

## A BARN ON THE BORDER

HOW IT CHANGED THE VALUE OF PRODUCE.

The Final Success of an Interesting Experiment is Put in Jeopardy Because the Projector is Undergoing Trial for Smuggling.

**Farmer Finnegan's Magic Barn.** Once upon a time (and this is no fake story) there lived, and still lives, in Hodgdon, Aroostook County, Maine, man by the name of Patrick Finnegan.

Mr. Finnegan is not a politician, as might be inferred from his name, but a farmer; and a remarkable man in some respects. It is considered the acme of success in farming to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. Farmer Finnegan could do more; he could harvest three bushels of potatoes where one had grown. This strange result was not due to any peculiarity of soil, but entirely to location.

Part of his farm was on one side of the imaginary line between the United States and Canada and part on the other side. This imaginary and apparently harmless line was a constant source of trouble and annoyance to him, as it has always been to Uncle Sam—especially since McKinley magnified its importance. The farm animals, and even the farm hands, could not be made to understand the importance of this invisible line, and would not treat it with proper respect. Mr. Finnegan had learned, since he had been paying taxes in two countries, the importance of that line. He knew that it was a sin for the American side of his farm to have dealings with the Canadian side. It was a written law that the two ends of his farm should in no way recognize each other. In fact the United States Government had officers patrolling that line to see that nothing of value passed between the two ends of this and other farms similarly situated.

Regardless of consequences and of the fact that they were cheap provincial animals on one side and valuable farm animals on the other, above associating with their pauper selves, the sheep, hogs, cattle, and horses would, nevertheless, persist in smuggling themselves back and forth across the line. Still greater trouble was caused when colts, calves, lambs, pigs, etc., born on the provincial end of the farm, innocently following their careless mothers, would attempt to become subjects of the great United States without the payment of duty. Of course, our Government could not tolerate such reckless abuse of its rights, privileges, and laws, and the great Treasury Department, in several famous decisions, put its foot down on all such proceedings. These decisions had to be revised several times to cover all possible combinations of circumstances of domestic animals that stray into foreign lands when about to become mothers. It is now safe to say that a calf born on the Canadian end of Mr. Finnegan's farm is expatriated, though its parents are clearly American.

Since 1890 Mr. Finnegan's hens, geese and turkeys have proven themselves unworthy subjects of Uncle Sam. Keeping up their old habits they would walk, fly or swim into Canada to lay pauper eggs, and perhaps hatch pauper chickens or goslings, when these processes could just as well have occurred on our own free and valuable soil. Mr. Finnegan was put to endless annoyance trying to get back the disgraced barn-yard fowls without attracting the attention of the officials patrolling the boundary line between the two countries.

At last, after many sleepless nights, Mr. Finnegan devised a scheme that might possibly save him much trouble, and perhaps even reward him for past trouble and expense. He would build a barn on the dividing line and keep the Canadian farm animals and products in the provincial end of it and the genuine American animals and products in the American end. The success of the scheme was beyond Mr. Finnegan's most sanguine expectations. It had a magical effect on production. Not only did the soil become more fertile, but products garnered in that barn continued to increase in quantity. For every hundred bushels of oats or barrels of potatoes harvested and put into that barn the proprietor could take out and sell two or three hundred bushels or barrels. Horses led through that barn might add \$25 or even \$50 to their value.

The barn had proved a bonanza to its owner, who was enjoying such unprecedented prosperity as to arouse feelings of jealousy in the breasts of his neighbors and suspicions of fraud in the minds of Uncle Sam's patrols.

The final success of the experiment is now put in jeopardy because Mr. Finnegan is undergoing a trial for smuggling potatoes across the border line. It is claimed, and indeed is not denied, that farmers in this country prefer to purchase their seed potatoes from Canada. They think this the best means of avoiding rot and of securing an early crop. Hence there is considerable demand in the United States, even when our potato crop is fair, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia potatoes. This demand continues in spite of the 25 cents per bushel duty placed on potatoes by our late Wm. McKinley, Jr. Of course the duty makes provincial potatoes worth 25 cents less than when transported to the United States.

These indisputable facts, coupled with the fact that Mr. Finnegan has undoubtedly been selling 700 or 800 barrels of potatoes although he has raised but 300, have been taken advantage of by his neighbors across the border, who have testified that they have sold produce, especially potatoes, to Mr. Finnegan, to be delivered at the cheap end of the barn. The charge is then made that Mr. Finnegan would smuggle the potatoes worth 40 cents per bushel to the dear end of the barn, where they were worth 65 cents per bushel. The Government officials discredit the whole story of the magic barn, and say that it is only a kind of smuggling that is being systematically conducted along the Maine border. They say that it is easy to smuggle there, because there are but eight officers for 200 miles of boundary. If the jury decides against Mr. Finnegan, any convicts

him of the awful crime of moving produce from one end of his barn to the other, he may be incarcerated for several months and have a whole year's profits confiscated.

Out of respect for an administration that has been discarded, the moral that could be drawn from this true story is omitted.

### Sugar Bounties and Duties.

Willett & Gray's Statistical Sugar Trade Journal of Jan. 19 prints a letter from Mr. H. W. Wiley, chemist in the Department of Agriculture, to the Secretary of Agriculture, on the subject of sugar bounties. Mr. Wiley says:

"The present actual cost of the production of beet, cane and sorghum sugar in the United States is almost the same for every variety, and is perhaps a trifle over four cents per pound. The market value of the raw sugar so produced is about three cents a pound, deducting the freights. If, therefore, sugar remains on the free list, and the bounty is removed, it would cause the producers in this country a net loss of one cent a pound on every pound of sugar made. The immediate result of such a policy would be the closing of every sugar house in the United States, and the utter destruction of the sugar industry.

"If the bounty is removed a duty should be placed on sugar of about one and one-half cents, in order that the manufacturer may be profitable.

"It is not difficult to foresee that in from ten to fifteen years, the time appointed by the law for the continuation of the bounty, the cost of sugar production in this country would be so reduced as to render possible the manufacture of sugar at a profit without any protection whatever; but in the present status of the industry such a consummation is impossible at once.

"The sugar industry of the country, therefore, depends for its existence upon the wisdom of Congress in dealing with the subject."

For 100 years the protected industries have been asking for a few more years of governmental aid to enable them to stand alone. And all this time they have been asking for, and obtaining, only temporarily, of course, higher and higher duties. Duties of from 5 to 10 per cent. have been multiplied by 10, 15 or 20. Mr. Wiley must have been a poor student of history if he really thinks that any protected infant industry will ever be quite ready to leave off its pap.

But, aside from the unwarranted promises what a state of affairs is revealed by this letter. An industry half a century old, that has received during the past thirty years directly and indirectly over \$100,000,000 as a gratuity for producing what has sold for perhaps \$200,000,000 cannot continue its existence, it is said, unless aided by a bounty of 33 per cent. of the selling price of the product. This beggar, after pocketing its many millions of ill-gotten gains, now shows its appreciation by asking the United States to compel its 65,000,000 of people to go down in their pockets, during the next ten or fifteen years, to the extent of from \$150,000,000 to \$500,000,000, for the benefit of this great beggar industry—that is, of the 600 or 700 growers of cane, sorghum and beets, who now get the \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 a year bounty.

What, now, are some of the evils consequences of trying to stimulate an industry here that would probably thrive about as well without stimulus? In the first place, protection has increased the cost of sugar during the last twenty years about 75 per cent. This, besides adding several dollars a year to the cost of living for the average family, has crippled and prevented or destroyed many important industries. The canning industry alone, if it had had cheap sugars, would now be fifty times as great as the whole sugar producing industry. The United States has unrivaled facilities for producing vegetables, fruits, corn, fish, meat, etc., and should supply the world with canned goods. With big and prosperous canneries in all parts of this country, our farmers would have certain and reliable markets for surplus products which would be wasted. Many crops now often sold at a loss would then yield large profits, and farmers would be prosperous where they are now on their way to the poorhouse—not 600 or 700 farmers merely, but several millions of them. England now is the center of supply of canned goods for the whole world, because Germany and France have been paying heavy bounties on sugar produced and exported, and because her canners have had free sugar, glass and tin.

The European countries now pay about \$45,000,000 a year to encourage the exportation of sugar, and to entice outside countries to get sugar below the actual cost of production.

England, more sensible than the United States, does not refuse to accept cheap sugar, but, through the European bounties, receives a gift of about \$10,000,000 a year on her sugars and builds up the industries thus driven out of the Continental countries. She then supplies the foolish countries with jams, jellies, and other canned goods.

Congress may in its wisdom, at the close of this enlightened nineteenth century, see fit to donate several hundred millions of dollars to the few hundred sugar producers of Louisiana; but, Mr. Wiley, we think the probabilities are that the Fifty-third Congress will do nothing of the kind. We think it will not entirely neglect the interest of its 65,000,000 consumers as its predecessors have done.

### The Whisky Tax.

Should increased revenues be needed it is going to be very hard to supply them. The whisky, which seemed to offer so simple a remedy, has been rendered unavailable by the whisky makers, who, in hope of profit, have manufactured so largely that a full two or three years' supply will be in bond before any additional tax can take effect. Whisky cannot yield additional revenue, therefore, for two years to come. Coffee and tea, which are altogether imported, and raw sugar, of which five-sixths is imported, are ideal subjects of revenue-tariff taxation; but no Congress will restore the tax on these until the people shall have been reconciled to a small increase in consideration of a tariff change giving them cheaper

clothing and blankets. In view of these conditions the minds of all the Democratic leaders seem more and more turning to a graduated tax on large incomes as a source of more revenue.—N. Y. World.

### Selling Cordage in England.

The Cordage Trade Journal of Jan. 15, reprints a couple of letters from "Fairplay" of London, which indicate that the National Cordage Co., of the United States, is making bids for English trade and that the British manufacturers are getting scared. It appears that cordage, twine, etc., are made just as cordage on one side of the Atlantic as on the other side, but that the National Cordage Co. (trust), because of its great capital, can buy its raw materials—hemp, jute, flax, etc.—to much better advantage; that is, as one of the correspondents puts it, the Cordage Co. "has adopted advantageous means of squeezing better value out of the heathen Chinaman or some other fellow in the Philippines."

Conditions have not materially changed since McKinley left an average duty of about 2 cents per pound on rope, twine, etc. There was then no just reason for leaving any duty on cordage. The only apparent reason, justified by the fact that the trust has since made big contributions to the Republican campaign corruption funds, is that the National Cordage Co. would thereby be guaranteed the monopoly of the American market, to extort unreasonable profits from the American consumers. This the trust has done. In 1888 and 1889 the average difference in the prices of manila and manilla cordage was 1.84 cents per pound. Since 1889 the difference has averaged over 3 cents.

That the trust is making unusual profits is clear. It has been paying a dividend of 10 per cent. on its common and 8 per cent. on its preferred stock, while it has been paying exorbitant prices for new plants, nearly half of which it holds idle, besides paying big sums (\$200,000 in one case) to outside manufacturers of cordage and of cordage machinery to keep their plants closed. The price of its stock also indicates great profits.

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And this is the kind of an industry that McKinley believed in fostering with protective tariffs! This is one of his protégés! If the next Congress carries out the will of the people it will remove all of the duty on cordage before next July.

### Last Year for Trusts.

No two years have been as prolific of trusts as those of 1891 and 1892. The advantages of the McKinley tariff law to trusts are just beginning to be appreciated by many industries, and though that trust-protection measure has only six months or a year longer to run, yet new trusts are forming as rapidly as ever to get what benefits can be had from the tag-end of McKinleyism. The Iron Age of Jan. 19 mentions some of the trusts now forming or just completed in its line. It says:

"Consolidation seems bound to become the watchword in many departments of industry. Sessions have been held in Chicago by the wire rod and wire manufacturers, at which a representative of the largest wire plant presided, and a St. Louis producer acted as Secretary. The meetings are over, and further negotiations will be carried on by correspondence. Some of the cut nail manufacturers of the Alleghany mountains are also talking of closer relations. The brass and copper makers are said to be near the successful outcome of their negotiations, and a copper wire consolidation is well advanced toward its consummation. The Western cast-iron pipe founders are to meet to-day."

### Wool Prices Advancing.

It will probably be years before native wool touches the unprecedently low prices recorded in November, 1892. Almost immediately after election prices, which had been declining for two, yes, for thirty years, began to round the turning point. In the first weeks of January, 1893, the wool market became decidedly firmer, and on Jan. 19 the Wool Reporter began to report advances in prices. Its Boston report said that:

"Fleeces have shown more strength, and have advanced at least 1 cent a pound all along the line; for example, several sales of Michigan X have been made at from 27 to 27½ cents; No. 1 Ohio Combing at 36 cents; No. 1 Ohio Fleece, 33 to 34 cents, and various lots of discount wools in the same ratio above previous quotations.

"There has been a good demand at firm prices for territory, pulled, and secured wools; good wools especially are very firm, and the trade will be, doubtless, wise and judicious enough to hold the market at the present prices."

Substantially these same reports come from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other cities. This news of supply of canned goods for the whole world, because Germany and France have been paying heavy bounties on sugar produced and exported, and because her canners have had free sugar, glass and tin.

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## STYLES OF THE SEASON.

### A CHAPTER ON THE VERY LATEST MODES.

**Detailed Description of a Most Handsome Visiting Costume—Strong Protest Against the Introduction of Crinolines—Would Be an Abomination Now.**

**Gotham Fashion Gossip.**

New York correspondence.

HE girl with the blue velvet cap on, its collar turned well up about her pretty ears, and a tiny toque poised above, with one big rose nodding over it, does look uncommonly like a jardiniere, plant and all, marching out to take the air. As for her shadow as she comes out in the electric light these evenings, well, the whole young girl is taking looks as if the young man was taking a floral tribute of very big dimensions, to his girl, instead of tasing the dear girl herself to the theater. The girl who wears the terraced coat vies with the cape girl for looking like something besides a girl. The terraced girl looks, in a high wind, for all the world like a Chinese pagoda on a rampage. But, be it understood, the Chinese pagoda on a rampage is a very lovely spectacle, and we wish there were more of them.

The initial illustration shows a visiting toilet of yellowish drab cloth, trimmed with a border of white lamb's wool. Bands of white cloth could be substituted for the border if preferred. With the costume is worn a plain felt hat, the brim of which is curved and both back and front. The small, low crown is black, and a roll of black velvet surrounds it, forming a large bow at the back. This hat can also be made in any other combination of colors preferred.

Do the creators of modes realize that when crinolines were worn years ago it was a different country from what it is now? There were only about eight lines of cars here in New York. Of those only the Fourth avenue and the Uni-

necessary to use them, and the material can be laid flat on the lining. If a dark border is used, it is advisable to use it only in the outside material, not in the lining, so that when ironed out it is as little visible as possible. The back broads are very much sloped, so as to set it tight to the figure, in order to preserve the bell shape, but the circumference should be at the bottom from three to three and one-quarter yards. The lining must be cut to the exact size of the upper material and must be sewn with the latter in such a manner as to fit line by line with it. The seams must be well dampened and very carefully ironed so that they show as little as possible. If you wish to avoid the middle seam at the back, slope the back side breadth very much, as this gives the same effect as going to the back and sewing in the middle. The arms are not to be lined with the lining. This obviates any unnecessary fullness and stiffness, and makes the seams less easily seen. The whalebones are covered with bone-casing and must be sewn in only above the waist band; underneath there are none. Because there were fewer people. Nothing was crowded and jammed. Oh, my dears, consider a Fourth avenue car, with its daily jam on! And imagine it jammed with women crinolined and hooped! Remember our grandmothers did not have to take the cars to go shopping. They walked around the corner from Union Square and Washington Square and bought their buttons and tape. They didn't come from 125th street on the L. Oh, pause, my children, and consider how different things are now, and don't do it.

The cloak seen in the next picture is of plum-colored cloth, with revers and piping in velvet. The collars and cuffs are of beaver, and the large felt hat is trimmed with feathers and velvet.

The dress on the right hand in the third picture is made of lead or mouse-gray striped rep goods, and is trimmed with light fur, which is applied in such a way as to give it the appearance of a zouave jacket. The sleeves have cuffs trimmed with fur. The figure upon

verses place lines were used by the "better class" and the swells. The charge was 10 cents a ride, and there was no crowding and jamming as there is these days. The Broadway stages were big then. There were stages on Fourth avenue, too, and they were big and roomy. Almost every house of any consequence had its own stable. Cabs were, in proportion, much more used than now, and carriages were regarded more as a necessity to the rich than to those that are not. Because there were fewer people. Nothing was crowded and jammed. Oh, my dears, consider a Fourth avenue car, with its daily jam on! And imagine it jammed with women crin