

the foreign world would get the benefit of the cheaper products. The idea is a good one, which might be vastly improved by enlarging the boundaries of the "free ports" so as to include within them the whole country. If American manufacturers can pay American wages for the manufacturing of American products to be sold abroad in competition with the "pauper labor" of Europe, they can pay American wages for products to be sold at home. The advantage of the "free ports" would be not low wages, but free materials. This is another recognition of the truth that cheap goods do not come from low wages. High wages usually mean low cost of production. It is high taxes and not high wages that make high prices.

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THE PROTECTION PRINCIPLE AND TARIFF REDUCTIONS.

It is with much interest and added respect for the American Protective Tariff League that we read its reply to the inquiries of the National Association of Manufacturers regarding tariff modifications. The League stands for protection as a principle, just as we stand for free trade as principle, and it plumply refuses to be drawn into any compromising relations with manufacturers who want tariff reductions on the products of others but not on their own. These manufacturers remind the League of Josh Billings's remark "that the best place to have a boil is on the other fellow."

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"Reciprocity," in the technical sense, is rightly regarded by the League as "a breeder of hoggishness" that "would take the blue ribbon at any county fair." And "of all forms of tariff revision or tariff reduction," it argues, "reciprocity is the most outrageous and abominable, because it begins by discriminating against one group of domestic industries and in favor of other industries, and ends by discriminating in favor of some foreign countries and against other countries." The League sees in such reciprocity, what we also see, that "it would carry with it the downfall of protection." For the same reason, therefore, we look with favor on what the League opposes.

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The League stands for protection unmitigated and undisturbed. That is where it ought to stand, if it stands for protection at all. For protection is either a fundamental principle of general benefit, as protectionists say, or else it is a method of creating special favors. If it is a principle for

the general good, then the more completely and rigidly it is applied the better will it be for the whole country. But if it is a method of creating special favors, then it cannot be torn up by the roots too soon. That the League believes it to be for the general good is evident from its stand on proposals to modify. If tariff revision is to come, the League prefers that it come at once, so that we may the sooner "find out the folly of it." The League opposes a permanent "non-partisan" tariff commission for the purpose of taking the tariff question out of politics, and for this opposition it gives the best of reasons. It truly says that there is no such thing as non-partisanship on the tariff question except among fools. It thinks that if a bi-partisan commission were appointed it would be constantly at loggerheads and command no one's respect, and that a commission wholly of protectionists would be derided by free traders. And it doubts the willingness and denies the right of the proper Congressional committees to surrender their functions to a commission. All this is perfectly sound and genuine. It points to a consistent protection policy, with all the faith of men who believe in it for patriotic and not for financial reasons. It raises the one and only issue that can be candidly raised, namely, protection or free trade. There is no middle ground. Protection with free trade features or free trade with protection features, would be special privilege in disguise. If protection is good, let us have plenty of it; if it is bad, let's get wholly rid of it.

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THAT CAVE OF ADULLAM.

Patience is important in moments of perplexity when public interests are in the balance, but I am often impatient and indignant when I see from time to time the abominable methods that are pursued by the Plunderbund of Chicago to continue their hold upon public property. Not content with having already robbed the people of millions of dollars, they not only insist on their right to continue their iniquitous course but their newspaper allies revile those who are heroically waging war upon them and trying to see justice done.

Recently one of the Chicago dailies which pretends to great fairness in treating all controverted subjects had this to say regarding leaders in the efforts to prevent a traction settlement by the pending ordinances and without a referendum:

The cause of the opposition is the cause of a motley band of Adullamites. Tone, Haley, Grossberg, Blakely and Doty are the preachers of discontent, and their names give a pretty clear idea of the

movement they are leading. They speak for visionaries and malignants, for people who could not be satisfied in a thousand years. It is fortunate for Chicago that the number of these cave dwellers is so small. A city that should have to submit to their dreams and their rancor would be a bedlam, with the inmates as governors.

Most of these persons, let it be recalled, are leaders in or connected with the Referendum League of Illinois, which organization has secured nearly every public policy petition thus far voted on in Chicago or the State.

The term of derision, "Adullamites," "cave dwellers," which this newspaper uses, is quite a favorite with plutocrats and their defenders. And on a superficial reading of the Bible passage to which it refers, the citation might seem appropriate. But any one well acquainted with Scripture would not use it as a term of reproach.

Governor Tanner of Illinois applied the term in derision to the followers of Governor Altgeld, saying: "A political cave of Adullam like that of old, is thus opened by these men, where every one who is in distress and every one who is in debt and every one who is discontented may gather together to the end that some arch-demagogue may become a captain over them." Tanner said this when he himself was doing things which no honest man would have done.

They who use this Scripture incident forget that the leader in the cave was one David, who, before he fled into the cave of Adullam, had been by divine direction anointed to become king over Israel in place of the rejected King Saul. David in the cave of Adullam was in the right; Saul in his contentment was in the wrong. In that cave the Messianic hopes of the world centered. The band in the cave hourly increased and finally delivered the country from the tyranny of Saul.

If, as the newspaper says, "Tone, Haley, Grossberg, Blakely and Doty" are "Adullamites," they are in the right. They are leaders of those who demand justice—are leaders of the common people; and as all progress has come from democracy in the past, it is reasonable to believe that in the present fight between democracy and plutocracy, not only in Chicago but throughout our nation, the former will prevail.

JAMES P. CADMAN.

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A young scoffer once told Dr. John Hall that the religion he preached might be good for old women, but it would not do for men. Dr. Hall answered: "Sir, the religion that I preach is either true or it is not true. If it is true, it is good for everybody; if it is not true, it is neither good for old women nor for anybody else."—Afloat.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.

(See page 919.)

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, Jan. 5th, 1907.—Federal elections for the House of Representatives and half of the Senate were held on December 12th. Though many individual changes were made, the state of the parties was altered very little:

Last Parliament.

	House.	Senate.
Ministerialist	19	6
Opposition	31	16
Labor	25	14

New Parliament.

	House.	Senate.
Ministerialist	18	3
Opposition	31	18
Labor	26	15

As at the election of 1903, only about half the electors voted, and the effect of sectarianism was noticeable, especially in some of the cities. The opposition party in the House may be divided into Tariff Reformers (on a protectionist basis) 11, and Fiscal Trucers, 20. It is probable that the first business undertaken will be tariff revision.

Mr. Max Hirsch was a candidate for the Wimmera electorate in Victoria, but was unsuccessful. Some really democratic members of the last Parliament were defeated, notably Mr. E. Lonsdale, of New South Wales.

A referendum on the question of altering the constitution so that elections may be held in the autumn instead of the summer, was taken, but the result is not yet known.

The local government extension act was passed by the New South Wales parliament just before Christmas. Copies are not yet obtainable.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1907.

The Chicago Referendum.

The referendum petitions on the Chicago traction question (p. 1040) were successful beyond all precedent, notwithstanding the exceptionally unfavorable circumstances. The petition authorized by the City Council, but which the Council did nothing to circulate, leaving that duty entirely to the Mayor, was subjected, at the Mayor's instance, to the scrutiny of Raymond Robins, James Mullenbach (superintendent of the municipal lodging house), and George E. Hooker, secretary of the City Club. On the 31st they made the following report:

To the Voters of Chicago: At the request of Mayor