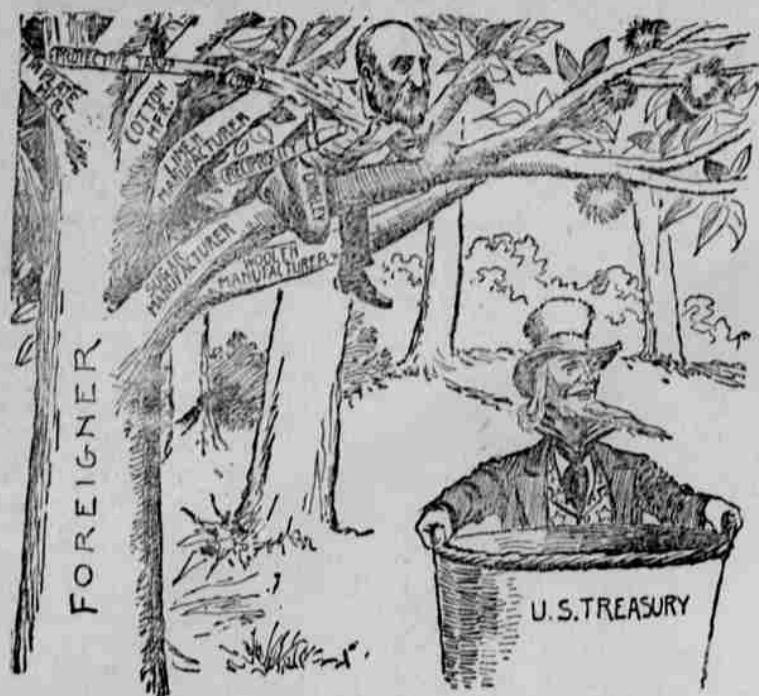


SAME OLD CHESTNUTS.

By making the foreigners contribute from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually to get into our market we enable our own people to run their business a profit.—American Economist, Organ of Protective Tariff League, March 26, 1917.



Uncle Sam: "Say, Dingley, you might as well come down. You're not getting any chestnuts, and you're not fooling voters. McKinley had some experience up that tree—it's a horse chestnut—in 1890. He pretended that he was making the foreigner pay the tax, but he soon found out what the people thought of him and his bill. The bulk of Americans are both born and intelligent. The intelligent voter knows that you can't make the foreigner pay his taxes, and the honest voter prefers to pay his own taxes. You can never make your bill popular by such tomfoolery."

Champ Clark's Wit.

Champ Clark of Missouri is not only one of the wittiest men in the house of representatives, but he is one of the best posted on the tariff question.

In ridiculing some of the rates of the Dingley bill that to him seemed subject of criticism, he recited how a man of the name of George went before the ways and means committee and secured the tariff he wanted by some skillful play about the great statement that daine had produced. Then he said:

"Mr. Chairman, that piece of 'soft soap' made it harder for every poor man in the United States to build a house. Governor Dingley swallowed the bait as quick as a trout would swallow fly (laughter), and next summer some boy devil out west, living in a dugout 100 miles from a railroad station, who voted for McKinley under the deluded idea that prosperity would come under administration and who has not heard of this tariff bill, ciphers it out that he can build him a two room cottage with lumber and other building materials at the old rate. He goes to the ration to get the lumber and finds that the price has gone sky high, and he goes back to his home and says to his wife: My dear, I am sorry that we must stay in the dugout. We cannot build our little house. A great man by the name of Governor Dingley has put the price of lumber and other things so high that we cannot do it, but, thank God, he has left dragon's blood free." [Laughter.]

Next year, when my handsome friend com Iowa (Mr. Dolliver) returns to that fine agricultural district which he represents, some man who has not been able to buy a coat because of the high price of woolen cloth will say to his neighbor, "There comes Dolliver, who at up the price of woolen goods." But so successful candidate for the post office in that district says, "Oh, but Dolliver put divi-divi on the free list!" and in chorus they sing, "Dolliver and divi-divi forever." [Laughter. Applause on the Democratic side.]

Why Increase the Coal Duty?

Under the existing tariff bituminous coal pays 40 cents a ton. The Dingley bill proposes to make this 75 cents. In 1915-16 the imports of bituminous coal to the United States were 1,343,835 tons. The exports were 2,246,284. The duties for Canada were: Imported from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc., 23,404 tons; from Quebec, Ontario, etc., 39,987; from British Columbia, 27,257; exports to these three divisions respectively, 413 tons, 1,671,302 and 694. Canada now proposes in case the ingly rate is imposed to retaliate by a high duty on our coal, which will certainly not stimulate exports. Here is an expert business worth twice as much as the corresponding import business, and it is proposed to run the risk of ruining the former for the sake of drawing \$50,000 taxes out of the latter, and this on the plea of reviving the American industry. Can any sane man claim to see that, even assuming that exports do not fall off, it is hardly worth while for the sake of a paltry \$50,000 to tempt Canada into ruining an established business nearly twice as large as that which is to yield the tax? Is this the way in which "the clothing works."

The Protection Umbrella.



Punctures the Theory.

The opposition of the protected interests of Massachusetts to a duty on hides looks like an abandonment of the favorite protectionist theory that "the foreigner pays the tax."

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Blaine Opposed a Duty on Hides.

The following letter from Secretary of State James G. Blaine in 1890 is supposed to have had great weight with the ways and means committee:

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1890. DEAR MR. MCKINLEY—It is a great mistake to take hides from the free list, where they have been for so many years. It is a slap in the face to the South Americans, with whom we are trying to enlarge our trade. It will benefit the farmer by adding 5 to 8 per cent to the price of his children's shoes. It will yield a profit to the butcher only, the last man that needs it. The movement is injudicious from beginning to end, in every form and phase. Pray stop it before it sees light. Such movements as this for protection will protect the Republican party into a speedy retirement. Yours heartily, JAMES G. BLAINE, Hon. William McKinley, Chairman Ways and Means.

Where is the Blaine this year who can head off the westerners who want their share of protection and foolishly imagine that they can get it by a duty on hides? It is perfectly consistent with the protection system to tax hides, especially as the bulk of the tax would probably go to a few monopoly butchers and ranchmen. But observe some of the effects upon our industries:

The importations of untaxed hides and skins last year were valued at \$20,216,528. The goatskins were valued at \$10,303,350. The former were mostly converted into sole leather, beltings and such like heavy material, for which our native hides are not thick enough. The goatskins are not produced in this country.

From this raw material we not only manufacture boots, shoes and leather goods for our own people cheaper and better than they are made elsewhere in the world, but we exported finished products of the value of \$20,242,756. Without free and cheap raw material this export trade would have been impossible, and our own people, as Mr. Blaine pointed out, would be compelled to pay more for their footwear. The wages paid to our workers in leather last year amounted to \$25,542,166.

Protecting the Few Woolgrowers.

Suppose the Dingley duties on wool would give the woolgrowers all the protection claimed and that the price of wool would actually go up the full amount of the duty, which, of course, is absurd. What would be the effect upon the country at large? Mr. Edward Atkinson, statistician, estimates the annual wool product at \$50,000,000 out of a total of \$13,200,000,000 produced by all the workers of the country and the persons dependent on the wool industry at 300,000 out of a total population of 73,000,000. The wool duty then means that out of every 240 persons 239 are to be "held up" for the benefit of the other one. This is a sample of what protection does. Of course more than 300,000 persons may sometimes raise a few sheep, but the interests of these others are more those of the consumer than of the sheep raiser, and they would lose more because of increased cost of woollens than they would gain by the increased price of wool.

The protective tariff system is a farce when considered in connection with the farmer or the workingman. Will they ever fully appreciate it?

An Odious Tax.

The tin plate makers wish to boom their business by increasing the duty on imported tin plate, to the injury of the canning industry and other industries that flourish by reason of cheap tin plate. Another blow is struck at business by abolishing the rebate on exported tin cans. Now canned goods exported in cans made of imported tin are allowed a drawback of the duty paid, and thus an expert business has been built up in canned fruits, oysters, vegetables, petroleum, etc. Over 4,000,000 tin cans are sent abroad annually, containing oil which competes with that of Russia. When Russia can buy tin plate at \$2.70 a box, while we have to pay \$3.50 for it, it is evident that our competition will be rendered difficult. Mr. Dingley robs Peter to pay Paul.—Baltimore Sun.

Why We Shiver.

It is true that woolen clothing, underwear and blankets will be out of the reach of people of moderate means when Dingley has his way, but just think how sweet it is to suffer for one's country and to shiver in order that the robber barons may continue to wax fat and contribute to the "legitimate" expenses of the g. a. pl.—Louisville Post.

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