

## WHAT WOULD I DO WITH THE TARIFF? 345

census, except in an emergency like the present, when a deficiency in the national revenues and sound policy require additional sums to be collected from such imports as are luxuries of the extravagant rich. and not the necessaries of life of the frugal poor.

Such would be a tariff in favour of the toiling masses, and for those who live frugal and unostentatious lives. Neither protectionist nor free trader, as such, could claim it, because it would be framed in the interest of neither idea, but primarily with a view to revenue, and upon the theory that to raise this from the foreign luxuries of the extravagant rich class is best for the people in general. Under such a policy, the tariff would be substantially taken out of politics and treated as a business question, and if periods of ten years' rest from tariff legislation are permitted, I believe the country would soon rally and begin its march toward the state of prosperity—as far as tariff policy can be made to accelerate that longed-for march—which characterized the decade between 1880 and 1890, during which its most marvellous development took place,—a decade which is probably to rank as the Golden Age of the Republic, as far as material prosperity is concerned.