

TAXING AN INDUSTRY.

THE PIANO MAKERS AND THEIR BURDENS.

How McKinley Taxed a Flour-Fishing Industry—Greed of the Makers of Keys, Strings, Pins, Felt, and Actions—How These Men Prey Upon the Piano Makers.

Pianos were first manufactured in this country nearly one hundred years ago. The industry has grown rapidly, the production last year being double what it was ten years ago. Last year we made about 72,000 pianos, and it is estimated that since 1830 we have made 1,210,000. It is estimated that we now have 200 factories engaged in turning out pianos or parts used in them—such as keys, wires, actions, etc. The estimated capital of these factories is \$1,000,000, employing 10,000 workmen at wages of \$6,500,000 a year, using \$9,000,000 worth of material, and turning out a product worth \$18,000,000. New York alone has about two thirds of the factories, Massachusetts ranking next.

McKinley's dealing with the piano industry affords an excellent example of how protection to minor industries may become very burdensome to more important industries. Our piano makers are so successful that they care nothing for protection for themselves; but they have a just grievance against McKinley for the great increase of duty which he placed upon the parts of pianos which are bought ready-made by many of the manufacturers. Such parts are the ivory keys, the wire used in making strings, the tuning pins to which the strings are fastened, the felt used in making hammers, and the actions which transmit the strokes of the fingers to the strings.

There are only three establishments in this country engaged in making ivory piano keys. These establishments import their elephants' tusks free of duty. Under the old law the duty on piano keys was 30 per cent. McKinley raised the duty to 40 per cent, and already it is said that set of keys costs the piano manufacturer one dollar more than last year.

The wire used in making piano strings is made almost entirely by Washburn & Moen, of Worcester, Mass. By one of the familiar tariff tricks, the McKinleyites made it appear that they had reduced the duty on piano wire from 2½ cents a pound to 2¼ cents on one size, and had made no change on the other size. But at the end of the wire schedules a paragraph was added placing a duty of 45 per cent. on all iron and steel wire worth more than four cents a pound. Now piano wire is worth from thirty to forty cents a pound abroad. Thus the old rates of duty, equal to an ad valorem of 11 per cent. on smaller wire and 14 on the larger sizes give place to a 45 per cent. rate, which means increasing the rates over 300 per cent. on the finer and over 200 on the coarser wire. Where the piano manufacturers paid 2½ cents a pound duty under the old law they now pay over 8 cents, and where they paid 3 cents they now pay over 12 cents.

These higher duties were at once taken advantage of by the dealers. Just as soon as the McKinley law went into effect they changed their lists, and wire which had been sold to the piano manufacturers at 50 cents per pound was advanced to 70 cents. The firm of Washburn & Moen, the principal beneficiaries of the increased duties, were the moving spirits in the recent organization of the barbed-wire trust, they holding valuable patents which gave them a monopoly before the trust was formed. It is currently reported in the piano trade in New York that a large sum of money was corruptly used to secure the advance of duties on music wire.

Tuning pins bore a duty of 25 per cent. under the old law. Although they have never been manufactured in America, this duty did not satisfy the McKinleyites. The makers of piano actions came forward with a loud demand that the duty on "actions and parts of" be fixed at 50 per cent. These men did not make tuning pins, but in drawing up their paragraph they made the language so sweeping as to include everything used in piano making. McKinley gave these men 40 per cent. protection, but the Senate struck out the paragraph and tuning pins were made dutiable at 45 per cent. Immediately after the duty was increased the price of tuning pins was raised from \$2.40 per thousand to \$3.20.

Another important item is the duty on the actions themselves. The old duty was 25 per cent., but the twelve action-makers clamored for 50 per cent. Against this increase there was a vigorous protest from the smaller piano manufacturers, who do not make their own actions. In their petition to McKinley they said:

"The undersigned piano-forte makers of the United States would protest against such an advancement of duty as being unjust, obstructive and fatal to the piano-making industry of this country. There appears to be no good reason for a higher rate of duty on piano-forte actions, since the manufacturers of this article in this country have been highly successful, having made large fortunes within a comparatively short time under the present protective duty. To raise the duty on piano forte actions would simply mean to create a monopoly for a few action-makers at the expense of hundreds of piano-makers."

The action makers, however, got nearly all they asked for. Their protection was raised from 25 per cent. to 45 per cent. This increase was made despite the fact that only a few actions are imported, and gives a complete monopoly to the domestic makers, two of whom manufacture one half of all the actions used here.

A beautiful tariff trick was performed in regard to the felt used in making piano hammers. There is only one factory engaged in the production of piano felt in the United States—that of Mr. Alfred Dolge, of Dolgeville, N. Y.—the annual production of which, according to Mr. Dolge, is about 300,000 pounds.

The only piano felt imported into the United States comes from Germany, and amounts to from 25,000 to 30,000 pounds per year, so that only one-tenth of the felt used here is imported.

Under the old tariff law piano felt was taxed as "manufactures of wool not otherwise provided for," at 35 cents a pound and 40 per cent., this double duty being equal to 67 per cent. The duty in this paragraph in the McKinley bill was made 44 cents a pound and 50 per cent. When, however, the bill was in the conference committee of the House and Senate, Mr. Dolge, acting through Senator Hiscott, had the three little words, "feels not woven," put into the ready-made clothing paragraph, bearing the highest duty of all the manufactures of wool—49½ cents a pound and 60 per cent.

By this little trick Dolge's protection

becomes complete. Under the tariff the duty paid on 100 pounds of felt was \$12; under the McKinley law it is \$19. Some importers have already raised the price of foreign felt one dollar a pound. The greedy Dolge had two objects in view with his tariff trick: (1) To shut out all foreign competition, and (2) being a manufacturer of hammers also, to drive out of business all the manufacturers here of piano hammers who have been using imported felt. The result is that he will be free from all competition whatever in the American market. At the same time he will continue to export felt to Germany as he has done in the past, on all of which felt drawbacks of duties will be paid by the United States Government.

To compensate the piano manufacturers for having thus offered them as a prey to the greed of the makers of actions, keys, felt, and strings, McKinley raised the duty on pianos themselves from 25 to 45 per cent. As the piano makers never asked for any protection at all, McKinley's gift to them is but a shallow pretense. The piano industry is independent of foreign competition, as our manufacturers export their instruments to the most musical countries of Europe. McKinley's duty on pianos can therefore do them no good, while his duties on wire, keys, felt, and tuning pins can only serve to increase the cost of manufacture, and to strengthen and enrich the monopolies engaged in making these articles.

PROVING THE PUDDING.

CLOTH EXAMINED UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.

A Tariff Lesson—Cloth Made by High Tariff Manufacturers and by Free Wool Advocates—High Tariff Makers of Shoddy Goods.

The New York *Dry Goods Economist*, a protectionist trade paper which wants free wool, has hit upon a novel method of carrying on its agitation against the wool tax. There is in Philadelphia an organization called the Manufacturers' Club, which is devoted to the high McKinley tariff with its high duties on wool. In New England is another organization called the Wool Consumers' Association, a body of wool manufacturers who want the wool duty removed.

The *Economist* has undertaken to analyze the cloth manufactured by prominent members of these two organizations to see if it can discover any reasons why they should differ so radically on the subject of the wool tax. The result of this examination is very interesting from a tariff standpoint. It shows that the men who want a high tax on wool use a large quantity of shoddy and cotton in making what they call woolen cloth, and that the free wool men make good, honest woolen cloth with only a slight mixture of shoddy.

The first examination made was on the goods manufactured by Thomas Dolan, the President of the Manufacturers' Club. The *Economist* said that one fabric of this manufacturer, which was sold at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per yard, was found to be "composed of a worsted warp made from delaine wool, which entirely composes the face of the cloth and constitutes 28 per cent. of its weight. The filling makes the balance of 72 per cent., and is entirely cotton and shoddy, in the proportion of 92½ per cent. of cotton and 7½ per cent. of shoddy.

"We have also before us," the *Economist* goes on to say, "a finer fabric of the same order in a fancy trousering selling at \$2.42½, to all appearances a solid worsted fabric, both face and back. An examination, however, proves these appearances are deceptive. The fabric is of a class known as a filling cord stripe, having a slight mixture of silk twist between the cords. The worsted is of three-eighths and delaine stock, yet every alternate pick of filling is cotton, as is also the warp between the filling cord and the back warp. Thus we have a cloth which every one but an expert would call an all-wool worsted cloth, yet contains 21 per cent. of cotton and 79 per cent. of worsted. And the reduction will go right on advertising the beneficence of that measure until the Presidential election of 1892."

In other words, the one strong, redeeming point in the McKinley law is where it gives practical free trade! But how is that going to make people believe in protection? This organ points out that the removal of the duty on sugar lowers the price. But the familiar protection doctrine is that increasing duties lowers prices. How can the removal of duties have the same effect?

Graceful.

The ready and graceful wit of the Abbé de Voisenon once enabled him, in a truly discouraging social difficulty, "to pluck victory from defeat." His courageous effort to escape from an embarrassing situation certainly deserves success.

The Abbé accepted an invitation of the Prince de Conti to dinner, but forgot the date, and at the dinner his chair was vacant. The next day a friend said to him:

"Monsieur was very angry with you yesterday." The Abbé felt that he had been remiss and attended the Prince's next reception to offer a humble apology.

His highness, as soon as he perceived his discourteous guest, turned his back. But the undaunted Abbé exclaimed:

"O Monsieur, you overwhelm me with gratitude. I had been told that you would nevermore have anything to do with me; but I am happy to see that I have been misinformed."

"How?" asked the Prince.

"Your highness has turned your back upon me, and I know that is not your custom before your enemies."—*Youth's Companion*.

New York and Brooklyn both spent less money on new buildings during 1890 than they did during 1889, while Chicago's expenditures for new structures were greater than ever. The frontage of the new houses built in Chicago during 1890 is fifty-one miles and the structures cost \$60,000,000. The boom of Chicago is chronic and continuous.

In these days when reductions of wages are so frequent, cases where wages are increased stand out in lonely prominence. One such case of higher wages has been reported recently in Ohio—but it was not in a protected industry. It was that of the trackmen of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. Protection is not doing much in these days in the way of raising wages.

They were sitting quite in dark. Where the candle heart-fire sputtered. "Life is but a vital spark."

"In an undertone he uttered,

"Mebe," with a sigh said she—

"Darker grew the room and darker—

"Mine 'ud be worth more to me

"If it had a vital spark."

The rolling mill recently organized at Reading, Pa., has been taken into the "Beam and Channel Combination," usually known as the Steel Beam Trust. This trust is one of the greatest money making trusts now in operation. It is protected by a duty of \$20.16 per ton on structural iron and steel.

This is a striking tariff lesson. The manufacturers who clamor for a high wool duty are clothing the people with cotton and shoddy; those who want free wool are making solid woolen cloth. Choose ye whom ye will serve.

To Quit Growing Hay.

In his attempt to bamboozle the farmers last year McKinley doubled the duty on hay. The old duty was \$3 a ton, and McKinley charged it to \$4. The benefit thus far derived from this item in McKinley's farmer's tariff

JUST TEN MINUTES

WITH THE NEWS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

Henry Keller Sulfured at Fort Wayne—Henry Albright Killed by Vandals Limited Express at Reelsville—Indiana Patents—State Board of Health to Enforce the Law—Deaths, Accidents, Etc.

Patriarchs Militant Meeting.

At a meeting of the Patriarchs Militant in the State at Warsaw, called and presided over by Charles W. Gruesbeck, assistant Adjutant-General of the Department, the following elections were made:

First Regiment—Colonel, F. H. Foster, Pierceton; Lieutenant-Colonel, G. W. Dowswell, Fort Wayne; Major Second Battalion, Freeman Crosby, Valparaiso.

Second Regiment—Colonel, J. E. Belline, Indianapolis; Lieutenant-Colonel, George P. Graft, Knightstown; Major First Battalion, M. H. Chappel, Knightstown.

Third Regiment—Colonel, W. W. Canader, Winchester; Major Third Battalion, Daniel Meyers, Columbia City; Major Second Battalion, J. G. Stober, Wabash.

Fourth Regiment—Major Second Battalion, W. H. Northcut, New Albany.

Minor State Items.

The Salvation Army Corps has advanced on Seymour.

Terry Owens, of Westport, was killed by a fall from a wagon.

Alfred Farrington, Jr., of Jerome, drank concentrated lye and died.

A paper has been established at Bainbridge by Morrison & Scott.

The delinquent taxes of Montgomery County amount to nearly \$20,000.

The residence of William Bales, near Martinsville, was destroyed by fire.

New men have taken the places of the striking DePaula glass-workers.

The Jeffersonville town council has adopted standard time for that city.

Mrs. Sally Matsen aged 93 years, died of physical exhaustion at Amo.

The Seymour Street-car Company will employ steam as a motor power.

H. S. Winters, of Terre Haute, was drowned while fishing near Martinsville, III.

The new breeders' association at Greencastle, will build a mile track at once.

Kokomo is to have a distillery with a capacity of 3,000 barrels of whisky daily.

Jerry M. Floyd has driven the Paoli stage 122,520 miles in the past fourteen years.

The city High-school of Crawfordsville will hold field-day exercises on May 21.

James Parker, at Tipton, has disappeared, leaving a simple "good-bye" note to his wife.

Isaac Kunerine, engineer, was killed in the wreck on the Cloverleaf Railroad at Kokomo.

Harry King, of Carmel, got a verdict for \$1 damages against the editor of the Westfield News.

Asher Cullom, living near Mooresville, was fatally injured by a falling apple-tree limb.

John Schmidt, of LaPorte, was killed by his horse taking flight at a runaway team and falling on him.

A six-ton roll has been cast at a New Albany foundry for the Premier steel-works, Indianapolis.

Putnam County has been losing school-houses by fire at the rate of one each month since January.

L. S. Lafferty, the C. W. & M. brakeman, who was struck by a bridge at South Bend, will recover.

Charles D. Tillo, of Fort Wayne, has been appointed a member of Gov. Hovey's staff with the rank of Major.

John Johnson, of Peru, got a year in the Penitentiary for stealing a bushel of potatos, for which he received 95 cents.

Mrs. Margaret Tilford, of New Albany, compromised her \$10,000 damage suit against the L. N. A. & C. Railroad for \$4,500.

John Edwards, a boarding-house keeper, at Crawfordsville, lays claim to \$1,000,000 of the Edwards \$200,000,000 estate in New York.

John Langford, a Harrison County farmer, returning from Palmyra, fell unconscious by the road and died soon after a searching party found him.

Six tramps in jail at Crawfordsville, refuse to work on the stone pile until fed with potatoes and cake for dinner. Their regular fare is bread and water.

The festive animal, "the town cow," in the absence of contrary laws, continues to run at large in Peru, much to the detriment of shade trees and lawns.

Joseph Combs broke jail at Brownsburg, fled, fell through a trestle, sustained severe injuries, returned to give himself up to the Brownstown authorities, was tried at once and acquitted.

John O'Donnell, a miner, was found dead in shaft No. 8, belonging to the Brazil Blockcoal Company. It is supposed he was caught between a bank car, loaded with coal, and the roof. His neck was found to have been broken. The deceased was unmarried and lived at Perth.

The cheese and butter factory at Wilkinsburg is now receiving 3,000 pounds of milk per day. Thus far the company has not been able to keep up with the orders from various places for their ghee-edged butter and fine cheese.

The Jay County Agricultural Society has let the contract for building an art hall on the fair grounds. The officers are determined that the annual fair shall continue to be the best county fair in the State if anything they can do will assist it.

Jacob Rosenberger's planing-mill at Marshall was burned. Loss, \$2,000.

Two industrious paddlers have been selling powdered charcoal, done up in little bags, to La Porte, houses with one such sack would ever need refilling.

Grant Phinney, while fishing near Muncie, had his hand and arm shattered and maimed by an explosion of nitroglycerine which he was handling in a bottle.

A Jonesboro dyspeptic had his wife and most of his relatives arrested on warrants for attempting to poison him, and then admitted that he had committed perjury in so doing.

The government depot, Jeffersonville, prison, school, board and shipyards have all refused to conform to the Jeffersonville Council order adopting central standard time. The difference is about thirty minutes.

It is said that Gen. Lew Wallace's patent-applied-for, double-jointed, aluminum fish-pole contains divisions designed for carrying lunch and butter-milk, as well as matches to light a pipe, and a copy of the latest novel.

Mrs. Meredith, the esteemed wife of the minister of the Friends' Church, of Mooresville, fell into the fire while suffering from an epileptic fit. None of the family was near enough to rescue her, and she received burns from which, it is thought, she cannot recover.

Three miles from Muncie resides a farmer, Marion Wilson, with his family. Their 11-year-old daughter had an infant sister in her arms, when she accidentally dropped the baby to the floor. Its skull was fractured, and the child has since died of its injuries.