

M'KINLEY PRICES.

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

What the New York Market Reports Show: The "beneficence" 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:

"It will be interesting to watch the effect of higher prices upon the popularity of the new tariff which has caused them. We shall soon hear from the consumer, and, in fact, already there are loud murmurs on every side. As a rule ladies are proverbially indifferent to politics, but when they find out, as they are now doing, that something has been done by the politicians which results in adding from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. to their dressmaker's and millinery bills, they fancy that we shall hear from the disenfranchised sex in tones that no judicious man will be likely to ignore."

The same paper prints a long article with the heading, "The Tariff and Prices—A General Advance All Along the Line." This article gives in some detail the advances in prices which have already been caused by the tariff bill, as stated by the merchants themselves. A large number of merchants were spoken with, and every one reported advanced prices as already in effect or as soon to be made.

Mr. John Claffin, who is a member of the great Republican firm of Claffins, reported that "woolens will advance about 10 per cent. on an average." Linens, said another merchant, had advanced on an average about 5 per cent., and buyers were more eager to purchase at this figure than dealers to sell. Still another merchant reported that dress goods for women were 10 to 15 per cent. higher. "The advance on velvets," he said, "is all the way up to 25 per cent., and so it is on the lowest grades of plushes." While there is this sharp advance on grades which only are in the reach of the poorer buyers, how is it when the rich come to buy? "There is, however, no advance on the finest qualities of velvets."

Another merchant said, "Dress goods have all gone up. Among the articles which have been most affected are gingham, which contain some silk. The price of these goods has gone up fully 50 per cent., the old duty being only 35 per cent. ad valorem, while under the new law they will have to pay 35 per cent. ad valorem and 10 cents per square yard."

Corduroys are a kind of goods in which nearly all country people are interested. One of these merchants said, "Low-priced corduroys will cost 40 per cent. more. The actual advance on corduroys and on velveteens this week has been 25 per cent." Another merchant said that worsteds had already gone up from 12 to 15 per cent. as the result of the increased duty.

These were all wholesale merchants. The retail trade, however, was also feeling the effect of higher prices. The article says: "Linen goods of every kind have advanced upward, also hosiery, underwear, etc. Ribbons are a cent or two higher on the standard goods."

The same paper reports that pearl buttons had advanced in price 25 per cent., and that an equal advance would be made later, all owing to the higher duty. The New York *Commercial Bulletin* shows that the price of these buttons had already been doubled before this 50 per cent. advance was decided upon. The full advance in price is therefore 150 per cent. In other words, a dollar's worth of pearl buttons will hereafter be sold for \$2.50. Buyers who object to these prices must remember that the good Maj. McKinley assures us that "when merchandise is cheapest men are poorest." It is well to remember here, too, that our President has said that "a cheap coat usually covers a cheap man." Of course cheap pearl buttons would go on cheap shirts, which would naturally be worn by poor men—or, as the President says, "cheap men."

The *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* is devoted to the trade indicated by its name, and is a defender of the protective system. In its first number after the tariff bill went into operation it printed the following items in its market reports:

"Phosphorus is 10 cents per pound higher, that being the extent of the increase of duty by the new tariff."

"Cod-liver oil, now that the new duty has gone into effect, is held for higher prices."

The lowest price in August was \$16.50; it is here quoted at \$17.75 to \$18 as the lowest figures.

Sugar of milk, which is used to make food for very young children, has felt the touch of the 8 cents per pound duty. Early in August the price was 18 to 23 cents per pound; the price has now jumped to 28 cents, while some dealers quote 30 to 35 cents.

"Bay rum is firm, \$2.25 being the inside price, while some dealers want \$3.25. The increased duty is the cause of the recent change in prices." The August price was \$1.00 to \$2.

Window glass, which has been made dutiable by McKinley, at a much higher figure on the largest sizes, and which has just come under the sway of the new window glass trust, is about to rise to a higher price. The paper here quoted says: "It is reported that all the large Western jobbers have been in Pittsburgh the past week, anxious to place contracts in anticipation of an early rise in values."

The McKinley bill reduces the duty on some articles, and it is interesting to note the immediate effect of such reduction. The paper just quoted says in its market reports:

"Hemp seed being advertised at a lower rate of duty, market prices have been reduced."

"Rope seed also pays a lower rate of

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

A reduction was made also on 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 downright 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. It 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 us hope, Major McKinley would be far too honorable to practice in dealing with his fellow-townsmen 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.

Let me call your attention to several passages in his speech in Congress last May in opening the tariff debate. In explaining the general provisions of the tariff bill, he said: "There has been for many years a provision in the law permitting the United States to import for its use any article free of duty." Then he explains what his committee did with that law: "This provision of law has been eliminated in the proposed revision, and if approved by the House and Senate and the President, the Government, its officers, agents, and contractors, will hereafter have to pay the same duties which its citizens generally are required to pay." In doing this the committee, he said, was actuated by the belief that "the laws which it imposes upon its own people and tax-payers should be binding upon the Government itself." [Applause.]

In other words, the people pay tariff taxes—why should not Uncle Sam do the same? Accordingly, the McKinley bill makes Uncle Sam pay tariff duties from one of his breeches pockets over into the other! And this is done in order that Uncle Sam may bear his part of the burden.

How delightfully amusing that McKinley did not see that the old gentleman loses nothing by paying the duties to himself! But, all the same, McKinley here "gives away" his case completely. The consumer pays the tax, and Uncle Sam must do the same, though he pay to himself.

This is enough of itself to prove my point that McKinley does not believe that the foreigner pays the tax. But there is a still more fatal admission in that speech of the Buckeye statesman. It is in reference to rebates, or drawbacks.

Here is his explanation of what the committee did:

"By way of encouraging exportation to other countries and extending our markets, the committee have liberalized the drawbacks given upon articles or products imported from abroad and used in manufactures here for the export trade. Existing law refunds 90 per cent. of the duties collected upon foreign materials made into the finished product at home and exported abroad, while the proposed bill will refund 99 per cent. of said duties, giving to our citizens engaged in this business 9 per cent. additional encouragement, the Government only retaining 1 per cent. for the expense of handling."

He has the Government, as you see, to pay back the duty on the raw material to the manufacturer in order to put him in a position to compete with foreign nations, by restoring him to the position where he would be if he had not paid the duty. But you see very clearly that the manufacturer is already in a position to

compete, and on an equal footing with his competitors in other lands, if it be true that the foreigner pays the duties on the raw materials which the manufacturer buys from him.

McKinley goes on to explain how beautifully his drawback will work in the matter of smelting ores, showing that by allowing ores to be admitted free into certain establishments, which are also bonded warehouses, great good will result. Here are his words:

"This, it is believed, will encourage smelting and refining of foreign materials in the United States and build up large industries upon the seacoast and elsewhere, which will make an increased demand for the labor of the country."

Certainly. By relieving the smelter of taxes which he says the foreigner pays. McKinley had a deep-laid scheme in all this. It was to rob the Democrats of the "free raw material" argument. See with what innocence he states the motive of his committee:

"It completely, if the provision be adopted, disposes of what has sometimes seemed to be an almost unanswerable argument that has been presented by our friends on the other side, that if we only had free raw material we could go out and capture the markets of the world. We give them now within one per cent. of free raw material, and invite them to go out and capture the markets of the world." [Applause.]

But there is another point in this remarkable speech which is equally fatal to McKinley's claim that the foreigner pays the tax. He says: "We have increased the duty, as I have already said, upon carpet wools, and that has necessitated an increase of the duty upon carpets themselves."

This is what is called a compensatory duty; that is to say, an increased duty on a finished article in order to compensate the manufacturer for the duty he paid on his raw material. Of course this is based upon the idea that the duty on the raw material has increased its cost precisely by the amount of that duty, which would be absurd if the foreigner paid the duty. The higher duty on carpet wool "necessitates," as McKinley says, the increase of the duty on the carpets themselves.

That is clearly one of his lucid moments when he recognizes the simple fact that the foreigner does not pay tariff tax.

Now, old friend, have I made good my case? Have I convicted him out of his own mouth? Either McKinley is an insincere man, or else he can crowd a greater number of inconsistent notions into his cranium than most men of his rank and station.

But this is enough; the Lord High Tariff-maker himself admits over and over again that the American people pay their own tariff taxes, and it would be needless for me to waste further words to prove so obvious a fact. Yours truly,

RICHARD KNOX.

A Domestic World's Fair.

It seems to be growing more and more certain that the Chicago World's Fair will be a United States Fair instead of a World's Fair. It was reported some time since by the London correspondent of the New York *Times* that "the McKinley bill had already made it certain that Europe would take no interest in the Chicago exhibition and would be practically unrepresented there."

Now the New York *Tribune*, the leading high-tariff organ of this country, prints a dispatch from Rome to the following effect: "The committee appointed to arrange for a proper representation of Italian art and industry at the international exhibition in Chicago in 1893 has dissolved, having decided that any further efforts to accomplish the work for which it was formed would be useless. It is stated the committee found that in view of the new United States tariff law few manufacturers or others were willing to send exhibits to Chicago."

This is only natural. Protection puts up barriers in the way of trade between nations, and the McKinley bill erects the highest barrier of this kind that the world has ever seen, except in the case of China before that country opened its ports to the world and modern civilization.

Merchants and manufacturers do not exhibit their goods at fairs merely to instruct and amuse the people. It is a simple business transaction; they want their wares to be seen by those who may become buyers. In other words, a World's Fair is meant to extend foreign trade—just the opposite purpose to that had in view by McKinley and his followers in passing their "domestic bill."

Accordingly we are to have a "domestic" fair, which does not mean that it cannot be a great and interesting exhibition, only it will not be a World's Fair.

The Tariff Booby.

Pennsylvania was happy when the McKinley bill was passed. At Harrisburg cannon were fired in celebration of the event.

The next thing in order was a visit to the State from the fat-fryers, to get money to elect McKinley. But the "fryers" struck a snag when they called on James B. Oliver, one of the rich "tariff barons" of Pittsburgh, and a prominent iron man. Oliver refused to be "fried."

"Why should we give anything toward McKinley? His bill didn't do us any good, but has injured us." The "baron" was in a spiteful mood because Carnegie was helped by the bill. "Carnegie will reap more benefit from the passage of the McKinley bill than any other manufacturer," said Mr. Oliver.

Carnegie came home recently from his coaching tour in Scotland. On the ship with him were many European delegates to the recent Iron and Steel Institute in New York. Mr. Frederick Starr, one of these delegates, says: "Andrew Carnegie came over with us in the *Servia*, and there was a current report on board that he had expected to make three-quarters of a million dollars during the next year by the increase in duties on imports."

Ivory buttons now pay a duty of 50 cents on the dollar, instead of 25 cents under the old law; and already the domestic manufacturers have raised their prices to within a fraction of the price of foreign buttons with the new duty added.

Yet we are told that the tariff is not a tax.

CHEAP pocket-knives pay a McKinley duty of about 90 cents on the dollar, while the finest qualities, such as cost \$20 a dozen, pay only 50 cents on the dollar.

McKinley encourages the poor man to buy expensive knives.

In the universal rise in prices it would be only reasonable that laborers, for whose benefit the high duties were said to be imposed, should get an increase in wages. Have they got it?

INFANT INDIANIANS

IS WHAT OUR HOOSIER NEWS MIGHT BE CALLED.

Struck by an Engine—Candidates for the Pen—Scarlet Fever Scare—Gone for Eleven Years—Wreck of a Freight Train, Etc.

—Brazil has a new coal company.

—Peru will have electric street cars.

—Terre Haute kids have scarlet fever.

—Lafayette wants better fire protection.

—The railroad depot of Covington burned.

—Chas. Young is in the jug for horse stealing at Fowler.

—Princeton now has a modern p. o. She's long needed it.

—Hilarious highwaymen chase Columbus street-car drivers.

—Charles Heiser married a gay young girl of 69 at South Bend.

—John Cunningham's farm-house, near Americus, was burned.

—Simon Fields is on trial at Goshen for the murder of Silas Dell.

—A fellow played the deaf and dumb racket on Frankfort citizens.

—Howard County sends John Grim to the pen two years for bigamy.

—Evangelist Francis Willard is settling people wild at Terre Haute.

—Thomas Conner, crushed while coupling cars at Greensburg, died.

—Carry Day, colored, celebrated her 100th birthday at Crawfordsville.

—Jacob Young, of New Ross, committed suicide by taking arsenic.

—Life Insurance Agent Dodd, New Albany, was waylaid and robbed.

—It's just awful how South Bend youths and maidens flirt in public.

—Thomas Shannon was buried by the cave-in of a gravel-pit, near Tipton.

—A freight was wrecked at Harrisburg, on the Monon. One man killed.

—Charles Marsh hung himself with a trace chain in a barn near Greenfield.

—John Freiling attempted to kill his wife and hang himself at Evansville.

—George Leggett's flouring mill at Cambridge City burned. Loss \$4,000.

—Barbara Ballen, Evansville, went upward by the "rough on rats" route.

—Charles Cone, head sawyer at Maley & Co.'s mill, at Sullivan, dropped dead.

—Highwaymen knocked Geo. Andrews down, near Muncie, and rifled his pockets.

—Music languishes at Richmond, and even the brass band has hypothecated its effect.

—John Cummins stole a sack full of glassware of Susan Williams, at Terre Haute.

—Carl Howard was run down and killed near Zionsville by a Big Four freight.

—W. H. Loutz & Co.'s safe was cracked at South Bend during the bright light of day.

—The trial of Ollie Graves, for the murder of John Bryant is in progress at Rockford.

—Over 10,000 tons of hay was burned by a conflagration in the marsh near Lacrosse.

—Monk Wilson, Peru, wants to "scrap" with Dick Keating, State's champion.

—Thomas Tallon's leg was broken in a fight with Julius Chomel, at a hotel in Seymour.

—John Pinnich has been sentenced for life from Dubois County. He murdered his cousin.

—Keen-scented Indianapolis detectives have abandoned the hunt for the Middleton shooters.

—James Mealey, of Laketon, concealed \$360 under his pillow, but a burglar found it.

—Survivors of the Eighth and Eighteenth Regiments held a reunion at Richmond.

—William Budd, a prominent farmer, was found dead in the street at Lebanon. Heart disease.

—John and Martin Driscoll were jailed at Winchester on the charge of cattle stealing.

—Charles Heiser, of South Bend, made a brutal assault upon Mrs. Rebecca Davis, aged 69.

—Fire destroyed the barn of the Indian school at Rensselaer, and five horses perished.

—Frank Cassidy, of Washington, fell from a freight train near Bloomington, and was killed.

—During a quarrel at Blankenburg, John Auer stabbed John Kohl, inflicting fatal wounds.

—Thomas Buler, near Brooklyn, has a big hole in his side. John Ware shot him instead of the quail.

—A Madison saloon is called "The Dump." The way it dumps drunks out on the sidewalks is a caution.

—Sullivan young folks have organized a "Little Annie Rooney Club." Mightn't it be called "Chestnut Club?"

—Muncie school houses are to be connected by telephone. They'll thrash kids with an electrical battering ram next.

—Tom Cotton, who shot and killed William Palmer at Shelbyville was sentenced to twenty-one years' imprisonment.

—William Hiatt and James Adams were sentenced to the penitentiary for four years for robbing farmer Jesse Gray at Madison.

—"Bricky" Hughes, a glass-blower of Peru, was arrested for wife-whipping; while awaiting trial he abused Dr. B. R. Graham. Graham thereupon walked into the court room and gave Hughes a tremendous beating.

—In 1876 Wm. Boll left his wife at Muncie, and no more was heard of him until a few days ago, when he returned to find his wife married again. Wm. shed a few tears, gave his property to his daughter, and has left, vowing never to return.

—Christian Steckart is missing at Michigan City.

—Banks of Evansville have formed a clearing-house.

—Peru people want a better stage in their opera house.

—Scarlet fever has closed up the Oak-town schools tight.

—The Knights of Pythias dedicated a new hall at Angola.

—Terre Haute can't build her police station—she's broke.

—Farm-house of A. T. Bowen was burned near Seymour.

—Col. Kritner fell on the street at Corydon. Leg broken.

—J. W. Hawkins, Marlon colored man, was killed by the cars.

—David Rapp is in the toils at Union City for alleged theft.

—Michael Delaney was cut in two by a train at Greensburg.

—The faculty of Hanover College have ordered students to cease smoking cigarettes.

—Capt. Daniel Bacon was dangerously injured by falling from a scaffold at North Vernon.

—William Hosteller, of Miami County, noted for enormous strength, died of la grippe, aged 90.

—One hundred and fifty delegates attended the convention of the Epworth League at Kokomo.

—Many homes have been built at Franklin through the means of building and loan associations.

—Sylvan Stokes, 16 years old, had his hand torn off and the bones ground to bits at a Madison woolen mill.

—Whitewater River has been well stocked with carp, and fish weighing ten pounds are frequently caught.

—Bush & Seifert's livery stable, a blacksmith shop and a couple of dwellings were destroyed by fire at Newburg.

—Evansville wants to be represented in the list of signal service stations, claiming that it is a "weather breeding" point.

—Clyde Lister, charged with larceny, sawed three bars from his window in the Boone County Jail, but was detected in time.

—Female clerks in the New York Shoe Store struck at Indianapolis because they had to go in and out at an alley door.

—Henry Lutz and wife are in the toils at Greencastle for alleged arson. It's said they burned their barn for insurance.

—John Bishop, a railway mail service employee, of Knightstown, was stricken with paralysis while on duty near Terre Haute.

—The quail law is out. Watch this column for mention of death to idiotic Hoosiers who pull guns through the fence.

—Dr. Ahwannaute, an Indian cancer doctor, was arrested at Liberty, charged with practicing medicine without a diploma.

—Two Valparaiso church members indulged in a game of poker. One raked the jack-pot and the other had him churched.

—Mrs. Alice Klankenship, of New Albany, in a fit of melancholy took arsenic. It required three doctors to bring her back to life.

—Maggie Twomey mysteriously disappeared from her Logansport home eleven years ago. She returned recently a raving maniac.

—Edward Morton, of Pendleton, while assisting another man to fell a tree, was badly injured by his partner's ax flying off the handle.

—Six cars were ruined and valuable freight was lost by the ditching of a train on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois near Lickerson.

—F. D. Merrill, a Chicago man, fell into the hands of John Record and Seth Lindsey, card sharps, at Kokomo, and was robbed of \$280.

—Fire destroyed the Levi Hiemann property at Warrenton, causing \$2,500 loss, and the residence of Harry Nensinger, with \$2,000 loss.

—M. T. Hancock's drug store, at Morgantown, was wrecked by dynamite. Saloons and drug stores fare alike at the hands of irate Morganiters.

—A carriage containing James O'Marra and Miss Graves was struck by an engine at a grade crossing at Terre Haute, and both were seriously injured.

—John Rice, Sr., of Crawfordsville, has received word that he is one of the heirs to \$40,000,000 left by his great-uncle in England. Oh, for a great-uncle.

—The Indiana Commandery of the Loyal Legion gave a banquet at Indianapolis, which was attended by many distinguished men. Gen. Lew Wallace presided.

—A committee representing the telegraph operators employed on the Big Four railway system has formally asked an increase of pay from Superintendent Peck. They may strike.

—Gertrude, the 14-year-old daughter of Jacob Bricker, of Muncie, was abducted by William Bright, a prosperous young farmer. Bright is 30 years old and had been paying some attention clandestinely to Miss Gertrude.

—When John H. Spencer had the remains of his father disinterred at South Waveland, for removal to another cemetery