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**PROTECTION AND LABOR**

**Governor Kitchin Answers Letter of Inquiry**

The True Explanation of What Does and Does Not Regulate the Price of Labor—A Low Tariff Would Meet the Difference of Cost and Then Give the Laboring Man a Chance to Buy His Necessities.

In reply to a letter of inquiry as to what he said in a certain speech, Governor Kitchin has written the following letter, which amply explains itself:

Mr. C. L. Harris, Mayodan, N. C.  
Dear Sir—Yours of the 7th has been received.

I did not state that the only hope was for our laborers to be paid the same wages as foreigners, but I conclusively showed, I think, that the tariff did not regulate wages. Since 1607, long before we had a tariff, American wages were higher than European wages. The workmen of Australia get higher wages than those of North Carolina. The people of the state of Washington, having the same tariff that we have, get twice as much

value of manufactured products will more than pay the difference in wages in England and the United States, and yet we have an average tax of 50 per cent on manufactures by the tariff.

No democrat favors free trade, but every one favors a tariff for revenue. A Free-trade, England, pays more wages than any other country in Europe, protected or otherwise, and her wages have increased 80 per cent since she adopted the free-trade policy. An English weaver gets \$6.86 a week wages and for shorter hours. Factory wages have been increasing here and elsewhere for a hundred years, and will continue to increase. Improved machinery enables labor to earn more and improved social conditions demand more wages.

The laborer should have the right to spend his wages without paying tribute to protection. Owing to the protective policy, the American laborer is compelled to pay from \$12.50 to \$16 for goods which the English laborer buys at \$10. The Englishman pays \$10.39 for a suit of woolen clothes which costs the American \$20. The latter's wife pays twice as much for a pair of kid gloves. She pays \$1.50 more for a hundred pounds of sugar than the Englishman's wife. She pays practically



GOVERNOR W. W. KITCHIN.

wages; and the people of Alaska, with the same tariff, get four times as much wages as our people. The sugar planter in Louisiana, having high protection, pays no more wages than the Louisiana cotton grower, who is unprotected. The protected man in our city pays more wages for the same class of work than the unprotected man, and pays no more for his wood, flour, or any other article. Our so-called "protected laborers" get no more wages than our unprotected carpenters, masons, painters, etc. The ability to pay high wages does not result in high wages. The highly rich pay no higher wages for the same labor than the poor pay.

I argued that since our American cotton mills are already producing more cotton manufactures than the American people consume, and are thereby compelled to sell millions of dollars of them abroad in competition with foreign goods, that we must either stop building new mills and enlarging old ones or we must sell an increasing quantity of manufactured goods to foreign people; that in order to build up a foreign trade in cotton goods we must compete in foreign markets with foreign goods; that to do this our manufacturer, since they are not in a monopoly, and therefore cannot overcharge our people to make up for small profits or possible losses in the foreign market, must be in position to make goods more economically than we do now.

Admitting that our mill owners are up to date and the most intelligent in the world, and that the American laborer does more work in the same number of hours than any other laborer in the world, and therefore entitled to more wages, and that our southern cotton mills are in the midst of the cottonfields, yet under the protective policy our mills cannot profitably compete in the foreign market for foreign manufacturers. In order to so compete, the tariff on mill machinery and supplies should be reduced to a revenue basis, and thus enable our mills to be equipped and supplied from \$300 to \$400 in the thousand dollars cheaper than at present.

Mill owners, clerks, and other employees should have the opportunity of clothing themselves, equipping their homes and in every way taking care of themselves and their families free from the oppression of the protective policy. This could be done by reducing the tariff on all articles to a revenue basis.

The entire wages paid in American cotton mills is less than 27 per cent of the value of the manufactured product. A 15 per cent tariff on the

**WAR OF THE TONGS.**

How it Began and Was Ended by New York Judge.

Gambling was the genesis of the first fight between the tongs, and gambling continues today complicated as the original issue has been by side feuds and unequal score of revenge, the proper case of sudden death in Mott and Pell streets. None of these games is heavy. In fact, there are few games in Chinatown that are half as steep as the daily afternoon bridge game of the brokers at a certain uptown hotel. A laudryman may come in from Elizabeth-plate-M. J. with 75 cents in his blouse pocket besides a return ticket, and he will have a Saturday night at the Smiling Spring Sunshine Club that will lift his spirits through all the ensuing steamy week. Yet there used to be many sleek young Chinamen who bucked the tiger and wore diamonds; professional gamblers and constitutional toughs they were. Their day passed, however, when the Hip Sings and On Leongs fought each other to a standstill to settle the control of the gambling privilege, and the interests which were the gage of battle waned as a result.

By a strange freak of circumstance the first farming of the gambling privilege in New York was done by a once holy band of crusaders, the Chee Kung Tong. A slant-eyed genius of fate willed it in a capricious moment that the descendants of some outraged Confucian monks of the Middle Kingdom, sworn to wreak a strictly Chinese vengeance upon the rulers of China, should come to this far country and sow the seeds that were to bear bullets in a quick harvest.

The war between the On Leongs and the Hip Sings came to an end in a rare opera bouffe tableau, which was enacted in the chambers of Judge Warren W. Foster, of the supreme court. Judge Foster, who had sat in the criminal branch over several of the cases arising from the bloody struggle in Chinatown, persuaded the various white lawyers retained by the fighting tongs to herd the respective head men of their client organizations before him one day, and he read them a lecture on the advantage of peace and the stern vengeance of American law once violated. Then, with due pomp and solemnity, the Judge produced elaborate articles of peace, duly engrossed and sealed, and ordered the plenipotentiaries of the On Leongs and Hip Sings to sign them. Very gravely in the names were affixed: those of Tom Lee and Jim Gum, his lieutenant; Mock Duck, Wong Git, and Wong Sam, the wicked secessionists. A very formal joint banquet of the tongs in honor of Judge Foster and the members of the district attorney's staff followed and clinched the peace proceedings. Since that time, though assassinations have occasionally disturbed the peace of Chinatown, at each Chinese New Year celebration Judge Foster and representatives of the district attorney have been invited to listen, over the planked dried duck and the rice wine on a festal board, to solemn assurances of the permanency of that peace.—Robert Wells Ritchie in Harper's Weekly.



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