

ours securely socialized. They would socialize industry by obeying natural social laws; they would not militarize it, nor imperialize it, nor regulate all its ramifications with government departments and bureaus. In a word, they would stand for absolute free trade—the kind of free trade that means equal opportunity and fair play throughout the industrial field, the kind that Henry George meant when he described true free trade as tending “strongly to socialism in the highest and best sense of the term.”

Socialism of this kind, no free trader should reject. Toward free trade in this sense, American workingmen are quite ready, as I believe, to turn in resistless masses. But the free trade call to them must be made no longer in a spirit of academic authority or social superiority or rigid adherence to all the angles of doctrine in season and out of season. It must be made in a spirit of fraternal sympathy and considerate co-operation, and it must not be confined to tinkering with customs tariffs.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE CONGRESS.

London, August 10.—At the end of a session of four days the first International Free Trade Congress adjourned on the 7th, after appointing a permanent international committee, and recommending that a second congress be held either at The Hague or at Antwerp in 1910. The committee consists of the following persons:

Australia.—Senator Pulsford, Mr. Max Hirsch and Mr. A. Salaman.

Austria.—Kaiserlicher Rath Adolf Schwarz and Dr. Alexander Ritter von Dorn.

Belgium.—M. Louis Strauss and M. Charles Corty.

Canada.—Mr. J. Martin, K. C.

Denmark.—Dr. Peschcke Koedt.

France.—M. Yves Guyot and M. Gustave Schelle.

Germany.—Dr. Theodore Barth and Professor Plotz.

Holland.—Baron d'Auluis de Bourouill and Dr. A. Heringa.

Hungary.—Professor Mandello.

Italy.—Professor Gaetano Mosca and Signor Edoardo Giretti.

Russia.—Professor Ivan Oseroff and Professor Vladimir v. de Sviatlovsky.

Spain.—Don Pablo Bosch and Don An. Rodriguez.

Sweden.—Professor Cassel and Baron C. C. Son Bonde.

United States.—Hon. John de Witt Warner of New York and Mr. Harvey Shepard of Boston.

Great Britain.—Lord Welby, Mr. Alfred Mond, M. P., Mr. Russell Rea, M. P., Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, Dr. Baskett, and Mr. J. A. Murray Macdonald, M. P.

The idea of the Congress is reported to have originated with Mr. Russell Rea, M. P. Last year Mr. Rea was entertaining ex-Congressman John de Witt Warner and Mr. Shephard at the House of Commons. At the dinner were the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. John Burns, Lord Marchamley,

Lord Robert Cecil, and others. During the dinner Mr. Rea threw out the suggestion of an international free trade congress, and it was warmly taken up by the late Prime Minister. with the result of the meeting which has taken the action noted above.

The Congress met at Caxton Hall on the 4th, immediately after the close of the Peace Congress which had met the previous week in the same hall. It was under the general management of the Cobden Club, and was attended by delegates from Australia, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, The United States, and Great Britain.

Among the more distinguished delegates were Yves Guyot of France; Theodore Barth of Germany; S. Van Houten of Holland; Cesare Lombroso of Italy; Louis R. Ehrlich, A. B. Farquhar, Joseph Fels, Franklin Pierce, Lawson Purdy, W. G. Sumner, and John de Witt Warner of the United States; and Professor Bastable, W. P. Byles, M. P., Aylmer Maude, E. K. Muspratt, T. P. O'Conner, M. P., J. Murray Macdonald, M. P., Mr. and Mrs. Fisher Unwin and Lord Welby, of Great Britain. The latter presided.

A feature of the proceedings was the wonderful work of the official interpreter, who turned English speeches into French and French speeches into English with a freedom of translation and a vigor of oratory that won the admiration of every one present. His translations were speeches in themselves, and yet substantial renderings of the speeches they purported to translate.

The discussion of the first day's session was on the subject of Free Trade in its bearing on International Relations. It was opened by Winston Churchill, the president of the Board of Trade in the Asquith Ministry.

On the second day, the 5th, the subject of discussion was the Effect on Industrial and Agricultural Development of the Commercial Policies of the various countries represented. Papers bearing on this subject were presented by Signor Edoardo Giretti of Italy; Herr Gothein, member of the German Reichstag; Dr. A. Heringa, secretary of the Dutch Free Trade Union; Dr. Peschcke Koedt of Denmark; Monsieur Jules Lecocq of Belgium; Mr. Russell Rea, M. P., Great Britain; Monsieur Gustave Schelle of France; Professor W. G. Sumner of Yale University, U. S. A.; Messieurs Calvet and De Foville of France; the Hon. John Bigelow and Mr. Louis F. Post of the United States; and Baron Max Von Kubeck of Austria.

On the 6th one of the subjects was Political Morality as illustrated in the making and operation of Tariffs and the establishment of favored interests within the State, the principal papers being by Franklin Pierce of the United States and Joseph Martin of Canada. The other subject was the Revenue Aspects of Protective Duties, upon which Professor Bastable of Dublin University presented a paper.

At the last session Professor Arndt of Germany and M. Yves Guyot of France presented papers on the Present Utility of Commercial Treaties.

None of the papers were read or presented with any fullness orally, the time at the disposal of the Congress being too short to permit of that. But the subject matter was explained in brief speeches, and

the papers were printed and distributed in proof to the members. They are to be put into permanent form by the Cobden Club.

At the close of the Congress some of the delegates found it necessary, in order to prevent misapprehension, to publish the following explanation:

At the International Free Trade Congress we, as delegates from America and Australia, were placed in a somewhat difficult position. We hold that free trade is a policy far transcending mere customs house policy, and that it logically involves equal freedom to produce as well as freedom to exchange. We should have been glad to have had an opportunity of expressing the view that free trade can be advanced in protectionist countries only by associating with it measures which will abolish monopoly in land and transportation, as well as monopoly in trade, and of stating reasons for believing that free trade can be permanently maintained where it now exists only by adopting the same means. Furthermore, as free traders we should have welcomed an opportunity of congratulating the present Government of the United Kingdom on the introduction of land valuation bills for England and Scotland as a preliminary to municipal rating or national taxation, which will promote freer access to the land, and lessen the need for having recourse to the customs house for the provision of revenue. We refrained from introducing this vital aspect of the fiscal question because it seemed to be outside the scope of the conference as arranged, and to have done so might have embarrassed delegates who have not given it consideration. We would, however, respectfully suggest that at the next congress a full discussion of this wider concept of free trade should be invited, as we believe this to be essential to its defence and promotion.

LOUIS F. POST,	}	America.
J. J. MURPHY,		
JOSEPH FELS,		
C. H. CHOMLEY,	}	Australia.
R. L. OUTHWAITE,		

There was a very general feeling that the limitation of the discussions to questions of custom house free trade was calculated to injure the free trade movement wherever economic discussion has struck deeper; but it was recognized that inasmuch as the Congress was distinctively international the limitation of its scope was altogether proper. In the permanent organization, however, it is hoped that departments may be formed within which the more vital aspects of free trade may receive serious attention both locally and in the national gatherings.

The social functions in connection with the Congress were in all instances hospitable, and in some they were vital with peculiar interest. On the evening before the meeting of the Congress, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rea gave a reception to the delegates at the Hotel Metropole. On the 4th the Cobden Club gave a dinner at the Hotel Cecil at which the Prime Minister proposed the free trade toast in a strong speech, and John de Witt Warner in behalf of the United States made the principal response. The National Liberal Club gave a reception to the delegates on the 6th, and on the 8th Mr. and Mrs. Unwin (son-in-law and daughter respectively of Richard Cobden) welcomed them at the old home of Cobden, which is also Cobden's burial place. A simple tomb is Cobden's in West Lavington church yard in sight of the beautiful Sussex hills; and at Heyshott where he worshipped in an old, old English church, the font at which he was christened still stands as a reminder of the man. Over his old pew

in that church there is this tribute to the man who called John Bright away from his personal sorrows to relieve the law-made sorrows of others: "In this place Richard Cobden who loved his fellow man was accustomed to worship God." Midhurst, which was Cobden's home, is one of the typical English villages of 17th century construction—one of the villages that make you think you are walking through the pages of an old book.

In common with the Peace Congress, the Free Trade Congress fell under the shadow of the "suffragette" movement. At the Peace Congress, when Lloyd-George spoke he was disturbed and the meeting thrown into confusion by repeated interruptions from women who demanded "votes for women." A dozen or more were forcibly ejected before the speaking could proceed. A similar occurrence took place at the Free Trade Congress when Winston Churchill spoke before it, and again at the Cobden Club dinner during the Prime Minister's speech. But these events call for special explanations which necessitate their consideration in a future letter.

L. F. F.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, August 25, 1908.

Democratic Politics.

Mr. Bryan began the first of his campaign speaking tours with a speech on the tariff at Des Moines on the 21st. In this speech, which is given in full in The Commoner of the 21st, Mr. Bryan made exhaustive comparison of the attitudes of the two platforms to the tariff. In regard to the corruption induced in politics by tariff privileges, he said:

As a matter of public policy, is it wise that the industries that do pay should be compelled to carry upon their backs industries which, according to the arguments made by their representatives, could not live without aid? Have we not seen this system introducing corruption into politics, and is it not building business upon an unsubstantial basis? Having secured a tariff from one party, the beneficiaries loudly declare that the country will be ruined if any other party obtains control of the government. Manufacturers have intimidated their employes and threatened them with a reduction in wages unless a party favorable to the system was continued in power. This is an old device, and there are indications that it is being resorted to again. The New York Leather Belting Company has sent out a number of letters to companies with which it has business dealings, asking them to post in their factories a notice saying:

"Believing that the election of Taft and Sherman means a safe and conservative administration, the