

THE ROBESONIAN

ESTABLISHED 1870.

Country, God and Truth.

SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

VOL. XXVIII. NO 18.

LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1897.

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The Influence of Protection Upon Wages.

Philadelphia Record.

In times past it was the custom of protectionists to scoff at the notion that the imposition of duties on imported commodities could add anything to the price of similar commodities of domestic production. Their contention was that by making foreign goods dear to the home consumer—through a tariff could accomplish this if the "foreigner paid the tax" they have never been able to explain—so many of our own people would be encouraged to embark their labor and capital in manufacturing enterprises that the competition thus established would prevent the amount of the tariff exactions being added to the price of domestic productions, and that the consumer would be obliged to pay no more for the necessities or even the luxuries of life than he could buy them for if the markets of the whole world should be thrown open to him without let or hindrance. This contention, although it seemed plausible for a time, has like a great many other protectionist plausibilities, fallen into discredit. During the past six years the consumer has had some experience concerning the rise and fall of prices in conformity with the changes in tariff exactions, and he is well aware of the fact that high prices do follow the enactment of laws imposing high duties on foreign imports. He knows, for example, that the tariff law of 1890, instead of promoting the competition which it was promised would keep prices down, colluded into existence an aggregation of trusts and combines the express purpose of which was to monopolize the production of almost every imaginable thing in order that prices might be advanced in accordance with their rapacious desires; and he also knows that since 1894, when the present tariff, with its free or nearly free raw materials and its lighter duties on finished products, became operative, he has been able to buy better goods and more of them for less money than he could when Mr. McKinley's pet measure was depleting his purse. This is, indeed, a fact which those children of protection, the trusts, do not deny. On the contrary, they cite it as one of the strongest reasons why the demands with which they have for months been bombarding the Republican lawmakers should be granted. Impelled by greed and their own conflicting interests in the distribution of the anticipated plunder, these expectant beneficiaries of protection have thrown their former discretion aside, and with audacious candor disclosed the true inwardness of their designs, thus giving the finishing stroke to a pretense which the experiences of the consumer had already rendered too transparent for further defense. In fact, with the exception of a few obtuse organs which seem incapable of liberating themselves from the yoke of habit, the advocates of the bill now pending in the Senate openly admit that if it shall become a law it will add enormously to the cost of living, and that its schedules have been constructed with that object in view.

Specimen Copies Free to Advertisers.

The cost of living, however, is a matter of some importance to most people. A vast majority of the purchasers who constitute the home market depend for their livelihood on the income they derive from their labor; and since the avowed purpose of this new protective measure is to reduce the purchasing power of their money by increasing the cost of the necessities of life, they cannot be expected to joyfully accept it as a blessing unless it can be shown that some compensatory advantage will accompany it. The necessity of conciliating this preponderant element in the voting power of the nation is apparent; and as it is equally obvious that the most acceptable advantage which could be offered to workers would be more pay, the tariff doctors and their echoes all over the land are now insisting more strenuously than ever that high prices and higher wages go hand in hand. They do not offer the smallest particle of evidence that this postulate rests on any other foundation than the complacent assumption that if employers should be empowered to charge exorbitant prices for their goods they would voluntarily share the spoil with their employees; and yet these tariff-mongers seem to take it for granted that men who during the

whole period that McKinleyism was in operation were kept in a state of almost constant rebellion by the determination of employers to reduce wages are still to be deceived by its apparent plausibility. They evidently imagine that the struggles which disturbed the industrial community in 1892 and 1893 have passed out of the public recollection, and that the working people have forgotten the sufferings they then endured in trying to keep wages from falling to the starvation point.

But even if the public memory were as short as it is proverbially supposed to be, and even if the workers should have learned no lesson from past experience, a little reflection would still suffice to expose the folly of assuming that the wages of labor are regulated by the amount that protective tariffs enable employers to add to the prices of the commodities which they employ laborers to make. The laborer has no goods to sell. He has nothing to offer but the work of his head or his hands; and the price of this, like the prices of all salable things, is necessarily regulated by the inexorable law of supply and demand. That is to say, prices in the labor market are governed not by the demands of those who are employed, nor by the generous instincts of any particular employer or group of employers, but by the amount of compensation which the unemployed may be willing to accept in preference to letting themselves and their families starve. The necessity which drives idle men to take what they can get is the determining factor in the adjustment of wages; for no employer, however good his intentions, could for any length of time pay his men more than the rates thus established. If he should persist in doing so he would be driven out of business by his less soft-hearted competitors, who would be under no compulsion to pay more to one than to another equally well equipped for the performance of the stipulated duties. The labor union give recognition to this truth every time they endeavor to make a strike effective by sending out pickets to intercept idle men and persuade them not to take the places of the strikers, and when they limit the number of helpers or apprentices who may be employed in the shops.

Equally true is it that foreign wage rates have no bearing whatever on the amount of the wages paid in this country. Nor would they have any even under conditions of absolute free trade; for, measured by its results, labor is as cheap here as it is anywhere in the civilized world. Mullaht, the English statistician, comparing the working power of the people of the United States with that of other countries, says that in 1890 he found it to be as follows: In the United States, 1840 foot tons daily to each inhabitant; in Great Britain, 1470 foot tons; in France, 910 foot tons, and in Germany, 902 foot tons. From this it will be seen that while the American workman receives more money than is paid to men engaged in like occupations abroad, it is not because his employer is protected against the competition of foreign-made goods, but because he is capable of earning it by turning out a larger and, in many lines, a better product.

The truth is that the only competitor the American workman has to fear is his own equally capable fellow-countryman out of a job; and against this competition Dingleyism can afford no protection. If it should be adopted as the policy of the United States for the next four years it would add at least 50 per cent. to the living expenses of the people, and it would seriously check the exports of our surplus of manufactured goods of the successful marketing of which depends the employment of many thousands of our workmen; but it is quite certain that it would not enable any man who works for wages to add a single penny to his earnings.

Some of the opponents of the free and unlimited coinage of silver are opposed to it because they say it is unnecessary, that we have already all the silver money we need, and that very little of any kind of metallic money is necessary. Precisely what they mean by "very little," in this connection, they do not explain, but what they mean to say is that much of the world's business is done with checks, and that about the only money that passes is in payment of the differences between the face value of the checks. It is true that in the commercial dealings between different nations comparatively little money changes hands when we consider the amount of business done, but it must be remembered that commerce between nations consists largely in barter and therefore comparatively little money is needed, but when we come to our domestic commerce it is different, for in this while there is some barter, of course, there is less than in international commerce, and consequently more money is needed. Certainly checks figure very largely, especially in the speculative markets where property does not necessarily change hands and the same property, whether it be wheat or cotton or something else is sold over and over again the same day. But these checks are simply the representatives of money and take the place of money as bank notes do, but they must have money behind them to give them credit, as the bank note must have metallic money behind it to give it commercial standing.

The grain manipulator who does business in the pit may sell and take checks from the buyer or he may buy and give his check to the seller and in the setting up very little money passes from one to the other, and so with the cotton speculator, dealer in stocks, etc., but when the grain buyer buys money from the farmer he must have money, for that is what the farmer must have. He may give the farmer a check on a local bank, where it will be cashed at once. There is no less money used here, although the check figures as a matter of convenience. In these first transactions money is needed and a great deal of it. The fact that checks are used does not lessen the quantity of money used. They simply obviate the necessity of using the same money repeatedly in passing it from hand to hand, and serve in this way as a convenience. The presumption is that there is money behind these checks, so that the money is performing its office through its representative checks although it may be locked up in bank vaults.

These contending admit that the country needs a great deal of money, much more than it has now, at least with the present plan of distributing it, but they say that checks and bank notes will supply the need, and that with these checks and bank notes a very small amount of metallic currency will suffice. It is true that comparatively little coined money, whether gold or silver, is in actual circulation, for neither is convenient, and therefore they remain in the vaults and perform service through the notes that represent them, either gold or silver certificates, or bank notes, all of which are based on coin and are accepted simply as the representatives of coin.

But every one of these notes must be honest money have coin enough at their call to redeem them, otherwise they are frauds. The man who would give his note payable in coin on demand without having the coin to meet it when presented would simply be perpetrating a fraud upon the man he gave the note to, and so would the bank which issued notes without making provision for the redemption of those notes when they were presented at its counters.

This makes it necessary to have as much or more metallic money ready to call upon than there is of paper money in circulation, more we say, for a very large amount of the metallic money would be so scattered and distributed that it could not be utilized in redeeming the paper if it should all be presented for redemption simultaneously. Of course there is no probability of this, and that is the reason why very small amounts of coin are kept on hand

to redeem large amounts of paper. While this paper passes current, will buy what one wants and pay debts people are not going to worry over the question whether the banks have coin reserve enough to make good their notes upon presentation, but the note that has not its equivalent of coin to make it good is really a fraud, although it continues to perform the functions of money.

The fact is that on a strictly honest basis money should not be counted as a part of the volume in circulation, being as it is, simply representing a circulating substitute of the coin supposed to be at command. This is one of the sequences of degrading silver and making gold the only money of final redemption. There isn't enough of it. There isn't one-third of it in the country to redeem the paper redeemable in coin, which the gold shippers contend means gold. With silver restored and the mints opened to it, there would be metallic money enough within command to stand behind any note that might be issued, and there never will be until the mints are opened to silver.

Original Observations.
Orange, (Va.) Observer.

The profits from gambling all go wrong way.

The butcher shop is the modern "meat-in-house."

The men who put furniture together have a very glue-my time of it.

The dead beat is a vegetable that requires no cultivation—it grows spontaneously.

It's no sign that a fellow has the scarlet fever because he wants to paint the town red.

He who promises easily to do great things, will generally fail even to perform little ones.

The birdlet on the treeing now carols forth its notelet, and the boy who hath no feeling ties tin cans to the goatlet.

The flea it is a silent bird, it never sings a song, but many a man's disgust is stirred, by "something going wrong."

Trust no maiden however pleasant, though her eyes with kindness gleam, put the question in the present, ere she sees the sign of cream.

The knowledge that we have made one heart happier for our having lived, should be recompense for much of the pain which every soul suffers in pursuing life's daily work.

The husks and hulls of life are jostled and crushed and pass away, but their essence remains a base or a balm, a perfume or an odor poisonous, which are stored in the cellars of memory.

A Soap Vender Big Profit.
Winston-Salem Republican.

Folks like to be humbugged. At any rate the general public seem powerfully easily duped by slick-tongued sharpers. The other day a fellow landed in this city and began to offer for sale a medicated soap. Each cake was wrapped in tin foil and had a small red paper band around it, and smelled as sweet as a Winston dude at a Twin City Club reception. By the printed label the soap was guaranteed to relieve or cure any ailment from the falling out of hair down to in-growing toe nails. The price was two cakes for a quarter. At court in an adjacent county his sales amounted to \$18 in one day. The soap he bought at \$1.60 a gross. Cutting the same in two he made 288 which he sold at 12 1/2 cents a cake, realizing just \$36 for his deal, less \$1.60, the original cost of the soap. This is a fact and no fooling.

Those who bought the soap got fooled.

An Illinois judge has decided that the American tobacco trust is an illegal corporation and prohibited it from doing business in that State. The trust will appeal to the supreme court, and we suppose the decision will be reversed.

Mothers
We have a book prepared especially for you, which we mail free. It tells of the stomach disorders—worms, etc.—that every child is liable to and for which
Frey's Vermifuge
has been successfully used for a half century.
Get both by mail for 25c. Send 10c to
E. A. FREY, Baltimore, Md.

In a Fool's Paradise.
New York Times.

Except in Washington there is a general awakening to the blunders and the perils of the Administration and the Republican party. It is a subject of men's speech in private and in public that in beating off one set of unsound and dangerous aspirants for power the nation has committed itself into the hands of another set scarcely more heedful of its welfare and equally bent on their own selfish and harmful ends. These are not merely the criticisms of political opposition. The warning voice is raised within the Republican party itself. "Our over-patient and heart-tired people," says Mr. John Wanamaker, "our over-suffering, much-promised people, betrayed and disappointed, no longer have faith in their party and will turn to any leadership that offer promise of better times, believing that worse times can never come than those now existing."

From a Cabinet officer of the last Republican Administration, a Republican whose zeal and liberality in the support of the principles of his party have given him a high place in its inner councils, this is a momentous arraignment. But it is not their origin and authorship; it is the irrefutable truth of the words that give them their startling significance. Mr. Wanamaker speaks not alone for the patient and heart-tired people. He speaks for himself, one of the foremost merchants of the country; he speaks for the harassed business interests of the United States and the masters of our stagnant industries, for millions of weary men not only of the bench and loom, but of the office and counting room, whose unremitting toil since the election of the "advances agent of prosperity," has not piled one dollar on top of another. People are tired of loss and shrinkage, of year-long labor that yields no return, and of the unbroke gloom. They have been buoyed up by promises, they have lived on hope. The promises are broken, and hope sickens as the speeding season bring only a deeper darkness.

Meanwhile, the nation's President and its Congress, heedless of its distress and persistently withholding the promised and only certain remedy, compound a giant dose of their poisonous old protection nostrum and prepare to force it down the sufferer's throat. The Ohio wool bandits force compliance with their demands by threats of vengeance at the polls. A coal baron Senator exacts a schedule that threatens to destroy a mutually profitable trade of ten millions with Canada. The pottery manufacturers impose rates that bear heavily upon the buyers of the cheapest table ware. A linen thread interest boldly puts an outrageous schedule into the draft of the bill, and fraudulent means are employed to keep it there. The Sugar Trust—by its personal representative—is present in the Finance Committee room, and draws amendments which their author, disquieted by the indignant remonstrances of the press of his own party, stammeringly promises to explain and doesn't.

The controlling influence in their tariff making is the desire to repay with protective customs duties the men who gave money to elect William McKinley. As Mr. Wanamaker puts it, the party in power is fulfilling its pledges to those who wish to "maintain particular protections through the money given by which elections are decided."

The pockets of a people already impoverished are to be ripped open wider to admit side by side with the hand of the Federal tax collector, the big and greedy paw of the favored manufacturer who paid for his privilege last year in checks to the order of Mark Hanna.

Preoccupied with its outworn creed of protection and exclusively devoted to the interests and commands of those contributors of funds to whom it has farmed out the taxing power, this blind party neglects altogether the great and real reforms of which its Presidential victory was the promised beginning. "The country is not prosperous," exclaims Mr. Wanamaker. It never will be prosperous till its merchants and manufacturers are able to make contracts running more than ninety days in perfect assurance that the money of redemption will be as good as the money of promise.

The Democrats Lining Up.
Philadelphia Times.

The Republican leaders should look the political conditions fully and fairly in the face. They should carefully study the returns of the recent local issues. They should not overlook the fact, also, that the Democrats are lining up on a basis that promises Democratic unity for the fall elections.

Senator Gorman has sounded the keynote of Democratic action when he recently declared that "it is of far greater importance that the Democratic party should win in the elections of next fall than that it should endorse the Chicago platform." This advice coming from one of the most cautious leaders of the party who followed its fortunes under the flag of Bryan, will be well considered by Democrats throughout the nation, and it is now well understood that the New York Democracy, under the lead of Tammany, in shaping its action for the control of Greater New York city, will discard national issues and crystallize the party on the old Democratic lines of hostility to monopoly taxes and monopoly rule with such local issues as are vital.

The McKinley administration, having subordinated the money issue and exhibited earnestness only in the re-establishment of high protective duties, has given the Democrats every chance to line up on other issues than free silver, the only question that seriously divided the Democratic elements. When the administration thus discards the money issue and gives special prominence to high tariff taxes against which not only the whole Democratic vote of the country but many conservative Republicans are united, the Democrats would be probably in a madman's madhouse not to meet the administration on its own ground and accept the gage of battle.

If the Republican leaders are wise, they will eliminate from the tariff bill the offensive monopoly features, such as the wild concessions to the sugar trust, the tax upon hides and the oppressive taxes upon wool, which we do not grow, all of which are taxes solely in the interest of monopoly and are oppressive to the people. If they fail to do this they cannot hope to escape the reversal of the judgment of last year in probably one-half the States outside of New England which voted for McKinley, and that would mean the utter overthrow of Republican power in the nation.

The Democrats are lining up on a basis that certainly looks most formidable, and the Republican leaders at Washington should see and well understand the fact that they have done more to revive and rehabilitate the Democratic party than all the Democratic leaders of the country.

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Everything is new and up to date,
having just been received from the
factories and foundries.
A large stock of all kinds of paper
just received. Your patronage is
solicited.

HOING HIS ROW.

Hoing his row, the farmer boy
Whistles and sings in carefree joy,
Nature smiling on every side,
Quickly the hours and moments glide;
Little of sorrow his spirits know
As gaily he labors and hoies his row.
Hoing his row, in later years,
A buoyant hope his spirit cheers;
While blade and stalk grow green and strong,
He sings full many a lover's song;
And future pleasures brighter grow
As hoping he labors and hoies his row.
Hoing his row in middle life
Away from the cares and angry strife,
A loving wife and children fair
His sunny joys and pleasures share;
Crops of plenty their wealth bestow,
As happy he labors and hoies his row.
Hoing his row—the setting sun
Tell us his work will soon be done—
Peace and comfort crown his days,
And all who know him speak his praise;
Who would not change the world's vain show
For his simple joys, as he hoies his row?
Hoing his row? His life is past,
His sweetest moments were his last;
He never sought for praise or fame,
But children's children bless his name;
Over his grave sweet breezes blow,
The faithful farmer has hoed his row.

Robeson County Bible Society.

The Seventh-fifth Annual Meeting of
the Robeson County Bible Society will
convene at Philadelphia church, June
3th, 1897.

- 10:30 a. m.—Song service.
- 11:00 a. m.—Sermon, by Rev. J. A. Smith, Fair Bluff, N. C.
- RECESS.
- 1:30 p. m.—Music.
- 1:35 p. m.—Names of delegates and churches represented.
- 1:40 p. m.—Address of Welcome, by J. P. Smith.
- 1:42 p. m.—Response, by J. W. Wallace.
- 1:50 p. m.—Reading the minutes of the last meeting.
- 1:55 p. m.—Report of Treasurer and Depository.
- 5:00 p. m.—Report of Executive Committee.
- 2:05 p. m.—Election of officers.
- 2:10 p. m.—Time and place of next meeting.
- 2:20 p. m.—What plan should be adopted by the Society to supply the destitute within the whole county. Discussion opened by Rev. F. R. Law.
- 3:10 p. m.—Closing exercises, by Rev. J. S. Black.

A. D. BROWN,
J. S. JONES,
DR. O. C. FAULK,
Committee.
Red Springs, May 13, 1897.

L. F. Fairley conducts a large mercantile business at Liberty Hill, Ga. He says: "One application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm relieved me of a severe pain in my back. I think it is 'k' for lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, swellings, sprains, bruises, burns and scalds no other liniment can approach Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is intended especially for these diseases and is famous for its cures. For sale by Dr. J. D. McMillan.

Another woman of wealth has been caught stealing in a New York dry goods store. That is how they would describe her actions if she were poor and took a loaf of bread; but now they call it kleptomaniac, and she indignantly remarked—"You can't help my name; I am a lady." But, let us have charity even for a born criminal—Brooklyn Citizen.

Connecticut is casting about for some way of raising more revenue and is considering a proposition to establish an inheritance tax.

"I could not be without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for its weight in gold," writes Dr. J. Jones, of Holland, Va. "My wife was troubled with a cough for nearly two years. I tried various patent remedies, besides numerous prescriptions from physicians, all of which did no good. I was at last persuaded to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which promptly relieved the cough. The second bottle effected a complete cure." The 25 and 50 cent bottles are for sale by Dr. J. D. McMillan.

John W. Guiteau, brother of President Garfield's slayer, is connected with one of the big insurance companies in the country and lives in New York. Mr. Guiteau is one of the high priced employees and gets a salary of \$8,000 or \$10,000 per year. He is a most estimable man.

A Hagerstown, Md., woman wants a divorce because her husband flashed powder in her face to rouse her in the mornings. Why she should mind such an improvised alarm clock is not stated.

Mr. John Peterson, of Patuxent, La., was agreeably surprised not long ago. For eighteen months he had been troubled with dysentery and had tried three of the best doctors in New Orleans, besides half a dozen or more patent medicines, but received very little relief. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, having been recommended to him, he gave it a trial and to his great surprise, three doses of that remedy effected a permanent cure. Mr. Wm. McManis is well known merchant of the same place and is well acquainted with Mr. Peterson and attests to the truth of this statement. This remedy is for sale by Dr. J. D. McMillan.

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that there was a difference in

QUININE?

Well, there is, and we sell only the very best at the same price others charge for the inferior article.

T. A. NORMENT, JR. & CO.

G. W. McQUEEN.

THE LUMBERTON BARBER.

When you wish an easy shave, as good as a barber ever gave, just call on me at my saloon, at Morning, eve or noon; I will dress the hair with grace, and suit the contour of the face. My room is neat and towels clean, scissors sharp and razors kept, and everything I think you'll find. To suit the face and please the mind, and all my art and skill can do, if you just ask I'll do for you.

Pain Killer
DIPLOMA, DYSENTERY, and all BOWEL COMPLAINTS. A Sure, Safe, Quick Cure for these troubles is
Pain Killer
Used Internally and Externally.
Two Sizes, 25c. and 50c. bottles.

MOTHERS
We have a book prepared especially for you, which we mail free. It tells of the stomach disorders—worms, etc.—that every child is liable to and for which
Frey's Vermifuge
has been successfully used for a half century.
Get both by mail for 25c. Send 10c to
E. A. FREY, Baltimore, Md.