

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 287.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## FREE TRADE'S "VICTORY."

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**I**F the Expansionists, who purchased the Philippine Islands for round millions, and spent as many more millions in the barbaric work of subjugation, all to the tune of "It is our manifest destiny to civilize the Filipino,"—if the Expansionists were to drop their manifest-civilizing-destiny talk as the reason for holding the Islands, and were now merely to say: "We must now hold the Islands because we have them"—if this became the Expansionist language, it is not imaginable that any Anti-Expansionist would be so dull or hypocritical as to turn a somersault with joy and exclaim: "A great revolution! We have conquered! The vicious principle of Expansion has been given up!" Yet such is the precise language implying the precise posture that the Anti-Tariff, or capitalist Free Traders, are now holding, and are striking.

"A tariff," these doughty revolutionists used to say "is monstrous, iniquitous, labor-and-humanity-crushing! Every custom-house in the United States should be torn down from turret to foundation!" Whereupon they set up a war-whoop, danced a war dance, and organized themselves into a tableau. That used to be. A Tariff Bill is now before Congress. What it will be in detail when finally enacted nobody knows. What it will be in essence everybody knows, now as accurately as he will know later—the Tariff Bill will, it must meet appropriations "for the support of the Government" exceeding the portentous sum of over \$1,044,000,000. Holding up this necessity, the Protectionists are jamming the bill through;—and, gladly or submissively lambkin-like voting to supply the appropriations, the Free Trade revolutionists, are quoting the Protectionists' words that the Bill is a Revenue Bill, and are shouting triumphantly: "A great revolution! We have conquered! The vicious principle of Protection is given up!"

In other words, the "iniquitous Protectionists," having had things their own way

these many a year, having all along been quietly yet steadily jacking up expenses, and making appropriations keep step. Now that they have reached a point where, in order to raise the revenue to meet the present stupendous appropriations, and now that, whether you call the thing a "Tariff for Protection" or a "Tariff for Revenue only," matters not. It is "Protection" up to the handle anyhow, and must be, now they talk "Revenue"—and the Free Trade revolutionist shouts: "Victory!"

Justly did Marx, outstripping all previous satirists in satirical vein, fire the shafts of his satire upon Her Holiness Free Trade. For it capitalist "revolutionist" the old girl is matchless—both in gullibility and hypocrisy.

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Uploaded August 2010

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