

LOOKING BACKWARD.

SOCIETY ORGANIZED TO DELVE INTO THE MUSTY PAST.

An Attempt in 1920 to Study the Strange Economic Belief of a Peculiar Sect Known as McKinleyites—A Few Tips for the Society.

The McKinley Historical Society.

In about the year 1920 will be formed the "McKinley Historical Society," the object of which will be to delve into the mysteries of McKinleyism, that absurd economic belief that obtained sway in the United States about 1870 and culminated in 1890 in that monstrosity—the McKinley tariff bill.

To study the causes and the effects of the growth of the idea that a nation can "protect" itself by making laws in the interests of a few, and can tax itself into prosperity by constructing artificial barriers across nature's highway of commerce and civilization; and to record and preserve in the public archives, alongside of the history of witchcraft and other strange ideas that have fascinated men's minds in this country, the history of the delusive teaching of McKinleyism and the dime museum features of the tariff act of 1890.

Here are a few "tips" that may serve as a starter for the McKinley Historical Society. First, on the

RISE OF "PROTECTION."

The Walker tariff of 1846 and the "Free Trade" tariff of 1857 had given such general satisfaction that no party advocated, or would have advocated, higher duties had not the necessities of a civil war turned the attention of Congress to this stealthy way of raising a big revenue.

The high duties levied gave great protection to the manufacturers of such goods as competed with those imported, and when, after the war, the country began to try to get relief from the exceedingly heavy burdens of taxation, these home manufacturers were willing to have duties lowered on all non-competing, but not at all on competing imports. They know full well that if they based their claims entirely upon selfish motives the country would not allow them.

Hence they set to work to invent terms and catch phrases to conceal their selfishness and to appeal to the prejudices of the unthinking voters. Their success was unparalleled and must have astonished even themselves. To be sure, they had to modify and shift their terms between Presidential elections and to invent new phrases when they and their political allies were being hard pressed, but for twenty-five years they held sway and dictated the financial policy of "their" country, until fully half of the property had been taxed out of the 65,000,000 inhabitants and into the safes and vaults of a few thousand manufacturers and monopolists. The rapidly accumulating wealth of the manufacturers gave them increasing importance and powers, and made it easier for them to hoodwink the masses of poverty into believing that black is white. From the hundreds of unsound and sophistical economic ideas promulgated by the manufacturers and their agents we make the following selection: PROTECTIONISTS' UNSOUND THEORIES.

1. Protective duties on imports will protect manufacturers by taxing their raw materials, increasing home competition, lowering prices and profits, and by keeping wages high.

2. If a manufacturer is protected and can afford to pay higher wages he always does so; he thus turns over to his employees nearly all that he gets from tariff duties.

3. Manufacturers organize themselves into trusts and combines so that they can raise wages and lower prices without opposition.

4. If free trade would compel the manufacturer to pay high wages they would favor free trade.

5. Protected manufacturers sell goods cheaper to foreign than to home consumers, so that they can have plenty of work for their employees at high wages.

6. Competition will work swifter and lower prices faster when restricted to one country than when spread out over the world.

7. Free trade between states will benefit all; but free trade between countries, even if no larger than states, will ruin all. By annexation or division and a slight change of names these effects may be reversed.

8. Both parties are benefited by a trade if they live in the same country; otherwise at least one will get fleeced, and the trade should be prohibited by law.

9. Countries where wages are low—like Germany, Spain, Italy, or China—need protection against countries where wages are high, like England and the United States. Some high-wage countries also need protection against low-wage countries, as the United States against the pauper labor of Europe.

10. High duties on tin plate, pearl buttons, and manufactured products will lower prices in the interest of commerce; but high duties on wool, barley, eggs, and farm products will raise prices in the interest of the producers.

11. A duty on sugar is a tax upon the consumer, but duties on tin plates, clothing, and glassware are taxes upon foreigners.

12. "A cheap coat makes a cheap man." Protection is to avoid the curse of cheapness and to overcome the evils of machinery, railroads, and steamships in tending to make things cheaper.

13. "American Wages for American Workmen" is secured by high duties on the necessities of life—what the workmen have to buy, and by free trade in labor—what the workmen have to sell. This is obvious to all who never stop to think.

14. "American Markets for American People" are had by high duties on what they must take in exchange for their surplus agricultural products, which must be sold in foreign markets at free trade prices.

15. "Protection for American Homes" is also to be had by taxing the house, furniture, utensils, clothing, and everything else needed by a newly married couple. This is axiomatic and needs no demonstration.

16. Free trade will ruin countries unless they tie a string to it and call it "reciprocity."

17. All of the prosperity, including

good crops, in a protection country, is due to high tariffs; and all of the poverty and misery of free trade countries is the direct result of low tariffs. This rule does not apply to any countries of the world except England and the United States.

Some other time I will record some more tips for the McKinley Society in regard to the curious things actually accomplished by the McKinley bill. Only a few of these can be briefly mentioned now.

MCKINLEY BILL TRICKS.

While pretending to lower the duty on borax, McKinley raised the duty on boracic acid, the thing actually imported, from 4 to 5 cents per pound; and the Borax Trust raised prices accordingly.

By McKinley construction genuine "American" tin plates are made from imported steel sheets, coated by imported tin with the use of imported olive oil and imported machinery, all carried on by imported workmen.

Aided by the political shepherds, McKinley fixed his bill so that goat hair costing two or three cents per pound became wool, and was dutiable at twelve cents per pound.

By changing "goods" to "fabrics" (a change not noticed by most Congressmen who voted for the bill), "knit goods" became "ready-made clothing," and dutiable at much higher rates.

By juggling with phrases McKinley took sage-flour, which competes with dextrine, out of the free list and put a duty of 2 cents per pound on it to the advantage of the Starch Trust, which soon advanced the price of dextrine.

To benefit a few manufacturers who sew together ruffles and other trimmings, the duty was increased 50 per cent. on the hundred or more articles that compose the biggest schedule under cotton goods.

According to McKinley, "feats not woven" are "ready-made clothing," dutiable at nearly 100 per cent., instead of 60 per cent. as formerly.

By inserting a little clause five pages from the paragraphs it was intended to modify, the duty on fine wire was raised from 80 to 280 per cent., contrary to the expectations of nearly every one responsible for the McKinley bill.

Dozens of other apparently unimportant clauses raised the duties on flint and window glass, sanitary ware, linseed oil, lead ores, cutlery, etc. Some of these hidden clauses always raised duties and somehow there was always a trust to take advantage of higher duties.

The McKinley bill has also done many other curious things, such as taxing the ends of cables between this country and Canada, where they protrude out of the water; and calves dropped on foreign soil by stray American cows. But there is no end to the absurd and wicked features of the McKinley bill, and the historical society will have its hands full for several years.—Byron W. Holt.

Full of Trap Doors.

The McKinley tariff bill is a marvel of bad legislation. It contains many suggestions of McKinley's impractical methods of doing business. It is as full of tricky clauses and tariff jobs as an egg is of meat. No schedule can stand honest criticism. Hundreds of jobs have already been exposed by the courts and by Treasury officials, and new ones are constantly brought to light—cases where the bill did not behave as was expected by McKinley, or at least by the most of his associates who framed and voted for it. Here is one just exposed by the Dry Goods Economist, of Feb. 25, 1893:

Section 373, schedule J, of the McKinley tariff specifies the duty on this class of cotton fabrics, which are the articles manufactured of cotton that are most largely imported into this country, and describes the goods as follows:

"Laces, edgings, embroideries, insertions, neck ruffles, ruchings, trimmings, tuckings, lace window curtains, and other similar tamboured articles, and articles embroidered by hand or machinery, embroidered and hem-stitched handkerchiefs, and articles made wholly or in part of lace, ruffles, tuckings, or ruchings, all of the above named articles composed of flax, jute, cotton, or other vegetable fiber, or of which these substances, or either of them, or a mixture of any of them, is the component material of chief value, not specially provided for in this act, 60 per centum ad valorem."

The duty on these fabrics according to the tariff of 1883 was from 30 to 40 per cent. Why was it increased by the McKinley tariff? Because certain American manufacturers of ruffles and ruchings, who found themselves in competition with European makers of these trimmings, brought pressure to bear in the right quarter in order to have the duty increased on these particular articles, not desiring by any means to increase the duty on the other items classified in this section. By negligence, apparently, the duty was increased, however, on the whole section. Thus, for the sake of benefiting the whole manufacturers, who sew together ruffles, ruchings and other trimmings some of the fabrics classified in this section, a decided change was made in the trade on lace curtains, in particular, and the consumer of laces and embroideries was called upon to pay a tax of at least 20 per cent. more than previously.

The increase in the duty on lace curtains has benefited not one single domestic manufacturer of those goods. On the contrary, all such manufacturers would be glad to see the tariff put back to its old figure.

Under a 20 Per Cent. Duty.

Fired with a burning zeal for combination, the makers of sole leather have set about organizing a huge monopoly in the manufacture of that necessary article. The tanners' plants are to be bought out with stock of the proposed sole-leather trust, and the former owners are then to be hired as superintendents and managers. It will require from \$15,000,000 to \$100,000,000 to carry out this ambitious scheme, yet no difficulty is anticipated in raising the money. The people of the United States, who spend in each year over \$200,000,000 for shoes, will note with interest this new project to bring their footwear under syndicate control.—Philadelphia Record.

18. "American Wages for American Workmen" is secured by high duties on the necessities of life—what the workmen have to buy, and by free trade in labor—what the workmen have to sell. This is obvious to all who never stop to think.

19. "American Markets for American People" are had by high duties on what they must take in exchange for their surplus agricultural products, which must be sold in foreign markets at free trade prices.

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CRINOLINE HAS COME.

SKIRTS HAVE A VERY DISTINCT SPREAD AT THE BOTTOM.

Whether or Not This Spread Will Increase Until Its Exaggeration Brings About Its Dismissal Is a Question—Styles for Early Spring.

Gotham Fashion Gossip.
New York correspondence:

UE may make as much of a face as we choose, but we are here. The crinoline has come, and the question is will they get worse and worse, or will they stay where they are now in the fashionable windows and modistes' parlors? Experience warns us that a fashion never stays where it starts, but it goes on and on till its exaggeration brings about its dismissal. But fashions are now more promptly set aside than they formerly were, and, therefore, are now likely to be given up before becoming monotonous. This fact is developing a class that will make few radical changes in their wear, no matter how fashions lie and fall. This is going to bring about a state of things where there are no extremists, but that blessed time is not yet, and our cheeks blanch and our hearts begin to quiver with fear when we see so many signs of approaching general use of these dreadful things.

All the examples shown in the spring gown show skirts with a distinct spread at the bottom. Some of them stand out from the waist smooth and stiff, like an inverted funnel. Others spread from the waist in a series of folds, the front being flat and forming an inclined plane from the waist to the edge. There is a tendency to draw straight to the sides, with no tendency to draw towards the back. The side breadth then incline outward to the ground. About three folds, one to each side of the back and one straight

fold formed by turning back the edge of the same piece of material which makes the revers. The revers and cuffs are ornamented with two rows of braid about an inch and a half apart, the space between being filled with a lattice-work of narrow white cord. In this dress the material of the dress was dark-blue cloth, with braid of the same shade, but the costume would look equally well in almost any shade of blue or brown.

A pretty and becoming blouse can be made at home by almost anyone, of any light-colored silk or surah, and will be very nice to wear with a dark skirt. The material used in the example pictured is old rose surah, trimmed with fine white lace. It has a slightly pointed yoke of the silk with three insertions of lace. The front and back are cut rather full, but the side forms and back are tight-fitting. The sleeve is a tight cuff as far as the elbow and from there forms a large wide puff. The waist is finished with a belt of surah and the yoke is trimmed with a ruff of narrow lace, while a ruff of very wide lace forms the epaulette on the shoulder. The standing collar is also covered with white lace. The back of the blouse is the same as the front. It closes in front with invisible hooks and eyes.

Even though you do not intend to adopt crinoline, you should have your skirts a little wider. They need not be stiffened or wired, nor, indeed, be a great deal wider. Almost any last year's skirt will do if the fullness at the back be distributed all round for greater width. Two entirely moderate and correct examples are sketched. They are both of the silks with narrow stripes of color brightly contrasting with the ground, which are so much worn, as indeed they were last season. Such a dress, having had the skirt remodeled as suggested, may be further

out at the back, constitutes the fullness. A skirt of this kind is extreme and looks all the worse. Other skirt is smooth and without folds or fullness all around to where the back starts. Then the material lies in a series of folds, or flutes, arranged with much regularity, and stiffened to keep their places. This skirt is rather pretty. At least it seems to have some motive, and the general tendency of the fullness to the back gives some grace. Occasional examples of these are already seen out doors, and they do look "fancy," but they will improve in appearance as the number of them increases.

The white crepe de chine robe of the initial has a hand-painted front, which is finished at the top with yellow velvet ribbon. The sleeves are of yellow velvet. It is made over an ordinary princess dress. The back of the over dress has no seam, and is sewed to the lining on one side and fastened invisibly with small hooks on the shoulder and underneath the band. The outside material, as is shown in the picture, is gathered into folds in the front, which extend to the back, where they are laid in one large hollow pleat, hanging loose from the dress. The bottom of the skirt is edged with a double ruffle. In the front there is a jabot arrangement of pleated material, and around the neck is a pleated ruche. The straight velvet sleeves are very wide and finished with cuffs of the pleated crepe, over which fall fleeces of the same.

The second illustration shows a dainty princess costume of bengaline in a delicate pink.

PUFF-TRIMMED HOUSE DRESS.

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MODERATE EXAMPLES.

modernized by cutting down the bodice and putting in a yoke to match one of the stripes. The stuff cut out can go to making a rever or soft drapery to outline the yoke, and add elaborateness to the front. A wide bodice belt could be added to match the yoke and the bodice should be worn under the skirt to give the round effect of this season.

If the puffs of the sleeves incline too much to perpendicular fullness, that is obviated by taking them out of the armholes and distributing the fullness, with most of it at the sides of the arm.

All sorts of materials may be used in combination this season. One dress shows the sort of India silk with a lattice-work pattern. The wide bodice belt is of India silk, yet another pattern, and the bodice shows above the wide belt is again of India silk, but not the pattern of the skirt. It looks all right, but dressmakers do things with an air that is convincing. It is safe to remember that the extreme of fashion need not be plunged into at all. The styles for spring seem to admit of no transition from the old modes to the new, but lots of conservative people will adopt cautiously, before they take up any of the startling novelties.

If you want to use yards and yards of astrakhan fur for your spring dress you may cover the front of the bodice with a series of horizontal ruffles, each edged with a lot of fur in all. Then the top of the skirt is edged. The sleeves are a series of flounces, three, that come to the elbow. A tight sleeve fitting under from the shoulder to the wrist. The skirt is made double, the top fitting over the hips and flaring slightly to half way to the knee. Then the under part of the skirt appears, plain to half way to the hem, and then finished with three ruffles. All the ruffles are finished with fur, and since the whole dress flares from hips to hem, you can make use of a quantity of fur. Incidentally you will have a lot of fur on for making over next winter. If the style suits you especially, it will if you are thin and tall, you can carry it out with silk and lace-edged organdie ruffles.

A JACKET EFFECT.

cate gray tint and velvet, somewhat darker. In making it the under dress of bengaline must be fitted perfectly, the velvet will show creases. The front is cut from one piece, the back from two pieces, the sides from three pieces, the center, which is very bias, to form the back skirt. The sleeves are tight as far as the elbow, and then form a puff. The upper dress of velvet is perfectly tight-fitting, and, like the under dress, closes in the back. It is also lined with silk and forms a kind of peasant bodice at the top. It is desirable to cut the upper dress from one piece and then fit it over the hips and in the waist. The standing collar is of bengaline and a second, cape-like, of pleated bengaline. The cuffs, collar and the hem of the silk dress are all the top and bottom of the velvet overdress, are trimmed with narrow bands of fur.

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Exhibit: Would Be Novel.

An enterprising dealer in cosmetics has asked for space at the World's Fair to exhibit an old woman, one-half of whose face is to be smoothed out with the preparation and the remainder left with its mortal wrinkles until the end of the Fair, when he will smooth out the other half