

OUR FARMERS' RIVAL.

WHEAT AND CORN IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Great Increase of Production—Reciprocity with Brazil Will Not Help Our Farmers—Argentine Will Take Brazil's Market—Reciprocity with Europe Wanted.

White Mr. Blaine has been doing something to open South American markets to our farm products, a rival of our farmers is springing up in South America itself. Consul Baker, of Buenos Ayres, who has represented our Government in that city for sixteen years, has recently sent a report to the State Department in which he says that "it is only a question of time and immigration for the Argentine Republic to become one of the great grain producing regions of the world."

When Mr. Baker went to that country, cargoes of flour from New York, Baltimore and Richmond were of frequent occurrence, but our treasury reports for last year do not report a dollar's worth of flour sent there. Sixteen years ago he found that the opinion was held that the Argentine pampas were unsuitable for cultivation and would always be devoted to pasture. This opinion was based upon the scientific utterances of Dr. Burmeister, the great German naturalist, who occupies a position of high authority in Argentina.

Not satisfied with this judgment of the scientist, the President of the republic laid out land into farms and established farming colonies. Large estates heretofore devoted to pasture have been divided up into smaller tracts suitable for farming, and everything points to a very great development of wheat and corn growing at an early day. In 1875 there were only 271,000 acres in wheat, in 1889 there were 1,035,000 acres. Corn occupied only 249,000 acres in 1875; in 1889 there were 850,000 acres. Exports of wheat and flour in 1889 reached \$2,100,000, exports of corn \$12,977,000. But the crop of 1889 was a failure, owing to a protracted drought, and exports of wheat were only one-tenth as great as in the two previous years. This will be seen from the following figures of Argentine exports taken from the "Handbook of the American Republics" which is issued by Mr. Blaine's Pan-American bureau in Washington:

	Bushels.
1880.....	42,929
1881.....	5,773
1882.....	62,659
1883.....	2,292,352
1884.....	2,984,138
1885.....	1,288,222
1886.....	8,753,984
1887.....	8,721,751
1888.....	834,223

After the small exports of 1889, the first three months of 1890 showed an enormous increase. Wheat and flour exported rose to \$20,200,000, and the exports of corn for the three months were \$9,897,000.

An important fact to note is that Brazil was a large buyer of these breadstuffs, one-seventh of the wheat exported; one-fourth of the corn, and one-fifth of the flour exported in 1889 went to Brazil.

As the Argentine Republic is so much nearer to Brazil than we are, it can hardly be hoped that our farmers will long be able to sell their breadstuffs in Brazil in competition with it. From Buenos Ayres to Rio Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, is about 1,000 miles, a voyage of only three to five days, while from New York to Rio Janeiro is 4,800 miles and takes from twenty to twenty-five days.

This fact is all the more important when it is remembered that Brazil has no duty at all on wheat, and the duty on flour, which is to be removed for us, is only 10 per cent. It is thus seen that our farmers have a powerful rival on the market in Brazil.

Pennsylvania is usually considered the State which gets the lion's share of protection, and it is there that protection to American labor should produce good results, if it can be done anywhere.

But here is what the Pennsylvania paper says on the subject:

"Skilled miners, who once earned good wages, have been supplanted by Bohemian and Russian peasants, who never saw the mouth of a mine until brought to this country. With the frequent stoppages of labor, in order that the corporations might maintain prices of coal against consumers, two miners do not earn much more in a year now than one earned in a former period. Industrial production, though increased, has not kept pace with the unhealthy growth of population; and as a consequence there is a great deal of distress among the working people of the mining regions. Pennsylvania has, therefore, no reason for self-congratulation upon this portion of the State's increase of inhabitants."

Protection is asked for in behalf of European labor; but in Pennsylvania it supplants American with "European pauper labor."

Full Tariff Prices.
For some months the prices of imported dry goods in the New York market have been gradually moving upward toward the new tariff standard. The large imports last summer and fall, made at that time in order to escape the new McKinley duties, overstocked the market, and for some months it was not possible for the importers to realize the full prices which the McKinley law would eventually make necessary.

It seems, however, that the time has come when full new tariff prices are demanded and, with much hesitancy and objection, are paid. The New York *Commercial Bulletin* has just said, in reviewing the foreign dry goods market, that prices "are firm, and as strong in promise of continued stability as in actual condition. Importers feel perfectly sure of their position, and express no lack of confidence in their ability to maintain full new tariff prices throughout the season. Buyers have about abandoned hope of breaking the market by a holding off of the demand. Nevertheless, current prices do not suit them."

It must not be supposed that these foreign goods are entirely such as only the rich can buy. Many of them are the goods of the poor man. Nearly every yard of linen goods worn in this country comes from Europe. Most of the cheaper stockings have been imported, and the same is true of corduroys, cotton plushes, etc. The imports of all kinds of cheap foreign dry goods would be vastly greater if it were not for the McKinley tariff wall. The tariff is a thing to prevent the people from getting what they want.

silver issue in consequence and importance.

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PROTECTING RAISINS.

Tariff Cost to the Country—California Raisin Business Already Prosperous.

Perhaps no single item shows so well the sting of the tariff as raisins. The Census Bureau has just made public the statistics of grape and raisin production for 1880. By comparing these statistics and those of raisin imports for 1890 very striking results are obtained.

According to the census returns, 41,166 boxes of grapes were used for making raisins last year, producing 1,372,195 boxes of raisins, weighing 27,440,000 pounds. Besides these raisins fit for table use, 23,252 tons of grapes were dried for other purposes, like cooking. It would be safe to estimate the dried grape product at 14,000,000 pounds. Nearly all of the above were produced in California.

The New York *Merchants' Review* estimates the price of California raisins at 10 cents a pound, and of the dried grapes at 7 cents. On this basis the raisin product of the country last year was worth \$2,744,000, and the dried grapes \$980,000, a total of \$3,724,000.

Now the Treasury Department reports that during the year ending Dec. 31, 1890, we imported 44,798,000 pounds of raisins, valued at \$3,315,000, or a trifle above 5 cents a pound. The old duty on raisins was 2 cents a pound; the McKinley duty is 2½ cents. The McKinley duty on last year's imports would have been \$1,119,000.

This is the sum which the taxpayers are now compelled to pay to insure big profits to the California raisin producers. The raisin business is already so profitable in that State that men have been rushing into it headlong. A California paper has recently stated that the vineyards of that State already in bearing, and those planted but not yet in bearing, will have a capacity of 7,750,000 boxes of raisins, or 155,000,000 pounds. The annual protection, then, guaranteed by the tariff law will be equal to \$3,875,000.

But there is another side to this matter. The California raisins are of very excellent quality and readily bring 10 cents a pound wholesale, while most of the foreign raisins are not up to the California standard of quality, and are bought mostly by poorer people. This may be seen from the fact that the imported raisins come in at about 5 cents a pound. The California raisins find their way mostly to the tables of men who are able to buy the best quality of food. Why should the cheap raisins of the poor be taxed one-half of their value in order that the prosperous vineyard owners of California may get a higher price for raisins sold to the rich? Are not the poor paying too much for the whistle for these California raisin men?

Protection in Peninsular.

A Pennsylvania paper has been commenting upon the census returns for that State. It finds that "it is a melancholy fact, in contrast with the excessive increase of mining population, that the farming population of the State is steadily declining. Where any agricultural counties show growth the increase is in the towns at the expense of the country."

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The fact here quoted is printed by the Boston paper as a mere matter of trade news; the tariff on wool is not in the writer's mind at all. This confirmation of the free-wool argument is therefore all the more striking and convincing.

Recently been discussing the Blaine treaty, and it shows that our manufacturers are not going to get entire control of Brazilian markets, by any means. It says:

"In regard to cotton and hardware, our English friend may rest content—the treaty will work no great changes in this respect. The 25 per cent. reduction will barely equalize the cost of the goods to the importer, while the unwillingness of Americans to establish commercial houses in the country, and to give the customary credits, will more than offset any slight advantage the treaty can give. Treaties and legislation may injure commerce, but after all no sound and prosperous trade is ever built up without individual effort and initiative. Mr. Blaine will have to conjure up something besides a reduction of 25 per cent on duties before he can turn the tide of importation in South America from England to the United States."

In showing that American lack of enterprise prevents us from having a monopoly of Brazil's market, the Rio paper is simply saying what our own trade papers and business men have said repeatedly in the past in explanation of our limited sales of goods in South America.

The trouble has been that our manufacturers have been taught to rely on the Government to hold the home market for them against all comers; thus they have come to look upon this home market too much as their only field of operations. With high tariff prices guaranteed to them at home, they have been slow to push out into foreign markets, where they will have to face a frowning world of competitors. It is time for American manufacturers to put out to sea and learn to swim in deep water.

Free Wool for Mixing.

The tariff reformers have frequently asserted that one of the best reasons why foreign wools should be admitted free of duty was that these wools were necessary for mixing with our native wools, in order to get the best results in manufacturing cloth. This assertion is made by wool manufacturers themselves.

A recent number of a Boston trade paper confirms this statement in an incidental way. This paper says:

"Important changes have been made in the manufacture of dress goods at the Arlington mills. They have adopted the method of the Providence (R. I.) worsted mills in preparing their raw material.

Instead of using foreign wool only, as in past years, they have begun the new season by using a combination of Australian, domestic fleece and Territory wools.

The Fletcher mills at Providence have made a great success in making dress goods and worsteds under this plan, and the Arlington will no doubt do the same. As a consequence the latter mill has been a heavy buyer of fleece and Territory wool since the beginning of the year, and has been the chief factor in reducing the stock of territories in this market.

This combination of three kinds of wool gives a top finish that makes a good selling grade for the present demand."

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Wise Words from Simpson.

Congressman Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, has been talking in Washington to a newspaper correspondent about theils from which the farmers are suffering, and the remedies which he proposes. He shows that he is "right side up" on the tariff question.

Comp aiming that parallel lines of railroads running East have combined in order to put up freight rates, he was asked whether he did not expect any benefit from Southern routes in competition with Eastern. To this question he replied:

"Well, we did take a good deal of interest in a proposal to improve Galveston harbor, as it promised to give us a more easily accessible outlet through the Gulf. But, dear me! with our present protective tariff, what's the use? No sooner is an opening found anywhere for getting American products out of the country than the Government stops it up again at a custom house, so that nothing can get into the country from outside without paying an extortionate toll. The trouble with commerce, as with any other form of exchange, is that it takes two parties to conduct it; and we Americans can't expect other peoples to buy our goods if we refuse to accept theirs in return."

Socks, or no socks, that is sound doctrine, and the coming forward of stalwart common-sense farmers like Simpson to teach it to the people and enforce it in Congress bodes no good for McKinleyism. It means that this monstrosity is tottering to its fall.

SOME time last fall a trust of type founders was formed to get the full benefit of the 25 per cent. protection. Recently the *Iowa State Register*, the leading Republican paper of Iowa, wanted to buy new type and found that the price was one-third higher. This paper has a habit of discovering the deep schemes of the Cobden Club, and then shouting itself hoarse against "British free trade;" but here is what it said when it knew that the "combine" had put up the price of type: "Competition is a necessary and indispensable factor among American manufacturers, and all combines must be made to understand that when they form trusts to decrease discounts or to advance prices, the duty on goods manufactured by the combines must be removed." As nine-tenths of domestic industries are controlled by combines, the *Register's* remedy would be practically "British free trade."

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Two Republican Views.

Two leading Republicans have just expressed certain views about the tariff question which are significant. Senator Hale, of Maine, has given his views as to the part the tariff will play in the next national campaign.

"It will be impossible," he said, "to keep the tariff from being one of the leading issues of the campaign, because if no general tariff law is reported in the House and no fight is made to remodel the entire law, some changes will be suggested and probably attempted. The people will expect this, and the tariff question will be constantly under discussion by the masses."

The other Republican is the now defunct Ingalls, who has been visiting Boston, and has stated to a Republican paper there the attitude of Western Republicans on the tariff question. He shows that a great change has come over the dream of Republican prospects in the West. The ex-Senator said:

"The views of Western Republicans, or those who have hitherto been identified with the Republican party, have undergone an essential change on the tariff question, and among such there is now a demand for tariff revision and reduction."

They regard the present system as inequitable and as favoring the manufacturer and the merchant more than the producer and the consumer. In their estimation the tariff question follows the

same issue in consequence and importance.

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