

Producers and Consumers.

RANDOLPH, Mo., May 4, 1901.—Editor American Economist: Conceding that the tariff on wool makes the wool grower money, who pays it in the end, the man who wears the wool, or who? Seems to me that legislation should be for the greatest good to the greatest number. In other words, don't more people wear wool than grow it?

J. D. WASON.

Questions of this sort the Free-Traders have been asking for many, many years, always answering them to their own complete satisfaction. In their way of looking at it Protection benefits the few at the expense of the many. Our Western friend has got it all figured out in the same way. Pity it is that his talents should be wasted away out in "Darkest Missouri!" He should have been a college professor. But we shall take him as he is and endeavor to solve his conundrum.

Conceding, as he says—and this is an important concession—that the tariff on wool makes money for the wool grower, who pays it? Principally the foreign wool grower, who is compelled to accept a lower price for his product in order to sell it in the United States after the duty has been added. Possibly the man who wears clothing made of wool pays some of the tariff, but not much. Clothing is little or no higher in price than it was in days of non-protected wool under the Wilson tariff law. If a suit of clothes could be bought a trifle cheaper then, the wage earner and the farmer were none the better off on that account, because neither the wage earner nor the farmer had nearly so much money to buy clothes with as they have now. If you could buy an overcoat for a dollar and didn't have the dollar to pay for it, you wouldn't be anything like so well off as though overcoats were selling at \$10 apiece and you had \$15 in your pocket with which to buy.

But the pivotal thought—the great Free-Trade conception—of our Missouri friend is to be found in his concluding proposition that

Legislation should be for the greatest good to the greatest number. In other words, don't more people wear wool than grow it?

Most assuredly legislation should be for the greatest good to the greatest number. Most assuredly more wear wool than grow it. Right here is the strength of Protection and the weakness of Free-Trade. Not only does Protection call for legislation that involves the greatest good to the greatest number; it legislates for the greatest good of the whole number. There is to-day in this country no individual—not one—who is not in some way distinctly the gainer by the policy of Protection. Even the importer or the American agent for foreign merchandise is the beneficiary of a state of prosperity which has increased the demand and likewise the purchasing power of the most liberal body of purchasers and consumers the world has ever known. The use in the United States of foreign made articles of art, luxury and fashion was never so great as now, while the production and consumption of domestic articles of all sorts (that is to say, the gross volume of internal trade) and the sales to foreigners of articles of domestic production are so much greater than ever before that for the first time in its history the United States has become the leading nation of the world alike in domestic and foreign trade, and instead of being in debt to the money centers of Europe, is now a creditor nation. The economic policy that has brought all this to pass may surely be considered as productive of the greatest good to the greatest number.

But our Missouri friend needs some light on the question, "Don't more people wear wool than grow it?" As we have said, this question must be answered in the affirmative. So do more people eat wheat and corn and beef and mutton and pork than raise those articles. A thousand times more people use nails than those who make nails. So with every article of use and consumption. The users and consumers outnumber the producers many times over. Protection takes account of this condition and by diversifying production alike in the factory and on the farm calls into being a tremendous army whose needs and requirements are mutual and interdependent. It insures to the American farmer a profitable market for his wool by insuring a steady demand on the part of persons who wear but do not grow wool, and by taking care that the cheaper wools of foreign countries shall not come in and break down the price of home grown wools. Otherwise the American wool grower would have to go out of business, as so many thousands did when wool was deprived of Protection in the Free-Trade T-riff law of 1894-97. Is it not a wise tariff policy that diversifies industry in agriculture and enables the farmer to profitably produce articles which he could not otherwise produce except at a loss, and that by creating and furnishing employment for a vast aggregate of busy and well paid wage earners insures to the farmer a near by, close-to-home demand at profitable prices for his products?—American Economist.

BRYAN AND THE DEMOCRACY.

From the pertinacity with which he declares his loyalty to his own principles one would suppose that Mr. Bryan had been accused of deserting the democracy he succeeded in twice leading to ignominious defeat. We are not aware that any one has leveled such a charge at the Nebraskan. Rather are we inclined to the belief that long before he leaves the democratic party it will have cast him out, bag and baggage. The drift is unmistakably in that direction, and it now seems that nothing can save the erstwhile candidate from complete obliteration as a party leader. In the current number of his paper, the Commoner, Mr. Bryan speaks in a lofty vein of his devotion to the fallacious principles advocated by him through two disastrous Presidential campaigns. That devotion has not been impugned, and we accept Mr. Bryan's words at their full face value. But when he says: "The democratic party can better afford to appeal to the conscience of the people, even though it remains out of power, than to enjoy power at the expense of its principles," there may be some difference of opinion as to what Mr. Bryan means.

This sentiment is a praiseworthy one; the objection to it arises from the principles Mr. Bryan advocates. The principles of Mr. Bryan are of one kind; those of the democratic party are of another. The former were made by Mr. Bryan, forced upon the democratic party, and have twice been repudiated by the people as unsafe, revolutionary, and highly undesirable. Had the editor of the Commoner declared that he would rather remain out of power than sacrifice his principles no objection could have been raised, since principle is a matter of personal conviction, and every man is to be admired for standing by what he believes to be right. But Mr. Bryan makes the mistake of assuming that his principles are those of the democratic party. The true democratic principles are the products of years of careful thought, national policy, and the developments and evolutions of statesmanship.

The real Democracy recognizes the error of which it was guilty when it surrendered to the Bryanites at Chicago, and it is struggling with all its force to return to its former allegiance. In all parts of this country men of commanding prominence in the Democratic camp are giving up the ghost of Bryanism. The former leaders are returning to the command, and the tide is flowing against Mr. Bryan with irresistible force. In the face of all this, it is specious for the Nebraskan to talk about unwavering loyalty to his species of Democratic principle. If Mr. Bryan desires and intends to follow these fallacies, that is his own business; but henceforth the Democratic party will appeal in behalf of principles which do not breed riot, revolution, repudiation, sinister class hatreds, and all other things which have no place in this great republic.—The Baltimore American.

On Guard!

The annual meeting of the Free-Trade Trust was held last week (the 14th) and partook somewhat of the nature of a jubilee. The old officers were re-elected, and as plenty of funds were in sight a vigorous campaign was planned. The Trust has taken in the Canadian Free-Traders and now proposes to unite with Free-Traders the world over and make the Trust international as well as national. The speeches made were typical Free-Trade speeches. It was like being in dream-land. Everything was extremely visionary. Ignoring the prosperity of the present they foretold of the prosperity that would come with Free-Trade. It was noticed that there was a dearth of business men at the meeting. There were clergymen who spend their lives guessing at things; there were professors and writers and talkers; plenty of words, but no figures; plenty of prospects, but no practice; plenty of precepts and promises, but no facts based on experience and truth. This band of fairies might at first seem harmless, but they do not dream true dreams, and when their fancies are put in type and scattered through the thirty-three States in which they claim to be working untold harm can be done unless their extravagant tales are refuted.

It is not likely that the people can be fooled again so soon, but no such artistic lying has been known since the days of Baron Munchausen as the fabrications of an American Free-Trade, anxious, for reasons best known to himself, to sell his birthright and his country. The Free-Trade Trust knows what it is about and why and for what it exists. It believes the Democratic party, for want of an issue, will take up the tariff, both in the Congressional campaign next year and the Presidential campaign of 1904. The Free-Trade press has already been given the cue, and original and syndicated editorials are appearing almost daily, and so harmonious do they read that no one can doubt they are inspired from one central source. It will be remembered that it was the busy and prosperous year of 1892 that Free-Trade won the greatest victory of half a century. It will be well for the American laborer and the American farmer and the American manufacturer to be on guard lest history repeat itself.—American Economist.

A Lesson to Cleveland.

Grover Cleveland is reported as having made \$400,000 on the recent rise in the stock market. The ex-President, it is stated, a year ago bought Northern Pacific stock at about 40 and sold out at the recent rise at over 130.

Perhaps now that fortune has been good to Mr. Cleveland, he may revise his views on Free-Trade. Under a Cleveland tariff it is certain there would have been no boom in stocks, no upward tendency of securities. Mr. Cleveland has recently been among those who criticized President McKinley's policy, and

predicted that the country was reaching a dangerous point. But if the ex-President has made the financial gains that are reported, it shows that there is a sharp contrast between his politics and his pocket.

But perhaps pocket, always regarded as a matter of great influence with Mr. Cleveland, may revise his political opinions. Possibly the ex-President may now see the fallacy of his Free-Trade leanings. He has recently been a pupil in a school of very pleasant experience.—Philadelphia Item.

The Tariff in 1896.

The Providence "Journal" in a discussion of Senator Hoar's reference to McKinley as a successful advocate of the policy of Protection, affects to doubt whether the President would have received his tremendous majority in 1896 if the Bryan party had not made free silver so prominent an issue. Of course, it is not easy to disprove an assertion made in this form. The "Journal's" purpose is, however, as the contest already shows, to throw discredit upon Protection as a national policy. This is evident from its references to the campaign of 1892, when, on an issue between Protection and Free-Trade, the latter won.

To be sure it did, but what a costly victory for the people. As Senator Hoar said to the Home Market Club in the course of the very speech which the Providence "Journal" criticizes, the country got enough Free-Trade in Cleveland's time to last for a century. And it is equally true that Protection was as much of a factor in making 1896 a Republican year as free-silver. Bryan wanted to open the mints; McKinley wanted to open the mills; McKinley won. His policy was inaugurated. And if the Providence "Journal" or any other mugwump wants to have the next campaign made on the issue of Protection and Free-Trade, we sincerely hope the wish may be gratified.—Concord, N. H., Monitor.

TWO FREE-TRADE TRUSTS.

Anthracite and Petroleum Combinations Flourish Without Protection.

The anthracite trust is the strongest of all our trade combinations, with the exception of the Standard Oil Company, and the latter has been less greedy than the former is making use of its power to fix the price of the product. Each, however, is monarch in its own field and has practically nothing to fear from competition, being situated, in this respect, more advantageously than any other business organization. Even the great steel trust has rivalry in active properties valued at more than \$50,000,000 which would act as a check on a policy of price extortions.

Our Free-Trade friends are as much at sea as anybody else in handling the coal and oil propositions. The remedy which they usually prescribed for commercial ills is the abolition of the Protective Tariff and the withdrawal of "special privileges" from trust-controlled commodities. But anthracite coal and petroleum are already on the free list, and have been for many years; so this panacea is not available. The fact that these two most powerful combinations are not entrenched behind a tariff wall must be rather confusing to the Free-Traders. At any rate it throws doubt upon their competency as economic doctors and is not calculated to create confidence in the cure-all which they promptly and solemnly hand out every time a business problem presents itself to the public. For if the coal and petroleum trusts flourish without Protection, what sense is there in saying that a withdrawal of Protection would kill all other trusts?

This, however, is a degeneration. It does not solve the coal question, but it should tend to throw doubt on the schemes of doctrinaires who, whenever a price is marked up, cry for an abandonment of the system under which this country has risen to its present position of industrial, commercial and financial supremacy.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Democracy's Greatest Opportunity

The Atlanta "Constitution" has been standing on the watchtower, and this is what it sees in the night:

In the failure of the Republicans to reform the tariff lies the Democracy's greatest opportunity.

We can here a grim smile cracking over the face of Horizontal Bill Morrison of Waterloo as he reads of the great democratic opportunity; and the Hon. Roger Quarles Mills of Corsicana, busting among his oil barrels and his money bags, cannot conceal a grin. These gentlemen have had a little experience in tariff reform, and they can

estimate how many democratic voters there are in it.

A great tariff reformer, retired, lives in Princeton, N. J. Surely it is not forgotten in Atlanta how the democrats after all their magnificent trumpeting of 1892 reformed the tariff in 1893; how they repaired and patched and strengthened the tabernacles of robbery which they were going to tear down.

Tariff reform is the democracy's greatest opportunity to make an ass of itself.—New York Sun.

JOSH BILLINGS ON MARRIAGE.

History holds its tongue as to who the pair wuz who first put on the silken harness, and promised to work it kind thru thick and thin, up and down, and on the level, swim, drown or flote. But whatever the wuz, tha must hav made a good thing of it, or so many of their posterity would not hav harnessed up since and drove out.

There is a great moral grip to marriages—it is the mortar that holds them together.

But there ain't but darn phew foaks who could sit down and give a good written opinyun why on arth tha come to did it.

There is a great proof that it is one of them natural kind of accidents that must happen jist as birds fly out of the nest when tha have feathers enuff, without being able to tell why.

Sum marry for buty, and never discover their mistake; this is lucky.

Sum marry for money, and don't see it. Sum marry for pedigree, and feel big for six months, then very sensibly come to the conclusion that pedigree is no better than skim milk.

Sum marry bekaws tha hav been hiated sumwhere else; this is a cross match, a bay and a sorrel; pride may make it enduring.

Sum marry for love, without a cent in their pockets nor a friend in the world, nor a drop of pedigree. This looks desperate, but it is the strength of the game.

If marrying for love ain't a success, then matrimony is a ded beet.

Sum marry bekaws tha think wimmin will be scarce next year, and live tew wonder how the crop holds out.

Sum marry to get rid of themselves and discover that the game was one that two could play at and neither win.

Sum marry the second time to get even, and find it a gambling game—the more they put down the less they take up.

Sum marry to be happy, and missing it, wonder where all the happiness goes to when it dies.

Sum marry they can't tell why, and live they can't tell how.

Almost everybody gets married, and it is a good joke. Sum think it over carefully fust, and then set down and marry.

Both ways are right if they hit the mark.

Sum marry rakes to convert them. This is a little risky, and it takes a smart missionary to do it.

Sum marry coquettes. This is like buying a poor farm heavily mortgaged, and working the ballance of your days to clear off the mortgage.

Married life has its chances, and this is just what gives it flavor. Everybody loves to fool with chances, because everybody expects to win. But I am authorized to state that everybody don't win.

But, after all, married life is full as certain as the dry goods business.

No man can tell exactly where he will fetch up when he catches calico.

No man can tell just what calico has a mind to do.

Calico don't always know herself.

Dry goods of all kinds is the child of circumstances.

Sum never marry, but this is just the same with another name to it.

The man who stands on the bank shivering and dassant is more apt to catch cold than he who pitches his head fust in the river.

Marry young is my motto.

I have tried it, and I know what I am talking about.

If anybody asks you why you get married, say you don't recollect.

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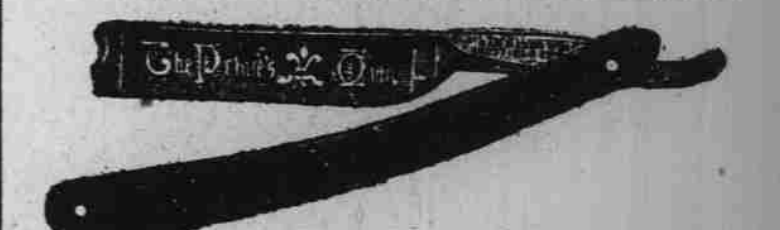
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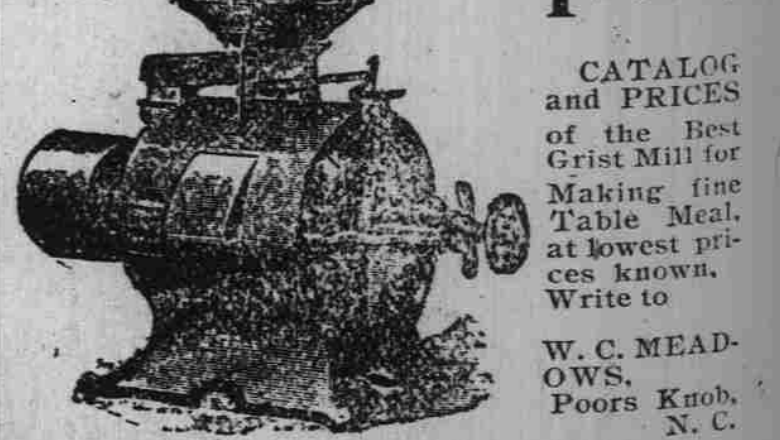
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