

dictator who holds no public office, who holds no party chairmanship, who belongs to no inside clique, who has no Big Business affiliations, who cannot pull a single secret wire in politics, whose only political power is the confidence which a vast majority of the masses of his party repose in his fidelity? Bryan's political power has no other source nor support than that well-earned confidence. He hasn't any longer even the dubious power of a possible candidate for the Presidency, for he has distinctly declared his intentions on that score. That the power such a man as Bryan has is to be dreaded by some kinds of political managers is true enough; but not by any of the kind with whom we still wish to identify Chairman Underwood. The test, however, of all such political managers is that they, as Mr. Underwood seems to have done, mistake the wholesome power of a trusted leader for the dangerous dictatorship of a boss.

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**Republican Insurgency.**

If the Democratic party needs warning against the possible effects of a popular tendency to contrast the wool-protection policy of their majority in Congress with President Taft's apparent awakening to the advantages of free trade, Republican progressives also need a warning, and one not altogether dissimilar. Their opposition to Canadian reciprocity is almost certain to ruin them in national politics. They are not to be criticized lightly on this question, any more than the Democrats on the wool-tariff, for their position is one of responsibility and difficulty. It may be, too, that the Taft reciprocity agreement was set for them as a trap. But to the outsider it would appear that they are less likely to be trapped if they pick up the trap and walk away with it than if they try to kick it aside.

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Is it not time for these men to impress upon their constituents the fact that protected Interests have been deceiving their party all these years, and making it a tool of plutocracy through its attachment to the economically unsound and morally revolting theory of protection? Do these Republican statesmen, progressive though they are, still hold to the notion that a protective tariff is necessary to equalize labor cost? That this notion is as ill-founded as all the other protection rubbish, their constituents are rapidly learning. A country of high wages is a country of low labor cost. Unless they themselves also learn this lesson, they may soon

turn up at the wrong end of a long procession and in uncongenial company.

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**Wages.**

In so far as Republicans are sincere in contending for tariffs high enough to cover differences in cost of American over foreign goods caused by the higher wages that prevail in this country they are better freetraders than Democrats of the Bailey brand. The logic of their position necessitates their destroying protection, root and branch, if once they realize that American wages are higher than foreign wages for other than tariff reasons. And that this is so is the truth. The only reason for its seeming to be not so, is that protectionists contrast American with British wages, and then—with no proof, no argument, "no nothing" except their confidence in the stupidity and gullibility of their victims—attribute the higher wages of the United States to our protection policy, and the lower wages of Great Britain to her free trade policy. The true comparison is not between this country under protection and a European country under free trade; it is between two European countries, one with free trade and the other with protection.

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This comparison has been recently made by the British Board of Trade. As reported in a recent issue of the (Philadelphia) Saturday Evening Post, the comparison is between free trade in Great Britain and protection in Germany. Germany copied our protection system more than 20 years ago, and here is the result so far as hired labor is affected, 100 being taken as the unit for calculation:

	Wages.	Hours of Work.	Hourly Wage.
Great Britain .....	100	100	100
Germany .....	83	111	75
German wages lower.....	17%	...	...
German hours longer.....	...	11%	...
German hourly wage lower.	...	...	25%

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**Is Work Plentiful?**

Anybody that wants work can get it and with decent pay. So we are told. By persons who don't need jobs, to be sure, yet who mean well. But how does that assurance tally with the threat of the Chicago elevated railroads regarding the extension of the ten hour law for women to their fare collectors? They employ women as fare collectors at poor pay for 12 hours' work a day. The 10-hour law extended to their work would compel