

should work for the masses against the few there was hesitating handclapping, which finally grew to cheers.

The committee on credentials announced that they would not be ready to report till 2 p. m.

The committee on resolutions was called, but reported that it was not ready.

A committee was appointed to learn when the committee on credentials could report.

R. Q. Mills entered the hall greeted by shouts which ran from Mills to Hill, and on motion of a delegate, Mills was invited to address the convention. He reported that he was too ill to speak and soon left the hall. Then, on motion of the Michigan delegate, Senator Palmer of Illinois was invited to address the convention. When the gray haired Senator appeared coming down the aisle the cheer grew to a roar. Palmer put his hearers in a pleasant mood at once by a comical story and light comments on the crowd. The keynote of Palmer's talk was unity and co-operation. We want no skulkers in this great fight. Every man must work. The sentiment was cheered roundly. "Select a solid, firm Democrat for this contest, put the banner in his hand, then rally about him," said Palmer. "Hill is the man" came a voice from the gallery, and the name of the New Yorker was caught up and shouted from side to side. It grew and grew until the cheers and hisses died away. When the aged speaker claimed that Illinois would be Democratic the shouts were wild.

The credentials committee then announced they were ready to report. J. E. Lamb, Indiana, presented the report of the committee. Sitting delegate Barnard, first Ohio, was seated. In Utah, H. P. Henderson and John T. Caine were seated.

In New Mexico and Arizona the claims of each to six delegates was conceded; in Alabama the contesting delegation is given seats without votes. Morris and Davis were seated from the District of Columbia.

The committee on permanent organization reported W. L. Wilson, West Virginia, permanent chairman; S. P. Sheerin, Wisconsin, permanent secretary.

A committee was appointed to conduct the permanent chairman to the chair. When he was brought forward and introduced, he proceeded to deliver his speech of acceptance.

#### CHAIRMAN WILSON'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Convention:—I thank you most heartily for this honor. I shall try to meet the duties of the high position to which you call me with a spirit of fairness and equality, that is Democracy.

This convention has a high patriotic work to perform. We owe much to our party; we owe much to our country. The mission of the Democratic party is to fight for the under dog. When that party is out of power we may be sure that there is an under dog to fight for, and that under dog is generally the American people. When that party is out of power, we may be sure that some party is in control of our government that represents a section and not the whole country, that stands for a class and not the whole people. Never was this truth

brought home to us more definitely than by the recent convention at Minneapolis. We are not deceived as to the temper; we are not in doubt as to the purpose of our opponents. Having taxed us for years without excuse and without mercy, they now propose to disarm us of further power to resist their exactions.

Republican success in this campaign, when we look to the party platform, the party candidates, or the utterances of the party leaders, means that the people are to be stripped of their franchise through force bills, in order that they may be stripped of their substance through tariff bills. Free government is self-government. There is no self-government when the people do not control their own elections and levy their own taxes. When either of those rights are taken away or diminished, a breach is made, not in the outer defenses, but in the citadel of our freedom. For years we have been struggling to recover the lost right of taxing ourselves, and now we are threatened with the loss of the great right to govern ourselves. The loss of one follows in necessary succession the loss of the other. When you confer on the government the power of dealing out wealth, you unchain every evil that can prey upon and eventually destroy free institutions—excessive taxation, class taxation, billion dollar Congresses, corrupt civil service, a debauched ballot box and purchased elections. In every campaign the privilege of taxing the people will be bartered for contributions to corrupt them at the polls. After every victory, a new McKinley bill is to repay these contributions with taxes wrung from the people. For every self-governing people there can be no more momentous question than the question of taxation. It is a question, Burke truly said, around which all great battles of freedom have been fought. It is a question out of which grow all issues of government. Until we settle this question wisely, permanently, and justly, we build all other reform foundations of sand. We and the great party we represent are today for tariff reform, because it is the only gateway to a genuine Democratic government.

The distinguished leader who presided over the Republican convention boasted that he does not know what tariff reform is. Whoever said he did? Let us hope with that charity that endureth all things and believeth all things, that he is truly as ignorant as he admits himself to be. Unfortunately the people are not so ignorant of the meaning of protection—at least of the protection which was dealt out to them in the bill that bears his name. They see the meaning of the "Writ Large" today in the prostrated agriculture, in the shackled commerce, in the stricken industries, in the compulsory idleness of labor, in the law-made wealth, in the discontent of the workmen and the despair of the farmer. They know by hard experience protection as a system of taxation, but as the old, crafty scheme by which the rich compel the poor to pay the expenses of the government. They know by hard experience, protection as a system of tribute, but an old, crafty scheme by which the power of taxation of the people is made the

private property of the few of the people.

Tariff reform means to re-adjust this system of taxation and purge away this system of tribute. It means that we have not reached the goal of perfect freedom as long as any citizen is forced to pay tribute to any other citizen, and until our taxes are proportioned to the ability and duty of the tax payer rather than to his ignorance, his weakness and his patience.

Governor McKinley further charged that the Democratic party believes in taxing ourselves. I am afraid, gentlemen, we must admit this charge. What right or excuse have we to tax anybody else? With a continent for our country, and with freedom and intelligence as the instruments for its development we shall stand disgraced in the eyes of mankind if we cannot and if we do not support our own government. We can throw that support on other people only by beggary or by force. If we use one we are a pauper nation; if we use the other we are a pirate nation. The Democratic party does not intend that we should be either. No more does it intend that they shall falsely call it taxing other people to transfer our taxes from the possession of those who own the property of the country to the bellies and backs of those who do the work of the country. It believes frugality is an essential virtue of a free government. It believes that taxes should be limited to the public needs and be levied by a plain rule of justice and economy.

But, gentlemen, we are confronted with a new cry in this campaign. The Republican party, says Governor McKinley, now stands for protection and reciprocity. He was for protection alone when he framed his bill in the House, or rather permitted his beneficiary to frame it for him, and firmly resisted all efforts of the statesman from Maine to annex reciprocity to it. No wonder he favors the reciprocity added by the Senate. You may explore the pages of burlesque literature for anything more supremely ludicrous than the so-called reciprocity of the McKinley bill. It is not reciprocity at all. It is retaliation, and the worst of all, retaliation on our own people. It punishes American citizens for the necessities or follies of other people. It says to a few small countries south of it, "If you are forced by your necessities or led by your follies to make bread higher and scarcer to your people, we will make shoes and sugar higher and scarcer to our people." And now we are told that reciprocity is to be their battle cry.

Already we are regaled with the pictures of Benjamin Harrison clad in armor, going forth to battle for reciprocity on his plumed steed. Simple Simon fishing for whales in his mother's rain barrel and in great triumph capturing an occasional wiggle-waggle is only a true, realistic picture of the reciprocity of the McKinley act. We are for protection that protects, and for reciprocity that reciprocates. We are in favor of protecting every man in the enjoyment of his labor, diminished only by his proper contributions for the support of the government, and we are for that real