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THE TARIFF DEBATE.

Senator Voorhees Opens the Discussion in the Senate.

A VERY ELOQUENT EFFORT.

The Sugar Schedule—The Proposed Income Tax.—The Wool on the Free List.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Following is a brief synopsis of the speech of Senator Voorhees on reporting to the Senate from the finance committee the Wilson tariff bill, and opening the formal debate on the same:

SENATOR VOORHEES'S SPEECH.

Mr. President: Great issues have recently been raised, and have been, as they are, soon promptly and totally sacrificed, except by hostile revolution and bloodshed. Such is the concurrent and unbroken testimony of history. The spirit of political and practical reform, on the other hand, is a reasoning and progressive spirit, moving forward step by step, rather than by violent and wholesale assault.

The protective system of tariff taxation as developed and fastened upon the Americans and heirs of the American people, especially during one third of a century past, growing worse at every stage, is a system of indefensible injustice and oppression, and yet we will contend that all its vicious principles and workings can be annihilated by a single blow! (For the bill now under consideration is none, claim it mode, but in its behalf can be truthfully asserted that it accomplishes a vast world of tariff reform.)

Sir, I challenge the attention of the Senate and the country to the great and overwhelming fact that by the provisions of this bill the enormous aggregate of a reduction of taxes and at the same time an increase of public revenues will be remembered when it becomes a law. I will not now anticipate at this point the vast individual relieves committed to protected industry, it is enough for my present purpose to say that we have emancipated American markets, more than more accessible to the traffic of the world and while not establishing free trade we have made trade free and more even handed between the manufacturer and consumer and over and above and beyond this, we will be found from the schedule of this bill that tariff taxes now officially ascertained and pets under existing laws, upon the wants, comforts and daily consumption of the laboring men, women and children of the United States have been reduced more than seventy-six millions annually.

The enactment of the McKinley bill was a gigantic crime, but only against every laboring man and working woman of the United States, and only against every individual manufacturer and against all manufacturing interests. It was not so designed by its authors, but such was its real and inevitable character. It declared a policy so flagitious in principle, so rotten in morality, and so ravenous in its exactions on the absolute waste of life that its possible duration was only a question of time when the next election by the people should occur, and yet the vast manufacturing interests of the country were tempted and seduced into accepting its delusive bribes, and into an abject acquiescence in its claim to its alluring though evanescent and short lived provisions. If the reward of labor had ever been increased as an incident or consequence of a increased tariff duties on foreign imports, nothing would have clear or more generous to the advocates and beneficiaries of protection, than to show that fact. The very reverse, however, is true.

Mr. Voorhees decended the ad valorem system as fairer, honester and more evenly distributed than specific duties. On the subject of the sugar schedule he said:

Absolute free trade in sugar is an attach to theory, but no such thing has ever existed for a single hour since the organization of the government. A tolerable duty has always been imposed on sugar, and it has always been a staunch revenue support of the government. If that great model of the Democratic tariff for revenue only—the tariff of 1846—it was declared by a long and simple phrase that "sugar of all kinds," and "syrup of the sugar" were subject to a duty which was at least ten ad valorem. The fact that the duty tax on sugar has toured more to the benefit of the revenue of the government and less to the profit of private parties than any other tax known to the tariff legislation, may be called as the main reason why the American party has not raised its hand against it. Every dollar collected from a tariff tax on sugar and paid into the treasury relieves some other article of every kind and leads always keep