

THE TIN PLATE CIRCUS.

SOME ORIGINAL TRICKS OF CLOWN MCKINLEY.

Statistician Peck on the Question of Wages—Senator Dawes Is Rattled—Rebates Favor Foreigners—Our "Happy Farmers"—Crookery Duties and Prices.

Performed at Philadelphia.
We doubt if there ever has been in any previous campaign anything comparable to the silliness of the "American tin" performances which Mr. McKinley and his associates have been guilty of. When Mr. McKinley spoke in Philadelphia Sept. 23, the following solemn buffoonery was gone through with in the Academy of Music, according to the Philadelphia Press:

"While he was telling of the new industries that had been built up in this country, a banner read of tin and bearing the inscription, 'American tin, 1892, made at Norristown,' was carried down the platform. The applause which greeted the appearance of the banner interrupted the Governor, and he turned and looked at the banner trophy. 'That is a protective tariff,' was his comment, and then cheers were given for American tin."

Col. McClure exposed the humbug of this performance. He said that a few nights later, but the manager of the "American Tin Works at Norristown" has since added the final touch. He says the works have been shut down, and their sixty workmen thrown out of employment because of the late arrival of material from Wales. There are, he says, 250 tons of plates on the way, all of which have been rolled in Wales, and that when the plates arrive, they will be dipped at the works in tin. As for the so-called tin, he says: "I purchase it from the importers in New York. It comes from various parts of the world, and I am frank in saying that although I have looked high and low for the American article, I have never seen it. He therefore 'gave away' the entire business by adding:

"I am willing to tell the truth about this matter, and nothing but the truth, and therefore I mean exactly what I say—that the sheets, pig tin, and palm oil are imported. Therefore, if any time there should be a delay in the arrival of these materials, we would be compelled to shut down, as we have done this week. We have ten tin-men at work this week, and they are all men who were employed in the factory at Wales."

That is the plain truth about the tin banner which McKinley pointed to with pride as the symbol of a new American industry. It was made of foreign material, by foreign workmen, for foreign markets, and it was carried off for the purpose, and there was nothing American about it save the glamour of humbug which McKinley threw over it. His antics with it were only a little more indecent than were those of the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency and Warner Miller at the Cooper Institute meeting here last week when they passed around among the audience "samples" of American tin made in a similar manner. The distribution of small plates among the school children of this city is another variation of the entertainment. What is to be said of the intellectual and moral caliber of a great party whose leading mind conceives that the people can be induced by such exhibitions as these to bear patiently a tax of \$25,000,000? The manager of the Norristown works says he has not been able to discover any American tin, and his testimony is confirmed by that of every other man who has tried to buy any. The entire product is absorbed in samples for mass meetings and Republican newspaper office windows, and much of this, like the Philadelphia humbug, is made of foreign material. The phenomenal tin mine whose product was in so much dispute for a considerable period, have been shut down because of failure of the ore, and the Tribune of to-day has extracted from the Boston Herald a valuable opinion that they are full of tin, but that they have been shut down by their English owners in order to "freeze out" some of the stockholders. Mr. Bowers is convinced of this because he visited the mine, and he is allowed to look into them—New York Evening Post.

Senator Dawes Rattled.
The Question Clubs of Massachusetts have been putting some queries to Senator Dawes in regard to the McKinley tax on wool, reminding him that he was in favor of free wool in 1890, and asking him if it was not a lie to say that in Boston Journal, that he believed that "whenever raw material enters into manufacture here cannot be produced here in sufficient quantities and at such cost as to make its use in manufacturing here profitable, it should be admitted free of duty." The Senator answered that he had been correctly quoted, and that "by that test the clause alluded to (the one increasing the duty on carpet wools from 25 to 32 per cent.) must, with the exception of one article, do no harm, and that he was not in favor of knocking out the wool from many others, in accordance with the demands of his constituents, but that the riddled McKinley edifice would still be left to look upon. At any rate, he is unusually bold and true, and a Republican in a Presidential year, though we fear it must be charged to the fact that he is not seeking re-election. It is impossible to conceive of the Hon. Henry C. Lodge at this interesting political juncture, joined with Mr. Dawes, that the "McKinley law is not perfect."—New York Evening Post.

Jeiky-Hyde-Medill.
The following extract from an address delivered by Hon. Joseph Medill, editor of the Chicago Tribune, before the American Agricultural Association of the West, appeared in yesterday's Republic, but it was not fair and necessary to understate the truth, when I say that the farmers of the West and the planters of the South are charged \$300,000,000 a year on their goods, for the profit of protected Eastern manufacturers, more than fair and necessary on the part of live and let live."

This is Mr. Medill's real opinion, to which he gives utterance during three years and nine months out of every four years. During the remaining three months, just preceding a Presidential election, he advises the farmers of the West and the planters of the South to vote for a party that imposed and keeps up these unfair and unnecessary taxes.—St. Louis Republic.

No Secrecy Asked by Labor.
Labor Commissioner Peck, of New York, who ought to be designated rather Commissioner for Capital, Peck, states in his reply to the court at Albany that every time he sent out circulars asking for information he "invariably gave pledges of secrecy."

It is a curious fact in the transactions carried on by Commissioner Peck that it was only protected monopolists who desired this pledge at his hands. Labor has asked no secrecy from Peck. If there be a workman from end to end of this country, he has been protected by the McKinley bill, he will excuse Peck from keeping the fact secret. If the McKinley bill had raised the wages of any rank, or any division of workmen, they would be eager to

proclaim the fact. Where are these men? Who are they? In what industry are they occupied? No workman wants to rob a tariff law or any other law of the credit due it for raising his wages. Labor asks no secrecy about its fortune under the McKinley law.—Chicago Herald.

How Peck Is Supported.
In its attempt to bolster up the foolish and fraudulent figures put forth by Labor Commissioner Peck, the Johnstown Republican thus refers to the report of Commissioner Wadlin of Massachusetts:

"Labor Commissioner Horace G. Wadlin of Massachusetts has reported that wages have been increased in the Old Bay State, during the first year of the McKinley tariff."

We are greatly obliged to our contemporary for citing Commissioner Wadlin. Here is the testimony submitted by that very accurate and upright official.

1. Average annual increase of wages for six years previous to the enactment of the McKinley tariff. \$12.16
Annual increase of wages for 1891. 3.97

Decrease under McKinley tariff. \$8.19
2. Average annual increase in total wages for six years previous to the enactment of the McKinley tariff. \$4,000,411
Annual increase under the McKinley tariff. 3,385,945

Decrease under McKinley tariff. \$1,614,466
3. Average annual increase in materials used for six years previous to the enactment of the McKinley tariff. \$12,000,000
Annual increase in materials used for 1891 under McKinley tariff. 9,774,805

Decrease under McKinley tariff. \$2,225,191
4. Average annual increase in manufactured product for six years previous to the enactment of the McKinley tariff. \$23,700,000
Annual increase in manufactured product for 1891 under McKinley tariff. 8,078,063

Decrease under McKinley tariff. \$15,621,937
The Massachusetts report shows that the McKinley tariff has stunted the State's industrial growth, checking the increase for six years previous in the average wages of the workmen, the materials used, and the manufactured product. It has impaired the efficiency and reward of labor and deprived industry of the advance which six years had won for it. This is the result of McKinleyism in Massachusetts, a Republican, and we have no doubt the result in the State of New York is substantially the same, the statements of the discredited and disgraced Peck to the contrary, notwithstanding.—Gloverville Standard.

Wages in Building Trades.
That statistical evener of justice, Mr. Peck, has produced some more figures in which the protectionists seem to find great comfort. They purport to show that wages in the building trades increased from 1890 to 1891. As a matter of fact, wages in the building trades have been going for many years. No one, however, but a headstrong, thoughtless, open-mouthed swallower of protection lies would ever suppose that carpenters, masons and people engaged in kindred pursuits owe their prosperity to the taxes which the Government levies on them.

There is no law on the statute book, and even Mr. McKinley would not undertake to invent one, that taxes houses imported from Europe, or roofs, or stairs or paved streets or ceilings. The art of driving a nail or of carrying a hod is not taxed. And, as we all know, there is no duty on carpenters or engineers or lathers or stonecutters.

The wages in building trades have had a tendency to advance for at least half a century, and the great reason for their going up is because the men are more their own masters than are the hands employed by a trust or a single proprietor.

The mind that supposes that a bricklayer or a stair-builder can be protected by a tariff which increases the cost of his living, itself needs a protection that it is far beyond the power of any statute to give.

Perhaps such a mind may take its first step in intelligence by grappling with this problem. A correspondent of the World, who has the courage to sign his name, A. Marcotti, writes as follows:

"In this city carpenters are getting \$3.00 a day of eight hours; in Brooklyn they get \$2.25 per day of eight hours; in Jersey City \$3 per day of nine hours; in Hoboken they get \$2.75 per day of nine hours; in Westchester County \$2.50 per day of ten hours."

How can the tariff account for these differences? It is an easy problem if tackled cautiously, and if no protection professor is consulted.—N. Y. World.

Republican Romance Spoiled.
Lately the Republican papers outside of Indiana have been referring to an extract from a letter made by State Statistician Peck, showing an advance in wages since the enactment of the McKinley tariff. The Republican papers of this State are not referring to it, because no such report has ever been made. In order to disprove the Republican falsehood, Statistician Peck makes the following statement for publication:

"I have made no report since the report for 1890 was issued. The report for 1891 will not be made until the next legislative session, next January, when it will be submitted to their printed. It will be a general report of statistics of Indiana, but there will be no comparison of wages in it, because we have nothing to compare it with. There is not a scrap of evidence in my possession giving any information of the wages received by Indiana workmen prior to the passage of the McKinley tariff. How is it possible, then, for me or any one else to receive any comparison with the wages received since the passage of the McKinley bill? You see, therefore, how false the statement circulated by Republicans is. It is a Republican trick."

"I do not believe there is a workman in Indiana whose wages have been increased on account of the McKinley tariff. But we all know here that the coal miners of Indiana receive less in wages now than before the election of Mr. Harrison. No one can deny that statement."

A few weeks ago the Indianapolis Sentinel advertised for the photograph of an Indiana workman whose wages had been increased on account of the McKinley tariff. It is said that it received a photograph of a man in a printer of a county paper who had made extra money setting up sheriff sales.

Mr. Peck was elected in 1890 on the Democratic ticket and is the Democratic nominee for the same office this year.—New York Times.

Columbian Parade a Failure.
A great oversight was made by the managers of the Columbian parade in New York. The banners and the floats were symbolical of music, art, printing, physical science, etc., but the greatest institution of modern times, the one thing that has made this the greatest of modern nations, was entirely forgotten in the make-up of the parade. No banner bore that most significant of all American words—"protection," the newly discovered method of increasing production by enriching a nation by taxation. The biggest float of all should have been an American tin-plate mill in operation and showing the recently landed Welshmen in the act of dipping imported steel sheets into the imported tin and reporting it as oil, with a special agent of the Treasury stamping "American" on each shining sheet. These should then have been made into suitable emblems of "protection" and distributed broadcast to the millions of

spectators, including the thousands of school children of New York, who had not previously been supplied. The spectacle of a parade being supplied, and would have made an indelible impression upon all present. It is to be hoped that this great idea will receive proper attention at Chicago next year.

Crookery Duties and Prices.
We hear a great deal lately about a "free breakfast table" given to us by Republican reciprocity. Of course, it is a fraud. Sugar still bears a duty of a cent a pound, every mill of which is collected by the sugar trust. Tea and coffee have been on the free list for years, and the only change that "reciprocity" can make is to put a duty on them as has already been done when they come from certain countries. But civilized men eat their breakfast from dishes. Did McKinley make these free? Let's see!

The following table gives the net wholesale price for the various articles making a set of crockery needed for the farmer's table, in England and in the United States; also the difference between the English price and American price, and the amount of duty that must be paid when the goods are imported. The kind of ware for which the prices are given is what is known as white granite ware:

	Wholesale Price	U. S. Price	U. S. Price, Duties
1 dozen bakers'...	\$4	\$4	\$4
1 dozen bowls...	27	74	27
1 dozen plates...	48	47	19
1 dozen individual...	15	6	6
1 dozen cups...	44	80	36
1/2 dozen covered...	1.32	7.30	68
1/2 dozen ordinary...	33	40	17
2 cream...	9	20	11
1 dozen flat plates...	35	60	25
1 dozen saucers...	21	38	17
1 doz. fruit saucers...	21	38	17
2 sugar...	37	67	30
1 tea pot...	12	11	36

A set of crockery as above, costing \$5.10 in England, costs \$8.71 in the United States, the United States price being \$3.61 higher. The duties on the entire amount to \$2.81. Duty at the rate of 55 per cent is also levied on the packages in which the ware is packed, and the other expenses of purchase, which, added to \$2.81, make the whole duty equal to the difference between the English and American price. The beneficiary is the crockery combine.

Rebates Favor Foreigners.
Many intelligent citizens find it hard to believe that our protected manufacturers sell their products cheaper to foreign than to our own consumers. There are many reasons, and one of them is that our manufacturers can afford to sell cheaper to foreigners. Our tariff makers intended that this should be done when they inserted the "rebate" clauses in their "protection" measures. These rebates favor foreigners by giving our manufacturers cheaper raw materials, when they manufacture goods for export. If any one doubts this, let him read the following from the *Sac (Iowa) Sun*, copied in the *American Economist* of Oct. 14:

"The present protective tariff rebates the duty—pays it back—on all raw material imported and manufactured articles which are then exported, 1 per cent, only being retained to pay expenses of collection. This is done to enable our manufacturers to secure raw materials (not produced in this country) which are to be manufactured for export as cheap as they can be had in foreign countries, and thereby to compete in other countries with foreign manufacturers, which they are doing very largely."

The McKinley tariff may be hard on foreigners, but it is much harder on Americans, who get no relief from its burdensome taxation and prices. "Protective" or "American" tariffs, as "friendly" like to call them, always discriminate against Americans and in favor of foreigners.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.
With the duty higher and the price of wool lower than ever before, Broad street's of Oct. 1, says: "Manufacturers show a greater inclination to take wool. The market has weakened at several grades, and there is good reason to believe that it will go over the advance." Present conditions are difficult to explain on the basis of supplies.

And yet we have a party with gall enough to send the author of this calamity amongst the flocks of Vermont and Ohio to express sympathy by trying the bleat with the sheep. It is wonderful the sheep in Vermont took to the woods when they heard the wolf's voice. It is said that consternation is also seizing the herds in Ohio, and that when Gov. McKinley appears on the Republican side of the field of debate, he will be followed by the rest of the flock, make a break for the Democratic side of the field, where they huddle together bleating and trembling until the Republican wolf in sheep's clothing is safely out of sight. It is a wonder the sheep in Vermont took to the woods when they heard the wolf's voice. It is said that consternation is also seizing the herds in Ohio, and that when Gov. 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