

HAS SPOTTED THE THIEF

THE FARMER DISCOVERS THE REAL ROBBER.

Peck's Assertions Denied by Workers in All Industries—The Whole Report Is Discredited and Is a Bad Investment for Republicans.

It's the Manufacturer.

For thirty years the farmer has been missing money. Just who took it and how they took it has, up to date, been a mystery. One year he would perhaps miss a part of the value of his farm. Another he would find, to his surprise, that his account would be several hundred dollars short, saying nothing of his lost labor.

Thirty years of this experience has left a large portion of Eastern farms valueless and covered Western farms with mortgages. During this time our protected manufacturers have been exceedingly prosperous. So much so that they constitute more than 30 per cent of 4,000 millionaires which, according to the New York Tribune, we have selected in the last year. Of course a few sharp-witted men long ago discovered that it was the manufacturer who, with that most skillfully fashioned bunglar tool, a protective tariff, was stealthily fleching money out of the farmers' pockets. These men pointed toward the manufacturer, but this gentleman has persistently and good-naturedly denied the charge and has expressed such great sympathy for the poor farmer that the latter has not only not prosecuted the manufacturer, but has believed him in preference to the disinterested on-looker, and has wasted thirty years following up wrong clues given by the wily manufacturer. The burglars have even made the farmer believe that it was his best friends, and have induced him by writing the McKinley bill to present this with a new set of tools, keener and better than the old ones ever were. The bold and reckless manner in which these tools are being used has opened the eyes of the farmer and he is now, as elections since October, 1890, indicate, giving chase to the real robbers—the manufacturer and his agent, the Republican party.

A controversy now carried on through newspapers at Little Falls, N. Y., between several protected manufacturers on one side and Mr. P. W. Casler, a prominent officer of the Herkimer County Grangers, and one or two editors on the other side, shows how hot the manufacturers are being pursued and their frantic efforts to elude their pursuers. We extract the following from Mr. Casler's letter of Sept. 22:

It is true that protection is good for the present interests of the manufacturers; no one can doubt it. It is their own institution, gotten up by them, maintained by them and for them, and until they are becoming immensely rich it is doing for them all they could expect. But is it doing or has it done so much for the farmer, on whom they are all absolutely depending? Is his condition better than it was twenty years ago? Is he getting rich? The farmer who is not only feeding this great nation, but sending it abroad from \$600,000,000 to \$700,000,000 worth of products every year to get money to pay our manufacturers for what they are making for him? The government allows the manufacturer to regulate the prices. Why should he not get rich and why should not the farmer get poorer when the latter has to take at home for that portion of his produce the same price that his surplus sells for to go abroad and be sold in competition with the cheapest "pauper labor" in the world? I assert—and challenge Mr. Walrath or any one else to deny it—that the farmer to-day is the only laborer in this country who is competing with the so-called pauper labor of the old countries, selling his products in the foreign markets and taking the same prices at home.

Our aggressive policy of protection has not only not furnished the home market, but has helped to drive away to other places customers who would have come to us for our surplus produce had we been more willing to exchange with them; and has caused the development of the wheat fields of India and Russia; the cotton fields now being opened up in Africa; the dairy interests of Canada, Australia and European countries, with all of which the farmers here have to compete and do compete.

The only help for the farmer is a reduction of his expenses, the cheapening of what he has to buy so that the pay which he gets for his produce (the price of which is regulated entirely by supply and demand) and which is his wages, will go farther—will buy more for him. As the price of one pound of cheese will buy two pounds of sugar this year, while last it would buy but one so that, as far as sugar is concerned he is as well off as if he were getting twice as much for his cheese. The reduction of his expenses and a broadening of the market is the only relief in sight for the farmer.

It is offered to him through tariff reform only. The Democratic party offers him free tin, free lumber, free salt, free coal and free wool. Who uses more of these articles than the farmer and who would be more benefited than he, unless it be the manufacturers, who could then practice charges even if the compensatory duties on the manufactured articles were removed?

As the reduction in the cost of raw sugar has increased the consumption already 24 per cent, and helped the manufacturer of everything into which sugar enters, so with tin, lumber, coal, salt, wool and iron. It is not "dear coats" or other articles the farmers want. It is cheap things. Then he will use them to develop his farms, increase his output, enlarge the home market for the manufacturer, and as prices go down consumption increases, living costs less and manufacturing increases, we would soon be in an era of prosperity in which the farmer would have a share and bear no more than his just burdens.

What Free Raw Materials Do.

Our McKinley friends in Massachusetts complain that, with free raw material and a tariff for revenue only on finished goods, their boot and shoe industry is not getting ahead as it ought. It is doing first rate in Massachusetts, but if they wish to see a business booming under the application of Democratic theories of trade, let them come to St. Louis, or else consider these figures, furnished by the St. Louis Manufacturers and Workers' Association, showing what one town is doing with free hides and no "protection":

In 1882 St. Louis made 400,000 pairs of shoes at an average price of \$1.35 per pair; total value \$540,000. In 1888 St. Louis made 1,500,000 pairs of shoes at an average price of \$1.65 per pair; total value \$1,083,000. An increase of 200 per cent in number of pairs made, 22 per cent in value per pair, and 29 per cent in total value.

In 1890 St. Louis made 1,500,000 pairs of shoes at an average price of \$1.88 per pair; total value \$832,500. An increase over 1888 of 27 per cent in number of pairs made, 12 per cent in value per pair, 32 per cent in total value.

What Free Raw Materials Do.

And now for the circus part of McKinley's illustration of the magnificent success of the tin-plate-triplet industry that is so richly bolstered by tariff taxes paid by the people. A tin banner was paraded upon the stage at a propitious moment to enthrone the multitude, bearing the noble inscription, "American Tin, Norristown, Pa." with the name of the Ardmore, Bensalem, Clun, on the other side. It was a magnificent spectacular display, and Governor McKinley bowed time and again in response to the thunders of applause which drowned his voice. I am sorry to spoil this beautiful pageant, but it was such a sublime, such a heroic fraud that I must expose it. That identical tin banner was manufactured by Mr. William H. Edwards, of the Ely Tin Plate Company, near Cardiff, Wales, who came over here with his Welsh superintendent, Mr. Richard Lewis, and later bought and repaired a mill at Norristown, imported his own plates from Wales, imported his own skill from Wales, imported his own skilled workmen and directed the English plates in English tin by English workmen, and McKinley points to it as a grand

achievement of his tariff in producing American tin. There is one of the same plates (pointing to a tin plate on the platform), and I have the certificate of the man who made it. Here is the letter in the original:

"Richard Lewis, Manager, Norristown Works, Norristown, Pa., Sept. 24, 1892."

"MICH. SIRS—Replying to your inquiry, we beg to say our place here is not what is known as a tin-plate works in Wales, but a plate works, Norristown, Pa., U.S.A. The tin-plate mill, and this respect is exactly the same as the majority of the tin-plate works in America, except that we are working on a larger scale than the majority of plants at present running here in America."

"Messrs. W. F. Potts, Son & Co., Philadelphia."

"DEAR SIRS—Replying to your inquiry, we beg to say our place here is not what is known as a tin-plate works in Wales, but a plate works, Norristown, Pa., U.S.A. The tin-plate mill, and this respect is exactly the same as the majority of the tin-plate works in America, except that we are working on a larger scale than the majority of plants at present running here in America."

"The Habit of Wearing Jewelry in the Hat is Most Annoying One—How to Convince People That You Really Have Been Out of Town."

Many New Materials.

New York Correspondence:

"HERE we are again at the time for

cares, and a modish one is shown,

back and front, in these pictures.

It is a double cap with embroidery trimmings. The model was in gray cloth, with trimmings of black velvet and ribbons. The double cap is pointed at the back and goes down to

the waist, diminishing in breadth.

It would have been a shame to play

such a circus trick on Gov. McKinley

but for the fact that he has tolerated

such frauds in glorifying every tin-

plate establishment that he has stood

sponsor for. He should have seen to it

that an American plate was borrowed

somewhere and dipped in American by

an American boy to save his own

reputation. Indeed, rather than have

one of his national reputations caught in such a clumsy circus trick, I would have dimpled a plate for him myself."

Truly, as McKinley says, "We can

make a man look anything."

"But we are not making Ameri-

can tin, and we have taxed the Ameri-

can people already nearly \$25,000,000 in

the unsuccessful experiment. But mil-

lions or scores of millions of taxes taken

from the people seem to be of no moment whatever to the political leaders who rob the masses under color of law

to enrich classes. This so-called tin in-

dustry is the most impressive of all the

McKinley tariff, as it is all fraud that is

not robbery.—Col. McClure's recent

speech.

Prices Under McKinleyism.

The Reform Club will soon issue a

number of Tariff Reform made up of

prices of important articles of clothing,

etc., to be issued since the passage of

the McKinley bill, with the prices in

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