

THE PRESS.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 3.

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FOR PRESIDENT,

BENJAMIN HARRISON,

OF INDIANA.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

LEVI P. MORTON,

OF NEW YORK.

FOR GOVERNOR,

EDWIN C. BURLEIGH.

For Representatives to Congress,
First District—THOMAS B. REED.
Second District—S. J. MILLIKEN.
Third District—J. H. MILLIKEN.
Fourth District—CHARLES A. BOUTELLE.

REPUBLICAN MEETINGS.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE

will speak at

Skowhegan, Monday evening, Sept. 3.

Farmington, Tuesday evening, Sept. 4.

Old Orchard, Wednesday evening, Sept. 5.

South Berwick, Thursday evening, Sept. 6.

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The Fathers and Protection.

To sustain the Democratic free trade position, the Argus—and it is interesting to note here that the Argus also at times earnestly disclaims this position—quotes declarations made by Patrick Henry, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin by which it endeavors to show that free trade is sanctioned by the fathers of the patriots. We have no doubt that Patrick Henry said, as the Argus says: "Why should we fetter commerce? If a man is in chains, he droops and bows to the earth, for his spirits are broken; but let him be free, and he rises on his legs and he will stand erect. Fetter not commerce, sir. Let her be as free as air; she will range the whole creation, and return on the wings of the winds of heaven, to bless the land with plenty." But he undoubtedly referred to something very different from a protective tariff levied to encourage industry. He plainly was referring to England's oppressive colonial policy, a policy which forbade the colonists to trade with any other country than England and absolutely prohibited the building up of industries in the colonies. Patrick Henry and all the other patriots denounced this system, which was a potent cause of the revolution. Mr. Madison, too, and Benjamin Franklin may have uttered some generalities on the subject of freedom of trade, having in mind very probably these same oppressions of England practiced on American commerce. But does anyone believe that James Madison was a freetrader? Anyone who knows very little history. For James Madison introduced the first tariff bill ever presented in the American Congress, a bill which declared in its preamble:

"Whereas, it is necessary for the support of the government, for the discharge of the duties of nation, and for the encouragement and protection of manufactures that duties be levied on imported goods, wares and merchandise."

A bill which had the approval of King, Sherman, Trumbull and Lee, and a bill which finally became a law through the approval of Washington himself. This tariff bill was even made Washington was the old patriot who put a stop to the demoralizing competition of British goods. And we have never heard on account of it Benjamin Franklin went around howling and ranting about the blasted capitalists it would make, and otherwise tempting the lightning from heaven or defying scorpions in the hands of tyrants. We do know that in 1771 Benjamin Franklin, then in England, wrote to Humphrey Marshall as follows:

"Every manufacturer encouraged in our country makes part of a market for provisions, and serves, and saves so much money to the nation, that the citizens of this land are enabled to pay for their manufactures here. Hence in England it is not a disadvantage to the farmer to have a tariff established which employs a number of hands to raise the value of his land."

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