

Robert C. Rivers,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

THURSDAY Oct. 16, 1902

The Tariff and the Consumer.

In the debate between Messrs Coffey and Harshaw, held here on the 9th inst., Mr. Harshaw told us that the high price of eggs in Blowing Rock last summer was due to our having a Republican administration in power in Washington!

Some of us would like to have Mr. Harshaw explain why it is that the same good Republican Administration so contrives matters that a St. Louis manufacturer can send his shoes to Vienna, Austria, in the heart of Europe, and sell them there cheaper than he will do in St. Louis?

A gentleman from St. Louis bought in Vienna and brought home with him shoes which cost twenty per cent, less there, than the same article could be bought for in the city where they were made. This is robbery of the consumer, under the favor of laws ostensibly designed to protect American labor.

It is futile to say that such laws protect any one save the manufacturer, who is enriched at our expense. He gets over and above his fair business profits; above the price at which he is willing to sell to any one, except his tariff taxed countrymen, the freight charges from St. Louis to Vienna, the Austrian duty on the shoes, and twenty per cent. besides, say in all not less than thirty per cent; this being the extra price he charges above what he gets from the foreigner.

This is an injury and loss which the good republican Administration at Washington imposes on all Americans. It is explicable exactly on the ground upon which Mr. Harshaw explained the high price of eggs here last summer. It is due to the Republican party, through the working of the Tariff and the Trusts.

Now, the United States government gets no duty on the shoes, hence the thirty per cent. extra, which the St. Louis manufacturer charges us, is so much more gain to him at our expense.

Let us take off the tariff on every article which is sold abroad cheaper than it is sold at home. This will not deprive the manufacturer of any fair profit. It will only force him to treat his countrymen as well as he does for eigners.

President Roosevelt said in his speech at Cincinnati on the 20th of September: "If in any case the tariff is found to foster a monopoly which does ill, why of course, no protectionist would object to a modification of the tariff sufficient to remedy the evil." It is an evil that American made goods, fostered by the Tariff, should be sold dearer at home than abroad. It is the part of all good Democrats to help correct this evil, and we have the best Republican authority for trying to do so.

OGDEN E. EDWARDS. Blowing Rock, Oct. 14.

The Public Road System.

Editor Democrat:

As the time is now at hand when all men are allowed that freedom of speech, in a secular sense, which has ever been honored by the American people, I thought that I might be allowed to say a few things relative to the road question. The time has come when men are rising up from the mountains to the sea in favor of better roads.

And, indeed, no question can be of more vital importance to the people of Watauga than this question. For upon this rests the destiny and welfare of our people in a large measure. Good roads are the fore-runners to many other blessings that will never be attained without them. Too much stress can not be placed upon this question. In my opinion, a good system of public roads, such as is possible for Watauga to have, penetrating every section of the county, would be worth more to our people than a rail road could possibly be, even were it possible for us to have a rail road.

And while it is possible for Watauga to have just such roads as she should have, yet it is impossible under present conditions. Beside were it possible under the existing circumstances—had you ever thought—how unreasonable and how very unfair such a law is? You only have to stop and think one moment to see where you stand. You have to count just a moment to be surprised to find such a large per cent of the most substantial citizens of the county, men of good property, plenty of lands and good houses, enjoying ease and prosperity so far as their public burden is concerned, while the boys, who are not allowed a vote upon any question, and other men just simply because they happen to be under forty-five years old, and for no other reason, are called upon to make and keep up in good and lawful repair a public highway for a public benefit.

Now where is the fairness in such a principle as would thus discriminate? A man does not have to be a judge nor lawyer to know that the spirit and intention of the Constitution is violated and that to an awful degree. No man possessing a spirit of fairness, when at himself, can endorse such a system as would lay a burden upon one man and free another who is no better. The thought is repulsive in the extreme. Yet there is a very large per cent.

of our most substantial citizenship of the county, who are recognized really as objects of charity and must be favored in some way. They are actually favored with that that they do not enjoy, for every patriotic man wants to share the burdens and responsibilities of his citizenship. And I am very glad to hear many of these men who are thus free under the present road law, admit that something must be done; that this public burden must rest where it belongs. One of our judges said a year or two ago in charging the grand jury relative to the road law, that it was a very lean law, and that taxation was the only fair way of keeping up public roads. It seems that this would not be the best for our people but that this burden should rest upon the manhood as well as upon the property of the country. Let every able bodied man work as he does. But because he can work and tries to be willing, is no reason that he should do it all. We have all got to be very loud for more roads and better roads, all over the country, but are we willing to make them.

How in the name of common sense can any man expect such roads as Watauga should have under present conditions? For want of time and space and without entering into detail, into the merits of anything like the Mecklenburg road law, I submit these thoughts as an introduction to the many things that may be said in favor of this needed reform.

While there is an awakening among our people in many directions, and especially in the cause of education, we should not neglect and trifle with this important matter, which is really the fore-runner of all prosperity and success of any people.

L. C. WILSON.

What would the removal of the tariff from the Trust-made goods do for the people? It would lower the price of these goods. How would it do this? Well, the object of the protective tariff is to keep out foreign competition, lest it should undersell our own manufacturers. If, as the Republicans claim, the foreign manufacturer could undersell our manufacturers, but for the tariff, is it not evident that the removal of the tariff would mean cheaper goods to the consumer? And is not the unjust and arbitrary prices the monopolies of this country set fit to fix the evil which comes home to every consumer.

The kernel of the truth of the whole matter is this: The removal of the tariff from Trust-made goods would force the Trusts which make them to sell them at the same prices they sell them for in Europe. European manufacturers could never undersell American manufacturers in American markets so long as the American manufacturers would sell to the American consumers at the same prices they give to the European consumer, for that is a price lower than the European manufacturer could sell at, else he would have secured the trade. But if a trust goes to putting up prices to the American consumer in the fashion they now do, Europe will undersell them and force them to get down to reasonable profits again.

The other day somebody in New York wrote a piece of verse, the refrain of which was: "Oh, for the good old days of the pirates." It was followed in a few hours by a stage robbery in the same vicinity. Now which is the worst, the band of thieves whose weapons are riches, or the gang that uses guns? Is the thief in the palace better than the robber in the cave? If there is any merit in courage, the robber from the cave is the most respectable, because he incurs danger to his person. The thief in the palace puts a substitute to the front when personal harm threatens.

The excitement incident to traveling and change of food and water often brings on diarrhoea, and for this reason no one should leave home without a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

Attention, There. Your attention is called to the fact that I am still in business at Mabel and am selling goods at from 15 to 25 per cent. lower than my competitors. I have a

NEAT Stock Of Goods and shall be pleased to have your trade, both cash and produce. Space forbids speculation here, but come on friends and be convinced that I am anxious to save you money on every article.

The very highest market price paid for all kinds of good country produce. Thanking my friends and customers for past favors, I am Very truly, A. E. MORETZ. Mabel, Aug. 6.

HERE I AM. WIT'N BARGINS FOR YOU! have just received a splendid lot of Spring and Summer dress and shirt waist goods in the latest broad stripes. New calicos at 5 to 6 cts per yard. A beautiful line of loop and other insertions; tinsel gimp trimming, and anything else you want in this line; nice lot of solid and fancy hosiery for ladies.

Ladies' fine shoes at \$1.50 per pair and up; men's at \$1.50 and up. A handsome line of children's shoes and slippers I will send out by mail.

GOING AT COST. A lot of men's and ladies' shoes in odd lots and numbers. They are good goods, and each pair is a bargain. Also some summer dress goods in remnants. Nice cashmere 22 1/2 cts. up to 45 cts. All Bargains. Domestic, Plaids, Jeans etc., always in stock at the lowest prices.

HARDWARE: I have the best assortment in the county, both shelf and heavy. Plow repairs, single and double shovel plows, hoes, nails, horse shoes, axes, mattocks, etc. always on hand. HATS! HATS! HATS! A nice and attractive line for both men and ladies. A full line of notions of all kinds constantly on hand. A few suits for men and boys going at a bargain.

I want all kinds of country produce, and an unlimited amount of roots and herbs for which I will pay the highest market price. CALL AND SEE ME. YOURS ANXIOUS TO PLEASE, WILF. W. HOLSCLAW

TO MAKE ROOM

In order to make room for my immense stock of FALL AND WINTER GOODS Now on the way, I am offering SPECIAL BARGAINS in Lawns, Prints, Plaids, Etc. Calico worth 5 cents at 4 cents. Plaids worth 7 cents at 4 1/2 cents. Lawns at 4 cents worth 7 1/2 cents. Men's Laminated Shirts worth \$1, at 50 cents. Worsteds which sell at 12 1/2 cts., now 10. Highest prices paid for all kinds of good country produce. Birch oil wanted at highest market prices. Yours truly, H. C. MILLER. Todd, Sept. 24, 1902.

To The Trade of Watauga County.



We wish to announce that we have added to our already complete stock of MERCHANDISE A full line of the celebrated Hamilton Brown Shoe's Which easily stand without peers in the Shoe Kingdom. We especially request the people to give our leading bands a trial; the \$2.50 Ladies' and the \$2.50 men's Blowing Rock, Aug. 28.

which are guaranteed as to QUALITY AND WORKMANSHIP They are bound to please the Wearer. When in town you are invited to examine our stock in all departments and see if we are not prepared to offer you some rare bargains in anything you want.



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