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WHAT THE TARIFF MEANS.

Relation of the New Law to the Plain People Whom It Affects.

SUGAR ALREADY ADVANCED.

Domestic Whiskey's Advance of Twenty Cents a Gallon Offset by a Seventy Cent Reduction in Imported Goods.

For many months men wise in tariff knowledge have been telling in voluminous, technical language and with circumstantial detail as to ad valorem and specific duties, what might be expected when the new tariff bill went into effect. There are many plain people who have followed these discussions only in the most general way, and the changes have confused them.

Now that this bill is a law, a thing with power, these plain people want to know what effect it will have upon them. They want to know what bearing it will have upon their daily life, upon the things they eat, the things they wear, the things they hope to own. They want to have a general idea, which can best be gained by presenting specifically the difference in the cost of articles which are bought every day.

The advance of a quarter of a cent a pound in the price of sugar, which has been made by the grocers is one that strikes home. There was in all probability a still further advance.

The Sugar Trust has advanced the price of sugar twice within two weeks, making the total advance one cent a pound. But the retailers have not followed closely in the wake of the trust. They have advanced the price only one-half a cent, for the reason that the dealers know their customers will not stand the whole advance at once. But the grocers must raise the price of sugar in keeping with the trust's price, although it is done more slowly.

Under the McKinley bill raw sugar was free. The new act places a duty of 40 per cent ad valorem upon it, and adds to that one-eighth of 1 per cent for refined sugars. This makes the trust absolute master of the sugar market, and the plain people will have to pay tribute to it.

There are other instances where the plain people are directly and immediately affected by the new tariff bill, but those provisions in it which are regarded as the greatest strides in the direction of tariff-reform will not be felt for months to come.

The result of the removal of the duty upon salt is problematical. Grocers say that salt is now so cheap that it is doubtful if a sufficient quantity will be imported under the new bill to make an appreciable change in the price to the consumer.

There will be a marked decrease in the price of fancy groceries. Exactly what it will be cannot be determined just yet, for there are scores of knotty points to be decided by the customs officials, and until these decisions are made there will be no change. But in those things in which there can be no dispute prices were changed immediately by the bill becoming a law.

The householder who has been paying \$2 a case for Bass's ale finds that he can buy it for \$1.90 a case. Macaroni is a penny a pound cheaper. Brandies, liquors, cordials and other spirits immediately dropped 15 cents a quart bottle in price. These are among the direct effects of the bill becoming a law. Imported cheese and canned goods are among the articles under dispute. Dried currants and citron will be cheaper, but it is too early for them to come in.

Now this matter of liquors is a very important one to many persons. It is pretty generally known that the Internal Revenue tax upon whiskey was increased from 90 cents to \$1.10, or 20 cents a gallon. To offset this the import duty upon spirits, which includes Brandies, Scotch and Irish whiskeys, gins, liquors, cordials and the like, is decreased from \$2.50 to \$1.80, or 70 cents a gallon.

This makes a difference to persons who buy these things by the bottle

or the case. A bottle of whiskey is usually considered a fifth of a gallon, so that the regular advance upon a quart bottle of whiskey would be five cents. But the dealers, particularly the large grocers, say that for the present they will continue to sell whiskey at the old rate; this is, for some time to come, a man can buy a bottle of whiskey for \$1 or \$1.50 a quart, or whatever rate he has been accustomed to pay for the grade he fancies.

On the other hand the consumer will have the advantage of the lower duty in imported spirits. There is a general drop of 15 cents a bottle.

Every man who uses tobacco wants to know whether this bill is going to affect the prices of the cigars which he smokes. Most of them have a distinct remembrance of the effect of the McKinley bill. After that became a law regular customers found that cigars which had previously cost ten cents were increased to two-for-a-quarter, and the two-for-a-quarter cigars were advanced to 15 cents straight. It was all caused by the increase in the duty on wrappers. Before the McKinley bill the duty was 55 cents a pound on the average. McKinley increased the duty 400 per cent, or \$2 a pound. The new bill fixes it at \$1.50, but this reduction will have no effect upon the prices of cigars sold to the consumer.

It takes about three pounds of wrappers for 1,000 cigars. It is much easier to distribute an advance of \$4.50 over 1,000 cigars than a decrease of \$1.50. The jobber and manufacturer will get the benefit of the \$1.50 difference per thousand between the old rate and the new.

Now as to the matter of clothing, it is more difficult to determine the exact benefit which shall result from this law. The greatest benefit will not be immediate, for it has to do with free wool, the part of the new act which does not become operative until Jan. 1.

Under the new law the duty will be 50 per cent ad valorem. The reduction of duty will therefore be 44 cents per pound weight.

The average weight of double-width spring wools for men's wear is 16 ounces, and the reduced cost will be 44 cents. The average weight of double-width fall wools for men's wear is 26 ounces, and the reduced cost will be 64 cents.

In a general way, therefore, after Jan. 1, our double-width foreign spring goods of about 16 ounces weight, will be sold at say 50 cents per yard less than now, and double-width foreign fall goods of about 24 ounces weight at 75 cents per yard less. Lighter weight goods will have less reduction and heavier weights will have no more.

American goods, having been already somewhat reduced in the last spring and the present fall seasons, will therefore not generally be subject to as much reduction as the foreign goods.

Foreign wool will be admitted free immediately, but it will take several months to produce goods from such wool, and therefore there can be no reduction in foreign or domestic goods during the coming season.

It requires three-and-a-quarter yards of cloth to make a suit of clothes. Therefore the new act makes a saving of from \$1.50 to \$2.25 on each suit of clothes. Domestic goods will be even cheaper than they are at present, wool having reached the lowest price ever known. The cheaper grades of goods will cost more a year from now than they do at present.

There is a great saving in carpets. These all carried double duty under the old law. Now they are taxed singly. Aubusson Axminster carpets which were worth say \$3.40 under the old law, under the new are worth but \$2.80. The 60-cent square yard duty is removed from them. Saxony, Wilton and Tournay velvet carpets will cost just 40 cent a yard less. Ingrains which cost \$1 a yard are made 16 cents cheaper.

Woolen underwear is made much cheaper by the removal of the duty on weight, 49½ cents on each pound in addition to an ad valorem reduction. But as has been said, this reduction in woollens does not go into effect until Jan. 1.

Hickory Male Academy.

The present term of this Academy opens Monday Sept. 3rd, 1894. A first class Primary and Classical course will be taught. Terms of tuition reasonable. Patronage solicited.

J. W. GOODMAN, Principal.

SECRET IN CUSTODY.

AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS HE WILL HANG.

The Noted Murder Brought Back to North Carolina Upon His Release from the S. C. Penitentiary—History of His Crime.

On Monday the sheriff of Richland county, South Carolina accompanied by the deputy sheriff of Burke county, passed through Hickory with no less personage, in custody, than Hoke C. Secrest, one of the coldest-blooded murderers now on earth, who should have been executed sixteen years ago for his crimes.

March 5, 1877, at night, he murdered his wife and four-year-old step-daughter, in a few hundred yards of the residence of Mr. H. A. Adams, in Burke county, near the Western North Carolina railroad, burying them in one grave, excavated by himself during the silent watches of the night. When the gasty work was accomplished, his victims slain and their bodies put out of sight, the miserable wretch returned to his home in Union county, from whence he conducted his victims, and strange to say escaped accusation until in January 1878, when a Burke county hunter found his dogs feasting upon carrion drawn by them with great difficulty from a hole in the ground. Examination revealed the horrid fact to the man that his dogs were feeding on human bodies. They were driven off and the country aroused. Many suspicions were communicated from one to another, and all sorts of rumors floated in the community, but shortly the villain's trail was scented; a fact here and one there, put the authorities upon the track of the murderer leading to his arrest at his father's, near Monroe, N. C. January 19, 1878.

When we sift the facts in this case and fully perceive how broken threads of evidence served in the apprehension of this murderous scoundrel, we are forced to confess that a higher power than man commands, laid the unbroken chain of testimony against Hoke C. Secrest. He leaves Union county, March 1, 1877, with Mrs. Maggie Stevenson and her little girl, travelling in a buggy. At Charlotte March 2nd, Mrs. Stevenson wrote a letter back home to a friend; at Lincolnton, March 4th, she writes to Mr. S. B. Stevenson her brother-in-law; on March 5th, Secrest and Mrs. Maggie Stevenson were married in Newton by Rev. J. C. Hartsell, and the marriage being given to the public by the newspapers, the fact returned in this way to her friends in Union county. Persons now residing in Hickory saw the parties late in the afternoon of March 5, 1877, when they passed through this city going westward. Now, when the bodies of the murdered wife and her daughter were found in Burke county, four miles west of this city, and the fact was generally known, Rev. Mr. Hartsell remembered that the preceding summer, he received a letter from Union county asking for any information he might possess of the whereabouts of Mrs. Maggie Stevenson, the lady he had married to Hoke C. Secrest, March 5, 1877. The letter to a friend which Mrs. Stevenson wrote from Charlotte, and the one she had addressed to her brother-in-law from Lincolnton, coupled with her marriage at Newton, brought Secrest within fourteen miles of the dead bodies in Burke. The discovery of the double, yea treble murder, becoming known, the suspicions syllabled by Rev. Hartsell sent pursuit to Union county for the true murderer, Secrest. He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced, garments on the dead being identified by friends, but before the day of execution he was adjudged insane and sent to the lunatic asylum at Raleigh from which he eventually made his escape, locating in South Carolina. Sometime thereafter he stole a cow, taking her to Columbia and selling her was arrested and placed behind the bars, but, before trial, it became known he was an escaped lunatic, and being returned to Raleigh was of course never prosecuted for stealing the cow. He remained at Raleigh until the comple-

tion of the Morganton Hospital, when he was transferred to it.

From this institution he finally fled, and nothing was heard from him thereafter until about eighteen months ago, when he was sent to the South Carolina penitentiary, from Spartanburg county, S. C. for an assault with intent to kill. His term having now expired in the aforesaid institution he is again in the Burke county hospital, and, unless law is travesty upon justice, he will quit the boundary of the asylum to ascend the scaffold. The creature should die! Maggie Stevenson's death should be avenged in the blood of her murderer. The sacrificed life of Minnie Luola, his step-daughter, calls to us from the ground for the blood of Hoke C. Secrest. Let there be such a crystallization of righteous judgment against her murderer that the courts will not refuse to command his prompt execution.

Mr. J. A. Perry, of Morganton, the special agent who brought the murderer Hoke C. Secrest from South Carolina to the Morganton jail, says:

"In accordance with Governor Carr's instructions, he was going to take his prisoner to Morganton. He says it is now pretty clearly proven by the statements of the South Carolina prison authorities, that the man's insanity was all a dodge, and it was more than likely that he would, in the next month or two, be given another trial, be convicted, and finally be made pay the penalty of his brutal crime."

It is quite evident that public confidence in the insanity plea heretofore made for Secrest is lost and that he will now die on the scaffold.

Reunion of Veterans.

There was a grand and gala reunion of old Confederate veterans at Morganton last Thursday and Friday. There were over 500 old vets. who registered and took part in the festivities. It was a grand outpouring of those good men who proved by their valor their right to be called Confederate veterans from Burke, McDowell and adjacent counties.

There were about 1,000 visitors and altogether, with those from Morganton, there were about 2,000 people on the fair grounds, where the encampment was held, on Friday morning.

A Confederate veterans' camp was organized and speeches were made by several persons. Our own Col. J. G. Hall, a veteran, was called on, and made them a talk. Being taken by surprise, he surprised them by convicting all the old veterans of being petty pilferers. He asked for all those who had never at some time while in the army stole a pig, or chicken, or roastingears, or robbed a beegum, or got into a tater patch, or fruit orchard, to hold up their hands. There was only one hand held up, and that man said he had made a mistake—that he had forgotten about one occasion; it had slipped his mind.

Judge A. C. Avery made them a grand speech of welcome and recounted some of their deeds of valor and chivalry. The old boys are solid for the Judge, as he is for them.

The average age of the men was a little over 60 years.

Now a Corn Meal Trust.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 22.—John B. Spering, of Indianapolis, is here completing arrangements for the formation of a corn meal trust. He claims a number of big companies have signed.

Three of the American diamond cutting establishments are engaged in shaping black diamonds for mechanical purposes, for glass cutters and engravers, or for use in the manufacture of watch jewels.

Resolutions of Thanks.

RESOLVED, That Catawba Lodge, No. 54, K. of P., tender their hearty and unanimous thanks to the ladies who so kindly and generously assisted in our recent entertainment. We are deeply sensible that much of the pleasure and success of the entertainment is due to their earnest efforts and skillful management.

That we also tender thanks to the lady manager, and her assistants, for the delightful music which added so much to the real pleasure of the evening. For we are sure that this part of the "feast" was not less enjoyable to every one who "hath music in his soul."

That the city papers be requested to publish these resolutions, that we may give this public acknowledgement of our appreciation of these services, so highly and generously rendered.

J. A. RAMSAY, Com. J. D. ELLIOTT, Sec.

A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS.

The Democratic Standard Bearer In the 8th Congressional District.

HON. WM. HORTON BOWER.

Who will Brush the Brushes And Sweep The Bull.

The woods are full of candidates, but there is only one bull in the Brushes. About next November he will wish he had been in a china shop. He would have fared better. We herewith present the picture of the gentleman who will wipe up the floor with him. We are unable to present his picture at this juncture as our artist who makes those kind has gone to Charlotte.



William Horton Bower, of Yadkin Valley, Caldwell county, was born in Wilkes county, North Carolina, June 6, 1850; received an academic education at Finley High School, Lenoir, N. C., and other academies; finished his education at the age of 16 and lived on a farm till 1869, when he studied law in the office of Col. G. N. Folk, of Lenoir; was licensed by the Supreme Court of North Carolina to practice law in 1880; in 1876 removed to California and remained there teaching till the summer of 1880, when he returned to his native State; canvassed his county for Hancock in 1880; in 1882 was elected Representative in Legislature for Caldwell county without opposition; in 1884 was elected to the State Senate; in 1885 was appointed solicitor of the tenth judicial district by Governor A. M. Seales; in 1886 was elected solicitor tenth judicial district for four years without opposition; in 1890 was candidate for Democratic nomination for Congress, but was defeated on the 147th ballot by W. H. H. Cowles, and was elected to the Fifty-third Congress as a Democrat, receiving 16,896 votes, against 13,215 votes for Joseph O. Wilcox, Republican; 3,564 votes for R. L. Patton, Populist; 65 votes for William M. White, Prohibitionist, and 3 votes scattering.

Mr. Bower was re-nominated by acclamation on the 25th of July in the Democratic congressional convention held at Wilkesboro, where he was nominated two years ago by a unanimous vote by the convention of that year.

On the 28th of November, 1892, Mr. Bower was married at Newark, N. J., to Miss Annetta Monthaler, of Bethlehem, Pa., an accomplished lady who is related to many of the leading Moravian families in Salem, N. C.

His district, the 8th is composed of the following counties: Alexander, Ashe, Alleghany, Burke, Caldwell, Cleveland, Forsyth, Gaston, Mitchell, Surry, Watauga and Wilkes—12 counties; population, 190,784.

Mr. Bower is booked for 25,000 votes at this next election.

NORTH CAROLINA Com. Office. CATAWBA COUNTY. Sept. 3, 1894.

Ordered by the Board of County Commissioners that there shall be an entire new registration of the voters of Hickory Township before the election to be held on the 6th day of November 1894.

By order of the Board. G. W. COCHRAN, Clerk Board of County Commissioners. The registration books will be open at my store in Hickory from Sept. 27th until Oct. 27th, 12 o'clock. S. E. KILLIAN, Registrar For North Hickory Precinct.