

"DEAR WORKINGMAN"

THE PROTECTION TO WHICH HE IS ENTITLED.

A Writer Demonstrates Mathematically the Absurdity of the Fists that Protection Is for the "Dear Workingman"—The Campaign in Ohio.

DOES HE GET IT?

Mr. Walter Sanders, of Montclair, N. J., has been doing some figuring to learn the actual percentage of protection to which our protected workingmen are entitled, on the claim of the manufacturers that it is all for "the dear workingman." The problem is a simple one, and he has demonstrated mathematically the absurdity of this protectionist plea. Following is his interesting letter in the *New York Post* of Oct. 4:

Sir: If there were not so much bumbling about it, the tender solicitude of protectionists for the dear workingmen would be quite pathetic. I do not suppose one in a thousand has ever considered what amount of protection is given to these various industries for the protection of labor, so I have drawn up a few figures which any workingman could read them and judge for himself that he has been fooled enough. Not only have the American manufacturers the duties in their favor, but also the various other expenses incident to importation and exportation of industrial articles. The following items belong to the cost value of course varies with the character of the goods, being on coarse, bulky goods 15 to 20 per cent, ranging down to from 7 to 10 per cent, or finer, more compact articles. It is a very conservative estimate to give 10 per cent, and I will show how it works out. The amount of protection to labor that the manufacturer gets under certain rates of duty and expense on the foreign articles depends upon the relative cost of labor to the foreign countries together with the incidental expenses of manufacturing and the labor expended in the production of said articles. I will give one example in detail and give the result of some others. Take an article which is made up of half material and half labor, and the cost is subject to a duty of 20 per cent, and it works out in this way upon \$100 worth of foreign goods:

Foreign cost labor..... \$100

Duty 20 per cent..... 20

Freight, commission, freight, insurance, etc..... 50

Delivery..... 10

Now the American manufacturer expends \$20 in material and incidentals, and he has left \$110 which he can (but does not) pay to his workers. The cost of labor is \$100, and the cost of \$20, or, in other words, his labor is protected to the extent of 120 per cent, over the foreign labor.

The various rates of duty are so great under the McKinley bill that it would be an endless task to catalog them all, but a few will set on many articles, the calculations could be carried much further towards showing how greatly favored the American manufacturer are.

The following rates of duty are made at various rates of duty and with 10 per cent, added for expenses and upon goods which comprise certain relative values of labor and material, etc.

PROTECTION THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURER HAS OVER THE FOREIGN LABOR.

| Duty. | Goods composed of | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | $\frac{1}{4}$ labor | $\frac{1}{4}$ labor | $\frac{1}{4}$ labor |
| % material | % material | % material | % material |
| per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. |
| 35 | 180 | 90 | 60 |
| 60 | 140 | 120 | 80 |
| 75 | 120 | 100 | 100 |
| 75 | 140 | 200 | 140 |

These calculations are made upon the position of the actual material costing alike in both places, and will in the main hold good.

In the mercantile list of articles of everyday use, there are very few which cost less than 50 per cent of the total cost, so that in actual experience the higher schedules of protection will be found to be the rule.

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