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CONWAY, S. C. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1888.

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VOL. III.

NO. 10.

PLAIN TALK.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

A METHODOICAL AND INTELLIGIBLE STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES OF THE DAY.

The Great Question of the Reduction of Taxes so Put that he who Runs may Read—Trust, Labor, Immigration, the Currency, All Receive their Share of Attention.

Washington, Sept. 8, 1888. Hon. Patrick A. Collins and others, committee, &c: Gentlemen: In addressing to you my formal acceptance of the nomination of the Presidency of the United States, my thoughts are persistently upon the impressive relation of such action to the American people, whose confidence is thus invited, and to the political party to which I belong, just entering upon a contest for continued supremacy. The world does not afford a spectacle more sublime than is furnished when millions of free and intelligent American citizens select their Chief Magistrate, and bid one of their numbers to find the highest earthly honor and the full measure of public duty in ready submission to their will.

It follows that a candidate for this high office can never forget that when the turmoil and strife which attend the selection of its incumbent shall be heard no more, there must be in the quiet calm which follows complete and solemn self-consecration by the people's chosen President of every faculty and endeavor to the service of a confiding and generous nation of freemen. These thoughts are intensified by the light of my experience in the Presidential office, which has soberly impressed me with the severe responsibilities which it imposes, while it has quickened my love for American institutions and taught me the priceless value of the trust of my countrymen. It is of the highest importance that those who administer our Government should jealously protect and maintain the rights of American citizens at home and abroad, and should strive to achieve for our country her proper place among the nations of the earth; but there is no people whose home interests are so great, and whose numerous objects of domestic concern deserve so much watchfulness and care.

OBJECTS OF GOVERNMENTAL SOLICITUDE.

Among these are the regulation of a sound financial system suited to our needs, thus securing the efficient agency of national wealth and general prosperity; the construction and equipment of means of defence to insure our national safety and maintain the honor beneath which such national safety reposes; the protection of our national domain, still stretching beyond the needs of a century's expansion, and its preservation for the settler and pioneer of our marvelous growth; a sensible and sincere recognition of the value of American labor, leading to scrupulous care and just appreciation of the interests of our workmen; the checking of such monopolistic tendencies and schemes as interfere with the advantages and benefits which the people may rightly claim; a generous regard and care for our surviving soldiers and sailors, and for the widows and orphans of such as have died, to the end that while appreciation of their services and sacrifices is quickened, the application of their pension fund to improper cases may be prevented; protection against servile immigration, which injuriously competes with our laboring men in the field of toil, and adds to our population an element ignorant of institutions and laws, impossible of assimilation with our people, and dangerous to our peace and welfare; a strict and steadfast adherence to the principles of civil service reform and the thorough execution of the laws passed for their enforcement, thus permitting to our people the advantages of business methods in the operation of their Government; the

guaranty to our colored citizens of all their rights of citizenship and their just recognition and encouragement in all things pertaining to that relation; a firm, patient and humane Indian policy so that in peaceful relations with the Government the civilization of the Indians may be promoted with resulting quiet and safety on settlers on our frontiers, and the curtailment of public expenditures by the introduction of economical methods in every department of the Government.

The pledges contained in the platform adopted by the late Convention of the National Democracy lead to the advancement of these objects and insure good government—the aspiration of every true American citizen and the motive for every patriotic action and effort.

WILLING TO TRUST TO THE RECORD. In the conscientiousness that much has been done in the direction of good government by the present Administration, and submitting its record to the fair inspection of my countrymen, I endorse the platform thus presented, with the determination that if I am again called to the chief magistracy there shall be continuance of devoted endeavor to advance the interests of the entire country.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

Our scale of internal taxation and its consequences largely engross at this time the attention of our citizens, and our people are soberly considering the necessity of measures of relief. Our Government is the creation of the people, established to carry out their designs and accomplish their good. It was founded on justice and was made for a free, intelligent and virtuous people. It is only useful when in their control, and only serves them well when regulated and guided by their constant touch. It is a free Government because it guarantees to every American citizen the unrestricted personal use and enjoyment of all the reward of his toil and of all his income, except what may be his fair contribution to necessary public expense. Therefore it is not only the right, but the duty of a free people, in the enforcement of this guarantee, to insist that such expense should be strictly limited to the actual public needs. It seems perfectly clear that when the Government thus instrumentally created and maintained by the people to do their bidding turns upon them, and through an utter perversion of its powers, extorts from their labor and capital a tribute largely in excess of public necessities, the creature has rebelled against the creator, and the masters are robbed by their servants.

The cost of government must continue to be met by tariff duties collected at our custom houses upon imported goods, and by internal revenue taxes assessed upon spirits, and malt liquors, tobacco and oleomargarine.

EFFECTS OF THE TARIFF.

I suppose it is needless to explain that all these duties and assessments are added to the price of the articles upon which they were levied, and thus become a tax upon all those who buy these articles for use and consumption. I suppose, too, it is well understood that the effect of this tariff taxation is not limited to consumers of imported articles, but that the duties imposed on such articles permit a corresponding increase in price to be laid upon domestic productions of the same kind, which increase, paid by all our people as consumers of home productions and entering every American home, constitute a form of taxation as certain and inevitable as though the amount was annually paid into the hand of the tax-gatherer.

These results are inseparable from the plan we have adopted for the collection of our revenue by tariff duties. They are not mentioned to discredit the system, but by way of preface to the statement that every million of dollars collected at our custom houses for duties upon imported articles and paid into the public treasury represent many millions more which, though never reaching the national treasury, are paid by our tariff laws.

In these circumstances, and in view of this necessary effect of the operation of our plan for raising revenue, the absolute duty of limiting the rate of tariff charges to the necessities of a frugal and economical administration of the Government seems to be perfectly plain. The continuance, upon the pretext of meeting public expenditures, of such

a scale of tariff taxation as draws from the substance of the people a sum largely in excess of public needs, is surely something which, under a government based upon justice and which finds its strength and usefulness in the faith and trust of the people, ought not to be tolerated. While the heaviest burdens incident to the necessities of government are uncomplainingly borne, light burdens become grievous and intolerable when not justified by such necessities.

Unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation.

And yet this is our condition. We are annually collecting at our custom houses, and by means of our internal revenue taxation, many millions in excess of all legitimate public needs. As the consequence there now remains in the national treasury a surplus of more than one hundred and thirty millions of dollars. No better evidence could be furnished that the people are exorbitantly taxed.

THE TAX ON EACH COUNTY.

The extent of the superfluous burden indicated by this surplus will be better appreciated when it is suggested that such surplus alone represents taxation aggregating more than one hundred and eighty thousand dollars in a county containing fifty thousand inhabitants.

Taxation has always been the feature of organized government hard to reconcile with the people's idea of freedom and happiness. When presented in the direct form nothing will arouse popular discontent more quick and profoundly than unjust and unnecessary taxation. Our farmers, mechanics, laborers, and all our citizens, closely scan the slightest increase in taxes assessed upon their lands and other property, and demand good reason for such increase. And yet they seem to be expected, in some quarters, to regard the unnecessary volume of insidious and indirect taxation visited upon them by our present rate of tariff duties with indifference, if not with favor.

PROOF OF UNJUST TAXATION.

The surplus revenue now remaining in the treasury not only furnishes conclusive proof of unjust taxation, but the existence constitutes a separate and independent menace to the prosperity of the people. This vast accumulation of idle funds represents that much money drawn from the circulating medium of the country, which is needed in the channels of trade and business. It is a great mistake to suppose that consequences which follow continual withdrawal and hoarding by the Government of the currency of the people are not of immediate importance to the mass of our citizens and only concern those engaged in large financial transactions.

EVILS OF A LIMITED CURRENCY.

In the restless enterprise and activity which free and ready money among the people produces is found that opportunity for labor and employment and that impetus to business and production which bring in their train property to our citizens in every station and vocation. New ventures, new investments in business and manufacture, construction of new and important works and enlargement of enterprises already established, depend largely upon obtaining money upon easy terms with fair security; and all these things are stimulated by the abundant volume of the circulating medium. Even the harvested grain of the former remains without a market unless money is forthcoming for its movement and transportation to the seaboard.

The first results of scarcity of money among the people is the exaction of severe terms for its use. Increasing distrust and timidity is followed by refusal to loan or advance on any terms. Investors refuse all risks and decline all securities, and in the general fright, the money still in the hands of the people is persistently hoarded. It is quite apparent that when this perfectly natural, if not inevitable, stage is reached, depression in all business and enterprise will, as necessary consequence, lessen the opportunity for work and employment, and reduce salaries and the wages of labor.

HOW THE MASSES FEEL THE SURPLUS.

Instead, then, of being exempt from the influence and effect of the immense surplus lying idle in the national treasury, our wage-earners and others who rely upon their labor for support are most of all directed concerned in the situation. Others, seeing the approach of danger, may provide against it, but it will find those depending upon their daily toil for bread unprepared, helpless and defenceless. Such a state of affairs does not present a case of idleness resulting from disputes between laboring man and employer, but it produces an absolute and enforced stoppage of employment and wages.

PUBLIC EXTRAVAGANCE.

In reviewing the bad effects of this accumulated surplus and scale of tariff rates, by which it is produced, we must not overlook the tendency to-

wards gross and scandalous public extravagance which a congested treasury induces, nor the fact that we are maintaining without excuse, in time of profound peace, substantially the rate of tariff duties imposed in time of war when the necessities of the Government justified the imposition of the weightiest burdens on the people.

Divers plans have been suggested for the return of this accumulated surplus to the people and the channels of trade. Some of these devices are at variance with all rules of good finance; some are delusive, some are absurd and some betray by their reckless extravagance the demoralizing influence of a great surplus of public money upon the judgments of individuals. While such efforts should be made as are consistent with public duty and sanctioned by sound judgment to avoid the danger by the useful disposition of the surplus now remaining in the treasury, it is evident that if its distribution were accomplished another accumulation would soon take its place if the constant flow of redundant income was not checked at its source by reform in our present tariff taxes.

A PRACTICAL VIEW.

We do not propose to deal with these conditions by merely attempting to satisfy the people of the truth of abstract theories nor by alone urging their assent to political doctrines. We present to them the propositions that they are unjust treated in the extent of the present Federal taxation, that as the result a condition of extreme danger exists, and that it is for them to demand a remedy and that defence and safe promised in the guarantee of their free Government. We believe that the same means which are adopted to relieve the treasury of its present surplus prevent its recurrence, should cheapen to our people the cost of supplying their daily wants. Both of these objects we seek in part to gain by reducing the present tariff rates upon the necessities of life.

We fully appreciate the importance to the country of our domestic industrial enterprises. In the rectification of existing wrongs their maintenance and prosperity should be carefully and in a friendly spirit considered. Even such reliance upon present revenue arrangements as may have been invited or encouraged should be fairly and justly regarded. Abrupt and radical changes, which might endanger such enterprises and injuriously effect the interests of labor dependent upon their success and continuance, are not contemplated or intended.

FREE RAW MATERIAL.

But we know the cost of our domestic manufactured products is increased, and their price to the consumer enhanced by the duty imposed upon the raw material used in manufacture. We know that this increased cost prevents the sale of our productions at foreign markets in competition with those countries which have the advantage of free raw material. We know that confined to the home market our manufacturing operations are curtailed, their demands for labor irregular and the rate of wages paid uncertain.

We propose, therefore, to stimulate our domestic industrial enterprises by freeing from duty imported raw materials, which by the employment of labor are used in our home manufactures, thus extending the markets for their sale and permitting increased and steady production, with the allowance of abundant profits.

TAKING CARE OF LABOR.

True to the undeviating course of the Democratic party, we will not neglect the interests of labor and our workmen. In all efforts to remedy existing evils we will furnish no excuse for loss of employment or reduction of the wages on honest toil. On the contrary, we propose in an adjustment of our revenue laws to concede such encouragement and advantage to employers of domestic labor as will easily compensate for any difference that may exist between the standard of wages which should be paid to our laboring men and the rate allowed in other countries. We propose, too, by extending the markets for our manufactures to promote the steady employment of labor, while by cheapening the cost of the necessities of life we increase the purchasing power of the workman's wages and add to the comforts of his home.

RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION.

And before passing from this phase of the question I am constrained to express the opinion that the interest of labor should be always sedulously regarded in any modification of our tariff laws. Additional and more direct and efficient protection to these interests would be afforded by the restriction and prohibition of immigrants from countries, who swarm upon our shores, having no purpose or intent of becoming our fellow-citizens or acquiring any permanent interest in our country, but who crowd every field of employment with intelligent labor at wages which ought not to

satisfy those who make claim to American citizenship.

TERRITORY OF TRUSTS.

The platform adopted by the late National Convention of our party contains the following declaration:

"Judged by Democratic principles the interests of the people are betrayed when, by unnecessary taxation, trusts and combinations are permitted and fostered, which, while unduly enriching the few that combine, rob the body of our citizens by depriving them as purchasers of the benefits of natural competition."

Such combinations have always been condemned by the Democratic party, and the declaration of its National Convention is sincerely made, and no member of our party will be found excusing the existence or belittling the pernicious results of these devices to wrong the people. Under various names they have been punished by common law for hundreds of years, and they have lost none of their hateful features they have assumed the name of trusts instead of conspiracies.

We believe that these trusts are the natural offspring of a market artificially restricted; that an inordinately high tariff, beside furnishing temptation for their existence, enlarges the limit within which they may operate against the people, and thus increase the extent of their power for wrong doing. With unalterable hatred of all such schemes, we count the checking of their baleful operations among the good results promised by revenue reform.

REVENUE REFORM.

While we cannot avoid partisan misrepresentation, our position upon the question of revenue reform should be so plainly stated as to admit of no misunderstanding.

We have entered upon no crusade of free trade. The reform we seek to inaugurate is predicated upon the utmost care for established industries and enterprises, a jealous regard for the interests of American labor and a sincere desire to relieve the country from injustice and a dangerous condition which threatens evil to all the people of the land. We are dealing with no imaginary danger. Its existence has been repeatedly confessed by all political parties and pledges of remedy have been made on all sides. Yet when in the legislative body, where, under the Constitution, all remedial measures applicable to this subject must originate, the Democratic majority were attempting with extreme moderation to redeem a pledge common to both parties, they were met by determined opposition and obstruction; and the minority, refusing to cooperate in the House of Representatives, or propose another remedy, have remitted the redemption of their party pledge to the doubtful power of the Senate. The people will hardly be deceived by their abandonment of the field of legislative action to meet in political convention and flippantly declare in their party platform that our conservative and careful effort to relieve the situation if destructive to the American system of protection. Nor will the people be misled by the appeal to prejudice contained in the absurd allegation that we serve the interests of Europe, while they will support the interests of America.

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY.

They propose in their platform to thus support the interests of our country by removing the internal revenue tax from tobacco and from spirits used in the arts and for mechanical purposes. They declare also that there should be such revision of our tariff laws as shall tend to check the importation of such articles as are produced here. Thus, in professing to increase duties upon such articles to nearly or quite the prohibitory point, they confess themselves willing to travel backward in the road of civilization and to deprive our people of markets for their goods, which can only be gained and kept by the semblance, at least, of interchange of business while they abandon our consumers to the unrestrained oppression of domestic trusts and combinations which are in the same platform perfunctorily condemned. They propose further to release entirely from import duties all articles of foreign production, (except luxuries,) the like of which cannot be produced in this country. The plain people of the land and the poor, who scarcely use articles of any description produced exclusively abroad, and not already free, will find it difficult to discover where their interests are regarded in this proposition. They need in their homes cheaper domestic necessities; and this seems to be entirely unprovided for in this proposed scheme to serve the country. Small compensation for this neglected need is found in the further purpose here announced and covered by the declaration, that if after changes already mentioned there still remains a larger revenue than is requisite for the wants of the Government, the entire internal taxation should be

repealed "rather than surrender any part of our protective system."

Our people ask relief from the undue and unnecessary burden of tariff taxation now resting upon them. They are offered instead free tobacco and free whiskey.

They ask for bread and they are given a stone.

THE HURRY OF PROTECTION.

The implication contained in this party declaration that desperate measures are justified or necessary to save destruction, or surrender what is termed our protective system, should confuse no one. The existence of such a system is entirely consistent with the regulation of the extent to which it should be applied and the correction of its abuses.

Of course, in a country as great as ours, with such wonderful variety of interests, often leading in entirely different directions, it is difficult, if not impossible, to settle upon a perfect tariff plan. But in accomplishing the reform we have entered upon the necessity of which is so obvious, I believe we should not be content with the reduction of revenue involving the prohibition of importations and the removal of the internal tax upon whiskey. It can be better and more safely done within the limit of granting actual relief to the people in their means of living, and at the same time giving an impetus to our domestic enterprises and furthering our national welfare.

If misrepresentations of our purposes and motives are to pain credence and defeat our present effort in this direction, there seems to be no reason why every endeavor in the future to accomplish revenue reform should not be likewise attacked any with like result.

And yet no thoughtful man can fail to see, in the continuance of the present burdens of the people and abstraction by the Government of the currency of the country, inevitable distress and disaster. All danger will be averted by timely action. The difficulty of applying the remedy will never be less, and the blame should not be laid at the door of the Democratic party if it is applied too late.

FAITH IN THE PEOPLE.

With firm faith in the intelligence and patriotism of our countrymen, and relying upon the conviction that misrepresentation will not influence them prejudice will not cloud their understanding, and that menace will not intimidate them, let us urge the people's interest and public duty for the vindication of our attempt to inaugurate a righteous and beneficent reform.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Senator Stewart wants a committee appointed to investigate the workings of the General Land Office.

Both parties are arranging to receive cash contribution to the campaign fund from the residents of Washington—Government clerk especially.

Postmaster-General Dickinson went to New York Saturday and, it is said, carried with him a revised copy of Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance, to be submitted to the national committee and Mr. Thurman. The political situation here just at this time is chiefly remarkable for doubt. The cool-headed men on both sides candidly admit that everything is thus far in doubt and it looks as though it would remain so until the votes are counted on election day. Neither side will have a walkover.

I understand that both Mr. Cleveland and Secretary Bayard repudiate the action of Mr. Scott in so hastily preparing and pushing through the House the Chinese restriction bill. They say that they did not know such a bill was in existence until they learned of its unanimous passage by the House.

The President's letter of acceptance was at last made public this morning. Opinions differ as to its merits according to the affiliation of the party expressing it. But viewed without prejudice either way, it is an ably written letter upon which much care was bestowed. It is yet too early to say how it will strike politicians here.

The Democratic leaders of the House have decided that the first move for adjournment shall be made by the Senate. I believe that if it were possible without the consent of the leaders on either side to get a resolution providing for an adjournment in two weeks time before both Houses that it would undoubtedly pass. The rank and file on both

sides, in both Houses, want to get away.

It is thought by many politicians here that the election in Maine will determine how much longer Congress will sit. If the republicans gain on the vote of 1884, the republicans in the Senate will regard it as ineluctable and proceed to push their substitute for the Mills bill, which is to be reported soon. If the vote shows a falling off they will abandon their programme and adjourn at once. I give this fairy story, for that's about what it is, just as I got it. I do not vouch for it.

The Canadian Retaliation bill has passed the House with slight opposition, and will probably have the same good luck in the Senate. The speeches in the House on this measure have been very amusing to a person who was not prejudiced in favor of either political party. A republican would get up and, taking the bill for a text, would prove, to the satisfaction of himself and party associates, that the Democratic party was a party of cowards and frauds, and that Mr. Cleveland was the greatest coward and friend of them all; then he would announce his purpose of voting for the bill. A Democrat would follow and from the same text prove that there was only one patriotic party in this country—the democrats—and that Mr. Cleveland is the purest, bravest and most patriotic President the country has ever had, and that he is just dying to lick England. Multiply these two cases by the number of speakers and you can imagine the fun they furnished for the strictly neutral spectator. After hearing all the speeches on both sides, I feel quite satisfied that American interests are perfectly safe in the hand of either party. In fact, I don't believe that there would be but one party if American interests were really threatened in any serious way. After the final passage by the Senate of the Retaliation bill, we shall probably hear no more about the matter until the new administration opens diplomatic negotiation for its settlement.

The most disgraceful piece of legislation that has been railroaded through Congress for many years was the Chinese restriction bill. There is nothing wrong about the bill; it is a law that should have been on our statute books long ago, but it is the indecent manner in which it was rushed through before the action of the Chinese government on the treaty was known; that constitutes the disgrace. It was unanimously passed by the House with a reference to a committee or debate, simply because no member of the many in both parties who are opposed to any such methods had the courage necessary to object for fear that the objection would lose votes for his party in the coming election. In the Senate it was little better. There was an effort made to postpone action until something definite was heard from the Chinese government, but immediate action was demanded by some of the Senators, and it was only the lack of a quorum that prevented its immediate passage. There was a quorum present Friday, and it was passed in spite of the fact that a telegram was received from our minister to China, saying that the treaty had not been rejected, only postponed for further information, with only three voters against it—Senators Hoar, Wilson, of Iowa, and Brown. Afterward Senator Blair moved a re-consideration of the vote for the purpose, as he stated, of offering and amendment to the bill postponing its taking effect for sixty days, pending a settlement of this motion the Senate adjourned until to-day.

"The noblest attribute to human character is forgiveness." Yet it is not always easy to forgive. We have yet to learn the lesson taught us by the flowers at our feet. We tread upon them and the blossoms, though crushed to the earth, send forth the sweet essence of forgiveness in a wealth of fragrance.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie's income is set down at \$1,500,000 a year, which means \$125,000 per month, \$28,846 per week, \$4,120.85 per day and 95¢ per second, the latter sum being a few cents more than an iron ore miner in Pennsylvania receives for working 43,200 seconds, or 12 hours per day.