

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN STUMPS HIS OLD HOME COMMUNITY

One hundred years ago in late October, 1844, just previous to the presidential election of that year, Abraham Lincoln visited his old home in Spencer County, Indiana, and in referring to the visit, he remarked:

"In the Fall of 1844 thinking I might aid in carrying the state of Indiana for Mr. Clay I went into the neighborhood in that state in which I was raised where my mother and only sister were buried and from which I had been absent fifteen years."

Not one of the many speeches he made on this trip have been preserved, but there is little question about the subject of his addresses. They were on "Protection."

The *Rockport* (Indiana) *Herald* of Tuesday, November 1, 1844, stated: "Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Illinois, addressed a large and respectable audience at the Court House on Wednesday evening, last, upon Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of Protective Tariff."

Capt. J. W. LaMar heard him speak in a log schoolhouse in Carter Township, and remembered the following conclusion of his address which summarized his speech: "I may not live to see it but give us a protective tariff and we will have the greatest country the sun ever shown upon." A correspondent of a paper at Booneville, Ind., reported that his speech there was "mainly on the tariff question."

In a letter written to Edward Wallace, from Clinton, Illinois, on October 11, 1859, Lincoln said: "I was an old Henry Clay tariff Whig in old times. I made more speeches on that than any other. I have not since changed my views."

Some fragmentary notes which Lincoln made on the tariff question a few months after his visit to Indiana probably embody many of the arguments he put forth. There is room for just a few of the points he must have argued in his visit to southern Indiana, one hundred years ago this month.

"I suppose the true effect of duties upon prices to be as follows: If a certain duty be levied upon an article which by nature cannot be produced in this country . . . the burden of the duty will (be) distributed over consumption, production and commerce, and not confined to either. But if a duty amounting to full protection be levied upon an article which can be produced here with as little labor as elsewhere, as iron, that article will ultimately, and at no distant day, in consequence of such duty, be sold to our people cheaper than ever before, at least by the amount of the cost of carrying it from abroad.

". . . All carrying, and incidents of carrying, of articles from the place of their production to a distant place for consumption, which articles could be produced of as good a quality, in sufficient quantity and with as little labor at the place of consumption as at the place carried from, is useless labor.

"It seems to be an opinion very generally entertained that the condition of a nation is best whenever it can buy cheapest; but this is not necessarily true, because if, at the same time and by the same cause, it is compelled to sell correspondingly cheap, nothing is gained. Then it is said the best condition is when we can buy cheapest and sell dearest; but this again is not necessarily true, because with both these we might have scarcely anything to sell, or, which is the same thing, to buy with.

"These reflections show that to reason and act correctly on this subject we must look not merely to buying cheap, nor yet to buying cheap and selling dear, but also

to having constant employment, so that we may have the largest possible amount of something to sell. This matter of employment can only be secured by an ample, steady, and certain market to sell the products of our labor in.

". . . It has so happened in all the ages of the world that some have labored and others have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government.

". . . The habits of our whole species fall into three great classes—useful labor, useless labor and idleness. On these the first only is meritorious, and to it all the products of labor rightfully belong; but the two latter, while they exist, are heavy pensioners upon the first, robbing it of a large portion of its just rights. The only remedy for this is to, so far as possible, drive useless labor and idleness out of existence.

"If at any time all labor should cease and all existing provisions be equally divided among the people, at the end of a single year there could scarcely be one human being left alive; all would have perished by want of subsistence. So, again, if upon such division all that sort of labor which produces provisions should cease, and each individual should take up so much of his share as he could and carry it continually around his habitation, although in this carrying the amount of labor going on might be as great as ever, so long as it could last, at the end of the year the result would be precisely the same—that is, none would be left living.

"The first of these propositions shows that universal idleness would speedily result in universal ruin, and the second shows that useless labor is, in this respect, the same as idleness. I submit, then, whether it does not follow that partial idleness and partial useless labor would, in the proportion of their extent, in like manner result in partial ruin, whether, if all should subsist upon the labor that one-half should perform, it would not result in very scanty allowance to the whole.

"Believing that these propositions and the conclusions I draw from them cannot be successfully controverted, I for the present assume their correctness, and proceed to try to show that the abandonment of the Protective policy by the American government must result in the increase of both useless labor and idleness, and so, in proportion, must produce want and ruin among our people."

### 1945 Western Speaking Itinerary of Dr. Warren

The seventeenth annual speaking itinerary of Dr. Warren will take him to the Pacific coast with a few engagements enroute and on return. The cities where he is to speak and the dates on which he will be available in these cities appear in the following schedule: Wichita, Kansas, January 23; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, January 24; Amarillo, Texas, January 25, 26; El Paso, Texas, January 29, 30; Phoenix, Arizona, January 31, February 1; San Diego, California, February 2; Los Angeles, California, February 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; San Francisco and Oakland, California, February 12, 13, 14, 15, 16; Salinas, California, February 19, 20; Portland, Oregon, February 21, 22; Spokane, Washington, February 23; Missoula, Montana, February 26; Butte, Montana, February 27; Seattle, Washington, February 28, March 1; Tacoma, Washington, March 2; Salt Lake City, Utah, March 5, 6; Denver, Colorado, March 7, 8; Omaha, Nebraska, March 11, 12.