

POVERTY PAYS THE TAX

INEVITABLE EFFECTS OF THE MCKINLEY BILL.

Heaviest Duties Laid on Cheapest Goods—A Prohibitory Tax on Some Lines—All Classes of Goods Will Be Higher—Chicago Jobbers Interviewed.

[From the Chicago News, Ind.]

It is the opinion of most of the Chicago wholesale men that the McKinley bill will not seriously reduce the volume of their business, but all agree that the higher tariff will make all classes of goods dearer for the consumer. Especially is this true of woolen and linen fabrics, cutlery, and tin goods. Other lines will feel the effects of the bill in a less degree. But as the chief items of domestic expense are concerned with these heavily taxed goods the evil results of the bill are expected to be sufficient to create no little distress in the humbler class of consumers. That the bill will pass seems to be conceded. More than that, it is anticipated that the bill will be put into effect at the earliest possible date to shut out large importations that may be attempted before the bill becomes a law.

MR. WALKER'S OPINION OF THE BILL. "The effect of the bill will be to make enormously rich a few already rich manufacturers," said James H. Walker, the wholesale dry goods dealer. "While, doubtless, no discrimination against the poor man was intended, he will most feel the bad effects of the bill. It offers a larger protection to the manufacturers who make articles in imitation of foreign importations and these articles are consumed by the poor people. In every instance the cheaper grade of goods is compelled to pay a higher tariff and in the end the consumer pays it. We will sell as many goods as before, but we'll get more for them. The bill raises the tariff on cheap pearl buttons, none of which are made in this country, from 25 per cent. to 304 per cent. Isn't that robbery? Some manufacturer probably thinks he wants to make these buttons and the bill provides for him. Then there is the case of the linen tariff, familiar to the public in recent discussions. One rich manufacturer only makes linen goods in this country and he only makes \$1,000,000 worth a year. He hasn't increased his plant since he began the business. We import \$20,000,000 worth of linens and pay \$7,000,000 in duties. The McKinley bill makes the duty \$12,000,000 a year and makes it operative for fifteen years—\$180,000,000 taxes to protect one man. Is anybody legislating to double your salary? I think not, yet that is the effect of this bill for the linen manufacturer.

THE PEOPLE WILL WIPE THE WRONG AWAY.

"No great wrong is ever righted until the burden becomes so oppressive that the people arise and wipe it away. It looks like Providence was driving these men to desperate measures to overwhelm them. Every Congressman who voted for this bill ought to be relegated to obscurity, especially the Western men, who know they do not represent their constituents. What shall we think of a man like Butterworth, who makes a speech pointing out the evils of the bill and then votes for it. The talk about protecting labor is a fallacy. Free labor is the best paid, and protected labor will not secure any increase of wages commensurate with the cost of the articles the laboring man consumes. Here is the instance of 'cut' hose. The imported article is much superior to the American manufacture, which has a heavy seam injurious to the feet of those who wear hose. The McKinley bill will keep the imported article out of the country, and the laboring classes will have to wear the American goods."

TIN-PLATE AND CUTLERY RATES. Charles D. Seeburger, of A. F. Seeburger & Co., has made a study of the effects of the bill on hardware.

"The worst effects of the bill," said Mr. Seeburger, "will be felt by the consumers of tin goods, cutlery, and guns. The tariff on some classes of these goods is in effect prohibitory. Tin roofing will be increased 15 per cent. in cost. The bill will not make the wages of miners higher because pig tin is free of duty. Tin-plate can't be made satisfactorily in this country, but the imported article is to be kept out by the high rate of duty. It will increase the cost of tin goods and render still less profitable the already unprofitable trade of the tin dealers. The cost of the tin can is already too large a portion of the cost of can products, and this bill will make it larger.

"Only the cheaper grades of pocket cutlery are imported, and the McKinley bill prohibits the importation of these goods. Nobody is benefited except a few American manufacturers. Knives that cost now \$36 a gross will cost under the new bill \$48 a gross. Five patterns of knives made in this country alone can be manufactured here for \$42.98 a gross. These knives, made at Sheffield, England, would cost \$46.82, and landed in New York, duty paid, \$64.30. The bill may cause some decrease in our sales, but we do not anticipate any serious falling off in our business. The people must have our goods, and they will have to pay more for them."

SENATOR FARWELL'S PARTNER TALKS. Mr. J. K. Harmon is a member of the firm of J. V. Farwell & Co., of which Charles B. Farwell, one of the Illinois Senators, is a member. Mr. Harmon has made a study of the bill.

"The McKinley bill will raise the prices of all our goods," said Mr. Harmon. "It will raise the prices of woolens and linens more than cottons, but will make everything dearer. This bill lays more specific duties than any other tariff measure, and specific duties always increase the prices on lower grades of goods. The poorer people who buy them will feel the tariff more than the wealthier class."

"Will the laboring people get enough more in wages to compensate for these increased prices?"

"We can't tell what the result of passing the bill will be until we have tried it, but I think the laboring people will not be benefited as much as the manufacturers. The poor will have to buy a poorer grade of goods than they have been buying and pay just as much for them. The rich will have to pay more for what they buy, but proportionately less than the poor, for the tariff will not be as high on the better grade as the lower class goods. I think nearly as many goods will be sold as now are. The people have got to be clothed. In some instances, of course,

the poorer people may wear their clothing longer and do with less, but these people are not numerous."

HOW WE ARE TAXED.

[From the Chicago Herald.]

No tinned plate is at present produced in this country, although block tin, the primary necessity for its production, is admitted free of duty. It is an article that is produced almost exclusively in Wales, where there are ninety-five works, embracing about four hundred mills, devoted to its production. Tinned plate, as now made under the late improved methods, consists of the very best quality Bessemer and Siemens Martin steel, the sheets being cold rolled, pickled and annealed and rolled to twenty-nine and thirty wire gauge, cut to exact size, coated with block tin, polished and packed in oak boxes and delivered free on board the steamer at English shipping ports, and for this article the maker at present prices receives less than three cents per pound, boxes included. The same quality of steel sheets, without the cutting to size, coating with tin, packing or boxing, or delivering free on steamer, costs to-day from our American manufacturers, after their more than forty years' experience, four cents per pound or more.

In other words, with inexhaustible stores of every component of tinned plate, with unrivaled facilities for its manufacture, and consuming far more than all the rest of the world combined, we are forced to import all the tin plate used, because our protected manufacturers of iron and steel combine together and charge a cent more per pound for the steel sheets (making 95 per cent. of the bulk) than the finished tinned plate costs in New York duty free. Now they propose to have the Government raise the duty on foreign-made tinned plates, so as first to control the market themselves and then be subsidized \$14,000,000 a year for supplying the demand.

As the tariff now stands, a dairyman pays 8 cents more for each "15-quart pan," 4 cents more for each "10-quart pan," and 45 cents more for each "40-quart can" than if there were no tariff, and the price of other articles is, of course, in proportion; while if the McKinley bill should become a law he would have to pay 17 cents more for each pan, 9 cents more for each can and \$1 more for each can than if he were not "protected." On these items each farmer can figure out for himself how much he is directly taxed on the average on the amount of tinware he uses annually in his dairy or for other uses in his house or on his farm. The amount will be more than he at first thinks, since purchases of these articles are frequent; and without carefully adding them up for some definite period, such as a year, or taking a complete inventory outside of the house as well as in it, few will realize how much tin plate they consume.

The tariff on tin thus consumed generally by the dairy farmer is, however, not the only oppressive burden levied upon him by the tinned plate tariff. The articles named are repeatedly used, and the cost of their wear cannot easily be traced to its exact effect upon the price of any one product. But with other articles this can be done. Take the instance of tinned pails used for packing butter for transport and for sale in twenty-five-pound and other packages. They are so much lighter, cheaper, and more convenient than the wooden firkins, tubs, and pails formerly used that they are an absolute necessity, and, whether or not their weight is included in that of the butter paid for, it is certain that the dairy farmer does not get more for his butter on account of the extra cost to him on each package caused by the tariff. Calculating, as before, this extra cost is found to be 6 cents on a twenty-five-pound package. That is to say, the dairy farmer's butter would net him on the average 0.25 cents, or 1 per cent. more per pound if tinned plate were free.

Adolph Oehme, an intelligent farmer at Brainard, Neb., has figured up how much tariff taxes have cost him in a year. He has done more or less trading at the village stores, and, of course, has paid protection prices for everything he had to buy. The following is his account for the twelve months:

	Amount	tariff on same.
720 pounds sugar.....	\$18.25	4.41
10 gallons molasses.....	9.50	2.38
22 pounds woolen goods.....	35.72	8.93
Dry goods (cost \$89).....	20	5.00
10 pounds chocolate, etc.....	50	12.50
5 pounds mustard.....	2.50	0.63
42 pounds rice.....	16.00	4.00
8,000 feet lumber.....	22.80	5.70
Machinery (cost \$37).....	55	13.75
Salt, 400 pounds.....	1.20	0.30
1 barrel lime.....	1.20	0.30
3 boxes soap.....	2.50	0.63
Medicine (cost \$10).....	3.20	0.80
Binding twine (cost \$8).....	20.52	5.13
Saddlery, etc. (cost \$88).....	8.55	2.14
Boots and shoes (cost \$28.50).....		

Total tariff on purchases.....\$142.02

In this way Mr. Oehme figures out that the tariff compels him to pay each year \$142.02 more for goods which he requires than they would cost were the tariff removed. This he calls his "indirect" tax, and by comparing it with the direct tax which he pays his county, city and State he finds this to be the case:

Tariff tax—indirect.....\$142.02

City, county, and State—direct.....76.82

Difference.....\$65.20

And thus Mr. Oehme figures that he is paying indirectly a tax which is almost twice as large as his direct tax, and his tax is filched from him little by little in the shape of living expenses that make it hard to make both ends meet. Were all the farmers as smart as Mr. Oehme, there would be a speedy end of the protection system.

An importer who has been figuring on crockery ware and the new tariff shows that McKinley asks the American workman to pay \$21,600,000 for \$8,000,000 worth of crockery. Mr. Butterworth says it will take \$50,000,000 or more to put the wet-nursed tin-plate industry on its feet, and that the copper barons have declared sixty millions of dividends on an investment of a million and a quarter. Naturally this is an age of millionaires, but the people who deal in seven-figure fortunes must be further "encouraged."

"Give me free ore," said the President of the Pennsylvania Steel Company a short time since, "and I'll sell pig iron in Liverpool and send steel rails to London. What American industries most want is free opportunity, and not legislative protection, nor restriction."

This positive assertion by the Presi-

dent of one of the largest and most successful steel plants in the United States, if not in the world, is much more convincing than are the opinions of high-tariff theorists who are protectionists for party politics only.

To show how badly some of the proposed beneficiaries of the McKinley bill need protection, read this extract from the last report of William Whitman, President of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, to the stockholders of the Arlington Mills. It is dated March 29, 1889.

"I have been your Treasurer for a consecutive period of twenty years. During this period the average earnings have been 20-8-10 per cent. upon the capital. * * * The earnings last year were nearly three and a half times those of the year previous, and there is every indication that the current year will be the most profitable one in the company's history."

Decline of Farming.

The farming interest is the great foundation interest of our country, and though it is that on which we most depend, and which of all others ought to have "protection," it is that which is being gradually taxed to death by our "tariff," not for the sake of raising the necessary expense of the government, but to put money into the pockets of those engaged in other interests and to roll up immense sums in the national treasury which are but a temptation to politicians and which lead to a thousand needless, if not injurious, expenditures.

During the ten years from 1880 to 1890 the increase of value of our farms was \$3,373,000,000, or over 10 per cent. yearly; while for the twenty years from 1860 to 1880 it was only \$3,374,000,000, or about 2 1/2 per cent. yearly. In New England, farming, as a business, is well nigh a thing of the past; and even in Pennsylvania—Lancaster County, which used to be called the "Garden of the State"—farming does not pay, and farms are selling for less than half what they did thirty years ago. Illinois was formerly one of the profitable farming States; but only last month, when at the annual meeting of the Swedish Lutheran Church, at Rockford, a resolution was proposed thanking God for the general prosperity of the last year, it was defeated by the farmer delegates, who denied that there had been any prosperity to the farming interests of the State.

Prosperity there is in the country—prosperity to manufacturers, and mining, and railroads, and capitalists, but the crone of wealth is at the expense of the farming interests, which, under our tariffs, are taxed 40, 50 and 60 per cent. on the very articles needful for their families, or for conducting the business of farming, while many of the large moneyed interests of the land are taxed only some 10 or 12 per cent., thus widening the space between labor and capital, making the rich richer, and the poor poorer, and so gradually undermining the very foundation of our permanent prosperity as a nation.

If the farmers do not wake up to these facts and make themselves felt by their votes—if they do not sustain that party, whichever it may be, that will modify these tariff exactions, and equalize the taxes that are now so burdensome to themselves, they will suffer for their indifference to their own interests and can hardly expect the sympathy of those who would gladly rejoice in their prosperity. —Detroit Free Press.

Enormously Enhanced Duties on Cutlery.

Here is a protest from the St. Louis dealers in cutlery which shows how the price of various necessities in that line are to go up under the influence of the McKinley tariff:

On pocket-knives, 100 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 50 per cent., as now.

On razors, 75 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 50 per cent. as now.

On carving and cooks' knives, 70 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 35 per cent. as now.

On table cutlery, 50 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 35 per cent. as now.

On butcher-knives, 55 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 35 per cent. as now.

On scissers and shears, 45 per cent. ad valorem, instead of 35 per cent. as now.

The heaviest burden in each case is put on the cheapest goods.

On pocket-knives the duty runs as high as 132 per cent.

On razors the duty runs as high as 100 per cent.

On carving-knives the duty runs as high as 99 per cent.

On table cutlery the duty runs as high as 70 per cent.

On butcher-knives the duty runs as high as 65 per cent.

These rates, say the dealers, are in nearly all cases prohibitory, and would, if enacted, shut out grades and patterns not made in this country, and which are largely bought by working people. They further say that "there is no good reason for the advance, and it is evidently made with the intention of benefiting a comparatively small class of the manufacturers, to the disadvantage of the toiling masses." As a matter of fact, the entire bill seems to have been shaped upon that policy. It is purely a class measure, and if made law will itself make the cost of living higher in the United States than in any other country on the face of the earth, although there is no other half so rich in natural wealth or in the variety of the necessities of life.

The Greatest Curse.

The greatest curse that has ever afflicted this land, slavery not excepted, has been the "protective system." But for that, instead of having our industries confined to cities, driven by machinery attended by serfs, and owned by purse-proud monopolists, we should have had small industries scattered all over the land, with machinery used as an adjunct to hand labor and not its dominant power. —Ypsilanti Sentinel.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Engineering and Building Record thinks that rats gnaw lead water pipe to sharpen their teeth, and not for the purpose of making a hole through which to pass, or to get water. Hereafter plumbers may consider these rodents as valuable assistants, and possibly charge for their time.

INDIA INK is made from burnt camphor. The Chinese are the only manufacturers of this ink, and they will not reveal the secret of its manufacture.

AFFAIRS IN INDIANA.

INTERESTING ITEMS GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

What Our Neighbors Are Doing—Matters of General and Local Interest—Marriages and Deaths—Accidents and Crimes—Personal Pointers.

Killed to Save Himself.

The Governor has pardoned John Nixon, a life man in the Northern Penitentiary, from Boone County, who has served ten years, on the recommendation of the presiding judge at the trial, the prosecutor, and the jury. The latter stated in its recommendation that in the jury-room when the members agreed upon a verdict, it was also agreed to recommend his pardon after he had served seven years. Nixon was sent up for killing a man named Mulligan, who enticed him to a secluded spot and attempted to murder him, and in defending himself Nixon plunged a knife into Mulligan's body. At the trial the Court told him if he would plead guilty he would give him ten years, but Nixon refused, saying he had committed the deed only to save his own life, and when the jury returned a verdict with a life sentence Judge Terhune set it aside and ordered a new trial, over which Judge Suit presided, and which resulted in a similar verdict with the result as above related. During his imprisonment Nixon lost his right arm in the machinery of the institution, and now starts life anew at a disadvantage.

Ground to Death.

Albert G. Hoffman, switchman in the yards of the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad at Huntington, was killed by cars. He was employed at night, and went to the coal dock to run down two cars that had been unloaded there. The track was very much inclined leading from the dock, and it requires that the brakes be set very tight. When the cars started down the track Hoffman ran from the rear end to the front of the head car to set the brake, but in doing so stubbed his toe and fell from the car to the middle of the track beneath. The car was running rapidly, and no sooner did he strike the track than a brake beam of the car struck his right leg near the hip, fracturing the bones and bruising it otherwise. That threw him over, and the flange of a wheel struck the lower part of his back, tearing the flesh all off clear to his backbone, exposing it to sight. It was a sickening looking wound, and he lived but a short time.

Minor State Items.

A six-foot vein of coal was struck at Scottsburg, at a depth of 300 feet, while boring for gas.

The grip is paying a second visit among the residents of Mill Creek Township, Putnam County.

Colored people of Henry County held an indignation meeting over the acquittal of Lake on the charge of murdering Eli Ladd.

Prof. John C. Barrett, engaged during the past year in post-graduate work at Earlham, has been elected principal of the Muncie High school.

James Strawbridge was drowned in a pond south of Logansport while bathing. He was taken with cramps and went to the bottom before assistance arrived.

The engine of a special train going from Seymour to Jeffersonville, on the J. M. & L., struck a cow at Austin and was derailed. None of the cars left the track, and nobody was hurt.

While swimming in the Wabash, near the western city limits of Wabash, Maurice, the eleven-year-old son of Conrad Ragan, was drowned. The body was recovered three rods from where it sank.

A farmer living near Coatesville had nine valuable sheep killed by dogs one night recently, and on the following night the herd of another was attacked, but it was saved by timely action.

In digging a well at Springport, at a depth of thirty-seven feet a strong vein of water was struck, flowing eight and one-half feet above the surface of the ground. The water is clear as crystal and cold as ice.

The following, except the name, is a verbatim copy of a note sent by a very prominent citizen recently to a certain physician of Crawford County: "Doc, John Jones is very bad and if you think it worth while I believe he will die."

Two women, Doan Nichols and Mrs. Shetterly, were arrested at Muncie on the charge of abducting Meda Waters, aged 17, to Indianapolis for immoral purposes. Miss Waters' father brought her back, but filled with remorse, the young girl took strychnine and died. Mr. Waters is determined to punish the women.

The community living around Sim Coy's Road House, east of Indianapolis, objecting to Sunday base-ball, are preparing to file twenty-five cases against Coy in the Criminal Court, on information, for failure to take out a city retail liquor license under the law which gives the city jurisdiction over liquor establishments within two miles of its corporate limits. At the same time information will be lodged against the street car company, of which Mr. Shaffer, President of the Y. M. C. A., is the controlling force, in an equal number of cases, for alleged overloading of cars in conveying passengers to and fro between the city and Coy's Park.

--Willis Cook, of Jeffersonville, was fatally crushed beneath a falling grindstone.

Miss Agnes Hasfader, a handsome young lady of Columbus, alarmed her friends by taking a dose of morphine with suicidal intent. She has been keeping company with a young man named Behrman, to whom she was engaged to be married. From some cause the lover has grown lukewarm in his love-making, and the girl grew very despondent and attempted to end her sufferings with poison. Prompt action by two or three physicians saved her life. The girl bears a good reputation.

The leading farmers of Allen, Noble, Whitley, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Lagrange, and Henton counties were in session in Fort Wayne, to organize a new Farmers' Alliance. They were addressed by Newton V. Ashley of Iowa, National Organizer, on the near relation and common interests of the agricultural classes and the Knights of Labor. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, together with a number of resolutions expressive of the sentiment of the meeting on public issues. Officers were also elected: J. C. Lawrence, of Whitley County, Secretary; and W. A. Kelsey, of Allen County, Secretary; and Thomas L. McKee, of Allen County, Treasurer. The meeting was an enthusiastic one.

A sad case of drowning occurred near Franklin, in which a young man lost his life while saving that of a boy. On the farm of William Smith is a large fish pond, in which a boy by the name of Gaylor was bathing. While in deep water he was seized with cramps, and was apparently in a drowning condition, when his cries brought to his assistance a son of Mr. Smith, a young man of about twenty-two years of age, who immediately jumped into the pond and succeeded in bringing Gaylor to the bank, where he was assisted out by others attracted to the scene. Smith, either from cramps or exhaustion, fell back into deep water and sank from sight. In risking his life for another he had lost his own.

Miss Lulu O'Keefe, of the College of Liberal Arts, Greencastle, had a remarkable experience with a needle, which she ran in her foot nine years ago. The young lady had endured no little pain in walking, the point of the needle having lodged against the pericostum, near the sole of the foot; but she could not summon courage enough to have it removed until the other day, when the operation was performed by Dr. G. C. Smythe in less time than it takes to tell it. The needle was three-fourths of an inch in length. It having lodged against the bone, was prevented from working its way through and out of the foot. The patient, when she recovered from the effects of the chloroform, was rejoiced beyond expression, nor did she experience the slightest pain.

Elizabeth Coward, of Martin County, and Kate Young, of Vigo, both serving terms in the Female Reformatory for grand larceny, made a daring escape from the institution the other morning, and are still at large. They worked in the laundry department, and secured two sheets each, which they wrapped about their persons, and thus concealed themselves from the Superintendent. They also secured a couple of case knives, and with these sawed out two of the iron bars that form a part of the grating at the windows. They then let themselves down with the sheets, and succeeded in scaling the wall which surrounds the prison. They are armed with the knives, and it is not believed that they can be retaken without a struggle.

The case of Hosea against the White Caps has ended. April 11, 1890, David Hosea was taken out of his house in Barr Township, Daviess County, by eight masked men and flogged with hickory switches. April 7, John McGrath was arrested for attempting to buy the vote of David Hosea, Jr., and on the night of April 10, William Seals' barn was burned. Now, when the White Caps took Mr. Hosea from his bed, they charged him with burning the barn and also threatened to whip the old man because his son had McGrath arrested. In the face of these facts Mr. Hosea believed William Seals, John McGrath, Patrick McGrath, Samuel Brewer, and Charles Gough to be his persecutors and accordingly filed an affidavit against them. At the trial, held recently, each defendant proved an alibi, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

The establishment of Swift & Co., Chicago, of a local depot in Fort Wayne, for the sale of Chicago dressed meats, has well nigh ruined the business of local butchering establishments and made the raising of beef cattle by farmers profitless. Nearly all beef now supplied to retailers is sold by Swift & Co. As an offset to this monopoly, a movement is now on foot and will be carried out to form a stock company among the local butchers for the establishment of stock yards at a point east of the city, at which all kinds of live meat will have a ready market at current prices and where they will be slaughtered by the newest and most approved methods and sold to local dealers as dressed meats without the cost of railroad transportation and with the advantage of home inspection and the freshness that will come by the saving of extra handling and long railroad transportation. The names of the incorporators of this enterprise will soon be made public.