scimitar

Senator Simmons, the Reactionary from North Carolina, is having hard work to convince the voters of his State that he should be re-elected. He is not up with the Progressive spirit of the times, BUT IS FAR UP ALONGSIDE THE SPECIAL INTERESTS.

New York World

In speaking of Democrats like Simmons and Bailey, who voted with Aldrich on lumber, iron ore, etc., says: "Betrayal of Democratic ideas by Democrats in trusted positions furnish evidence, not of weakness of principle, but of the limitations of human nature. Truth and justice are not degraded when their false votaries fall away. Progress must win its victories over the treacherous and half-hearted in its own ranks, as well as the hosts which array itself openly against it."

Cincinnati Enquirer

The Democratic Progressives will have none of the North Carolina man (Senator Simmons), if they can prevent it. They characterize him as a Reactionary, and as the tariff would be attacked in a Democratic Senate, they do not want to trust the fate of a Democratic tariff measure in his hands. The fight is already becoming strenuous, and as the Democratic Progressives are now in the majority, the indications are that if they get the opportunity they will dump the Senator from the Tar Heel State by an action which will split Senatorial custom and practice wide open.

The Helena (Montana) Independent

If the Democrats of North Carolina should re-elect Senator Simmons, they will be keeping a man in the Senate who will not be true to President Wilson and the Baltimore platform. Simmons is the same kind of a Democrat that Aldrich, Penrose, Crane and Smoot are Republicans—a RANK PROTECTIONIST—IN LEAGUE WITH THE INTERESTS, against the people, and ever willing to trade anything and everything in the Senate to gratify the greed of the grafters.

Baltimore Sun

Many are insisting that Mr. Simmons will never be the Chairman of that Committee should the Democrats get control of the Senate and should he be given another term by the North Carolina Democrats, as they expect to pull the record on him and prove that he is ONE OF THE FEW DEMOCRATS who voted too many times with former Republican Boss Aldrich for high protective duties.

The Columbia (S. C.) State

Senator Simmons had the option of voting in accordance with the platform which he was instrumental in making or of repudiating it. He repudiated it. THAT IS THE RECORD. There is no half-way ground between standing by a pledge and going back on it. A thousand years of explaining by a thousand newspapers will not wipe out the record. Excuses may obscure but they can't blot it out and a promise to the people of North Carolina cannot cancel the obligation of a promise to the American people. We set it down that it is irrational to suppose that the Progressive leaders and press of the country, careful students of public affairs and watchers of the record in detail of Congressmen, can be mistaken when they unite in classifying Simmons as a Reactionary Democrat, a legislator not to be depended on when Progressive principles are at stake.

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