

do in the old and revered Democratic doctrine that a tariff which is nothing less than a tax on consumers can rightfully be laid for one purpose only, and that to raise needed revenue for the use of the government.

But, as old as that doctrine is and firmly rooted in the Democratic faith as it has become, it must always be interpreted in the light of conditions as they exist when it is to be applied.

In the absence of circumstances requiring a different interpretation a demand for an immediate reduction in our tariff system to a revenue basis would naturally be understood to mean a demand for a general revision of our tariff laws and a reduction of all their schedules to a common level that would produce needed revenue only.

This, however, is not as I understand the interpretation Democrats at the present time put upon that demand.

It must be remembered that it is made in the presence of new conditions, in the bright glare of which it must be construed.

HOST OF UNIQUE EVILS.

To the mind of a Democrat, at least, this country is threatened with unique and overshadowing evils.

In the presence of the great combinations that have been and are being organized in our industrial pursuits he reads the downfall of independent effort, the crushing in the youth of our future of a manly hope to stand at the head of some business enterprise and, with brain as well as brawn, lead it upward to success; the withering away of a great army of leaders who have stood at the pilot wheels of our industries and made the whole world wonder at America's business success, and, looking out into the future, he sees in the place of these a single individual, whom the world dubs a captain of industry, bedecked with emblems of authority that cost a million a year to support, leading behind him great columns of dejected men who never dream of a better place, but come and go at one man's beck.

And, turning from visions like these, he sees the wealth that millions are made to earn at the feet of men whose hands were never stained by toil, and then is it any wonder that he asks: Is this the result of law?

And who are the men that we see and speak of like this? You, who would lead or drive them, call them the common herd, but in among them are millions of men who drank from their mother's breast the milk of human kindness that makes every man a brother, who learned at their father's

knee his Bible faith, the equality of man before the law.

AIM AT HEART OF TRUSTS.

To the worshipers of protection let me say, It is not the fetich you have made your god these men are after now. An evil greater than that must be dealt with first. It is the heart of the trust they would reach. To do this you know the wall that shelters it must be battered down at the place where it is concealed.

If this should reduce our tariff system below a revenue basis, they would help to build it higher whenever or wherever a trust is not sheltered behind it.

This is the present day doctrine of a tariff for revenue only, as I understand it, and as I shall interpret it if I go to congress.

Do not understand me that I would do nothing more. There is not a missile any human being can invent I would not help to use if I could drive these monsters from every inch of our soil and scatter them at once into their component parts.

Every measure, whatever it may be and wherever it may originate, that would help to accomplish this would have my utmost and never-ceasing support.

It is unnecessary to extend this letter farther. The creed of Iowa Democrats is plainly written in their state platform. With every line and letter of that instrument my heart and conscience alike are in full accord.

HORACE BOIES.

Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 22, 1902.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE PRELUDE TO MODERN HISTORY.

A very-useful little book is that with the above title by J. E. Symes, of University college, Nottingham, published by Rivingtons. Its sub-title is: "The World's History from the Third to the Ninth Century."

There are few readers, we suspect, who could stand much of an examination at the bar of their own questioning on the period of history comprised in these centuries. Let any one ask himself, for example, if he has any clear notion of what was going on in the world during the seventh century. What opinions and ideals were at work in religion, in politics, in society? What men stand out as representatives of these opinions and ideals? Who were the rulers in power? What were the boundaries, say, of France? Or was there any France in the seventh century?

The fact is that many who may have a fair outline knowledge of more ancient history and more modern history know almost nothing of the history of the middle ages. All those years from the time of the disintegration of Rome down to the time when the geography of Europe was about as it is now, are indistinct and confused. The seventh century and the ninth, or the eleventh and the thirteenth have the same dark complexion, and all look alike to most of us.

And yet there were great deeds and men, great forward movements and sharp reactions, struggles for freedom and bloody re-

pressions, visions of seers lighting groups of followers and cynical taunts of tyrants and their tools seeking to quench new light—all these things were in these centuries, and each event and each man as distinct as in this year 1902.

This little book of Mr. Symes, with only 169 pages and five simple maps, will help one to distinguish some of these centuries. It is, of course, very brief in its comments; but it is quite clear, and its grouping of important facts is more than usually satisfactory. Some of this grouping the reader must do for himself, for no book can quite become a chronological table. The best way to get a view of any one of the centuries is to take a sheet of paper and fill it out for one's self.

Two typographical errors are to be noted: the date on p. 44 should be 471 not 571, and that on p. 84 should be 604 not 504.

J. H. DILLARD.

PERIODICALS.

—The American Federationist (Washington) for October, the official magazine of the American Federation of Labor, discusses injunctions, achievements of trade unions, trade union education and education in connection with the labor movement, and contains the closing chapter of a series of pictures of the post office system.

—Admirers of Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, will be especially interested in Willis J. Abbot's "Pilgrim" (Battle Creek, Mich.) for October. Another important subject treated in this number of Mr. Abbot's progressive and thriving monthly is "Wages and the Cost of Living," in which Byron W. Holt exposes some of the peculiarities of Washington statisticians. Several stories add to the interest of the number, and the illustrations are numerous and attractive.

—The Arena (New York) for October is especially strong and interesting, as a glance over its table of contents will sug-

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