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It is impossible at this time to measure the importance to American politics of Speaker Henderson's refusal to accept his renomination for Congress. All revolutions are precipitated, when the time is ripe, by some event of no greater magnitude in itself than this; and that a revolution within the Republican party impends, to which Henderson's declination is as the match to a powder magazine, is almost as certain as Fate.

What his motives may have been it is folly to speculate upon. He has stated them with apparent candor, and no reason appears upon the surface for suspecting his good faith. Having canvassed his district, he learned that a large proportion of his Republican constituents are hostile to his protection views. Without bad faith, therefore, in making his canvass, he could not hope to escape the humiliation of defeat; and he preferred to abandon the field with convictions undisturbed and conscience clear. Upon the face of the matter, Mr. Henderson seems to have set an excellent but extraordinary example of fidelity to principle and good faith toward constituents.

His precipitate action cannot fail, however, to advertise widely and with tremendous emphasis the condition which provoked it, and thereby accentuate "the Iowa idea" not only in his own Congressional district but over the entire country. It probably satisfies the public generally of what he was already doubtless convinced, that ex-Gov. Boies will be his successor

in Congress; and it is certain to create a stampede at the Congressional elections which may quite change the complexion of the lower House. Not that it will make clear-cut free traders of stanch protectionists. Conversions are seldom so easily effected. But it will have a marked tendency to strengthen and expand free trade sentiment among voters who have not been definitely attached to either side.

This sentiment has long been gathering volume in the Republican party, especially in the West; and now that Mr. Henderson has drawn the line sharply between Republicans who incline toward free trade, and those who, like himself, cling to the protection fetish, the cleavage is likely to become rapidly more and more impressive. One effect of his remarkable action has been to demolish the plan of campaign agreed upon between Mr. Roosevelt and the little coterie of Senators he had gathered about him at Oyster Bay. They had cozily arranged to keep the tariff question and the trust question apart, by proposing regulation of some sort as a remedy for trusts, and offering as a sop to "the Iowa idea," but wholly without reference to trusts, to make such modifications of tariff schedules from time to time as might seem wise. This agreement had hardly been effected when Mr. Henderson's declination fell upon it like a chunk of dynamite. On the one hand he thereby in effect rebuked the President and his advisers for offering to meddle with the schedules; while on the other he virtually admonished them that Republican sentiment in favor of abolishing trust-fostering tariffs is at present too strong for him to cope with in his own district and likely to be too strong to be overcome in the country at large.

It will be almost impossible now to keep the trust question and the tariff question apart. That member of the Republican Congressional committee was guilty of no exaggeration who exclaimed upon hearing of the Henderson declination: "This is an earthquake!"

The Outlook, of New York, in its issue of September 13, has brought together, in what it calls "authorized form," the speeches relating to trusts which were recently made by President Roosevelt at Providence, Boston, Fitchburg and Bangor. In doing this the Outlook has shown commendable enterprise and deserves the thanks of its readers. If we did not have all of these speeches together we might think from the earnest tone of one that surely there must be some real strenuosity in another. But reading them all together, and eliminating the sentence after sentence of what the President is candid enough himself to characterize as "perfectly trite," we find a strenuous example of strenuosity destrenuized. The whole situation is "given away" by the single fact that here are speeches on trusts and not a word in favor of reducing the tariff! This, too, even when conventions of the President's own party are seeing and proclaiming the inevitable connection of the two. President Roosevelt is not so quick as Speaker Henderson at seeing danger signals ahead.

In this same number of the Outlook a resolution of the Idaho Republican convention is quoted, as follows: "We, therefore, favor a revision of the tariff, without unreasonable delay, which will place on the free list every article and product controlled by a monopoly." And yet the President, in what purports to be a most serious discussion of trusts, ignores the discussion of the