

EDITORIAL

THE PINEAPPLE PARTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE name of the Democratic party should be changed. Henceforth the aggregation should assume and be known by the name and style of the Pineapple party; and its emblem, in some places a rooster, in others a star, in still others something else, should henceforth be a glorified picture of a pineapple, with generous green and prickly top, and heavily rotund body with a bright coppery-yellow coating of scales. The name has been earned.

Among the most venerable-looking, in point of age; most trusted, in point of record; and most tried, in point of long service among the Democratic Senators in Congress is the Hon. Augustus Octavius Bacon of Georgia. What he says is usually authoritative Democracy, especially when he utters himself *ex cathedra*. It is the Democracy that then speaks.

The Conference Report on the tariff bill being before the Senate on the 3d of this month the Senator delivered a speech, carefully prepared, that has all the earmarks of being intended as campaign document to be used by his party, and in which his party is set right.

Among the express statements contained in the document is the express assertion that in no instance in the 137 yea-and-nay votes taken in the Senate on all but three subjects—lumber, iron ore and hides—did the Democratic Senators vote for a proposition to increase the duty on any article above the present or the rates proposed by the Aldrich Committee; and twenty-six pages of the *Congressional Record* are taken up with detailed tables of the yea-and-nay votes from May 5 to July 8, in substantiation of the speech.

Unfortunately for the bold-bald statement the table of the yea-and-nay vote taken on June 23 on pineapples gives the lie direct, indirect and circumstantial to the Senator's painfully elaborated structure of the Democracy's loyalty to a tariff for

revenue only.

From the table it appears that the senior Democratic Senator from Florida, James Piper Taliaferro by name, moved an amendment raising the duties on pineapples clean above the Aldrich Committee vote, clean above the revenue watermark, clean into the “protection” and “extortion” lines—one-half of one per cent. per pound, or \$8 per thousand in bulk. Nor is this all. The table shows that nine Democrats voted for the protective increase, and fifteen of these paladins of a low tariff, Senator Bacon himself among the lot, sat mum in their seats and never raised a finger or wagged their tongues against the “iniquity of robbing the workingman’s breakfast table.” They simply did not vote.

The pineapple had proved too strong a test for Democratic sincerity. To the “rescue of the pineapple” they rushed. Does not the pineapple deserve to be raised to the dignity of Democratic emblem, and impart to the party its name, since it cannot its perfume?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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