

M'KINLEY PRICES.

THE FIRST FRUITS OF M'KINLEY'S TARIFF JOB.

What the New York Market Reports Show—The "Beneficences" of Higher Prices as Seen by McKinley—The False Promises of the Republican Committee.

Maj. McKinley, that curious specimen who believes that high prices are best for the country, should begin to wear a well-selected assortment of smiles. That statesman says that "it is only in order now to watch for the beneficence which the new tariff law is bound to work." If McKinley will look into the trade papers he will find that his Chinese-wall bill has already begun to work its "beneficence."

He will find that those "beneficences" are already coming in the shape of higher prices, just what McKinley has aimed at, for he has said himself: "We want no return to cheap times in our own country."

Let us look into only two of these trade papers, both of them protectionists—the New York *Dry Goods Economist* and the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*—which are the very highest authorities in their respective trades.

If Mrs. McKinley will look into the *Dry Goods Economist* she will find a comment on her husband's tariff law which ought to be of special interest to her. It is as follows:

duty, and in consequence has declined to 4½c for English and 3½c for German." The price in August for English was as high as 5c, and for German as high as 4c.

A reduction was made also of chloroform, but "chloroform prices have not been affected by the cut of one-half in the duty, the new rate being practically prohibitory."

McKinley goes about the country telling the people that the foreigner pays the tariff tax. Do these facts confirm his words? Moreover, the Republican National Committee are now sending out from Washington a campaign document in which the following remarkable assertions are made:

"All the Democratic talk about increased taxation to the people, is down-right falsehood."

"The customer will appreciate the existence of the new tariff law only by its results in the reduction of his necessary household expenses."

Do the above facts confirm the brilliant promises of the Republican National Committee? or do they show that committee to be prophets of falsehood? Even John Wanamaker knows more about these matters than the committee. He has issued an advertisement warning his customers that they would do well to buy his tinware before the tariff price is put on.

Even Wanamaker knows the tariff is a tax!

TARIFF LETTERS TO FARMER BROWN.

NO. 5.

Who Pays the Tariff Tax?

Dear Farmer Brown:

The first thing in this letter is to beg your pardon for putting such a foolish question at the top of it. It does not seem possible that anybody could doubt at this late day that the consumer of any article pays all the costs which have accumulated upon it on its way to him.

But some men are doubting it; or, at least, are teaching people the contrary while knowing better themselves.

One of these men has recently said that "by putting our duties on foreign products, the like of which we can produce in the United States, we make these competing foreign producers bear the burden and supply the revenue to the public treasury." The man who said this has a name which is familiar to everybody just now. His name is McKinley.

When a man of his prominence disseminates stuff like this it is not remarkable that many people of simple and honest minds are befuddled. As some of the readers of these letters have doubtless been led astray by such talk, I think it necessary to take up the subject here and expose the hollowness of Major McKinley's pretense that the foreigner pays our taxes.

McKinley, then, claims that the foreigner pays our tariff taxes. Before making my answer to him, let me call attention to the fact that McKinley makes this claim with no apparent sense of shame, which is quite remarkable for a man of his reputation for integrity. He seems to see nothing wrong in forcing foreigners to pay our taxes. One would expect to see an honest, self-respecting nation not simply paying its own taxes but taking scrupulous care not to lay the burden of them upon other nations, for a decent nation must at least be an honest nation.

Yet here is a leading American statesman, with prospects and ambition to be President, actually praising his tariff bill because it forces the foreigner, as he says, "to bear the burden and supply the revenue to the public treasury"—a smart Yankee trick, which, let me hope, Major McKinley would be far too honorable to practice in dealing with his fellow-citizens at Canton. Everybody says he is a most honorable man—how singular that he should be willing to place our Government in a situation which he himself would blush to occupy!

But let us come now to his claim that "the foreigner pays the tax." What answer is to be made to it?

I say emphatically, that McKinley does not believe it himself. That may seem a rough speech and may shock you; but listen a moment and I will convict him out of his own mouth.

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