

## THE TARIFF.

SPEECH, OCTOBER 31, 1912.

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President Taft says, and the Republican banners float the sentiment to the wind: "The Constitution must be preserved." It must, but not in alcohol or embalming fluid. Our Constitution must be a living, vital declaration of principles which can and shall be applied to the conditions of 1912.

The central issue of this campaign is the tariff. When President Taft signed the Payne-Aldrich bill he committed the one act that has made his re-election impossible. I shall not discuss the schedules of this tariff, for all of you men of business affairs know how the schedules of that tariff, in protecting the monopolists of this country, control prices and are responsible for the high cost of living. But I shall tell you how the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was made. It was passed by the House of Representatives under Speaker Cannon. It was passed through a loaded Cannon. Then it went to the Senate.

Aldrich took it under his arm. The finance committee was not organized, and Aldrich organized it. He placed thereon Smoot, of Utah, who represents the Guggenheim smelting interests, and Penrose, of Pennsylvania, who worships at the shrine of the steel trust and burns the midnight Standard Oil. As chairman could be found Aldrich, whose voice has always echoed the steam whistle of the railroads.

This group of patriots took that bill, which had been satisfactory to Joe Cannon, and in forty-eight hours after it had been received in the Senate it was reported back, raising 600 items in the Payne bill from 15 to 300 per cent. The bill was jammed through the Senate without a change and promptly signed by the President of the United States.

That bill was passed by fraud and corruption by men whose oaths run to the treasury of the trusts and not to the patriotism of the people.

In the incipient days of this nation our people voted against unjust taxation as you in Boston, famous for its tea party, know full well. There is no difference in principle between taxation without representation and taxation by fraud. In those early days the people of America won their battles. In 1912 they shall not fail.

It is eminently proper that we should continue the campaign where we left off a week ago, since Mr. Roosevelt is better and urges us to continue a discussion of the issues. Mr. Roosevelt has shifted his ground again. He and his platform both called for regulated and legalized monopoly, but now he says he has been misunderstood and that he is in favor of a law for the regulation of competition.

Mr. Roosevelt has merely adopted another Democratic idea, for Woodrow Wilson had already convinced the American people that his program of regulated competition was the soundest proposition for the business of America.

Mr. Roosevelt says he is at Armageddon with the Lord. I am advised that the correct translation of the scriptural Hebrew of Armageddon means "cliff hills of the robbers." Mr. Roosevelt means that he and his followers are at the foot of these hills to drive out the robbers of privilege. He and his troops have only arrived, the Democratic hosts having been there for nearly sixteen years, carrying on the siege, and many of Mr. Roosevelt's friends, notably Mr. Perkins and Mr. Gary, will be found within the citadel of the trust magnates' stronghold.

The Republican elephant can never climb its rocky heights. The Bull Moose can never reach this elevation. The only safe animal for transportation through these passes to the hills and strongholds of vested privilege is the good old sure-footed Democratic donkey.

When Mr. Roosevelt controlled the Republican convention of 1908, which selected Mr. Taft as its nominee,

Mr. La Follette made several proposals for the Republican platform. No one man ever dominated a convention as Theodore Roosevelt dominated that. La Follette proposed a plank for the publicity of campaign funds; it was beaten by a vote of 880 to 94. La Follette proposed a plank to ascertain the value of railroads. It was beaten by a vote of 917 to 63. La Follette proposed the election of United States Senators by the people, and this convention, controlled by Roosevelt, rejected this plank by a vote of 866 to 114.

Mr. Bryan in the Democratic party and Mr. La Follette in the Republican party are the original Progressives. Both men are opposed to the election of Mr. Roosevelt and President Taft on the ground that neither of these two candidates is a real Progressive. Woodrow Wilson has the silent indorsement of Senator La Follette and the open and vigorous support of Mr. Bryan.

There is no doubt of the result. The light is breaking across the crested hills, and the progressive spirit of a great people will make practically unanimous the election of Woodrow Wilson as the next President of the United States.