

Farm & Garden.

THE WESTERN FARMER OF AMERICA.

BY AUGUSTUS MORGENTHAU.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

The golden rule for successful trading is to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market.

While the Western farmer himself neither receives nor seeks any legislative "protection" he is compelled by law to supply his wants, not from the cheapest sources, but from certain privileged establishments.

While he requires no State subvention, because his occupation is of itself a profitable one, he is heavily taxed to support unprofitable manufactures in the Eastern States.

1. How much is actually taken yearly out of the pockets of the American farmers by compelling them to buy dear, instead of allowing them to buy cheap, goods.

2. What becomes of the enormous sum that is yearly drained from them in this way.

3. How this dreadful and wanton waste can be avoided.

CHAPTER II.

HOW MUCH IS ACTUALLY TAKEN YEARLY.

By the census of 1870 the population of the United States was found to be 38,000,000; and the number over ten years of age was 28,229,000.

Of these, 12,606,000 were engaged in various kinds of occupations, except being women, young persons of both sexes, idlers, etc.

These figures mean, in short, that the same enormous artificial inflation of natural prices runs through every article (except food) with which the farmer has to provide his family.

The American has extraordinary advantages over the British farmer. He has, first, a soil so fertile as to produce freely with cheap tillage and no manure.

As in these pages we only profess to represent the case of the American farmer, we must confine our attention to the six millions of persons and their families who are engaged in the cultivation of the soil.

Now let us see what is the actual amount which the farmers (that is, men, women, boys and girls) expend yearly on the goods produced by the manufacturers.

In the first place the six millions of agriculturists of 1870 must by this time have increased to at least 7,500,000, as will no doubt be within the mark we will call them 7,000,000, nearly all of them having wives and children.

It must be borne in mind that this amount includes wool, cotton, linen and silk fabrics, and therefore every species of clothing for male and female, as also sheets, curtains, blankets, carpets, etc.

It must be borne in mind that this amount includes iron, wire, cutlery, tools, farming implements, machinery, agricultural machinery, as well as railway conveyance on iron, which cost very much more than it would have cost had it been imported from abroad.

Having now cleared the way thus far, it is easier to calculate the total sum annually spent on manufactured goods by the farmers and agriculturists generally of the great Central and Western States.

The next step is to ascertain what portion of that amount the farmers would save if, by the abolition of the

import duties, they were left free to supply their wants from the cheapest market, wherever that might be, whether in America or in Europe, whether in New England or in Old England. This question is easily solved and answered, as, fortunately we have the guidance of positive facts supplied by the official returns of the United States Government.

Articles Imported.

Table with 4 columns: Article, Amount in dollars, Ad valorem import duties paid on them according to rates, and Value according to rates.

What do these figures mean?

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THE ANTI-MONOPOLY LEAGUE.

A recent dispatch says that the Anti-Monopoly League, whose headquarters are in New York, have received applications for charters for branch State Leagues from twenty-four different States.

The movement is one in which the people of the United States must take the deepest interest, and it is evident the central organization understand how to arouse the nation to the danger threatening them.

"Monopoly is growing in all the States. It has completely subjugated our fruit. There, monopoly is King."

There, a few men control steam transportation. They have annihilated competition. There is no farmer, not a producer between the mountains and the Pacific who does not pay heavier tribute than conquered people ever paid to their conquerors.

They fix the value of the farm, the mine, the mill and the forest. They decide year by year whether the producer shall make a profit or a loss; whether his children shall travel toward the money or the porchouse.

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It is said that California, with the tonnage in sight, cannot possibly clear more than 250,000 shorts tons prior to July 1st, at which time the new crop begins to move. Add 491,000 shorts tons to the 1,350,000, confidently expected from the coming harvest, and for the fourteen months coming there must be 1,700,000 to 1,900,000 tons of shipping to transport California's grain. Oregon is in much the same condition, although small figures are used, and what affects California also affects Oregon.

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