

# NELSON W. ALDRICH, HIGH TARIFF CHAMPION

Long the Most Prominent Figure in American Tariff Legislation, the Senior Senator From Rhode Island Is a Tireless and Forceful Advocate of Protective Legislation and a Power in Securing Its Enactment

MANAGER of the senate, master of the senate, boss of the senate, controller of the senate, servant of the trusts, brains of the legislation, many titles bestowed upon Nelson W. Aldrich, senior United States senator from Rhode Island. As chairman of the senate finance committee he has charge of the tariff bill now being considered by the senate in extra session. If there is any one subject that has reached every nook and corner of the country it is the tariff.

The tariff bill always originates in the lower house of congress. No matter how much the bill may be enacted by the senate or how much it may be disfigured by the joint conference committee, it bears the name of the chairman of the finance committee of the house. There is no law for this. It is just common courtesy. Thus the present generation, to go back no farther, is familiar with the Morrill tariff bill, because the chairman of the house finance committee which framed the bill was William Morrill, more commonly known as "Horizontal Bill." The country is also familiar with the McKinley bill, the Wilson bill, the Mills bill, and the last Wilson bill. When the present bill becomes a law it will go down on the list as the Payne bill, because the Hon. Sen. Payne, chairman of the house finance committee, introduced it in the house. When the senate gets through with it, under the skillful management of Senator Aldrich, it will have to be identified before it will be recognized by Mr. Payne.

No chairman of the senate finance committee was ever more masterful in defending a tariff bill than has been Senator Aldrich. Not only has he been in face tried and determined opposition in the minority party, but he has been hampered and heckled by able and stubborn senators of his own party. As chairman of the committee which revamped the house bill and as a member of other important committees, such as corporations organized in the District of Columbia, Cuban relations, interstate commerce, rules and a member of the select committee on industrial expositions, Senator Aldrich has stood in the arena of debate peculiarly equipped for the fight which will probably be his last, for he announced some time ago that when his present term expires, March 3, 1911, he will retire from politics.

Senator Aldrich is one of a notable group that stood shoulder to shoulder in many spirited debates. The group was composed of Aldrich, Allison, Hale, Spooner and Platt of Connecticut. Aldrich and Hale remain. Senator Aldrich will be sixty-eight years old next November. Possibly he could return when his present term expires if he signed a wish so to do, but the absence of his old supporters has left him with most of the burden, and he knows the demand for new blood. He must know that during recent sessions his majorities in the senate have been dwindling. In the matter of the currency bill he found himself obliged to fight and fight defensively. So far, however, he has never been defeated by the younger element. He is an aristocrat in the best definition of the word, and he prefers to retire while he is in the flush of victory.

All in all he is a venerable public figure. Utterly lacking in personal magnetism as the term was applied to men like Blaine, Daniel, Vest, Douglas and others of that school, he has always had the most respectful consideration from the members of the senate and from the public. He is a man of his position, he holds it without bravado. He never resorts to subterfuge. He makes his fight in the open. At a time when most of the country looked askance at protection as a political taint, Aldrich stood by it and proclaimed boldly that it was the salvation of the industries of the country. In 1888 he spoke before the board of trade of Providence, R. I., his home town, on the proposed revision of the tariff. How consistent he has been in his advocacy then, reference to his talk at that time will show. He favored disposing of the surplus by the purchase of bonds or by prepaying the interest on the bonds due in 1907. Turning to the question of the reduction of the revenue, the senator said that he knew of no protectionist or Republican who was not in favor of reducing the revenue to the current requirements and obligations of the government. Any disposition of a surplus by extraordinary expenditures or division among the states was inadvisable. The revenue must be reduced, and only the manner is in dispute.

"Now," said the speaker, "I am not only in favor of a reduction of the revenue, but a revision of the tariff. I am in favor of a revision of the tariff for the strengthening of the protective principle. It is a battle for freedom or slavery, and I enter it as a protectionist, believing in the preservation and strengthening of our protective principles."

Since the utterance quoted Senator Aldrich has not deviated a single jot from his stand on protection. The fabled adage that wise men sometimes change their opinions does not always hold out. Right or wrong, for better or worse, the principles of protection remain the same. Not only has Senator Aldrich been the strong arm of his party in the senate when the tariff was the question of the day, but on all matters he has been looked to for counsel. It is recalled that when the announcement was made in 1905 that he was going abroad for six weeks, the last six of the session, the question was asked all over the floor of the chamber and in the corridors of the capitol, "What will the senate do without Aldrich?" It was an acknowledgment of his leadership. "That he was a curious admission," for he had never aspired to be a leader, and he was not elected on that issue. Unconsciously, almost by common consent, when a rose in his place and a line of action, the senator was elected by unanimous consent. It was admitted that he represented the best thought of his party in the senate, and his lead was nearly always followed. In spite of the fact before referred to that he lacked the magnetism of the debater, there was an Aldrich person-

ality. He made legislation a business. He has great outside interests. He is reputed to be worth between five and ten millions. His daughter married the son of the richest man in the United States.

It met with opposition from bankers of the middle west and the far west. They were men of intelligence and probity. They went before the committee and contested every inch of the debatable ground. When it was in-



NELSON W. ALDRICH, SENIOR SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND.

Undoubtedly the most important commission that ever went from this country to the old world was the monetary commission that sailed in 1898. It went to consult the financial giants of the money centers of Europe. Senator Aldrich was chairman of that commission. His opinions were listened to with attention and bore fruit. In Europe, as at home, he conducted himself without ostentation. This is one of his conspicuous traits. It is in this trait which caused a great statesman to say, "A safety deposit vault is noisy compared with Aldrich of Rhode Island."

Announced by Roosevelt. The only time in his senatorial career that Senator Aldrich evinced any perturbation was when Mr. Roosevelt was president. The president broke a tradition of the senate. He consulted frequently with a member of the lower house as he did with a senator. It was not unusual for a member of the lower house to evolve a matter which, according to custom, should have come from the senate leader. Aldrich has always been an unconscious leader. He cannot follow without chafing. That his proud spirit was more or less stung by this new order of things was shown in his failure to attend the Chicago convention that nominated Roosevelt, and during the entire campaign his voice was still. Nevertheless he is the power of his party in the senate.

In the bill now under consideration Senator Aldrich's committee report has been sustained up to date. Nearly if not all the amendments offered by what have come to be known in political parlance as the "insurgents" have been defeated, and it is noticeable that in several instances Democratic votes lined up with Senator Aldrich. A striking description of the way in which Senator Aldrich leads in politics was given by an old statesman who said that a house leader played politics as he played poker. Aldrich played the game as he would play a game of chess. The latter never makes a move without studying out at least sixteen moves ahead. And he plays with all the pieces, from king to pawn.

To change the metaphor, Senator Aldrich never quits fighting. And he fights with the savvy of a knight. He could take a message from Wall street to the White House presaging a panic with as much grace and ease as he would hand in a congratulatory from a crowned head. Even when he is whipped he manages to get some glory out of the defeat. This was shown in his contest with Roosevelt when the rate bill was being thrashed out. The president got a rate bill, but Senator Aldrich got the sort of bill he was after in spite of the president. Of course the question went to the courts. Honors were even.

The tenacity of the senior senator from Rhode Island was strikingly exhibited in 1908 when the bill for an emergency currency was before the upper branch of congress. It provided for the issue of \$250,000,000 if necessary. It was the sort of legislation that interested bankers in particular. It grew out of a new condition of business affairs. Almost any member of congress can make a draft of a tariff bill. The banking business is one of the few professions in which the game of "bluff" falls down. When the time came to formulate an emergency currency bill the senate turned to one man—Senator Aldrich. Of course his place on the finance committee dictated that he should have charge of such a measure. But, aside from this, the senate knew that such a bill coming from the finance committee would hold together. As a certain constructed as it was, as it had been,

mat in one quarter that the senator from Rhode Island was ambitious to have his name connected with the measure he asserted in words so sincere that they changed sentiment that all have wanted results and that he cured not a fig for praise or censure. Opposition gradually disintegrated, and the measure was adopted. Against such opposition as went down to Washington few men of the senate would have dared to contend. As usual, Aldrich stood by his guns.

Few measures that ever came before congress evoked more talk than the interstate commerce bill. If there was a member who did not exhaust his vocabulary on the subject the Congressional Record does not show it. When it got to Aldrich it was like a new proposition. He shed new light on every division of the subject. It is the same with any measure that he discusses. He is no orator, he is not even ornate in his style, but he has the faculty of treating his subject in new dress. Plain clothes look better sometimes than the latest fancies of fashion. Senator Aldrich always dresses his measures in plain clothes, but they fit marvelously well.

In addition to the mathematical bent of Senator Aldrich and his natural fondness for financial questions, he is a tireless worker. He is about his

business when others are asleep. When he is not in Washington he is among people who can give him information. When at home he is in daily contact with the captains of the great industries of Rhode Island. He will meet a workman in the street and quiz him until he gets a fact that will aid him at the proper time. It is the gift of foresight. The poorest laborer in a factory in Rhode Island knows when he talks to Senator Aldrich that it will be as sacred as the secret of a millionaire. If correspondents could get at the Rhode Island senator when he returns to the capital after a season at home they could forecast much important legislation. But interviews with Senator Aldrich are never attempted by the old cor-

respondent. It has come to be a proverb in Washington that there are three men at the national capital who are never interviewed—the president, the secretary of state and Senator Aldrich.

There is a tradition in Washington that Senator Aldrich never reads a newspaper. Strictly, this is not correct. He probably reads his home paper if no other. The editor of that paper is one of the senator's intimate friends. He used to be a Washington correspondent, but he never divulged a word that the senator spoke to him. It is true, however, that the senator is not a voracious reader of newspapers or of magazines. There is a reason. He is accustomed to meeting men of great affairs in all parties. He is always on the alert for information. In this respect he has the instinct of a good reporter.

He has been in the senate twenty-eight years. As previously stated, he will be sixty-eight years old on his next birthday. If he would part with his white mustache that gives him the look of an old grenadier and could be induced to shade his hair he would pass for a man of forty-five. His shoulders are square and broad. His physique and carriage are the envy of many young men. He has the activity of a cat and the tireless work of a draft horse. His cheeks are fair, tinged with the hue which comes of good sleep and health. He is temperate in his meat and drink, and the enemies of tobacco will look wise when informed that he never uses the weed in any form. A friend who asked him why he had never taken up the tobacco habit was quietly informed that he had never cared for it. Indeed, he added, he had never thought about it. But he is fond of the outdoor life. He

esteemed themselves fortunate in securing the services of Senator Aldrich. For one who has such a history, who is such a power and whose name just now is daily before the country, Senator Aldrich is the paragon of modesty in the story of his public life. It is about as brief as it could be made. Here is a copy from the Congressional Directory:

Nelson W. Aldrich, Republican, of Providence, was born at Foster, R. I., Nov. 6, 1841; received an academic education; was president of the Providence common council in 1871-3; was a member of the Rhode Island general assembly in 1875-6, serving the latter year as speaker of the house of representatives; was elected to the house of representatives of the Forty-sixth congress and re-elected to the Forty-seventh congress; was elected Oct. 5, 1881, to the United States senate to succeed Ambrose E. Burnside, Republican; took his seat Oct. 11, 1881, and was re-elected in 1896, in 1898 and in 1900. His term of office will expire March 3, 1911.

MEALS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. The principal of the Friends' school in Washington had trouble with a push cart man. One day a pupil whose father is manager of a large hotel said in a speech before the school that a push cart man had offered to buy all the ice cream left on the plates in his father's hotel. This put an end to the push cart trouble in that school.

In the Speyer school, a primary school of New York city, every child from the kindergarten to the third grade is given a cup of milk and a graham cracker at half past 10 o'clock. In the Hebrew school for girls in New York city every girl is given a cup of milk or cocoa in the morning, and in the morning, and at noon soup is sold by the school at 1 cent a bowl. A marked improvement in the physical condition of the scholars followed.

A luncheon room is now a part of the high school system in every city of this country. These rooms are always self supporting, though not operated for profit. They serve an educational purpose in that the pupils have an object lesson in the selection of wholesome and digestible foods and their preparation.

The question is regarded as more important in the primary schools, where less progress has been made in meeting it. Actual hunger exists in a vast higher percentage in the lower grades because the children of extremely poor parents rarely reach the high school. Likewise the need for instructing boys and girls in what to eat and how is more urgent among the children of the poverty stricken class. An interesting illustration of the educational value of a school restaurant is given by Miss Hunt. In one school where the scholars are of very poor people, the boarders of the school prepared simple luncheon dishes. These

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Conditions in Three Cities of the United States and in Europe. The United States government is actively co-operating with educational authorities throughout the country in order that school children may be taught how to eat, what to eat and have enough to eat. It is held that room exists for a decided repair of existing conditions in all three particular.

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It seems almost unnecessary to say that any girl who has an ambition to stand well in the limelight must have a fair training in general music. To be successful in the most trial part of the musical profession is to be a soloist in each passage. When she thinks that she has reached the safety point the director may discover, if the girl is a soloist, that she is without musical training, and she drops in his estimation. She may be a good actress and she may sing like a bird, but if she is lacking in training she is placed under the director's ban. A singer is always handicapped by not being able to read notes or play some musical instrument.

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It is admitted by many who have tried the various plans that the best way is to enter a well recommended pension where the boarders are foreign. At such a pension there is what is called a "French table," where the matron or a French man or woman comes in during the meals to do enough talking to give the boarder an inkling of the language. A comfortable room in a first class house in the part of the city where teachers generally live will cost about \$50 a month. The incidentals—such as light, heat and service—bring the figure up to \$55. The only good meal is the dinner. Breakfast consists of rolls, butter, coffee or tea, chocolate. Lunch is made up from what is left over from the night before, served under different names. The dinner consists of soup, two kinds of vegetables, salad, meat, fruit, cheese

in most of the large cities of Germany. In Liege, Belgium, the municipality has served free soup for many years to all children in the kindergartens. In Copenhagen meals are provided free for all children who wish them. Utrecht, Holland, since 1901 has given free dinners during the winter months for children designated by the head of the school. Throughout Norway and Sweden needy school children are provided by the local authorities with free meals. In Madrid, Spain, an association has recently been organized for maintaining "school canteens."

Meals are given to all underfed children in the schools of Zurich, Switzerland, while the children of well to do parents pay 3 cents a meal.

An interesting and complete summary of the conditions in the United States has just been made a public document. It was prepared by Caroline L. Hunt and is entitled "The Daily Meals of School Children." It is published as a bulletin of the bureau of education. Miss Hunt was for four years professor of home economics in the University of Wisconsin.

The argument is not advanced that school children should be fed at public expense. It is intended merely to present the conditions which exist. However, the conclusion is evidently held by Miss Hunt that providing food in the schools can be made strictly an educational proposition and one to which a small amount of public money can be legitimately and advantageously devoted.

An investigation in Chicago resulted in the report that 15.9-10 per cent of children of kindergarten age in the Chicago public schools were undernourished. A similar inquiry in New York led to the finding that from 60-70 per cent of children of Greater New York arrive at school hungry and un-fed to do the work required.

A more detailed scrutiny of the case in New York brought out the fact that in the districts where the very poor live the boys were usually locked out of home during the day because their mothers were at work. They were given a few pennies to buy food, and the money usually went for ice cream, sandwiches and ginger beer. Of twelve boys only one reported that over in his life had been sat down at a table with his family.

When the children are sent to school with pennies to spend they generally invest them in small shops near the school building or in such "dainties" as are supplied by push carts. Food from these sources is not wholesome. Miss Hunt says that once she took the license of a cart from which she had seen scores of children eating. She traced it. In the evening, after working hours, she saw the cart with its cans of crackers and cakes stored in an "unspeakably filthy cellar in a filthy and crowded tenement house."

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were sold to such students as could pay a nominal sum and were provided free to those who could not pay. The results were excellent.

Miss Hunt sponsors these basic maximums to govern the diet allowed children.

Know in a general way how much protein material a child of a given age requires.

Exclude from the child's diet all "mad dishes," rich sauces, salads and dried foods.

Do not try to limit bread and cereals except when it takes sugar to make them acceptable.

Do not forget to give the child fruit and vegetables every day.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION.

United States Cemetery in Mexico.

The United States government owns and maintains a national cemetery in Mexico. It is located at San Cosme, near the City of Mexico, and was purchased and established in the year 1850 for the purpose of interring the remains of soldiers of the United States who died or were killed in that vicinity during the war with Mexico and also for the purpose of interring the bodies of citizens of the United States who have died in that vicinity since that period.

Little England's Location.

That there is such a place as Little England is known to few. Ever since the days of Henry I. part of the southwestern coast of Wales has gone by this name. That monarch gave permission to a number of Flemings to settle in the district, but these colonists were not popular with their neighbors, for they adopted English rather than Welsh habits. Thus the country became known as "Little England Beyond Wales."

Big Cities of the British Empire.

Estimated population of the twelve biggest cities of the British empire in 1905 was: London, 4,721,217; Calcutta, 847,796; Glasgow, 835,525; Bombay, 775,006; Liverpool, 739,180; Manchester, 637,126; Birmingham, 545,002; Sydney, 529,600; Melbourne, 511,900; Madras, 509,316; Leeds, 463,495; Haiderabad, 418,160.

War on Norway Tramps.

Vagrancy has become so prevalent in Norway that the government has begun a systematic war against tramps, idlers and drunkards. An able-bodied man who won't work is warned against his manner of life and directed where he can get employment. It is easier for the government to get work for the man than to support him in idleness.

Cremation of Signatures.

When a Bank of England note returns to the bank the cashier's signature is torn off. The detachment of signatures for a day often weighs twenty pounds. The kept for five years, after which they are burned in a furnace. Every morning at 7 this fire is lighted. Each week 420,000 notes are consumed.

Ban on Early Celebration.

In the early days of the commonwealth, when the Puritan broom was yet very new, the authorities in English towns have ever been found than all joyous celebrations, and the order was sent through the towns announcing the formal prohibition of the festival.

Home of the Nugget.

Victoria still holds the world's record in the way of nuggets. No larger lump of gold has ever been found than "The Welcome Stranger," weighing 190 pounds.

Man's Nasal Distinction.

Man is the only animal whose nostrils open downward. Even in the highest apes the nostrils open to the front.

Fighting Force of Germany and France.

The regular standing army of the German empire numbers now 665,000 men and that of France 645,000.

Sailing Ships of the Sea.

Steam has by no means made sailing vessels obsolete. The total number of them in the world is still 65,534.

Pendulum 377 Feet Long.

The longest clock pendulum ever made is that of the Paris Eiffel tower—377 feet.

and coffee. Anything extra must be paid for. One cannot buy mineral water or wine and bring it into the house. That privilege belongs to the pension keeper. Even if the boarder succeeds in bringing in his or her wine the pension keeper will charge "corkage." There is but one way to circumvent this, and that is to have a physician prescribe wine, and then it must be sent in from the druggist as medicine. This costs more than letting the pension keeper have his or her own way.

Then come the private lessons. They cost from \$3 to \$12 a lesson. Teachers prefer class lessons, which pay about \$60 a month. The advantage of class lessons is that the timid girl has the opportunity of listening to the others instructed and criticized. Classes in singing begin at 9 o'clock and last from three to four hours. The American teacher is the cause of the high price. The American who goes over from the States doubles his prices as soon as he lands in Paris. The custom is contagious. French diction lessons average \$11, or when taken several times a week the terms are made monthly, \$20 being the average. Professors from the Sorbonne charge something like \$2 a lesson.

The prices are about the same as those in the States. The pupil who enters the opera class must have an accompanist, and the best charge a dollar an hour. It is astonishing how the hands of the French clock whirl around when one is paying a dollar for each revolution. Lessons in physical culture are as necessary as voice culture. These cost from \$50 a month. That is what you pay to know how to breathe properly and to fence with grace. If the weather is rainy, as it is for many months in Paris, cab fare is added. It does not cost much, first, but after the pupil has had to hire a cab about ten times in a month it swells the bill. Of course the pupil must attend performances at the Grand Opera and the Opera Comique. They cost money. The Rem of dress has not been considered. But the author, which must be considered, the pupil will have found that the cost of preparing for grand opera has amounted to nearly \$2,000 a year. The engagement to follow is still in the twilight of doubt.

ROLAND BEAUVAIS.

## THE ROUGH ROAD TO GRAND OPERA

Gift of Voice by Nature a Small Part of the Necessary Equipment—Pupils in Paris Rarely Enjoy the City's Gayeties

OPERA managers are looking for voices. There has never been a time in the history of grand opera when a voice, plus essential accessories, had to go begging. A properly trained and cultivated voice is not as evanescent as physical beauty or some other gifts or attainments; consequently when such a voice is found it stays indefinitely, and this makes it the more difficult for a new voice to get a place in the musical world.

Nevertheless there comes a time when the nightingales of the highest musical profession quit. The going of one such creates a demand, and then managers begin to look around. There are many comers, but few stayers. Within the last two years some of the noted stars of song have either retired or announced an intention to retire in the near future.

Under the most favorable conditions it requires at least four years for a student to attain anything like the necessary proficiency to get to the stepping stone of success. Even after the voice is correctly poised, to use the term which musicians will understand, it requires a long and arduous journey to the point where the student can attempt a difficult air, the toll for repertory begins, and that is quite another branch of the profession. When the student seeks an engagement he or she must have a number of operas on the tip of the tongue. The minimum is a half dozen. Any musician will, no matter how marvelous the musician's career has been, tell the student that there is no opera that can be mastered without great effort.

Newly discovered talent in this country is engaged by managers for one season with the understanding that if successful the singer must go abroad for study. That means years of grind. There is no other word that will explain it. It ought to be understood by every opera student that, given the requisite voice and health and stage appearance, he or she will

always be surrounded by rivals who will take every advantage to over-throw the newcomer. This is true to a greater or less extent in all professions, but it is conceded that there are more jealousies and bickerings in

the musical profession than in any other.

It seems almost unnecessary to say that any girl who has an ambition to stand well in the limelight must have a fair training in general music. To be successful in the most trial part of the musical profession is to be a soloist in each passage. When she thinks that she has reached the safety point the director may discover, if the girl is a soloist, that she is without musical training, and she drops in his estimation. She may be a good actress and she may sing like a bird, but if she is lacking in training she is placed under the director's ban. A singer is always handicapped by not being able to read notes or play some musical instrument.

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