

## NO "CONGRESS" FOR HIM.

### An Illinois Farmer's Views on Tariff Reform and the War Taxes.

#### Farmers Have Made This Country, and Manufacturers Have Profited by Following Them.

[Joliet (Ill.) cor. Chicago Tribune.]  
Major J. M. Thompson is the man who received and declined an invitation from Whitelaw Reid, of the New York Tribune, to attend a "Farmers' Congress" in New York. Mr. Thompson is a citizen of this county, where he has resided since the war. He served with distinction in the army, and the end of the war found him with the rank of Major. He is now a prosperous farmer, living three miles east of this city. "First," said the Major, "here is the invitation I received; you can copy it."  
[Here follows a copy of Whitelaw Reid's oily and ingenious letter of invitation.]  
"This is the reply I sent," said the Major: STATE GANGER OF ILLINOIS, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY, MASTER'S OFFICE, JOLIET, ILL., Jan. 4, 1888.

To Whitelaw Reid, New York:  
Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 30th ult. received. Accept my thanks for the honor conferred by tendering me a position on the committee to be organized at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, the 11th inst.

It appears to me that the object of this movement is to educate and frame the opinions of the agricultural classes of the whole country on the very important question of the tariff, and on the protection side. My interest and education as a farmer teach me to believe that I belong to the other side and that our views will not be harmonious on this subject, and I must therefore decline to meet with you on that occasion. Yours respectfully,

J. M. THOMPSON.  
"Now you have the documents in the case; what do you want next?" asked the Major.  
"A plain statement from your own lips, Major Thompson, of just why you declined the invitation; also who was the 'noted rolling-mill man' you had an interview with, and what are the facts as to that interview."

"Well, I guess I will answer the last part of your question first. The rolling-mill man was Superintendent H. S. Smith, of the Joliet Steel Works."

"Now, as to your refusal to go to the New York meeting?"

"Well, I knew that Whitelaw Reid was a protective tariff man, and that they were going to pack the convention. I was further convinced of this fact by receiving an invitation to be present at a meeting to be held in this city by the editor of the *Republican-Sun* and Mr. Smith of the steel mills. This was my first impression, and it was afterwards verified by our meeting here. I was informed that my expenses would be paid to New York to attend that meeting, but did not feel like going there as the guest of an editor opposed to me upon such questions of public policy, and provoked a quarrel on his protective ideas. I therefore refused to accept the invitation as one of the committee to report on the cereals from this State, and my place was supplied by ex-Congressman Wilson, of Iowa."

"At the meeting I had with the editor of the *Republican-Sun* and Superintendent Smith of the steel mills at this place about Jan. 3, and eight days before the meeting at New York, in connection with my refusal to attend a meeting antagonistic to my principles on the tariff question, Mr. Smith first stated that the object of the meeting was to bring the producer and consumer into closer relationship, his idea being that if this was accomplished it would enhance the value of farming land and necessarily increase the value of farm products. He said: 'How much more has the value of farming land been increased by the location of the steel works at this place?' My answer was, 'Not one cent.' I was offered \$175 per acre for my farm before the steel works were located in Joliet, and I could not get that price for it to-day. As regards the products sold from my farm, Liverpool, the home of pauper labor, fixes the price for New York City, which establishes the price for Chicago, and Chicago for the great Northwest. These quotations govern the city of Joliet, when it only had a population of 5,000, and I sell farm products to-day upon the basis of Chicago quotations, less transportation, and you buy by the same. I deny that the manufacturer furnishes the consumer for our products. The farmer has done more to settle, develop, and perpetuate the institutions of the country than any other industry. They, by their settlement and industry, have created necessities for cheaper and better transportation to get their products to the seaboard. To supply this necessity canals and railroads were constructed. The rapid settlement of our country demanded quicker and better transportation. In the meantime Illinois was being settled rapidly. Far-sighted capitalists from the East were on the lookout for profitable Western investments, and they heard of Chicago—then a small village. Its advantages were discussed, and they said: 'Here's to be the great city of America, the gateway for all the farm produce and commerce of the whole Northwest.' They accordingly located there, and their prophecy proved true. We find railroads running in all directions of the compass, all of which proves the truth of the great law of necessity, created by the farmer. The farmer created this law and the capitalists are taking advantage of it. Some capitalists who wanted to start a rail-mill here said to themselves: 'There is a great demand for steel rails in Illinois, and Joliet would be a good point to set up a plant.' There is a tariff of 85 per cent. on steel rails, which adds nearly that amount to the manufacturer's profit. Therefore, Mr. Smith, in my opinion it was the farmer and not the manufacturer that brought all of these people together. The farmer was the primary cause, and created the necessity for your existence."

"As regards the consumption of farm products by your rolling-mill men, it is a small affair. Statistics prove that the market for the great bulk of all our surplus farm products is in Great Britain and the Southern States. The section of the Union which gets the lion's share of the war-tariff protection lies east of Indiana, and it produces enough food to supply its own wants, while we have to pay it nearly two prices for its manufactures and search for a market elsewhere for our surplus food stuffs. Is that fair trade, Mr. Smith? Further, we pay 60 per cent. of the general taxes, and by the official muster-rolls from the War Department we have, since the War of the Revolution, furnished 72 per cent. of those accepted for military duty. In conclusion, I said to Mr. Smith

that I was reared a protectionist, my father being the proprietor of a woolen-mill; but since I had become a producer my ideas had been radically changed."

Major Thompson has for several years been Master of the State Grange of Illinois, and is a gentleman whose well-known integrity, honesty, and sound views on all questions of public policy are of value.

## THE CITIES AND THE COUNTRY.

### Why the Former Boom and the Agricultural Districts Grow Poor.

#### Some Plain and Sensible Words by State Senator L. D. Whiting.

[From the Amboy (Ill.) Journal.]  
FRIEND LOOMIS: May I be allowed space to say a few things? I read with much interest your comments on my talk to the Ford County farmers. You indorse me so much, and dissent so little, some explanations may tend to bring us more nearly of one mind in what we seem to differ. As I fully reciprocate the regard and friendship which you so kindly and gracefully express, we are in a proper frame of mind to compare views.

"The Decline of Agricultural Prosperity—The Cause and Cure," was the subject of my talk. Though I am a farmer and you an editor, we have a common interest in the question.

It is not alone New England agriculture that is in ruins. I have it from good authority that the fine farming districts of New York and Pennsylvania show dilapidation and decay. I must now surprise you more by saying that after inquiry I am satisfied that lands in Bureau County have depreciated in price during the last ten years more than \$10 an acre, aggregating a loss of about \$6,000,000 to our farmers. Our great agricultural State of Illinois is growing poorer in agriculture, while the large cities and corporations are booming. When convinced of this you will be as ardent as myself to arrest this downward plunge of agricultural prosperity. Inquiry will convince you that my statements on this are very near the truth.

Worldwide competition with the cheapest of all cheap labor is a chief reason why agricultural products are cheap and declining. You will agree with me that farmers should seek to offset this by buying their supplies as cheap as fair competition will permit. The *Amboy Journal* has stimulated me to believe that we are badly circumvented in this by combinations and trusts which envelop us like a network. They create a monopoly by shutting out competition, and then fixing prices according to their own greed. All this you condemn as severely as I do. Careful observation will convince you, as it has me, that our tariff laws in many cases constitute a wheel in this monopolistic machinery. The "trusts" now formed or forming by lumber, salt, coal, glass, sugar, barbed-wire, and dozens of other interests are protected in their selfish schemes by our tariff laws, and thus enabled to extort in their prices. The protected interests show signs of confederating in a war offensive and defensive to stand by these abuses. They are hatching schemes to squander the public money and dry up the more proper sources of revenue, so as to make it necessary to protect them by a high-tariff wall, while they run their corners. So the grotesque proposition is made to give the country relief by the generous offer of cheap whisky and tobacco. Kelley and Randall, State conventions in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and others, the *Inter Ocean*, *Bureau County Republican*, and others, advocate this vicious measure. The *Amboy Journal*, I believe, has not joined this foray against morals and the public interest. Farmers' meetings everywhere demand that the taxes on tobacco and spirits shall remain, and that the reduction to be made shall be on the necessities of life. But Mr. Blaine asks us to give the sanction of the nation that tobacco shall be classed as a necessity.

My friend, can it be that any theory or doctrine is sound which leads to such straits? Cheap lumber, glass, salt, coal, and clothing are now obtainable, and are farmers to blame for demanding this, rather than cheap whisky and tobacco? We work in competition with the cheapest of all European and Asiatic labor—labor at less than half the price paid there by the manufacturers. Is it wrong for us to insist that some of these long-protected industries shall now go to the free list or be greatly reduced? I know they all plead "infancy." Are they never to get beyond that tender age? Never, I fear, if left to themselves. Can we doubt that many of these can go alone much better than farmers can afford to carry them?

Now, in closing, a few words and figures on this very point. You properly state that farm hands are paid \$20 per month. Farmers, because they cannot afford it, employ as little as possible, merely to supplement their own labor. Mr. Hinton, an advocate of protection, says his class pays \$2.24 to \$2.34 per day. This is about \$60 per month. Their men work eight, nine, or ten hours a day; farm hands more than twelve hours. Zinc, glass, iron, and steel are the chief protected industries of Illinois. The statistics now before me state that most of these operatives receive more than \$4 a day. If you say "skilled laborers," I reply that in these days of farm machinery and stock feeding a good farm laborer is also skilled. The extra hours on a farm amply pay board. So our farmers do not and cannot pay half the price or more than one-third the price paid by manufacturers. If the query is raised, Where goes the money of operatives? let statistics answer. Lock-outs and strikes make long stops of work and machinery. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner, reports that during the six years ending Dec. 31, 1886, these cost the laborers a loss of \$59,948,882, and the manufacturers \$34,164,914, aggregating a loss of \$94,113,796. Notwithstanding fair to large dividends were divided by the millowners and the laborers got through, and on an average for every twenty men they supported a thriving saloon, steadier work and less profits would be better.

In view of these facts, should the agricultural interests be taxed to give bounties to the manufacturers? If we must help these "infants" a little longer, let us begin to teach them to walk, because there is a growing feeling that we should make our legislation for the general public interest and not for classes.

#### Giants of Monopoly.

The day of "infant industries" in this country has passed. Our industries are giants instead of infants. The infants are the farmers who work for these giants and pay them for doing it. —*St. Paul News.*

## REDUCE THE TAXES.

### Editor Watterson Enthusiastically Indorses the President's Message.

#### And Deals Some Sledge-Hammer Blows at the Painted Harlot of Protection.

Four hundred and fifty members of the Tariff Reform Club of New York attended a dinner given by the club in that city a few days ago. After the banquet Anson Phelps Stokes gave the toast: "The President of the United States." "President Cleveland needs no eulogy among reformers," said President Stokes. "I regret that official duties prevent his presence here tonight." After tremendous cheering the patriotic sentiment was washed down in the best, the banqueters standing. W. C. P. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, spoke effectively on the "Best Tariff Reform." Several other speakers followed, but the event of the evening was the speech of Henry Watterson, who responded to the toast of "The Star-Eyed Goddess." Mr. Watterson, on rising in his place of honor near the presiding officer's chair, was greeted with an ovation second only to that which greeted the first mention of the President's name. Mr. Watterson said:

I rise with diffidence and trepidation. Somehow the impression has been conveyed to me that I am expected to stir up enthusiasm by a great array of statistical information, and to amuse you with a facetious and florid burst of figures, not of speech, but of schedules and classifications. In those lines of the rhetoric art, believe me, I am powerless. My mission is to deal with matters of fact and to tackle truth. "The platform and the outlook."

The platform is the message—the President's message. The outlook is most encouraging. Considering the painted harlot of protection which is whirling in the air, I have given the administration and the country the best shop has afforded in the way of disagreeable persistency and the sincerest candor.

It was obvious to my mind that unless we could agree in Congress we should not agree in convention. The tariff plank in the last National Democratic platform was not intended to be a straddle, because, although the platform committee had been secretly packed in the interest of protection, the revenue-reformers were still strong enough to hold their ground and to carry all their points. But it was made to seem a straddle. Hence nothing short of a declaration which might not bear two constructions would satisfy the demand of reform in the next national platform, and any one could see that this could not be obtained without a fight, and possibly a split.

Just at the time that the President came to the rescue, with the wisdom of an impetuous courage and the craft of a common sense deriving its strength from its integrity. This brave and honest man—this puzzle to the politician and contradiction to all experienced with a single stroke of his pen did what might for years have baffled the efforts of the greatest statesmen and philosophers. By that act he has reversed the situation from one of cowardly indecision to one of confidence and confidence. He has forced the enemy back behind his earthworks, and warned stragglers to come into camp. Upon the lines of that message I would rather be beaten than win upon those of a lying substitute. But we should not be beaten. The President's words are presages of victory. They remove all obstruction from our march of progress and reform. They lead us out of the bushes and into the highway. An honest declaration of the truth will do more for the world in the face and call of a man's soul than without a furtive side glance at the Republicans.

The period of agitation has passed. Thanks to the President, we have the ear of the nation. The period of affirmation and construction is upon us. The organs of the protectionists are now the organs of practical business. When we seek to arrest the attention of a friend across the street we elevate the voice; when we have him face to face we proceed in a lower tone. But we should not be beaten. The President's words are presages of victory. They remove all obstruction from our march of progress and reform. They lead us out of the bushes and into the highway. An honest declaration of the truth will do more for the world in the face and call of a man's soul than without a furtive side glance at the Republicans.

And how are we met in this patriotic purpose by the protectionists? With every manner of misrepresentation and misstatement. All along the Republican line the word has gone forth that we are a band of incendiaries, bent upon blowing up the custom-houses and burning down the factories, and generally destroying the business of the country. This is a lying tale. They are protectionists, not Democrats. They are in the end, when the process of the redistribution and readjustment of party forces now going forward is completed, they will find a fine place in the hands of the robber barons, whose men-at-arms are at this moment out in every direction collecting, through the tariff, tribute of the people. Then, indeed, shall we know who is who and what is what, and the star-eyed goddess of reform shall carry in the circle of truth which graces her fair young brow no false jewels to dim its luster.

Meanwhile, my friends, we have nothing to fear in the immediate future. That is full of most glorious and gratifying assurances. The party of reform in Congress will be found to unite upon a measure of reform in harmony with the President's message. Wait a little and you shall see how they carry themselves upon the floor of the House, under the leadership of Carlisle and Mills, and of my brilliant and eloquent friend, the latest successor of Henry Clay, who, if he were now living, would scorn to break the promise he repeatedly made to the people that protection should not outlast the maturity of "infants" now 50 to 100 years of age. With our host at Washington, it shall be as it was with the Irish at Fontenoy:

Steady they march down the slope,  
Steady they mount the hill,  
Steady they load, steady they fire,  
Moving right onward still.

And onward, and onward, until all the mud-works of fraud are carried, and every job is done, and the harlot of protection is abandoned, and all abominations, the high protective tariff, limited by the Constitution exclusively to public purposes and proclaimed by its authors a temporary war expedient, is reduced to a mere means for the needs of honest government economically administered.

#### Befogging the Question.

For "free trade" in high protectionist publications read "tariff reform" or "tax reduction," and observe how induriously they are engaged in knocking down a man of straw of their own construction. They recognize the futility of arguing against tariff reform and throw themselves heavily against free trade. —*New Haven News.*

## CHICAGO'S LUCK.

### She Has a Sufficient Natural Gas Supply for Practical Domestic Purposes.

[Chicago special.]  
It is now conceded that Chicago has a sufficient natural gas supply for practical domestic purposes. Low-pressure gas exists here, either in the shale or the Niagara rock, in sufficient volume so that the supply from a six-inch well, when freed from water, will be quite large enough to furnish fuel and light for the largest establishments in the city. The pressure, of course, is not strong enough to admit of the use of mains from which to distribute the gas at points distant from the mouth of the well, but the flow is held to be large enough from a single well to supply light and fuel to the extent of from \$500 to \$1,000 a month, or about \$10,000 a year. This calculation is based upon a test jointly made by C. H. Dabney and J. H. Ralston, the result of which is decidedly interesting. Both of these gentlemen hold that the gas supply, found so far, comes from the Trenton limestone, and that it rises through fissures in the shale and other formations. But this signifies nothing in the present instance, except that if correct it shows that Chicago will shortly have high-pressure gas. They have hit upon a way of separating the water from the gas at the bottom of the wells, or, in other words, of converting the water well into a dry one, admitting of a gas flow only. The process by which this end is achieved is by the use of pipes and rubber packing. The Leland gas has now been burning twenty-two days continuously. The pressure or volume of supply has steadily increased from the start, and is more than four times greater than it was when discovered.

The greatest natural gas flows yet discovered, although neither of the wells has been burning long, are at the Chicago Rawhide Works on East Ohio street, and at the brewery of Wacker & Birk on North Desplaines street. The pressure at the latter point already indicates a volume of 800 cubic feet a day, and it is believed that when the water is removed from the well it will increase to 8,000 cubic feet per day.

A small gasometer has been put in at the rawhide works, and a natural gas flame is burning there from 10 to 15 inches high, from the end of a 3-inch pipe, upon which an improvised burner has been placed. The pressure is about equal to that at Wacker & Birk's.

Experiments made by Drs. Wahl and Henius show that the gas is found, in all cases, in the Niagara limestone, within forty feet of its upper surface, or from 90 to 130 feet below the surface, which is, on an average, about 550 feet above sea level.

## A NEBRASKA HEROINE.

### The Plucky Little School-Teacher Who "Merely Did Her Duty."

[Omaha special.]  
Miss Minnie Freeman, the plucky little school-teacher at Mina Valley, whose heroism, care, and presence of mind saved from death her thirteen little pupils during the terrible storm, was in this city recently. "I have had newspaper notoriety enough," she said, when approached by the reporter; "I merely did my duty." When pressed, however, she told the following story: "The storm came up very suddenly and struck the school house just about the time for closing. I knew from indications that it was going to be a regular 'blizzard,' and told the children to all wrap up well. While I was attending to them the door blew in, and then the windows. I put my cloak on and was wondering what I was going to do. I had made up my mind that the building would not last long. Then I happened to think of a ball of twine I had taken away from a little fellow named Frank Gibben, who was playing with it during school hours. I began tying the children together, and when I had completed this task I fastened one end of the string to my arm and awaited developments. Very soon the roof of the building blew off, and I said, 'Come on children,' and we started. The nearest house was three-quarters of a mile away, and in order to reach it, we had to face the storm for about one-third of the distance. I thought at one time we should be lost, and I came near losing hope, for I was nearly exhausted. You see I was carrying the smallest child—a little girl—and my talking to the children and urging them to keep up their spirits tried me very much. When we were about half-way to the house one of the boys, about 6 years old, said: 'Teacher, I can't go any farther,' but I told him if he did not come along I would whip him, and it was remarkable to see how that child exerted himself afterward. Now, you need not smile, I do not whip my scholars very hard. Well, we got to the house, and beyond a few frost-bitten fingers, noses, and ears, we were all in as good condition as when we started."

Miss Freeman then spoke of the large number of letters she had received since the story of her bravery got into print. Most of them were naturally of a complimentary nature, but nine contained offers of marriage. One eccentric individual enclosed a \$10 note with the following: "Miss Freeman, you are a daisy, and can have the keys of my trunk at any time. Yours truly, —"

A committee is at work in this city collecting funds with which to purchase a handsome gold medal to be presented to her at an early date. They are meeting with marked success. Every person approached almost invariably responds with a handsome sum.

## VOORHEES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

### His Name to Be Presented and Gov. Gray to Succeed Him in the Senate.

[Washington Special to Chicago Tribune.]  
Senator Voorhees' name will be presented to the National Convention as a candidate for Vice-President by the Indiana Democrats. He and Gov. Gray have come to an understanding, and though Mr. Voorhees was very much averse to it, he has been compelled to allow his name to be used for the Vice-Presidency and consent to let Gray succeed him in the Senate, should the Democrats again carry the Legislature.

## INDIANA STATE NEWS.

—John Van Dine had a close call a few days since, at the Wood & Lewis quarries, at Matamoras. Most of the residents get their drinking water from this quarry, which is fed by springs, and, when not constantly pumped by steam, is filled with the finest spring water. Van Dine went for water, and broke through the ice into twenty feet of the fluid. He went to the bottom, but being a good swimmer, came to the surface where he broke through. He could not reach solid ice and cried lustily for help. But the rocky walls of the big quarry echoed back the yells he gave out, and he began to despair as he felt a numbness creep over him and his strength began to give out. He gave one despairing yell, which John Cook heard and answered. A party was soon on the ground, and by great effort got the half-frozen man out of his perilous situation.

—The State Poultry Association held its annual meeting at Indianapolis. The following-named officers were elected: President, R. Twells, Montmorency; Vice Presidents, I. N. Barker, Thornton; J. C. Bridges, Logansport; Alonzo Tyner, Greenfield; Charles Johnson, Rushville; J. Henry Lee, Indianapolis; Cyrus W. Neal, Marion; H. C. G. Bals, Indianapolis, and Daniel Christian, Ronoke; Recording Secretary, E. A. Pierce, Indianapolis; Corresponding Secretary, Major Griffin, Maury; Treasurer, D. H. Jenkins, Indianapolis; Executive Committee, William Tobin, Indianapolis; Charles Syer, Kokomo; Benjamin S. Myers, Crawfordsville, and the President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who act ex-officio. It was determined to hold the annual show, beginning Feb. 15, 1888, and to continue one week.

—Attorney General Michener prepared an opinion which was delivered to the State-house Commissioners. Some time ago these officials addressed a communication to the Attorney General asking with reference to their duties in connection with the trust and their own liability upon their official bonds. In answer to these questions the Attorney General reviews the act authorizing the construction of the new building and constituting a board of commissioners for that purpose, and replies that the commissioners are the legally constituted custodians of the structure; that, although the building is practically finished, they must continue in charge of it until it can be accepted by some authority competent to do so and release them from their bonds.

—An organization has been formed at Elkhart, and incorporated under the laws of the State, the object of which is the erection on a plat of ground donated by the city some time ago of a suitable monument to commemorate the memory of the soldiers buried there. A design for the monument has been submitted and accepted. The base will be very heavy, the shaft handsomely executed, and the whole surmounted by a seven-foot figure of a soldier on guard. The association already has a membership of 250, all ex-soldiers and comprising many leading citizens who take a great interest in the enterprise.

—The Indiana Association of Jersey Cattle Breeders held their annual meeting at Indianapolis with a large attendance. Papers were read by a number of gentlemen and discussed at length. Colonel T. D. Curtis, of Chicago, presented a well digested paper on "Progressive Breeding." Officers were elected as follows: President, D. H. Jenkins, Indianapolis; Vice President, J. W. Stiger, Richmond; Secretary and Treasurer, T. A. Loyd, Indianapolis. Mrs. Kate M. Busick, of Wabash, heads the Executive Committee.

—The wife of the Rev. Wesley Meeks, of St. Omer, the man who was taken out of his house and severely whipped by a mob the other night for laziness, has evidently a good deal more pluck than he has, for she has armed herself and hung on the outside of her house a placard signed by herself, in which she declares that her husband shall not do a lick of work before next spring, and that if the "Knights of the Switch" pay them another visit they will meet with a warm reception.

—The 12-year-old daughter of John Ferrer, of Seymour, in passing along the edge of a bluff on her way home from school, slipped and rolled down the declivity, a distance of 200 feet. One of her thighs were broken and her body was torn and bruised in the descent, and she lay exposed to the storm for an hour, before her two little brothers, her companions, could secure assistance. She can hardly recover.

—Charles McCauley, a Chicago and Atlantic Railway fireman in the passenger service, whose parents reside in Huntington, was killed at Kenton, O. While the train was running at terrific speed the side rod of the locomotive broke, the broken rod demolishing the cab and killing McCauley. The engineer escaped injury.

—Richard Hance, of Prairie Township, Tipton County, while out hunting was attacked by a large eagle of the bald species and succeeded in killing the bird, but not until he was bleeding and had been scratched pretty freely. He says the eagle attacked him unawares and was the largest one of the kind he had ever seen.

—While Policeman Cavanaugh, of Washington, was pursuing a young tough, named Abbott, who was trying to evade arrest, the former shot and severely wounded Abbott. The bullet lodged in the left side, but could not be found by the physician.

—Patents have been granted Indiana inventors as follows: William B. Henning, Waterloo, railway tie; William H. A. Spaulding, Peru, adjustable grate for stoves; John F. Thompson, New Castle, spittoon and securing the same.