

• • LAW OFFICE • •
OF
PHILIP C. LAMPERT,
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS.

Mr. Elbridge W. Dugay
Mayville, New York.

My dear Sir.

I read your last letter in the Inter-Ocean, and I feel that I owe you an apology. I sincerely ask your forgiveness for reflecting on your integrity of motives.

I am a sick man to-day, else I would write you more at length; tho perhaps, for your good, it is well that I am sick.

I think, tho; you misconstrue my letter (unintentionally) when you say: "Our correspondent goes on to declare the protection of the home market by duties on imports a delusion, because (1) a large number of overgrown fortunes have been accumulated under that system; (2) that wages have not proportionately increased, and (3) that it has caused a vast influx of ignorant and pauperized foreign labor." No, my dear Sir, I do not base my objection to Protection on any one of those three heads. My objec-

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tion is fundamental. Nations can not grow wealthy by any system of levying duties, any system of taxation. Wealth is not produced that way. And if Protection gives us such an advantage over other nations that we can get from them something for nothing, then the thing is immoral, and any and all arguments to the contrary serve only to emphasize the immorality.

I have no intention of teaching you, or pointing out your errors. You have "Moses and the prophets", and if you do not listen to them, all other argument is useless. That's the trouble with you protectionist. Most of you have gone wild; and now you, you Mr. Turgot, must lag along in the rear of the wild, hooting, fanatical crazy McKinley procession, and offer to common-sense such pitiable plead as yours are. I won't say again that you are insincere. But your old party having gone crazy over the ~~think~~ thing, you're touched a little

too, thru sympathy. You'll recover your balance again, so on.

Let me make a prediction: if Mr. McKinley is elected president, and he gets his high tariff back, you will see a most woefully disappointed people.

Some fool Democrat said, "Vote the Democratic ticket, and wheat will be a dollar a bushel." But the price of wheat isn't regulated by politics.

Equally foolish is Mr. McKinley when he runs about the country saying that with protection will come - well the way he tells it there is no good that won't come. People are becoming educated into the belief that when things go wrong with them - the "government" is to blame. Are they incompetent, shiftless, lazy, unthinking, dishonest, speculating, and the outcome is failure, misery, and want, it is this cussed government that's to be blamed. And Mr. McKinley will catch his share. But free-traders are doing the same thing. So much the worse for them if they are.

When free trade comes heaven won't be here by a long shot, and it won't be here when McKinley rules supreme.

When I read the speeches of McKinley, Bullock and Billy Mason I think if all they say of Protection be true Heaven could have small attraction for me.

In your last letter you hint at many things - will protection cure them? Oh, you say, no man of sense will make such extravagant claims for Protection. That's just it. There are no men of sense talking protection. Like myself (excuse the egotism) they distrust the Democrats and have no sympathy with their history and can have no sympathy with McKinleyism. Every moderate protectionist is scowled down as an enemy of his country.

With sincere respect for you I am
Yours very truly,
P.L. Campen