

PROTECTION DEFENDED

Senator Aldrich Strikes the Keynote of the Campaign.

EFFECTS OF THE MCKINLEY LAW.

Facts and Figures Collected by Official Experts Pursuant to a Senate Resolution of March 2, 1891, Show the Cost of Living Reduced and the Wages of Labor Increased—The Farmers Especially Benefited.

It can, however, be conclusively established that the cost of living in the United States is less today than it was before the passage of the act of 1890, and it is equally true that both foreign and domestic goods are sold at lower prices at retail than they were prior to October, 1890. I have been furnished by Messrs. William H. Burgess & Co., of New York, with a statement showing the foreign cost and the cost to lay down in New York duty paid, of the commodities mentioned by the five leading American producers of women's and children's dress goods sold their product at the respective dates named. These quotations show a decline in price in every case. These quotations refer only to domestic goods; but a very large proportion of the goods of this class imported in the United States are produced by the American manufacturer, who has practically the control of the American market.

It can, however, be conclusively established that the cost of living in the United States is less today than it was before the passage of the act of 1890, and it is equally true that both foreign and domestic goods are sold at lower prices at retail than they were prior to October, 1890.

Other descriptions of all wool dress goods vary in price with these at a fixed ratio. This statement shows that the cost of living in the United States is less today than it was before the passage of the act of 1890, and it is equally true that both foreign and domestic goods are sold at lower prices at retail than they were prior to October, 1890.

One of the principal purposes of the tariff inquiry ordered by the Senate resolution of March 2, 1891, was to ascertain whether this claim of the opponents of protection was justified. An investigation much more extensive and thorough than ever before attempted was instituted. The committee determined to ascertain the prices paid for all articles of general consumption at extensive retail stores in the United States on the first of each month from June, 1890, to September, 1891, a period of seventeen months prior to the passage of the act of 1890, and the next months subsequent. The quotations were in all cases secured from actual sales. The places at which quotations were obtained were selected with care, so as to represent the entire country geographically, and included typical commercial, manufacturing and agricultural communities. The prices were secured by the committee, or by its department of labor with the greatest care.

The list of 215 articles was carefully selected by the unanimous action of the committee, with a view of covering the whole expenditure of a family in the average condition of life—that is, with an income of \$200 to \$300 per annum.

The results of this comprehensive and exhaustive inquiry are contained in the report recently made by the finance committee. This report covers 2,300 printed pages and contains more than 1,300,000 different quotations.

This investigation clearly establishes the fact that a decline instead of an advance has taken place in the prices of the necessities of life and the resulting cost of living since the adoption of the act of 1890.

The articles were divided into the following groups: First—Food. Second—Clothing and clothing. Third—Fuel and lighting. Fourth—Housefurnishing goods. Fifth—Drugs and chemicals. Sixth—Metals and implements. Seventh—Lumber and building materials.

The percentage of decline in the various groups embraced in the schedule is shown by the following table, prices for June, 1890, and August 1, 1891, being taken as a basis for comparison and represented by the number 100, changes being shown by percentages of that number:

Table showing percentage changes in various groups: Food (10.32%), Clothing (10.32%), Fuel and lighting (10.32%), Housefurnishing goods (10.32%), Drugs and chemicals (10.32%), Metals and implements (10.32%), Lumber and building materials (10.32%).

The finance committee investigated for the same period the course of wholesale prices at the great distributing centers. While this investigation disclosed greater fluctuations in the commodities selected, the general result was the same, the fall in wholesale prices running substantially parallel with that of retail prices.

It will be observed that the percentages of decline are in the groups of unmanufactured articles, where it was claimed the greatest advance had taken place.

In addition to the inquiry stated above the committee caused retail prices of the different articles included in these lists to be taken on May 1, 1892, at three of the points at which the original inquiry was made—namely, Fall River, Mass., Chicago and Danbury, Conn. The result of this latter inquiry shows that the same general decline in prices and in the cost of living had taken place between Sept. 1, 1891, and May 1, 1892, as early establishing a continuance of the tendency to lower prices and lower cost of living.

It is shown as a net result of the investigation that prices and the cost of living, based on the expenditures of a family of ordinary circumstances, had declined 3.4 per cent. in May, 1892, as compared with the period prior to the adoption of the tariff act of 1890.

It is difficult to see how the results of this thoroughly exhaustive inquiry could be a surprise to any one, unless he should be a professional tariff reformer. The decline in the cost of living was, as shown, 3.4. The advance in wages, as shown by the same report, was 7.5 per cent. This makes an average advance in the purchasing power of wages of 4.15 per cent. As summing \$200 as the average income of the families of the country, this would be equivalent to, say, \$25,000 a family, or an average saving for 10,000,000 families of \$25,000,000 for each year.

The addition of this year's sum annually to the national earnings and wealth is an achievement which speaks with a more eloquent voice than I can command in behalf of a policy under which such results are possible.

It is very significant that while the cost of living in the United States declined for the period covered by the investigation, the financial committee the cost of living in England increased 1.0 per cent. If the conditions had been reversed our Democratic friends would have insisted that this was the direct and logical result of rival revenue systems. I am curious to see what explanation they will now make.

The result is unquestionably a very surprising one to them and one which they will have difficulty in explaining away. While the attempt to compare average retail prices in England and the United States is not satisfactory, I am convinced that for a family buying the same quantity and quality of articles at retail in the two countries the cost of living would not be higher in America.

At no time in our history have the earnings of the American people been as great, measured by their power to purchase the comforts and necessities of life as they are today. Measured by the same standard, they are vastly greater than those of any other people in the world.

The senator here analyzed a table prepared by Mr. Daniel McKeever, of the importing firm of H. Herman Sternbach & Co., of New York, and previously quoted by Senator Vest. He demonstrated that the strabans, velvets and silk linings mentioned in the letter are luxuries, and that the articles of that class in common use are now cheaper, as shown by the following table in the official report:

Table showing prices of coat linings and women's and children's dress goods for various months from 1890 to 1892.

Table showing prices of various commodities like Cotton, Atlantic Mills, etc., for different months.

It will be noticed that the Farr Alpaca Company, of Holyoke, Mass., quote double the price for the same goods in the latter part of July, 1892, than in either of the previous years. The other quotations submitted by me are the prices at which the goods manufactured by the five leading American producers of women's and children's dress goods sold their product at the respective dates named.

These quotations show a decline in price in every case. These quotations refer only to domestic goods; but a very large proportion of the goods of this class imported in the United States are produced by the American manufacturer, who has practically the control of the American market.

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foreign commerce was accelerated rather than retarded by the act of 1890, as stated by the senator from Missouri.

The senator then quoted the oft-published statement that wool growers receive no benefit from protection, referred to a recent statement by Mr. S. N. D. North, secretary of the New England Wool Growers' Association, pointing out that his reference was to wools of very different kinds and continued:

It is true that the statement furnished by Mr. North does apply to specific grades of wool and to grades that for many years have sold in London and Cardiff at the same price as the same grades. They are, however, sold in their respective markets in very different conditions, and the net cost of cleaned wool purchased in the latter country is much greater in the latter country, and that the number of persons involved was more than three times as great in proportion to the number of persons engaged in useful occupations in the respective countries.

In the recent strike in the Durham (England) district, the cost of wool was increased and remained idle from March 12 to June 1, when they accepted a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages. This strike involved the district of 100,000 persons, and the result was that the production of wool was reduced to one-third of its normal output.

The statistics submitted by the senator from Missouri confirm in a striking manner the judgment of the intelligent observer that there has been a remarkable freedom from strikes and labor troubles in this country since the passage of the tariff act of 1890. The statistics show that in the history of the country there has never been so constantly and profitably employed and at such satisfactory wages as in the present time. The statistics also show that the production of wool in the United States with the capacity and willingness to work is out of proportion.

It is true that a reduction of wages has taken place in a limited number of establishments producing iron and steel; but the fact should not be overlooked that even with this reduction the average wages are still much higher than in any of the other great industries. The earnings in some departments are exceptionally high; for instance, the average net earnings of labor in the iron and steel industry is \$125 per day, and the net earnings in wire rolling are even higher than this.

It is perhaps proper that I should say a word in regard to the coal and iron industries of the operators in Rhode Island. That they do not work for a miserable pittance is shown by a statement which I submit and will leave printed in the Record of the relative wages paid in a cotton mill in Rhode Island and one in Oldham, England, showing the much greater wages paid in the former than in the latter.

The statistics of working at starvation wages of the working people of my state are enabled from their earnings to live as well as as comfortably as any similar class of people in the world, and their standard of living is not inferior to that of the people of any other industrial community in the world.

The senator here read letters from S. N. D. North, secretary of the American Association of Wool Manufacturers, and cited the evidence showing that since the inauguration of the protective policy of the United States, are greater per capita, I believe, than those of any other industrial community in the world.

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unchanged, as the wages paid (union prices) in tin plate works in Wales have not changed for fifteen years.

An equally striking exhibition is made in the comparison between May, 1891, and July, 1892. In this period the price of tin has further declined \$1.00 per ton, and the reduction in a box of tin plates based upon this decline should have been 19 cents a box, or a reduction in this case of the profits of the Welsh manufacturer of 91 cents a box.

It is evident from these statements that the Welsh prices are put up and down in response to existing exigencies in the United States. The price of tin plates in their allies on this side of the water in regard to high prices were to be verified prices were put up 90 cents per box in the face of a sharp decline in tin materials; but when American manufacturers are to be discouraged and, if possible, driven out of the market on the eve of an election, the price is now an accomplished fact. But one thing is necessary for its triumphant success—a majority of electors who are sold shirked, while the Ohio wools are not.

For the purpose of showing the actual cost to an American manufacturer of a pound of tin plate, the following table shows the average annual price for each of the twelve years, 1881 to 1892, inclusive, of a scored pound of fine Ohio fleece in the United States and of average Australian fleece in London.

Table comparing prices of Ohio and Australian fleeces from 1881 to 1892.

The price of the pound of clean wool of course the only test of actual relative value to the manufacturer, as this fixes the cost to him of the raw material. I also submit a table of prices for the years of 1881 to 1891, inclusive, taken from a similar statement published by Justice, Bateman & Co., of Philadelphia. In this table the comparison is made between Ohio medium fleeces and New Zealand crossbred, and the quotations for each grade are given in cents per pound.

Table comparing prices of Ohio and New Zealand fleeces from 1881 to 1891.

The average difference for the twelve years, 1881 to 1891, is 13.65 and 6.5 per cent. 4.234 1891..... 13 67 1/2 and 5 per cent. 4.12 1892..... 13 67 1/2 and 5 per cent. 4.012 1893 (July 15) 10 and 10 per cent. 3.73

The same proportion holds good for all other grades.

Cotton ties are now made at home and supplied at lower cost to the consumer. Similarly the tariff has transferred the manufacture of lace window curtains, silk and mohair plushes, pearl buttons and many other articles to the United States. Many industries dull and lifeless for a considerable period before the act of 1890 are now active.

Where is the idle woolen mill today? Indeed there is none, or the number is so few that they are not worth counting. Not only is the woolen industry in the United States employed, but many of the manufacturers are contemplating enlargements and improvements, or such enlargements and improvements are already in progress.

What does this all mean? It means simply the greatest consumption of wool that the country has known for years.

The importations of dutiable articles in 1890 amounted in value to \$88,000,000 and in 1892 to \$263,500,000, or a decline in three years of \$235,500,000. If the value of the imported articles had remained unaltered at the same ratio with the increase in the value of all importations in 1892 it would have been \$30,000,000 greater than in 1890 instead of \$235,500,000 less.

It would appear from this comparison of the foreign value of at least 75,000,000 worth of goods produced in the United States in the fiscal year 1892, which is the year of the adoption of the act of 1890, would have been imported. If we add a portion of average rate of duty to this sum we should have a value of goods produced in the United States for foreign consumption of at least \$100,000,000.

This production would furnish employment to 200,000 people and support another 200,000 people, or a total of 400,000 in addition to the natural growth of our industries.

In regard to trusts it is the climax of absurdity to say that the woolen manufacturing in the United States is or ever has been controlled by any extent by a trust. No such trust or even a combination of trusts of any kind has ever been quite impossible to make any combination that would or could control prices or production of woolen goods, as the number of producers is so large and so widely distributed.

For the purpose of ascertaining the truth in regard to these alleged trusts, though inquiry history covers more than twenty years of the woolen industry, I addressed a letter to at least one well known manufacturer connected with each of the principal industries that are included in the Record, a copy of my letter is printed in the Record and of the replies received.

The replies received from the woolen industries replied to my letter of inquiry. Of these the representative of seventy-two deny in the most emphatic manner the existence of any such trusts, and the others with which they are connected, most of them, as will be seen by an examination of the letters, denying in detail all the statements made in the Record as to the existence of a trust, but admitted in a qualified way the existence of combinations which were formed for the purpose of more or less effective in controlling prices.

There is no limit to the ingenuity or resources of the woolen manufacturers in breaking down the purpose of breaking down the protective system.

Women at Work. The thinking women of the United States—and all women think—feel that they ought to be interested in the campaign of Ellen J. Foster, in speaking of the Hotel Savor, was at the Republican headquarters yesterday and saw Mr. Carter and General Clarkson concerning the work of the Women's Republican association, of which she is president.

Much of this work of distribution of literature. Mrs. Foster, in speaking of the different features of the work, said: "Our women's work is going along finely. A most gratifying feature is the hearty response which comes from Republican officials throughout the country. There is scarcely any state committee which does not urge the circulation of our literature and the organization of our women. The first issue of the Home and the Flag series is just out. We think the prettiest bit of political literature ever published in this country. It will be followed by ten or a dozen other books in like style, covering the main principles of Republicanism. These are being sent to state chairmen, and by them circulated through county committees among women."

Loss to Farmers and Manufacturers. A Washington special says: "The cutting down of the consular appropriation by congress at its last session will have the effect of crippling an important branch of public service. Considering the size and wealth of the country our consular service is not what it should be. It is not as well supported as that of England, France or Germany, and is consequently not as efficient. It is reported at Washington that the department of state, in consequence of the reduction of the appropriation, will be obliged to suspend the publication of the consular reports that have proved to be so valuable to the country."

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case that cannot be cured by taking HENRY'S CATARRH CURE. F. J. HENRY & CO., Proprietors, Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and he has been perfectly honorable in all his business transactions, and financially able to carry out all his obligations made by him.

West & Truax, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. Waiding, Kinnear & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. E. H. Van Hoesen, Cashier Toledo National Bank, Toledo, Ohio.

All's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO SOUTH BEND, IND.

What is CASTORIA?

Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is a harmless substitute for Paregoric, Drops, Soothing Syrups, and Castor Oil. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays feverishness. Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Curd, cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves teething troubles, cures constipation and flatulency. Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—the Mother's Friend.

Castoria is so well adapted to children that it is recommended as a superior to any prescription known to me.

Castoria is the best remedy for children of which I am acquainted. Those that are far from their mothers will consent to be treated by it, and it is the best of the various quick nostrums which are destroying their loved ones, by forcing opium, morphine, soothing syrup and other hurtful agents down their throats, thereby sending them to premature graves.

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