

## A PAYING INVESTMENT

Wire Rope Trust Gave the Republicans \$100,000 in 1896.

### THE PEOPLE HAVE PAID IT BACK

The Duties Were Fixed in 1897 and the Trust Now Rolls in Prosperity. Americans Pay Nearly Three Times Prices Charged Foreigners—Manufacturers Bulldozed.

The almost criminal folly of the protective tariffs of today, and especially of the inexcusable tariff on iron and steel goods, is well illustrated by the wire rope trust.

The manufacturers of wire rope have for years had a "gentlemen's agreement" on prices, an agreement similar to that of the manufacturers of steel rails or of structural steel or of sheets or of most of the other products of the steel mills. The principal parties to this agreement, pool or trust are John A. Roebbing & Sons company, Trenton, N. J.; Hazard Manufacturing company, Wilkesbarre, Pa.; Washburn & Moen Manufacturing company, St. Louis, Mo.; Roderick & Bascom Rope company, St. Louis, and the Williamsport Wire company, Williamsport, Pa.

Realizing that the prices which can be got for wire rope depend largely upon the duty on wire rope, the members of this trust began in 1896 to sow seeds for the big harvest of profits which they have been reaping since 1897. According to the statements of some of the members, they contributed \$100,000 to the Republican campaign fund in 1896. At least if all contributed their pro rata shares, as did some of the members, the Republican administration of 1897 was indebted to this trust in the sum of \$100,000.

As the better grades of wire rope have always been and still are made largely from imported rods or wire (larger than No. 6) the trust wanted no increase on the duty on wire rods. None was made in the Dingley bill. The duty on wire rope, however, was increased by the amount of the increased duty on coated or galvanized wire. The trust was also permitted to continue to benefit by the unreasonable tariff which compelled importers of wire rope to pay the same rate of duty per pound on the central core of the rope as upon the wire of which the rope is composed. This central core usually consists of tarred jute or hemp and is used only as a "former" around which to twist the strands. It has little or no value, but adds 5 to 10 per cent to the weight on which duty is assessed.

Having fixed up the Dingley bill to suit their tastes, they proceeded to reap their profits by putting prices at home up to the tariff limit, while lowering prices to foreigners so that our rope is exported to every important foreign country with the possible exception of England. As the duty on imported wire rope will average nearly 100 per cent, the trust charges domestic consumers more than twice what is charged foreigners for its goods.

In the following table are compared net cash prices in America and England. The American prices are obtained by deducting 60 per cent from the price list of John A. Roebbing & Sons company for galvanized transmission or haulage rope composed of six strands and a hemp center, seven wires to the strand. The ordinary discount to agents for this class of rope is only 40 and 12 1/2 per cent. But as some agents get special discounts on some kinds of goods, which amount to 60 per cent net, I have taken this lowest possible price. The English prices are those quoted in a letter written April 10, 1902, by a leading English manufacturer to a New York dealer. They are for galvanized BB wire rope, six strands, each seven wires, and are f. o. b. Liverpool.

PRICE OF GALVANIZED STEEL WIRE ROPE (CENTS PER FOOT).			
Approximate circumference.	England.	America.	American times English price.
4 1/4	7.44	18.92	2 1/2
4	6.31	15.84	2 1/2
3 3/4	5.28	12.76	2 1/2
3	4.71	10.12	2 1-5
2 3/4	3.53	7.30	2
2 1/4	2.96	6.16	2
2	2.18	4.40	2
1 1/2	1.85	3.52	1 1/2-10
1 1/4	1.53	2.88	1 3/4
1 1/2	1.23	2.42	2
1	.68	1.65	2 1-2

Here we see that the prices of ordinary galvanized steel wire rope are from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 times as high in America as in England, and yet the American and English wire ropes compete in both countries. If we deduct from the English price 25 cents per hundred pounds as the cost of getting American rope to foreign markets, we find that the actual export price of American rope must average only about one-third of the price charged our own consumers.

How much of this difference is accounted for by the tariff?

Adding the duty, at least 24 cents per pound, and the transportation cost, 25 cents per pound, we get the cost of English rope 4 1/4 inches in circumference, three pounds to a foot, as 15.39 cents per foot, while the actual price charged here by the trust is 18.92 cents. Thus our trust charges us 30 per cent more than the cost of laying down English rope in our markets even after paying an import duty of over 90 per cent on the English price. English rope 1 1/2 inches in circumference costs 2.88 cents here, while the trust price is 3.52 cents. Thus apparently our importers of English rope are making profits of 20 or 30 per cent. Why do they not cut prices and get all the business?

According to the statements of importers of wire rope, the customs officials invariably advance prices of the foreign imported goods on which ad-

valorem duties are assessed, although the prices entered are actual purchase prices. Moreover, the United States government sent a detective to England to learn the price paid by American importers. Although this detective had free access to the books of at least one English manufacturer and found nothing that did not verify the invoice prices, yet the customs officials here continue to advance the invoice prices on goods imported by Americans.


In some cases the importers say that they make their prices out higher than the actual prices paid so that they will not be penalized, as they would be should the customs officials add more than 10 per cent to their invoice prices. Probably one-fourth of the importers' apparent profits are wiped out by the overzealousness of the customs department in serving the wire rope trust.

In the next place, it is not easy for importers to find customers. Wire rope is usually one of the materials or products, and a minor one, required in some construction job of work. It is important that the contractors obtain when desired all of the other and more important products. These they can be certain of obtaining only of very large dealers in all kinds of iron and steel goods and at present practically only of the steel trust. The extent to which the steel trust is now putting on the screws on the manufacturers, merchants and contractors who consume steel goods is not realized by the general public. If a manufacturer is dependent upon the steel trust for any one important material, he cannot obtain it unless he buys all his materials from the trust, at least all the trust can supply. Not only this, but in many instances the trust will prescribe the maximum prices at which and the territory in which this dependent manufacturer can sell his finished product and the railroads over which his material must be shipped; also, if he does not pay cash, the trust will inform him through what banks he must finance his accounts and give him other similar details of procedure to remind him of the new order of things and of his loss of independence.

Similar treatment is accorded to merchants and contractors. Practically, if not actually, the steel trust says to consumers, "Buy of us and only of us if you wish to continue to do business in this country." As the trust is practically the only producer of many important products, like wire, tin plate, etc., nearly all manufacturers, dealers and contractors are at the mercy of the trust. Even if a contractor could get all of his materials for any one job outside of the trust he does not dare to offend it, for he has other contracts which require steel trust products. The result is that he reluctantly submits to the trust's dictation. As a matter of fact many manufacturers, dealers and big contractors now look only to the trust for materials and have ceased to obtain quotations from outsiders and foreigners. Thousands of such manufacturers and dealers are cursing the trust in an undertone while openly submitting to its terms and exactions.

It is this state of affairs, due to the bulldozing tactics of the steel trust in the business world, that makes it possible for wire rope to sell in this country for two or three times the price in England and for nearly twice the cost, duty paid, of English wire rope in this country. The wire rope pool, it should be remembered, is now a part of the great steel trust and gets the benefit of the power of the trust to dictate terms and hold up most of the steel consuming industries. If all other steel goods were on the free list, the duty on wire rope would undoubtedly limit the power of the wire rope combine to extort from the consumer. But, all steel goods being protected by high tariff duties, the wire rope trust can exact from its victims much more than the amount of the duty on wire rope, which illustrates the beauties of high tariffs on goods which we are exporting to all parts of the world. BYRON W. HOLT.

**The Mother of Trusts.**



**Class in Wool, Stand Up!**

The present tariff has been protecting us for nearly six years, and trusts have grown fat and saucy, but the woolgrower, with the highest tariff ever exacted, is not getting as much for his wool as under the lower tariff the rascally Democrats enacted. Why this is so is respectfully referred to the Woolgrowers' Protective association. The balance of us who have to buy the "cheap wool" clothing and find it is made of cotton and shoddy would like to see the all wool and a yard wide cloth that would wear a month without getting threadbare.

**Just a Coincidence.**

Senator Hanna squirms considerably over the charge that he favors the Panama route for the canal in the interest of the transcontinental railroads and threatens libel suits to those newspapers who lambast him. It is rather singular that all the United States senators who are "friendly" to the railroads are opposing the Nicaragua route or have been persuaded that the Panama route is the best.

## LOCAL NOTES.

Geo. Mickey and his family are by the sounding sea at Crescent City.

Dr. Geo. H. Alken of Fresno, Calif., a sojourner in Klamath county.

Judge and Mrs. H. L. Benson have returned to Klamath county from Salem.

Reames Chapter, O. E. S., has suspended its meetings until the middle of September.

Wealthy Evans has sued her husband, Jas. Evans, for divorce. W. M. Colvig is her attorney.

Mrs. E. A. Hicks of Medford, who has been visiting in Sacramento, Calif., returned home a short time ago.

Merle Anderson of Spokane and Mrs. A. Anderson were in Medford this week. They started for home Thursday.

Mrs. Rilla Angle, who has been visiting in Jacksonville and Ashland, left for her home in Wisconsin last Tuesday.

The grand ball, which will take place at Wilson's Opera House Wednesday night, will be the social event of the season.

Hon. Chas. S. Moore, state treasurer, W. M. Ladd of Portland and Ed. Cross of Salem are rusticated in Klamath county.

A. J. Stevens and C. E. Hooper of Ashland have been on Poorman's creek, looking for a location for a saw mill.

Hotel Nash will probably be remodeled and enlarged in the near future. Architect Palmer is drawing the plans.

Geo. Stevens of Brownsboro and L. A. Askew of Willow Springs district were Medford visitors one day during the week.

Thos. Bailey of Table Rock precinct was severely bitten by a rattlesnake recently, and for a time was in a precarious condition.

Uncle George Klum, a pioneer of Linn county, a brother of Chas. K. Klum of Ashland, has been visiting in this county.

W. C. Latham is at Grant's Pass, putting the new machinery of the S. P. D. & L. Co. in position. He is a first-class machinist.

The weather during the past week has been quite warm, the mercury gambling close to the 100-mark on several occasions.

W. D. Beideman, a former resident of Medford and Gold Hill, is operating the stage line between Ashland and Klamath Falls. He was here Friday.

Judge Hanna and District Attorney Reames returned from Grant's Pass Thursday, on which day the regular term of the circuit court for Josephine county closed.

Ed. Welch of Spikenard, manager of the Welch Lumber Co., which is putting a large quantity of superior lumber on the market, made us a pleasant call Thursday.

It is rumored, on good authority, that Hon. W. M. Colvig of Jacksonville and A. M. Cannon of Albany, two attorneys of ability, will soon open a law office in Medford.

W. L. Halley is building a neat residence in West Medford, north of the M. E. Church, South. It has already been rented by F. W. Hollis of the Medford Furniture Co.

Isaac Kent of Central Point, while binding a load of hay a few days since, fell from the wagon to the ground, and broke his left leg at the thigh. Dr. Pickett reduced the fracture.

Miss Cora Sutton of Salem, who has been visiting her sister, Miss Myrtle Sutton, left for Northern California Thursday. She enjoys an excellent reputation as a photographer.

Wm. Ennis of Klamath, Calif., who was formerly engaged in the saloon business in Medford, recently passed through the valley, en route home from Portland. He had one of his hands so seriously injured that it was necessary to amputate a finger.

Wm. Brown of Klamath, Calif., has been in Southern and Southwestern Oregon lately. He has been engaged in several mining enterprises, but will now turn his attention to timber.

Hon. L. R. Webster of Portland has been visiting in Southern Oregon. At the late election he was elected county judge of Multnomah county, with a salary of \$3,000 a year attached to it.

G. L. Schermmerhorn, the well-known contractor and builder, will soon erect a residence for C. H. Lewis on the orchard he bought of Weeks & Orr some time ago. It will be of unique pattern, resembling the bungalow of the Orient.

Charley Anderson, eldest son of J. A. Anderson, who was well known in Southern Oregon, perished while on his way to Thunder Mountain district, together with a number of others. He was thirty-three years old.

Sheriff Rader brought to Jacksonville Thursday morning C. B. Matney, a pioneer and highly respected citizen of Applegate. His mind has been affected sometime, and the authorities thought it advisable to send him to the asylum. He was examined in Judge Prim's court by Dr. Robinson, who pronounced him insane. Mr. Matney was taken to Salem the same day by Mr. Rader and Chas. Hamilton.

A meeting of the veterans of the Indian war will be held at Wilson's Opera House, in Medford, Saturday afternoon, to devise ways and means to obtain the pensions to which they are entitled under the law passed by Congress. It will doubtless be well attended.

D. C. Herrin, a prominent member of the A. O. U. W., who is and has been operating in Ohio and other eastern states, lately spent a few days in Ashland, his former home. His wife is engaged in a like work in the female department of the same order. Both are meeting with considerable success.

R. S. Dunlap, the veteran sexton of the Jacksonville cemetery, Thursday exhumed the bodies of the two children of Harry and Rilla Angle, who died in Medford several years ago and were buried in a neighboring burying-ground. They have since been reinterred in the first-named cemetery, beside the remains of Mrs. Angle's mother, the late Minerva Phillips.

H. H. Wolters, a brother of Chas. W. Wolters of Talent, was killed in San Francisco last month, while following his occupation as a teamster. The horses he was driving ran away and threw him from the wagon, inflicting injuries from which he soon died. "Ham," as he was familiarly called, was a resident of Medford and Jacksonville for many years.

### THE CHAUTAUQUAS

Assembly Was a Great Success—Attendance Better Than Usual.

The annual session of the Southern Oregon Chautauque Association was well attended and greatly enjoyed. In some respects the programme was better than usual, while the receipts probably exceeded those of any held during the past few years.

The following officers were elected to serve during the ensuing year:

- President, G. F. Billings.
- Secretary, T. A. Hayes.
- Treasurer, F. H. Carter.

### VICE PRESIDENTS.

- E. D. Briggs, Ashland.
- H. C. Kinney, Grant's Pass.
- W. A. Carter, Gold Hill.
- D. T. Lawton, Medford.
- Miss Lillian Julien, Yreka.
- A. J. Hany, Central Point.
- S. H. Jones, Jacksonville.
- Miss Emma Coleman, Phoenix.
- S. Sherman, Talent.
- J. Q. Willits, Lakeview.
- L. F. Willits, Klamath Falls.

### GENERAL TRUSTEES.

- J. F. Norris, D. H. Jackson, Elmer Patrick, G. W. Trefren, H. L. Whitel.
- DENOMINATIONAL TRUSTEES.**
- Christian, Mrs. L. Ganlard.
  - Baptist, Mrs. A. F. Eddy.
  - Presbyterian, Mrs. J. K. Van Sant.
  - Congregational, Rev. G. W. Nelson.
  - Methodist, Mrs. J. L. Downing.
  - Episcopal, Mrs. E. A. Smith.
  - Catholic, Mrs. H. L. McWilliams.
  - Dunkard, Dr. D. M. Brower.

## Contagious Blood Poison

Is the name sometimes given to what is generally known as the BAD DIS-EASE. It is not confined to dens of vice or the lower classes. The purest and best people are sometimes infected with this awful malady through handling the clothing, drinking from the same vessels, using the same toilet articles, or otherwise coming in contact with persons who have contracted it.

It begins usually with a little blister or sore, then swelling in the groins, a red eruption breaks out on the body, sores and ulcers appear in the mouth, the throat becomes ulcerated, the hair, eye brows and lashes fall out; the blood becoming more contaminated, copper colored spots and pustular eruptions and sores appear upon different parts of the body, and the poison even destroys the bones.

S. S. S. is a specific for this loathsome disease, and cures it even in the worst forms. It is a perfect antidote for the powerful virus that pollutes the blood and penetrates to all parts of the system.

Unless you get this poison out of your blood it will ruin you, and bring disgrace and disease upon your children, for it can be transmitted from parent to child. S. S. S. contains no mercury or potash, but is guaranteed a strictly vegetable compound.

Write for our free home treatment book and learn all about Contagious Blood Poison. If you want medical advice give us a history of your case, and our physicians will furnish all the information you wish without any charge whatever.

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The greatest care has been taken to provide all the necessary appointments of a well-equipped school, and to furnish every facility for training pupils in the most approved methods. The aim of the school is to give thorough and well-earned instruction to girls and young women, fitting them for college when that is desired, and to aid in the development of true and womanly character.

The Fall term opens September 16, 1901. A faculty of twenty competent teachers (males for children and young women that individual care and instruction necessary to the best results.)

There are four skilled teachers in the Music Department alone, specialists in Art and Elocution, and native teachers in French and German.

Provision is made for all athletic games suitable to women, as tennis, croquet, basket ball, bicycling and horseback riding. A gymnasium, Swedish feet, is in process of construction which will offer still more opportunity for healthful exercise.

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