

OLD FIGURES AND NEW.

"M'KINLEY PRICES" FOR ENAMELED AND GROUND GLASS.

An Advance of Forty to Seventy-five Per Cent.—The Village Home and McKinleyism—Hard Lot of the Importer is Free America.

The McKinley tariff law continues its work of raising the prices of the things that the people need. The purpose of the law being to do that very thing, the men who passed it are now finding new occasions to rejoice in its success.

A late case has just come to light that is of enamelled and ground glass. This glass is made from the plain sheets used for window glass by grinding figures upon it. There are two kinds of it: what is known in the trade as "clear" and as "obscure." The first is made by grinding figures in the plain, transparent sheets, and the eye can easily distinguish objects through it; the second is made by grinding one surface of the transparent sheet till it loses its transparency, and then the figures are ground upon this surface. The figures are usually squares or diamonds in ornamental designs.

This glass is used mainly for making glass doors in the interior of houses; and much of it goes into the cottages of people of modest means. Much of it is used in village and country houses. It is, therefore, an article which it is to the interest of our people to keep within the reach of their purses. They were paying 45 per cent tariff tax on this glass up to Oct. 6, but Maj. McKinley, having taken it into his head that "cheap and nasty go together," has put the duty enormously higher, and so the price of it has now become a regular "McKinley price."

A large New York dealer recently showed the writer some samples of this glass and gave him a table of the old prices and the "McKinley prices." The old prices here given are those which prevailed last July, and the "McKinley prices" took effect Nov. 19, or as soon as the stock of glass imported under the old tariff was sold out. The prices here given are the wholesale net prices per 100-foot cases.

Here is the table:

	Old McKinley price.	McKinley price.
Single, clear enamelled.	\$6.90	\$10.80
Double, clear enamelled.	8.70	15.00
Single, obscure.	8.70	12.60
Double, obscure.	10.00	16.00
Single, ground.	7.80	10.20
Double, ground.	7.80	13.80

The cause for these higher prices was explained by the dealer to be the new McKinley duty. What those duties are may be seen by taking a 100-foot case of the last kind of glass in the above table, double-thick ground glass. The old duty on this was \$1.35 per case, and it was sold in July at \$7.80, and some of it was sold as low as \$7. The McKinley duty on such a case is \$5.55, and on some of it is as high as \$6.85. It is not strange, therefore, that the wholesale selling price has now gone up to \$13.30.

The increase of duty does not account for the entire advance, but the other McKinley law, the customs administrative law, explains the difference. This law, which went into operation Aug. 1, compels the importer to pay duties on all glass broken in shipment.

The dealers allow from 10 to 20 per cent for breakage in this kind of glass, and they must add to their selling price enough to make up for the broken glass and the duties on it. Even the glass broken by the custom-house officers is lost to the dealer, and he must pay the duty on it, too.

Is it any wonder that the importers feel the injustice of such a law? "We talk a great deal about our rights under a free government," said the glass man to the writer; "but we importers find that in this country might makes right. I should like to see you tell a custom-house officer that you ought not to be made to pay duties on the glass that he breaks. He would take you for a fool, and would laugh in your face. We have no rights which the dominant party is bound to respect. It has sold itself to the domestic manufacturers for 'fat,' and they dictate what they want, and the law-makers obediently vote as desired."

Big Protectionist Falls.

The Rittenhouse Manufacturing Company, of Passaic, N. J., has just failed for \$800,000. The company was engaged in the manufacture of blankets, woolens, and mixed goods. The President of the company was E. H. Ammidown, who is President of the American Protective Tariff League in New York. Mr. Ammidown has always been one of the highest of high protectionists, and was one of those who wanted the McKinley duties on blankets and woolens.

These duties were greatly increased, which was to Ammidown's advantage; but the duties on wool were also much increased, which was to his disadvantage. It is said, in anticipation of the increased tariff imposed on wool by Congress, the Rittenhouse Company made heavy purchases last summer which have not proved profitable. These purchases were made on credit as a speculative venture, in view of the certain increase in price of blankets and woolen goods to be caused by the McKinley law.

But other people were speculating at the same time and in a contrary direction. In anticipation of the tariff every merchant who could afford it laid in a good stock of woolens, arguing, as Mr. Ammidown did, that woolens would go higher. The rise in the price of woolens was defeated for a time by the large supplies thus laid in; and Ammidown's wool debts proved too heavy to carry in a tight money market.

In view of these facts, and that the tariff had been made as high as the most ardent protectionist desired it, and that notwithstanding all this his manufacturing company had failed, Mr. Ammidown was asked whether his views upon the tariff on woolens had undergone a change. But this Mr. Ammidown refused to discuss, saying that his advocacy of the high tariff had been from mixed motives, and that while he had once advocated the high tariff he did not care to talk about it now.

Ammidown attributes his failure to the Democratic victory of Nov. 4; but he does not explain how it was that half of the woolen mills of the country were idle last summer before there was any Democratic victory. He will not get intelligent men to believe that he has lost \$800,000 since Nov. 4 on account of the election, especially as no change in duties can be made for two or three years yet.

A Prosperous Industry.

Our protectionist law-makers have the habit of laying on duties without the slightest regard for the needs of our industries. It is assumed that all industries are helpless without protection; hence, duties are dealt out right and

left, and even the most prosperous industries are given protective duties for which there is no shadow of excuse.

The latest number of *Bradstreet's*, certainly one of the foremost authorities in this country, has the following to say about our leather industry:

"The cost of tanning hides is cheaper here than in any other country. This is due in large measure to the low cost of materials. We are therefore not only able to tan all our domestic hides but the major part of those produced in Central and South America. We supply European countries with about \$900,000 worth of leather each month, and our exports have been increasing rapidly within the last few years, as may be seen from the following table:

Pounds sold	Pairs boots and shoes	Leather.
1890.	21,834,492	378,374
1891.	23,690,648	300,968
1892.	23,777,111	389,120
1893.	23,844,844	357,957
1894.	24,421,293	502,123
1895.	27,313,763	492,906
1896.	24,355,880	551,345
1897.	30,141,458	623,714
1898.	27,712,723	587,700
1899.	35,588,945	518,700

Notwithstanding these growing exports, there is in the McKinley tariff law a duty ranging from 10 to 35 per cent on leather and manufactures thereof. These duties are almost as absurd as the McKinley duties on corn and wheat.

TARIFF LETTERS TO FARMER BROWN.

NO. 10.

Does Protection Increase Wages?

DEAR FARMER BROWN: We saw last week that protection is not necessary to prevent money from "flowing out of the country," since trade consists in exchanging commodities for commodities, and we are only too glad to send away our surplus commodities which we cannot consume, in order to get others which we can consume. That notion of preventing money from flowing out of the country is the protectionist's error No. 1. We come now to error No. 2.

The protectionists assert that the difference of wages between American and European labor puts our manufacturers at a disadvantage in competition with European manufacturers; and that, in order that our manufacturers may be able to sell their goods with profit, they must have a protective duty on European products sufficient to cover this difference of wages. Here is where the protectionists in this country rest the weight of their case; here they make their fight. Hence the vast amount of rubbish that they give us about the "pauper labor of Europe," "cheap, pauper-made goods," and "men who eat meat only once a week." To read this dreary stuff one would suppose that Europe were one vast poor-house.

These people do not seem to perceive that they push their case too far. If Europe is so crowded with paupers, all the greater is our ability to compete with them. The man who is so poor that "he eats meat only once a week" is necessarily a very poor workman and produces less than a well-paid and well-fed laborer; for a man is like a steam engine—you must throw in fuel liberally if you want results. Are you afraid of the competition you meet from the poor-house farm? It is reported that an English officer in the Peninsular War spurred his soldiers on to the attack by saying: "Are you Englishmen, who eat beef, afraid of Spaniards, who eat oranges?" That the man who gets good wages and has an abundance of good food is the most efficient laborer is proven by the observations of the pains-taking statisticians.

The claim of the protectionists that protection raises wages can be shown to be false in two ways: first, by taking as examples those countries which have protective tariffs and comparing them with other countries which have no protection; and secondly, by showing from the laws of production and distribution of wealth that protection cannot raise wages.

First as to examples. When we select examples to support a statement, we must always have regard to the little words frequently used in this connection, "other things being equal." The countries compared must themselves be equal, so far as possible, as to density of population, unused land, and in other features not necessary to mention here. The protectionists can never be prevailed upon to make such a comparison fairly and fully. They always insist upon selecting our own country, with its vast amount of unoccupied land, and making a comparison between it and the densely populated countries of Europe, where there is no government land to be taken up, and where even the roadsides are seldom suffered to go to waste. Every man naturally prefers to work for himself, and as long as land can be had cheaply men will become land-owners, and thereby not only take their own labor out of the labor market, but they will become employers of other men, and thus further reduce the number of competing laborers who might otherwise seek employment in manufacturing industries. On the contrary, in a country which has so much unoccupied land, in reserve the entire increase of population must find employment in existing industries, or, if possible, must create new industries.

Now let us suppose that protection raises the wages of five, or even ten, workers in every hundred. These higher wages are possible solely by reason of the higher prices which the mill-owners are able to charge for their goods on account of the protective duty. But even if we assume that all this increased price goes to the ten laborers, what happens to the other ninety laborers? They are compelled to buy these goods at higher prices. Buy them with what? With money. Where do they get this money? By laboring for it. But if you make the price of goods higher, the labor of these ninety men will buy less of them. In other words, you reduce their wages; the loss to the ninety men will outweigh the supposed gain to the ten, and the total result to the hundred men cannot possibly be a gain—it is certain to be a loss.

I deny, however, that the ten men get any permanent advantage from protection; for, in the first place, there is no law which compels the protected manufacturer to divide his gains with his men; and, in the second place, even if protection should raise the wages of the ten, this increase could be temporary, for some of the ninety would at once begin to bid for the more profitable labor. Thus the general tendency is toward a common level of wages, allowing of course, for the differing degrees of skill and training required. Even if the Government, therefore, should vote a certain sum to be applied to increasing the wages of the ten "protected" men they would not receive any permanent advantage from such an appropriation, for a portion of the ninety would become applicants for work in the favored industry. Competition for work would become very sharp, and the result would be that the employers would have to pay less and less from their own pockets, and the wages of the laborers would remain the same. You cannot raise the level of water in the bays and harbors without first raising the level of the ocean, and certainly you cannot raise the level of the ocean by raising the bays and harbors.

I conclude then that of all the humbug claims put forward in defense of protection, the most transparently false and absurd is the claim that protection raises wages. Yours truly,

Richard Knox.

INDIANA NEWS BUDGET.

INCIDENTS THAT HAVE LATELY OCCURRED.

An Interesting Summary of the More Important Doings of Our Neighbors—Weddings and Deaths—Crimes, Casualties and General News Notes.

—A. J. Cottrell, of Atherton, was killed by the cars.

—Elder M. M. Vancleve, of Crawfordsville, is 80 years old, and has married 681 couples.

—John Payne, of Mount Auburn, aged 80, committed suicide by swallowing morphine.

—John G. Lantz, an aged German, who lived alone at LaPorte, was found dead in his chair.

—The American glass-works at Anderson, closed down for some months, will resume Jan. 1.

—An incendiary burned G. W. Watson's stable at Mt. Vernon and six draft horses perished.

—The Morgan County F. M. B. A. has petitioned the Martinsville authorities for a market house.

—Dr. W. W. Steel, of Waveland, is under arrest at Anderson on the charge of highway robbery.

—Anson Albee, of Crawfordsville, aged 72 years, walked off a trestle at Martinsville and was killed.

—Benjamin Bains, of Greentown, was fatally crushed by a saw-log, which he was assisting to load.

—Daniel Taxworthy, of Johnson County, lost his right arm by the carelessness of a shotgun.

—Frank Ballinger, of Rome City, attempted to skate across the lake at that point and was drowned.

—The barn and out-buildings on Sheriff Brown's farm, near Seymour, was burned. Loss, \$2,800.

—The population of Crawfordsville, including the suburbs, is 7,649, according to the new city directory.

—Prof. A. H. Graham, of the Rushville Academy, was thrown from his carriage and dangerously injured.

—Thomas Edwards, who mysteriously disappeared from Goshen some days ago, was killed by a train in Ohio.

—Mary Faulkner, colored, of Jeffersonville, didn't know a floret rifle was loaded. She will probably die.

—A wild beast, supposed to be a panther, is playing havoc with stock in Sugar Creek Township, Vigo County.

—Lewis Myers, a prominent farmer of Hanover Township, Shelby County, was found dead in his barn. Heart disease.

—The Orange County Poor Farm has been run during the past year at a net cost of 77 cents per week for each inmate.

—Mrs. L. A. Henning, of Waterloo, was killed by the discharge of a revolver which she knocked off a table in the dark.

—Rainbridge claims the tallest man in the State in the person of Andrew Hart, who measures six feet and eleven inches.

—The carriage firm of Berkner & Buser, at Crawfordsville, has made an assignment. Assets, \$1,200; liabilities, \$2,000.

—Fort Wayne boasts a "Jack the Kissler," and several respected women have fallen victims to his unwelcome caresses.

—W. J. Weedman, of Jeffersonville, coughed up a piece of a rib that had been lodged in his lung by an accident during the war.

—Henry Volmerding, employed in a Fort Wayne brass foundry, was horribly burned by the upsetting of a ladle of molten metal.

—Fire in the Lowell school, near Columbus, was discovered by the teacher just in time to clear the room before the roof collapsed.

—Two policemen had a lively pistol battle with half a dozen tramps in the railroad yards at Greencastle, but no blood was spilled.

—William Gipe, of Wilkinson, was accidentally shot on his leg, below the knee, with a shotgun, by his brother, while hunting.

—The Montgomery County Commissioners have elected W. T. Whittington as county attorney and Dr. E. W. Keegan as county physician.

—Benjamin Harris, aged 93, fell down the cellar stairs while carrying a keg of lard at his home near Sevastopol and was seriously injured.

—The committee appointed by the Wittenberg Lutheran Synod has declared Rev. D. J. Mitterling, of Lagrange, guilty of immorality.

—George Webb who had been employed as telegraph operator at New Castle, for some time, has fled the town taking \$200 of the company's money.

—Matthews & Hatland, of Indianapolis, have purchased two hundred acres of heavily-wooded land near Wheatland, and will convert the timber into lumber.

—The house of T. H. Winton, at Crawfordsville, was damaged by fire to the amount of \$1,000. There was no insurance, the policy having expired the 1st of the month.

—The threatened injunction against the disposing of the Pettit history of the trial has not materialized yet, and the books are being sold at Crawfordsville in large numbers.

—The city officials of Crawfordsville are inspecting the electric-light system at Rushville, having in view the putting in of a new system to be owned by the city. The contract with the present electric-light company expires next June.

—August Reiling, a locksmith, 63 years old, fell off a ladder while repairing a bar sawed out of a window in the county jail at Fort Wayne, and struck the stone floor fifteen feet below. He suffered a fracture of the skull and died in two hours.

—The Government Engineer has accepted and approved the awarding of the Madison ship-yard bid for building thirteen new government barges. The same yard recently completed a similar contract for thirty barges, giving good satisfaction.