

EFFECTS OF PROTECTION

BENEFICIAL TO FEW, INJURIOUS TO MANY.

Professor Arthur Latham Perry Discusses the Policy Opposed to the Welfare of the Masses.

BOSTON, March 28.—The New England Free Trade League issues the following article by Professor Arthur Latham Perry, of Williams College:

The nature and effects of protective tariffs, so called, can only be clearly and certainly seen in the nature and effects of tariff taxes. These are the only things which are liable to be confounded with them; namely, from giving and from stealing. Trade is good in its inmost nature and results. It always was good and it always will be good, and will be protected and accompanied and followed every advance in civilization and religion the world over.

It is as certain as anything in the future can be, that every step of general and persistent wrong, which will be initiated and accelerated by the voluntary buying and selling of men for their own advantage. This is alike and obvious to the plainest eyes, and it is the welfare and happiness of mankind.

To put all these propositions beyond the reach of denial or cavil, I ask the readers of this paper carefully to consider with me the way in which the inductive proof (1) the parties to trade. It takes two to make a bargain; that is, a sale. This maxim is very old and is perfectly sound. One or both of the parties to an ultimate sale may represent, as an agent or official, the interests of other persons than himself, and these interests may be very great and complicated; but this makes no difference in the radical nature of the transaction.

Next let us look carefully to (2) the motives in trade. The human impulses that have led men freely to exchange one thing for another during all the past, in every neighborhood and village and city, and across the seas, must have been extremely strong. These impulses are felt at the present time on every habitable portion of the globe most strongly and widely.

(3) What kinds of things are those which are subject to trade? In other words, what classes of things are bought and sold among men and political states? In all times and in all places, and always will be, and no other classes? To this question has rarely (almost never) been given the attention which it richly deserves, indeed, when it is so generally made. If one would understand trade from the bottom up, the present writer has applied his best powers (such as they are) to this question, and a correct answer to it during the whole of his life.

(4) Tangible commodities, including land.

(5) Personal services, whether common or professional.

be done: how is it actually done in such a country as the United States, with common schools and open-eyed citizens? First, while the men who really get the "protective" tariff taxes passed in Congress, meaning thereby to feather their own nests, are the most numerous, they are, relatively few in number, they are often able by means of combines and log-rolling with other members, who have entirely other ends in view, to toss their accursed burdens on the neck of the common people, and partly also to conceal it. You tickle me, and I will tickle you, has been in the United States, the common principle of protective tariffs from the Tariff of Abominations in 1828 till the Dingley tariff of our own time, which is also a tariff of abominations.

Second, certain men become abnormally rich and powerful through the payment of tariff taxes derived by themselves for that purpose, and so are able to pocket tariff-lifted prices for their own wares through cutting off the natural competition in such a manner that for the purpose of making under a foreign flag. It is not necessary to go out of New England, which is the special field for national effort of the New England Free Trade League, to find a man who is the master of his own fate in which a man of moderate talents has become artificially and wickedly rich through unjust law, and so assisted to tread the steps of official life within his state to the manner mentioned in the above paragraph, helplessness of those whom he is helping to plunder. Within less than a week of the present writing, this man is reported in the public prints as saying officially in Washington: "What reason have I to desire to repeal or reduce some of the war taxes at the coming session of Congress, it is not needful to touch in any way the protective tariff taxes. Why not? Why not strike the worst taxes first, those which make the people pay more, while the treasury gets less? What makes this official effrontery the more outrageous is that no afflicted man or woman can raise a penny to help her or him, but that in a dead in a single God's acre of New England without paying blackmail to one of their public servants in the very presence of death. This is the only one of scores and scores of instances almost innumerable and results all over this country.

And, third, the creation in a republic of a privileged class, such as the combined and compacted protectionists of this country, and the support given to them by the continuance of its free institutions. Plunderers and plundered do not and cannot coalesce well in the intricate work of government, although not all the plunderers are so. But they are not all the plundered have yet learned the nature of the cunning instrument by which their enormous losses are brought about. What is needed is light. What is needed is to reach the minds of the members of Congress as they fold in and perhaps slip out certain clauses of tariff acts. Each party to a trade invariably prefers the policy of protection to that of free trade. This is the universal motive to trade. Stopping trade by statute creates losses by necessity.

Protectionism, therefore, in every degree of its intensity, is a system of legalized losses instead of gains; that is to say, losses to the many in the hope of fictitious gains to the few. I have talked with scores, if not hundreds, of protectionists as such, and found in nearly every case their opinion of it precisely the same as my own when it came to the bottom points. My custom was to ask at length, "Why not abolish then the tariff if it does not benefit your business?" "Ah! you have not seen them!" I have also enjoyed the privilege of hearing in private members of the ways and means committee unfold at length the deadly selfishness and self-interest of those who come before them for "tariff favors."

The late General Garfield, a pupil and lifelong friend of mine, a fellow-member with me and other Americans of the Cobden Club of Great Britain, was one of the great discouragers of these enemies of their country and of mankind. It is by the abuses of language, accordingly, and by the concealment of the substance of things both economic and political that the American people have been and are now duped and fooled.

Finally, we will ask and try to answer the fifth (5) question of our present series; namely, what are the necessary grounds of hope for a better future in the time to come of free-trade effort and discussion.

One is, there are more disinterested citizens than ever before willing to spend and be spent before the tariff. One is, that the late General Garfield, a pupil and lifelong friend of mine, a fellow-member with me and other Americans of the Cobden Club of Great Britain, was one of the great discouragers of these enemies of their country and of mankind. It is by the abuses of language, accordingly, and by the concealment of the substance of things both economic and political that the American people have been and are now duped and fooled.

TIME FOR THEIR MEALS.

How the Passengers of One Train Obtained It.

Kansas City Journal. "I have had some funny experience as a conductor," said a man of punch and blinks, yesterday, as he rested after bringing in his train, "but the most laughable one happened when I was running down Missouri Pacific branch from Coffeyville to Fort Smith, about three years ago. It happened at the eating-house at Waggoner. It was the custom of the road to allow 20 minutes for meals—all roads do that—and the passengers generally bustle off, cram down their food and rush back again. So on the occasion I mentioned, there was no thought given to the matter, and the customary announcement was made.

"Now I was minutes late, and I figured that I could lop a few minutes off that 20, and make up some of it. So I fixed to have the train start at 16 minutes after we stopped. Four minutes gained in four minutes, you know. So I called 'All aboard!' just 15 minutes after we stopped. "There was one smart Alec in that gang that I didn't take into account. The crowd wasn't large, and most of 'em were in a bunch, going next to the scheme at once, and tipped it off to the gang. "Ladies and gentlemen," says he, just like he was making a speech, "it is only 15 minutes since we stopped. The card says we have 20, and they are all too few for us to do this. This is a good meal, and I am hungry. Now this conductor is fooling with us. I propose that we pay him back. Every one finish his meal leisurely, and carefully, and take his royal good time. He won't start without his passengers, rest assured."

"The gang caught on, and yelled. Not a fellow budged, and the only passengers I had at that moment was a corpse in the baggage and one old woman who had brought her lunch with her. "I wasn't on to this, of course, so when I saw no more move, I yelled 'All aboard!' again. The bell began to ring, the whistle tooted, and those folks sat calmly eating and calling for more. "I was crazy! 'Ain't you going on this train?" "When we finish eating," said the smart Alec—and then I caught on. I yelled and howled and roared, but it was no use. "You have our baggage, and you don't leave us all here," said the smart guy—and I did not." "Do you know that gang held me there nearly 10 minutes, all because that fellow was smooth enough to turn the trick over to them. This is a good meal, and I am hungry. Now this conductor is fooling with us. I propose that we pay him back. Every one finish his meal leisurely, and carefully, and take his royal good time. He won't start without his passengers, rest assured."

The common and familiar thread spun by Mme. Spider is so fine that 25,000 miles of it, enough to go around the earth, would weigh only eight ounces. And the threads of the spider are made of 300 filaments.

AMERICA BESTS ENGLAND

GAINING TRADE WHERE LATTER SHOULD HAVE A MONOPOLY.

Commercial Agent Officially Discusses Subject.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The rapid growth of the export of boots and shoes from the United States is attracting the attention of the manufacturing world, and of the representatives in the United States of the manufacturing countries of the world.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States has forwarded to his home Government a statement regarding the exportation of boots and shoes from the United States, in which he cites figures relating to our exports to the United Kingdom, British West Indies, Australasia and Africa, and says: "A glance at these figures will show how American-made boots and shoes are being pushed with success where British-made goods ought to have practically a monopoly." This report, a copy of which has

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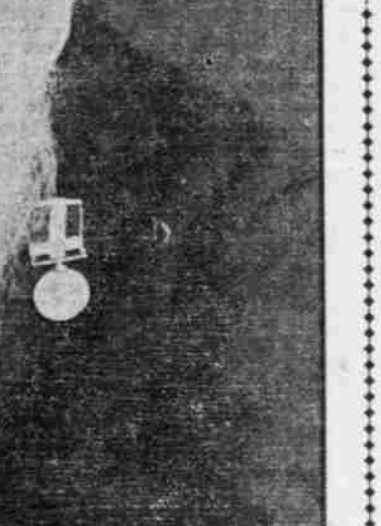
It was said that the exposures which followed the Tranby Croft case put for at least some years a quietus on English society's taste for gambling, says the New York Sun. At all events, attention was not again attracted to this weakness as it had been before, and no such criticism of English social life has been heard in recent years as that which is just now re-echoing from one end of New York to the other.

OLD WILL DISCOVERED.

American Heirs Will Claim an English Estate.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Walter M. Johnson, of Brooklyn, called for England today to claim on behalf of a dozen American heirs the estate of Thomas Holden, valued at \$1,000,000. But for the discovery of the will of Thomas Holden, who died in 1869, the American claimants would be unable to establish their right to the estate. This will was lost to the Holden heirs for years. Holden left no children.

COLUMBIA COUNTY'S OLDEST INHABITANT.



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KINGSLEY, Or., March 28.—(To the Editor.)—Did the Adams warehouse bill become a law, and if not, why not? The bill referred to was introduced in the Senate, passed that body, and went to the House, where it was referred to the committee on commerce. This committee refused to report the bill back to the House, so Senator Adams introduced the same bill again in the Senate, and secured its passage; but this was so late in the session that it never came up for action in the House. There was a strong opposition to the bill on the part of warehousemen, and it is impossible to say what action would have been taken had the committee on commerce reported it back.

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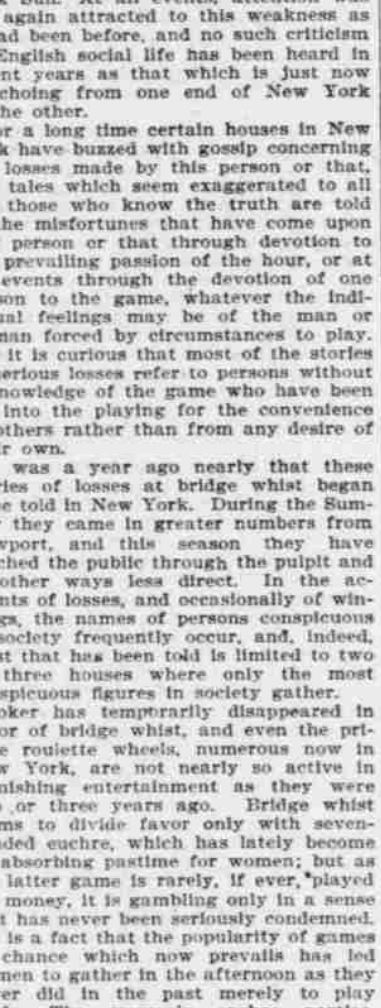
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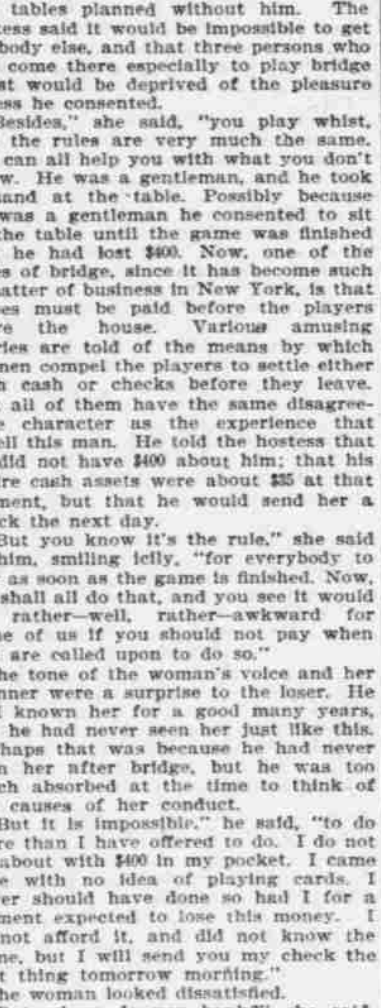
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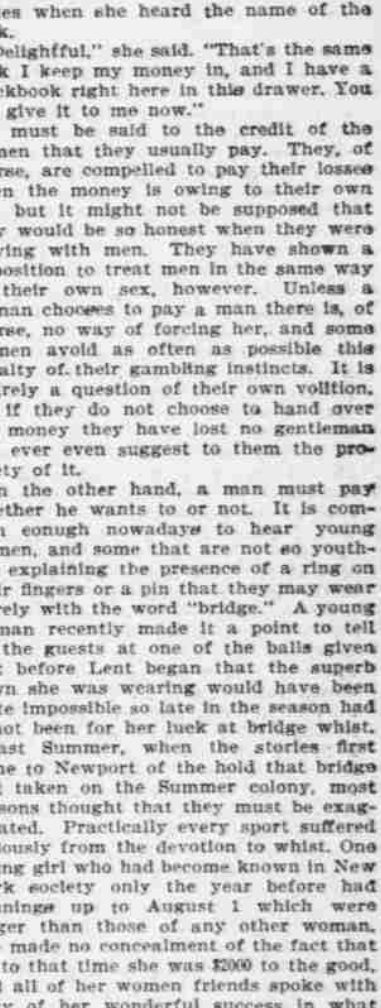
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