

## SPRINGER TO FARMERS.

### HE TELLS WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE FARMERS.

The Great Depression that He Found in New York State and His Explanation of It—Why the Home Market Fails to Make the Farmer Prosperous.

I have been talking to the farmers this week in regard to the effect that the tariff has upon them, and I will endeavor to point out some things which came under my observation. I found they were very attentive to their business, and I have been greatly surprised to find so much agricultural depression in the rural districts. The values of the farms have depreciated within the last five, ten, or fifteen years one-half on the average, sometimes much more. Numerous instances were pointed out to me showing that farms sold under mortgage brought only one-third and even one-fourth of their value some years ago. Farms are heavily mortgaged as a rule, and I was informed by a gentleman in Broome County, N. Y., that of the farm mortgages foreclosed there were not five per cent. of them that sold for enough to pay the debt, in other words, the mortgagor had to take the farm for less than the amount of the mortgage.

It is very important that the farmers should understand the cause of this depression. The leading Republicans are trying to discover some plausible reason outside of the effect of the protective tariff. Senator Warner Miller said a few days ago in a speech at Oswego that over-production was the cause of agricultural depression. Nothing could be further from the truth or more absurd, and every farmer knows that there is no over-production of his product. The reason is simply this: The farmers of the United States can produce more of the products of the farms than can be consumed in this country. The surplus must be sold abroad.

#### TARIFF LETTERS TO FARMER BROWN.

##### NO. 1.

The Meaning of Some Tariff Words.

DEAR FARMER BROWN: Your letter asking me to tell you all I can about the tariff is at hand. I need not tell you I am glad to know that you are interested in that subject, and that your son Joe, wants to know the meaning of "all this talk about the tariff, anyway."

One thing, though, at the start. We shall have to talk politics; or, rather, there shall be a division of the labor. I will do all the talking and you all the listening. Yes; we shall have to talk politics. We cannot do as a Farmers' Alliance in a Western State did. They met together not long ago to try to find out what is the matter with the farmer; but, as some of these farmers were Republicans and some Democrats, they agreed beforehand that there should be no talk about politics. When they ruled out politics, of course they ruled out the tariff, too; for, although the tariff is not at bottom a political question at all, it has unfortunately become such by the action of the two political parties, and you and I shall have to accept things as they are. Well, these farmers talked a long time about their depressed condition; one thought this was to blame and another thought that was at fault—all agreeing unanimously on one point—that there was a very big screw loose somewhere. These good farmers thought it was better to have harmony than to let anybody talk tariff in the meeting. Well, they got their harmony—all they bargained for—but after a fruitless discussion they prudently passed a resolution to the effect that they did not know what was the matter with them, and they went home.

I do not claim that the tariff is the only screw loose in the farmers' machinery, but I do know that the tariff screw is loose, and as you have asked me to tell you all I know about the tariff, I shall confine myself to that particular screw.

This letter I intend mainly for Joe as a sort of tariff A B C. We shall start right down at the stump; and as there are many other Joes in your county, I shall send a copy of this letter, and of all my letters, to the county papers, in order that these other Joes and the daddies of these Joes may read them too.

Now, then, after all this preliminary rubbish, we will teach Joe the tariff A B C. By this I mean the simplest terms that he hears in all this talk about the tariff anyway—such as per cent., ad valorem, duties, specific duties, and compound duties. Other expressions will be explained hereafter when we come to them.

The first thing for me to make plain is the expression per cent. The full form of it is per centum, which is a Latin expression meaning, "By the hundred." If you put it into dollars and cents it means precisely the same as the expression we hear so often, "so much on the dollar." A man fails and settles with his creditors, we say, "at so much on the dollar," or we sometimes say he pays a certain per cent. of his debts—and the two things are precisely the same in meaning.

Now let us apply this to the tariff. When the law says that a duty shall be so much per cent. the meaning is that the tax to be added to the first cost will be so much on the dollar. For example, the new tariff bill taxes common spectacles such as yours and old Auntie Brown's at 60 per cent. This means that when the New York merchant brings these spectacles into the country he has to pay the Government 60 cents on every dollar's worth of them. If, for example, he brings in \$100 worth of spectacles he will have to pay the Government \$60, making the total cost to him \$160.

Let us go a little further with these spectacles and see how the New York merchant will sell them. In calculating the money which he intended to make, he counts it by per cent. also. We will suppose that he set out to make 20 per cent. that is to say, 20 cents on the dollar. Twenty cents on the dollar, will be \$32, and he will have to sell his \$100 worth of spectacles for \$192. In this way each pair of spectacles will cost about three prices by the time they reach you.

Those duties which are counted at so much on the dollar are called "ad valorem" duties. "Ad valorem" is Latin, again, and means "according to value," just like "so much on the dollar." But most of the duties are not counted in this way; by far the larger part are what are called specific duties, that is to say, a certain fixed sum on each pound, bushel, gallon or yard. A duty of this kind looks simpler than an ad valorem duty, but if you do not know

the meaning of this fact: In France there is a duty on coffee of slightly less than 14 cents a pound; and the very same coffee that retails with us for 30 cents a pound is retailed at 44 cents in France. And yet there are so-called Republican statesmen who try to make people believe that the tariff is not a tax!

The manufacturers of morocco leather in Lynn, Mass., are having trouble with their labor, and all the shops are going to close for the present. These manufacturers are protected, but protection somehow has failed to make them happy in Lynn.

WILLIAM M. SPRINGER.

#### The Boom in New York.

It is reported that there is a great boom in the dry goods trade in New York. Many of the most prominent firms unite in saying that there has not been such an outlook for the immediate future in years.

Do they explain this as being caused by the prospective passage of the McKinley tariff bill? No, indeed! Out

the first price of any article by the pound, bushel, gallon or yard you are all at sea; you cannot tell whether the duty is high or low. For example, the new tariff bill puts a duty of \$2.75 a pound on leaf tobacco, if the stems have been removed. Now, if this tobacco costs \$5 a pound, \$2.75 would not be a very high duty under our present high tariff. But get the average price of this tobacco, and you have smooth sailing. The average price, as stated by the Senate committee, is 57 cents a pound. Now change this specific duty into an ad valorem duty, and we find that for every dollar's worth of this tobacco the buyer will have to pay a duty of \$4.81—or a total of \$5.81—instead of \$1, the first cost of the pound of tobacco. For \$100 worth, therefore, we would pay \$581.

Besides these two kinds of duties, there is a third called "compound duties," and this is a very wicked kind. It means that both kinds are put upon the same article; after the buyer has paid so much by the bushel, pound, or yard he has to pay so much on every dollar's worth; in other words, the duty is both specific and ad valorem, a cross-fire from two directions.

As an example let us take the new duty on the cloth from which women and children's dresses are made. This duty is 12 cents a yard and 50 per cent. ad valorem. Now, the average first cost of goods of this kind, as stated by the Senate committee, is about 20 cents a yard. Fifty per cent. of this would be 10 cents, then adding the 12 cents a yard we get 22 cents, and the yard costing 20 cents is made by the tariff to cost 42 cents. On every dollar's worth, therefore, the duty is slightly more than 110 per cent. In other words, when a merchant buys \$100 worth of such goods the total cost will be \$210.33.

Of course he is compelled to charge this increased price up to his customers, and it goes on along the line till it reaches the women and children who wear the cloth, and there the head of the family pays the whole bill finally. No more shifting down the line then. That will do for the present. Watch for next. Yours truly, RICHARD KNOX.

Blaine's Brilliant Foreign Policy.

Mizner, the United States Minister to Guatemala, is a Jim Blaine sort of a diplomat. He evidently took the Secretary of State at his word, and made up his mind to give the United States a spirited foreign policy, so far as Central America was concerned. He has been involved in scandal ever since he reached his post, and he is now in danger of losing his life.

Mr. Blaine has a paternalistic and adventurous policy as to Central and South America which takes no thought of the independence or the pride of the republics to the south of us. He would marshal them into line and make them our satellites. He would quarter his friends upon them, and when they got their arms into the spols up to their elbows he would send such choice diplomatic messages as that which Minister Hubbell in Peru received from him in 1881, viz.: "Go it, Steve!" He would boss the continent and, if war came, he and his contractor friends would profit by it as they did from 1861 to 1865.

Mr. Mizner went to Guatemala thoroughly impressed with Mr. Blaine's brilliant foreign policy and has sought to carry it out. He has forced this country to make one humble apology already and now he has managed to get a man killed on an American ship where he had sought refuge, and probably we will be compelled to pay a big indemnity for that. Heretofore Mr. Blaine's dazzling foreign policy has been largely in your eye, but Mr. Mizner has given us an ocular demonstration of its real nature.—Chicago Herald.

Why He Left the G. O. P.

Mr. W. F. Neat, of Kentucky, a Republican ex-State Senator, has deserted the G. O. P. He is proud of having been a Republican, who voted for Abraham Lincoln for President, and for every other Republican candidate since his election," but now Mr. Neat finds McKinley too heavy a burden to be borne, and so he shakes off the tariff dust from the soles of his shoes forever. He says: "I am opposed to fostering and building up monopolies. I am opposed to the McKinley tariff bill, gotten up, as the report of the hearings before the Ways and Means Committee clearly shows, in the interest of the capitalists and against the common people. I am opposed to legislation under the guise of protection so fraught with evil to the country that Secretary Blaine, a protectionist, became alarmed.

McKinley Not a Hero, but a Dupé.

McKinley is the creature and tool of a gigantic conspiracy against the United States. He is not a hero. He is a dupe. He is not even the author of the conglomeration of selfishness and plunder that is known by his name. It bears the finger-marks of all the monopolists in the country. It was cooked up by them in the room of the Committee on Ways and Means, where no man appeared for the people and where there was no pretense that the measure was other than spolies and plunder. The Ohio Democrats who gerrymandered him into a Democratic district dignified a weak sister by giving him an opportunity to raise the cry of persecution. That is all there is in McKinley.—Chicago Herald.

Who Is Favored?

Some years ago the salt makers in Western New York State asked for protection and it was given to them. This protection enabled them to make such handsome profits in the home market that they could afford to sell their salt at lower prices in Canada than in the United States. For some years Canadian farmers bought New York salt at lower prices than New York farmers living a mile from the salt works.

The same thing is still true of many of our protected manufactures, especially of our farm implements. It is proved beyond all doubt that our plows, harrrows, horse-rakes, in fact, all farm machinery, is sold at much lower prices abroad than at home. This fact is admitted by manufacturers themselves.

If anybody doubts whether the tariff is a tax, let him reflect upon the meaning of this fact: In France there is a duty on coffee of slightly less than 14 cents a pound; and the very same coffee that retails with us for 30 cents a pound is retailed at 44 cents in France. And yet there are so-called Republican statesmen who try to make people believe that the tariff is not a tax!

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## HOOSIER HAPPENINGS.

### INCORPORATIONS OF A WEEK IN THIS GLORIOUS STATE.

Run Over by the Cars—Wicked Thieves—The Science Healer—Carved with a Razor—A Supposed Murder Mystery—A Naughty, but Handsome Hunsucker.

Hoosier Editors.

The following officers were chosen by the Northern Indiana Editorial Association in its session at Maxinkuckee:

President—E. A. Jernigan, Mishawaka Enterprise.

First Vice President—W. A. Beane, Goshen Democrat.

Second Vice President—J. W. Baker, Columbia City Commercial.

Secretary—E. G. Thompson, Ligonier Leader.

Corresponding Secretary—Louis McDonald, Plymouth Democrat.

Treasurer—C. O. Musselman, Knox Ledger.

Executive Committee—Q. A. Hossler, Daily Times, Warsaw; J. B. Stoll, Times, South Bend; W. K. Sheffer, News, Kendallville; Harry Francis, Appeal, Michigan City.

The next session occurs at South Bend in June next year.

Minor State Items.

Old settlers meet at Goldsmith.

Terre Haute signs for a good big public hall.

State convention of Universalists was held at Muncie.

The swindler with the patent bang trigger worked Tipton.

The number of "best county fairs in the State" is remarkable.

Chas. Roberts, at Eaton, is under arrest for horse stealing.

George Ulmer, of Medora, died from injuries inflicted by a horse's kick.

Workman's proficiency has hoodwinked the waterworks well at Union City.

Andrew Haskett acquitted of murder in Silas Stillman, at Seymour.

A gas well flowing 6,000,000 feet per day has been drilled near Lebanon.

Burglars got \$300 from the safe in Frank Thomas' saloon at Columbus.

John H. Alvey has eloped with Sarah Atchison, a married woman of Marion.

New \$10,000 home for theological students at DePauw University will be built.

A practical joker at Frankfort is putting eggs in the pockets of pedestrians.

LaPorte County's Treasurer has paid bounty on 4,320 woodchuck scalps since June 1.

Michael Haran, an aged resident of Seymour, was fatally injured while walking in his sleep.

Patrolman Boland has been discharged from the Muncie police force because of intoxication.

Daughter of John Holloway fell from a second story window at New Albany and was killed.

Anderson has a new nut and bolt company, with a capital of \$200,000, headed by L. S. Taylor.

Goshen is on the eve of securing a new industry which will give employment to about fifty hands.

Dr. E. B. Tilford's farm residence, near Burgerville, was burned. Loss, \$3,000; covered by insurance.

The Muncie Presbytery held a very profitable two days' meeting at the Presbyterian Church, Winchester.

Hugh Goodman, an employee at the blast furnace at Terre Haute, had both eyes burned out by molten metal.

Wife and daughter of Postmaster Bobbitt, of Eckert, caught measles from handling mail, and both are dead.

A fellow named Newkirk demanded royalty of Carroll County farmers on a wire fence. The farmers fired him.

James Culver, aged 101, was the oldest man present at the old settlers' and soldiers' reunion at Martinsville.

John Shilland's big barn, 2,000 bushels of wheat and several barns, burned near Winamac. Loss, \$9,000.

James Doan, of Cass County, was sandbagged in Logansport by foot-pads, and robbed of his watch and money.

John Eastman and a colored man were instantly killed by being struck by a passenger train No. 3 on the Big Four.

Going to make it sultry for physicians at South Bend who fail to report births, deaths and contagious diseases.

Maj. W. W. Carter, recently removed from the Insane Asylum at Indianapolis to his home in Brazil, has escaped and is now at large.

Large headed incendiary near Washington sets fire to barns by putting cheese in boxes of matches. Rats sets matches off going for the cheese.

Ernest Releliz, a freight brakeman sat down on the end of a tie at Fort Wayne, to rest, went to sleep and a passenger train passed. He will die.

William Reynolds, 50 years old, a prominent farmer of Miami County, has been arrested for attempted assault upon his niece, Belle Trippet, 16 years old.

Mrs. Anna B. Langaus, of Posey County, has filed suit for \$25,000 damages from the E. & T. H. Railroad. Mrs. Langaus was almost killed in a wreck.

William Kelley, who was the first baggage-master at the Union Depot at Terre Haute, and recently employed at the car works, was horribly mangled and killed by a switch engine.

A Mr. Oliver, of Crawfordsville, has been placed under a \$100 bond to keep the peace on account of his avowed intent to kill his wife because she has applied for a divorce.

Mrs. Sarah Johnson, of New Cory, lay down as usual Saturday night, Aug. 31, to go to sleep, but has failed to awaken since, despite the best efforts of physicians to arouse her. She sleeps and breathes naturally, and the peculiar freak of sleep is baffling the oldest physicians.

Atlas Clark, Warwick County, swore to the age of an eloping bride. He's been arrested by the girl's father for perjury.

Ida Hunsucker was sent to the Women's Reformatory from Seymour for perjury. She is handsome, aged 23, and well connected.

The farmers and Knights of Labor of Delaware County held a picnic at Muncie. About four thousand people were in attendance.

Gabriel Poindexter, aged 63, ex-Mayor of Jeffersonville, and one of the largest fruit growers in Southern Indiana, died at Bartel.

At Ladoga, John Peffly, a brickmason, fell from the house of John Knief, and broke his left leg and sustained internal injuries.

The melon crop of Jackson and other Southern Indiana counties proved very valuable this season. The hot dry weather has its advantages.

Kenneth, the 9-year old son of conductor Hendrix, while attempting to board a moving train at Fort Wayne fell under the wheels. Both legs were cut off.

A. U. Hamilton's barn, west of Waynetown, was burned by an incendiary, a valuable mare and colt perishing in the flames. Loss, \$1,510; insurance, \$400.

Andy Bowles slashed Sue Gordon to death with a razor, at Evansville, and escaped to Kentucky. Both colored. Sue was Andy's mistress and he was jealous.

The proposition to