

## ARGUING FOR PROTECTION.

### Assertions of a Free-Trader Refuted by All the Facts and Logic of History.

"A Hornet" in a recent issue of the Enquirer makes numerous statements as to the merits of Free-Trade as an economic policy. His conclusions as to the enormity of Protection as a fiscal system may be satisfactory to his mind, but to others they are not quite conclusive. He says:

"It is true that we have made great material progress during the past forty years; not on account of our Protective Tariff, but in spite of it."

He contends, in substance, that we have been enabled to pay higher wages in this country than could be paid in England because of our cheap lands and immense national resources, etc., and that our Protective Tariff has not increased wages. These statements cannot be sustained. It is true we have an immense country, possessed of all kinds of climate and soil, and with more natural resources and wealth than any other country in the world, but we neglected to develop this wealth and utilize these natural resources until after the enactment of our Tariff in 1861.

It was our Protective Tariff which induced our capitalists to develop the wealth of the nation, which erected our furnaces and built our factories; which has thrown open our iron and coal fields, constructed our railroads and opened our forests, and thereby given employment to our labor, and enabled us to market our products in competition with those produced abroad. It was our Tariff laws that gave this advantage to our labor and industries.

"A Hornet" further alleges that Free-Trade makes high wages in England, that they are higher there than in any other continental country, and that is proof that a Tariff is no protector of wage workers. In order to make a point he overlooks a well-recognized fact, that in England the scale of wages was largely influenced by the highest kind of Protection, rigorously enforced until she believed that her wealth, her machinery and her skilled workman could not control the markets of the world. Neither her manufacturers, nor her laborers, to-day participate in this admiration of her fiscal policy. As a result of this policy wages are low and decreasing. Eighty thousand women are working in her

cotton mills at Manchester for from 30 to 35 cets per day, while the manufacturers are insisting upon a decrease, to enable them to compete with Germany and Belgium. Two shillings, and in favored localities two and six pence a day, are the highest wages paid to common men laborers, while hundreds of thousands cannot get work at that. She is to-day supporting in her poorhouses more than 1,000,000 people, and how many more receive outdoor relief no man can tell. Her silk industry is almost destroyed, her cotton is suffering, her iron and steel being supplanted by that of countries, enjoying a Protective Tariff. It was stated in Parliament a short time ago that agriculture was ruined, and half of the farm laborers could get no work. This being England's condition, what utter nonsense to talk about high wages there.

Why is England for free-trade? Simply because she consumes only about 37 per cent. of what she produces or manufactures, and is compelled to find a market for the remaining 63 per cent. of all her productions. America consumes nearly 92 per cent. of what she produces and sends only 8 per cent. abroad. If we should sell nothing abroad, only one man out of every twelve would be thrown out of employment. We would not have a repetition of the mobs of London, Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester.

After forty years' trial out side of England, all statesmen have united in respecting Free-Trade as one of the "puerile doctrines and illusions of mankind." The modern statesmen were Protectionists: Thiers, Gambetta, Clemenceaux, Grant, Garfield, Bismark, Sherman, Blaine. Wherever there is universal suffrage the world over has repudiated Free-Trade. When Free-Trade won in England the working people were excluded from the suffrage. Taxation in England is largely direct and oppressive upon all classes, but especially so upon laboring men. In 1883 the revenue collected amounted to \$13.75 per capita, while that of the United State was only \$4.81. The interest charged upon her public debt was \$4.21 per capita, while that of the United States in 1885 was only 83 cents. Free-Trade repeals all custom laws, closes all custom houses and opens our ports to the same freedom of commercial intercourse as now exists among the several States. This means direct taxation to raise the

revenues now derived from customs duties. This revenue must then come from taxes levied similar to the method of State taxation for State, municipal, school and other purposes. About one-fourth would be borne by personal property, and the other three-fourths by real property. The farms and farmers would carry the load. Added to the local taxation the Federal burden would be crushing. The people would not submit to it. The farmers could not endure the oppression.

England is the representative Free-Trade country. The United States the representative Protection country. Sixteen billion was the sum total of our wealth in 1860, and one-half of that was wasted in the war. The wealth of England at that time was \$30,000,000,000, or nearly twice that of the United States. But not withstanding the cost and devastation of a four year's war our wealth in 1890 was over \$65,250,000,000. It increased from 1880 to 1890 49 per cent. A proportionate increase from 1890 to 1900 would indicate wealth of nearly \$100,000,000,000 at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1860 our manufactures amounted to \$1,800,000,000, while now they reach the vast amount of \$9,372,437,283. Then we were the third manufacturing country in the world, while to-day we are the first, exceeding England by over one-third. It is such facts that refute statements like those emanating from the pen of "A Hornet."

At one time Ireland had a Protective system, under which she supported in reasonable comfort 8,000,000, of people. Her manufactures of linen, silk, wool and cotton, Protected by Tariffs, and encouraged by subsidies, absorbed her capital, employed her laborers, promoted diversity of industries and insured prosperity. England feared her progress under this system. She advised, cajoled and flattered Ireland into the belief that she could raise raw material on her fertile soil, sell it to England and buy of her the manufactured products more cheaply than she could make them. And that Free-Trade would be a blessing.

Beguiled thus, Ireland consented. Her Tariff was gradually repealed—horizontally destroyed—and her subsidies withdrawn. Since then Ireland has become the poorest, most distracted and harassed country on earth. She drank to the very dregs the Free-Trade cup which England pressed to her lips.

"A Hornet" resorts to that last refuge of the Free-Trader, that Protection does not increase wages. The fact is they have increased since 1860. Is it likely that they would have gone on increasing from decade to decade, as they have, if we had not increased the opportunities of and demand for labor by introducing manufacturing industries and diversifying our employments? And how could we have successfully established and maintained these industries with our wages of labor from the start higher than in Europe, if we had not adopted the policy of Protection? Taking into account the fact that Protection cheapens the cost of living and the purchasing power of a dollar has increased from 15 to 20 per cent. since 1860 it is evident that wages have more than doubled since that period.

To judge from the intemperate language and exaggerated statements of "A Hornet," it would seem as if those engaged in industrial pursuits were robbers and outlaws. They are nothing of the sort. They are a part, and no mean part, of the business of the country, and under the laws have been invited to engage in business. They are a part of our resources as a nation, and to develop these resources is according, to the wisest statesmanship the test of true statesmanship.

A great deal is said about Protected monopolies: that their existence and continuance is due to the Protective Tariff. This alleged connection between a Tariff and monopolies is more imaginary than real. This idea had its origin in the house-top utterances of politicians, who expect to reap political gain from its dissemination. No country in the world has more monopolies than Free-Trade England. There could be no monopoly so widespread and disastrous and humiliating to witness, none that would so crush out the spirit of our people, as the monopoly which Great Britain would have upon the markets and industries of our country were it not for Protection.—Buffalo, Enquirer.

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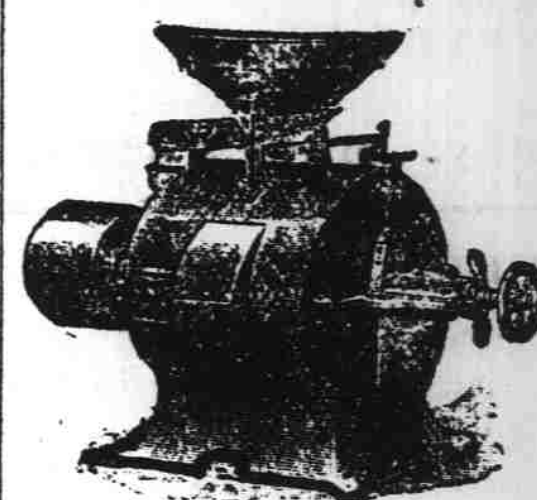
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