

meeting of 1,000 persons was addressed by Father Becavaca, who said: "These men do not want blood. They want bread. The sending of troops was uncalled for and has only tended to provoke violence." Turning to the sheriff, who was present, he went on: "If you will take these troopers away, I will assure order." On the following day, the 19th, work was resumed without disturbance. President Hoffstot refused to receive a committee to propose arbitration, saying, "There is nothing to arbitrate."

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The Tariff in Congress.

While the conference committee on the tariff (p. 679) were in session trying to adjust the differences of the two Houses, a statement was published by the newspapers of the 17th which purported to be an authoritative expression on the subject from President Taft. It followed a conference between the President and twenty-three Republican Congressmen who opposed free iron ore, free coal, and free hides, and argued that the doctrine of free raw materials is not a Republican doctrine. According to this authoritative statement—

The President replied that he was not committed to the principle of free raw materials, but that he was committed to the principle of a downward revision of the tariff which he had promised and that he was obliged to look at the matter not from the standpoint of any particular district, but from the standpoint of the whole country and also from the standpoint of responsibility for the entire Republican party. He said the question in each case was a question of fact, to be determined by evidence, as to whether the present duty was needed for protection or whether the rate was excessive, so that a downward revision, or putting the article on the free list, would not injure the industry.

He repeated the platform of the Republican party and said that he had always understood that it meant a downward revision in many instances, though perhaps in some few instances an increase might be needed; that he reached this construction of the platform on what he understood to be the principle of protection and its justification—namely, that after an industry was protected by a duty equal to the difference between the cost of production abroad and the cost of production in this country, including a fair profit to the manufacturer, the energy and enterprise of American business men and capitalists, the effectiveness of American labor and the ingenuity of American inventors under the impulse of competition behind the tariff wall would reduce the cost of production and that, with the reduction in the cost of production, the tariff rate would become unnecessarily high and ought to be reduced.

This was the normal operation of the tariff as claimed by the defenders of the protective system—not in every case, but as a general rule—that of course a revision of the tariff could not be perfect, must have defects and inconsistencies, but in so far as his influence went when called upon to act in

connection with legislation it would be thrown in the direction of performing the promises of the party as he understood them; and that if iron ore and oil and coal and hides did not need protection and the conditions were such as to enable the ore producers and the oil producers and the coal producers and the producers of hides to compete successfully, without reduction of wages, with the producers from abroad, then they did not need a duty and their articles should go on the free list.

It was a question of fact which he hoped to make up his mind with respect to, on such evidence as was available to him in order to carry out what he understood to be the promises of the party to the whole people. He said he felt that his position as the titular head of the Republican party and as President, with the whole people as his constituency, gave him a somewhat broader point of view than that of a single member of Congress in respect to articles produced in his district. He felt strongly the call of the country for a downward revision within the limitations of the protective principle, and he hoped to be able to respond to that call as he heard it, as well in the interests of the party as of the country.

The conference committee is still at work upon the tariff bill. It is reported to have agreed on the 19th to accept the Senate's corporation tax amendment, but not until many changes had been made in it, including a reduction of the tax from 2 per cent to 1.

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Popular Election of Federal Senators.

William J. Bryan has asked President Taft to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the submission of the income tax amendment to assist in the submission at the same time of an amendment specifically authorizing income taxation. Following is Mr. Bryan's letter, which is dated the 13th:

President Taft: Now that the States are going to vote on the ratification of the amendment specifically authorizing an income tax, why not give them a chance to vote on an amendment providing for the election of United States Senators by popular vote? Would not this be an opportune time to present the subject to Congress? Two Constitutional amendments, one authorizing an income tax and the other providing for the popular election of Senators, would make your administration memorable, and I pledge you whatever assistance I can render in securing the ratification of these amendments. With great respect, I am yours truly,

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

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The British Financial Bill.

Less than five of the seventy-four pages of the British financial bill (p. 682) have been debated, and the House has been in session as long as seventeen hours at a setting. A fire in the rear has been opened against the Ministry by imperialist Liberals, and their organ, the Westminster Gazette, recommends the withdrawal of disturbing