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MONDAY - FEBRUARY 14, 1898

TRIUMPH OF PROTECTION.

The culminating triumph of the system of protective tariffs applied to American industries is that it has taught the old world that low wages do not of necessity insure low cost of production. It is simple truth that the manufacturer of iron and steel goods in the United States pays from thirty to eighty, or even one hundred, per cent more for his labor than his European rival, and that, though he has to haul his raw material ten times as far from the mine to the furnace and shop, he produces a better article at a lower cost. In its beginning protection increased the cost of some articles to the American consumer, but this was during a short stage of commercial existence. Protection stimulated output, and stimulation of output involved fierce competition for possession of the home market, and that resulted in low prices.

At last, says the Inter Ocean, the American output has exceeded all possible demands of the home market, and foreign trade has become a necessity. To the astonishment of Europe it is proved that goods made by men who earn from \$1.50 to \$4 per day can be sold as cheaply as those produced at a labor cost of from \$1 to \$3. America is teaching Europe a lesson in sociology.

The low-paid laborer of Europe often is a tool rather than a mechanic. He works as he was taught to work by his father. He improves upon nothing; he discovers nothing. He eats, he sleeps, he works; he does not think. The better paid artisan of America is better educated, more ambitious, and infinitely more inventive. He is paid far more than the European, and he lives upon a far more liberal scale, but he produces far more and of better quality, although he works fewer hours in each day.

The European plan has worked to the degradation of the workman; the American method has worked to his betterment. Thus we now are able to produce pig iron at from \$2 to \$3 per ton less cost than rules in England, and this saving pays ocean freight and leaves a margin of profit on foreign sales. We are selling steel rails to London, and covering the roads of Europe with American bicycles, and are putting American sewing machines into European shops and houses. We are furnishing Japan, China, Australia and British Africa with steam warships, locomotives, electrical appliances and all materials of railway plants.

It is, paradoxical as it may seem, to the high wages that our protective system fostered that our success in foreign trade is due. Competition for possession of the largest and most profitable home market of the world stimulated invention, and the intelligent ambition of our artisans made them specialists and inventors. Protection insured us a home market, and commercial activity in that wide area has strengthened the arms of our commerce and manufactures till they have become able to reach out for and to grasp a large and increasing share of the trade of the world.

THE DE LOME INCIDENT.

Either by the acceptance of disgraced De Lome's resignation, or by his recall, it matters not much which, he was summarily ousted from the honorable and onerous position which he has proven himself unfit to fill. It was a bad faux pas for so experienced a diplomat to make, even in a private letter. No true gentle-

man and diplomat could have so far forgotten his position and the respect he owed to the chief magistrate of this great government.

The United States will not lay De Lome's fault at the door of the government at Madrid, and the incident need not necessarily cause any official rupture between the two governments, though it is likely to increase the hostile sentiment among the people of both countries. The intelligent people of the United States do not hate the Spaniards as individuals, but they despise the Spanish government, and reprobate its atrocities in Cuba, and sincerely desire the liberation of that island; hence would not deplore any incident that would bring on hostilities. But the De Lome incident, of itself, is no additional occasion for war with Spain.—Tribune.

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