

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 country, 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 ingenuous letter of invitation.]

"This is the reply I sent," said the Major:

STATE GRANGE 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 13th 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 provoke 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 governed 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 cheapened 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 products 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 5% 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 tariff protection lies east of Indiana, and it produces enough food to supply its own wants, while we have to pay 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 to say a few things? I read with much interest your comments on my talk to the Ford County farmers. You endorse 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 necessary.

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. Lockouts 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.

L. D. WHITING.

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's News*.

REDUCE THE TAXES.

Editor Watterson Enthusiastically Endorses 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 to-night." 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. Some have the impression has been conveyed to me that I am exercising a high and enterprising spirit in 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 is the message—the President's message. The outlook is most encouraging. Considering how the painted harlot of protection is whistling to keep her courage up as she stalks through the graveyard of false vows and broken promises, has made me anxious for the people. I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing clears the political atmosphere like plain speaking out in meeting, I have given the administration and the country the best the shop people, I should call it assured. For more than a year my fear has been that we might not be in advance of our national convention to close ranks and move in solid column against the enemy on distinct lines of our own deliberate choosing, and as I believe that nothing