

Rockingham Rocket.

H. C. WALL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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JOHN SHERMAN, AND HIS FLEA FOR LABOR.

The Radicals, as we hear, are distributing largely the speech made by Senator Sherman upon the subject of the tariff, hoping thereby to deceive a number of our people into the belief that the interests of the laboring man are vitally concerned in the maintenance of heavy taxes upon goods imported into this country for consumption. This tax is what these false teachers call protection to labor. They never indicate that the capital employed receives far greater benefit from the burden than the laborer who is employed in operating the mill or the forge. The laborer on the farm is not considered by them at all. Their idea is that, by an artful and hypocritical appeal, a large number of persons who are employed in the various manufacturing industries of the country can be led to believe that they are aiming to advance the interests of this class, and by that means seduce many of them into voting to place the Republican party in power.

We do not hesitate to say that all the sympathetic expressions used by the Republican party for the laboring man are intended to delude, and that that party is moved and controlled by the moneyed wealth of the country and is seeking to deceive the unwary by its treacherous and false pretensions. They never tell the people, whom they wish to ensnare, that what they call "protection" means an increase in the price of the article to the consumer, and that if the tax is laid on a necessary used by the laboring man he will have to pay that increase. His employer gets the advantage in that the law

protects the article but does not force the producer to pay his employer higher wages. Whether the protected man pays much or little for his help depends upon the market value of labor, which no legislation regulates. All reflecting men know that if the tax upon an import does not enhance its price to the consumer there can be no "protection" to the capitalist or his employees. If the capitalist is engaged in an industry the products of which the employe buys, he has to make a contribution to the value of the business. The employe only contributes to the employe's wages which he agrees to pay, and these wages are not "protected" at all. The fact is well known that in many of the mills in New England, where the demand for protection originated, French Canadians are employed because they can be hired at a less price. That is, protecting labor with a vengeance.

Now, we entertain no doubt that if Congress is called upon by the owner of any industry to pass a law which will enable him to make more profit from his business, then the employe ought to invoke the same power to provide that he get wages in proportion. Would not that be justice? Who will gainsay it? But the protectionists never ask that. They shed tears over the laboring man and piteously ask Congress to come to his rescue by increasing the tax upon goods (not labor) imported, endeavoring to make the employe believe (and often succeeding) that his are the interests which are sought to be protected. The cry is the device of the demagogue and is basely hypocritical.

These oily-tongued deceivers tell the farmer that he is "protected" by the imposition of a tax upon the products of the plantations. How protected? Does the tariff tax upon cotton, corn, wheat, pork, &c., increase the price to the producer in this country? No man of sense believes it, and no honest man who has any sense will so pretend? Cotton, corn, flour and pork are exported—sent out of the country for sale. We have more of these than we can consume. But we need blankets, woolen clothes, hats and hundreds of articles made abroad and which we must import if we use. Upon these heavy taxes are laid to swell

the profits of the manufacturer! The whole system is a fraud from beginning to end. It is founded in wrong in the vilest injustice.

We believe a revenue tariff to be proper because it is just and constitutional. Our opinion is that such a tariff will result in bringing more advantages to the people than any system which is based upon taxing one industry for the benefit of another; and no tariff which sought the special protection of any one industry could be anything else.

We are in favor of all enterprises which tend to diversify our pursuits and develop the resources of the country. But we despise a system which asks the intervention of all the powers of the government to advance one or a score of interests at the expense of a majority of the people. Hence we denounce the whole so-called protection policy.

Does this protection policy help the manufacturers of this State? No man who knows anything about it will say so. The class of goods which we are making have no competition from abroad. We can make and sell these articles to the English, the French and the Germans. Does the tariff help the carriage makers? Why, the vehicles which are used in this State are made, mainly, in Ohio and Pennsylvania and New York. And yet, we have heard that one man engaged in that business, buying all his material elsewhere, is laboring under the hallucination that the pauper labor of Europe is threatening his ruin! Such a man is nearly ready for a lunatic asylum.

Let us have laws of all kinds which impose equal burdens. Any departure from that line will produce evil.

BLAINE WITHDRAWS.

A letter addressed to B. F. Jones Esq., chairman of the Republican National Committee, from Florence, Italy, and dated January 25th 1888, by the Hon. James G. Blaine, announces that gentleman's determination to withdraw from the contest for the Presidential nomination at the hands of his party, which is to meet in convention at Chicago next June. After placing himself unequivocally out of the race, he proceeds to felicitate his party upon the improved prospects of success in the coming national campaign. As might be expected, his calculations on the chances are put very adroitly, and he bases his hopes on the increase of the Republican vote over that of 1886 correspondingly with the increase in 1884 over the vote of 1882 when, in the general State elections, his party was so overwhelmingly defeated. This would make victory certain, he argues. But, barring so favorable a ratio of increase, he says his party has only to maintain relatively its prestige in 1886 to give to its candidate every Northern State but one. So much for Blaine's calculations as to the prospective securing of a prize his own doubts concerning which, we must believe, actuates his retirement from the struggle with his party competitors for the nomination. The remainder of his letter is sheer sophistry, "springs to catch wood-cocks," set in his usual role of demagogism; and a plea for the continued maintenance of the policy of "protection to American labor" and the bloated manufacturers whose "self interest" he would make his own and that of every citizen. And, forsooth, one whole paragraph of his letter is devoted to a deliberate falsification of history in reference to the great issue between the parties four years ago as compared with the present controlling issue.

He would have the country believe that the Democrats scouted the tariff issue in the national canvass in 1884, evading the question, as an issue, and treating it as outside the record. Such a subterfuge is unworthy even the chronic Presidential candidate, for he knows only too well that President Cleveland's tariff message, recently addressed to the Congress, simply formulated the Democratic position on this question which, through the years, has been urged with unabated zeal and vigor. Mr. Blaine's declination leaves the field all the fairer for the success of the Democratic party, for he is undoubtedly the opposition's strongest man.

Mr. Parnell has been formally elected to the leadership of the Irish members of Parliament. Well done! He is incomparably the best balanced, most conservative of the Home Rulers.—W.H. Star.

Subscribe for THE ROCKET.

MR. HENDERSON'S BILL.

To Amend the Internal Revenue Laws and for Other Purposes.

(Passed in the House February 7th.)

Be it enacted, etc. That whenever in any statute denouncing any violation of the internal revenue laws as a felony, crime or misdemeanor, there is prescribed in such statute a minimum punishment, less than which minimum no fine, penalty, imprisonment, or punishment is authorized to be imposed, every such minimum punishment is hereby abolished, and the court or judge in every such case shall have discretion to impose any fine, penalty, imprisonment, or punishment not exceeding the limit authorized by such statute, whether such fine, penalty or imprisonment, or punishment be less or greater than the said minimum so prescribed.

Sec. 2. That no warrant, in any case under the internal revenue laws, shall be issued upon an affidavit making charges upon information and belief, unless such affidavit is made by a collector or deputy collector of internal revenue or by a revenue agent; and with the exception aforesaid no warrant shall be issued except upon a sworn complaint, setting forth the facts constituting the offense and alleging them to be within the personal knowledge of the affiant. And the United States shall not be liable to pay any fees to marshals, clerks, commissioners, or other officers for any warrant issued or arrest made, in prosecutions under the internal revenue laws, unless there be a conviction or the prosecution has been approved, either before or after such arrest, by the attorney of the United States for the district where the offense is alleged to have been committed, or unless the prosecution was commenced by information or indictment.

Sec. 3. That whenever a warrant shall be issued by a commissioner or other judicial officer having jurisdiction for the arrest of any person charged with a criminal offense, such warrant, accompanied by the affidavit on which the same was issued, shall be returnable before some judicial officer named in section 1014 of the Revised Statutes residing in the county of arrest; or, if there be no such judicial officer in that county, before some judicial officer residing in another county nearest to the place of arrest. And the judicial officer before whom the warrant is made returnable, as herein provided, shall have exclusive authority to make the preliminary examination of every person arrested as aforesaid, and to discharge him, admit him to bail, or commit him to prison, as the case may require; Provided, That this section shall not apply to the Indian Territory.

Sec. 4. That the circuit courts of the United States, and the district courts or judges thereof exercising circuit court powers, and the district courts of the territories are authorized to appoint in different parts of the several districts in which said courts are held as many discreet persons to be commissioners of the circuit courts, as may be deemed necessary. And said courts, or the judges thereof, shall have authority to remove at pleasure any commissioners heretofore or hereafter appointed in said districts.

Sec. 5. That the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may compromise any civil or criminal case, and may reduce or remit any fine, penalty, forfeiture, or assessment under the internal revenue laws.

Sec. 6. That this act shall take effect 60 days after its approval. Mr. Henderson said, in explanation of the bill: "The second section of the bill provides that affidavits on information and belief only can be made by only three classes of persons, that is, by a collector or by a deputy collector or by a revenue agent, and I will state that in most districts there are quite a number of these officers. In the district in which I live there are probably not less than thirty of such officials, and under the rules as they now exist, in the western district of North Carolina, and perhaps other districts, the provisions of this section are required to be complied with in substance. I have a letter here from Hon. Robert P. Dick, the United States District Judge for the western district of North Carolina, in which letter, dated on the 3rd of this month, he states that the second section of this bill is exactly right; but the judges would prefer that this rule of court should be enacted into law.

Many other persons, however, are allowed to make affidavits. Anybody can make the affidavit who will swear to a personal knowledge of the facts, and the object of the section is to prevent unofficial persons from making such affidavits on information and belief only; and that is all there is in it."

The previous question was called and the bill passed its third reading.

Brother Caldwell is Right.

From the Statesville Landmark. We want to have a few words with those whom it may concern. For years the Democratic party of North Carolina has been on record as opposed to the internal revenue system. A few months ago the Democratic State Executive Committee held a business session at Raleigh, and at that session re-affirmed the party's position on the internal revenue and instructed the chairman to appoint a special committee to visit Washington in behalf of the repeal of the system. Certain Democratic papers of the State which are always infinitely wiser than the party, have denounced the executive committee for usurping authority in simply re-affirming the party's oft-declared principle on the burning question of our politics. They have pursued with infamous ridicule and slander the gentlemen who abandoned their business and at their own expense made a trip to Washington at the bidding of their party to do something for their fellow-citizens. We say this straight: the man who tries to induce the Democratic party of North Carolina to retire from its well established position on the internal revenue, is an enemy in disguise—it were better that he should go over to the Republicans; he would do us less harm. He who believes the party can change front on this question and live in an ignominy about North Carolina politics—he doesn't know the people. You may call it expediency, or what not, but if the party swerves one hair's breadth from its all-the-time position on this question, it is gone. You can just put that in your pipe and smoke it. It is a question of consistency and victory on the one hand, and of bad faith and defeat on the other. If the Democratic party proves false to the people on this vital question it will lose from election day till Christmas to count the majority against it. The Democratic party will not do it. It is the party of the people and it is faithful to their interests and its own pledges.

Miss Alice Savage, a young lady of this place, was suffering from neuralgia in the face. After retiring Wednesday evening the pain troubled her so that she arose and applied warm cloths to it. It is supposed that her night clothes caught fire, for after being bed in some time she found that her clothes and the bedding were burning. Her brother-in-law aroused by her screams hastened to her assistance and found the bed in a blaze. Her clothes were burned off of her and her body burned so from head to foot that she died Friday after intense suffering.—Tarboro Southerner.

Notice to Chances. Col. G. B. Pickett, National Lecturer and State Organizer of the National Farmers' Alliance will address the farmers and the officers and members of Alliances at the following times and places:

Lumberton, Robeson Co., Saturday, February 18.
Clarkton, Bladen Co., Monday, February 20.
Maxton, Robeson Co., Tuesday, February 21.
Rockingham, Richmond Co., Wednesday, February 22.
Wadesboro, Anson Co., Thursday, February 23.
Monroe, Union Co., Friday, February 24.

It is important that every officer and every member of the order should meet him who can possibly do so. L. L. POLK, Secretary State Alliance. Another one has been added to the long list of victims of the cotton gin. Mr. Archie McGregor, who lives at the old McGregor homestead, in Vaughntown, is the sufferer. While at work around a gin, some days ago, some part of his clothing was caught upon the saws with the usual dire result. The hand and arm were lacerated, and his face cut in a number of places. His nose was cut off, or nearly so. Dr. Belk, of Morven, was called, and performed what is deemed a remarkable operation, viz: the replacing of the nose in its

place, and sewing it back where it belonged. Fifty odd stitches had to be taken in mending Mr. McGregor, but he is reported as doing well.—Wadesboro Intelligencer.

On last Saturday morning between eight and ten o'clock the house of Mr. Atlas J. Jowers, situated in Anson county about three miles northeast of Wadesboro was destroyed by fire. Mr. Jowers and his boys were in the field at work some distance from the house when the fire was discovered. Mrs. Jowers is a feeble woman, and had been left in charge of household affairs, but could do nothing to check the flames. Everything was lost but one bed and bedstead. There was an insurance of \$500 on the property burned, \$400 on the dwelling and \$100 on furniture. The insurance money goes to the mortgagees, Marshall and Richardson.—Wadesboro Messenger.



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