

SSUED EVERT PEIDAY, BY CLARKE & CRAIG. PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS D. W. CHAIG. S. A. CLARKE.

SALEM, FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1878.

#### OUR WOOL INTEREST AND FREE TRADE.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Your readers without doubt, are conversant with the effort that is to be made in Congrees, at the earliest practical moment, to revise the existing tariff. The movers of this measure have arranged with much care, a plan to introduce the subject as soon as the currency question is finally settled, and urge it forward under the specious object of more fully extending, and developing the foreign market for American manufactures and pro-

The great meeting of the representatives of Eastern commercial interest with the factors of foreign commercial and industrial capitallately held at Saratoga, which resulted in a combined movement to prepare the way for absolute control of the incoming dominant pelitical party upon the question, ought to be sufficient warning of what industrial capital and labor may expect if they succeed.

The power of such a mass of capital as is here represented, cannot be well estimated. especially when applied in a time of active political change and uncertainty, as now occupies the public mind. I have no desire in handing you this article to enter upon the discussion of the question of industrial protection, I only hope to be able to convince the reader of the danger to all our essential business interests, and domestic business relations, if the movement referred to should succeed in establishing the absurd policy of " Free Trade," in place of that of protection

to Amer can labor and capital.

It would seem to be the crowning proof of the danger to any thoughtful observer, who will examine the undermining influences of British diplomacy, as displayed in the reports of Industrial Progress, and the condition of the finances of the people, and the exchquer, of those powers who have blindly yielded to its influences. Not one of them which for the last ten years have been under the influence of the commercial treaties of England.

The operatives in the woolen mills of the country who feel the effect of the low condition of business, find that while they might be able to buy clothing from imported woolens cheaper for a while, yet the breaking down of the home manufacturing interest by reason of excessive importations would deprive them of labor, and then with no competition, here they would be entirely subject to the conscient our scruptes of the English trade mayter for continued cheap clothing and fabrics.

If "time and space were at command for the ence of the commercial treaties of England. in which the Free Trade policy was adopted, that have not been forced by industrial disaster and the voice of the people through their respective Parliamentary bodies, to demand a change and return to domestic protection, as the only road upon which national independence could be maintained.

Within the past year an immense gathering of all the great industrial interests of Germany, met at Frankfort, and passed resolutions demanding that no commercial treaty with foreign powers should be made look. ing towards free trade, distinctly threatening to remove the remnant of their manufactur. ing interests to foreign soil if they were not to be protected from foreign labor.

The commission appointed to examine and report upon the condition of German industries, represented most emphatically that In these parliaments the interests of the peofree trade had flooded the empire with products of English industry, and was spreading of the people by the effect of such treaties labor. In France, Marshall MacMahon, in his tour through France urged with great force the continuance, and increase of their protective policy. A policy which had been instrumental in spite of the uncertain and miserable political policy of the realm, in saving the country, and carrying it through the terrible demands of her public enemies.

He showed that by an oversight or imperfection in the protective bill, France had in creased her imports in eighteen months, two hundred million france upon textile fabrics, making one hundred and twenty million france taken in that time from French labor. The wonderful fact that France was able without distress to pay the largest known war tax in a few months, ought to have its weight with industrial economists.

The example of India, which at one time furnished cotton and allk fabrics for haif the world, forced by England to sell her raw products and buy English manufactures, her industries all closed, an empire of paupers, and the bones of millions of the inhabitants literally starved to death, whiten the plains of a once prosperous empire. Turkey, under of a once prosperous empire. Turkey, under Therefore it is to be hoped that every man free trade policy is now shown to the world upon this western coast who is identified with no bed rock of industrial independencewhile England, her sycoybantic destroyer, insults her victim, by expressing holy sympathy with the false religious crusage of the

country in the place of protection, demands the attention of every working man, as well as the earnest effots of industrial capital, to ward off its effects; to protest in no measured terms against the adoption of a measure which will surely paralize our leading industries. Examine for one moment the effect of this policy upon our wool interest upon this coast, which is destined under protection to overshadow all others in importance.

Already the adaptability of our physical conditions, for the production of this most important commodity, is attracting much attention in the market of demand, and our full year's growth of strong warp wool, much of which in favorable circumstances may be had to meet the great demand for combing staples brings this product of the Columbia valley into a prominent place in the Eastern market. The public will know the effect of the protective tariff in inducing and increas-

ing this great interest in Oregon.

In spite of its necessary journey nearly balf around the earth to its final market, in spite of bowing to the factor at our port of export with all his charges, which is again repeated at San Francisco, thence across the committee of the same to submit to commitcontinent, there to submit to commis-sion's and charges, all to be taken from pro-

con'inent, there to submit to commission's and charges, all to be taken from production account; in spite of the foolishness of paying freight at enormous rates by rail upon thir y to forty per cent of dirt is its unwashed state. Yet no industry can show such a margin for capital invested.

It is within the reach of any poor man with little or no capital, and unlike government bonds, which are reduced in value as each cupon is removed, the sheep reproduces the cupon in each year's place, and adds to the farmer's or shepberd's credit account, a year'y bond (in the increase) as good as the original. bond (in the increase) as good as the original. Does the reader ask for reasons for the unex-Does the reader ask for reasons for the unex-pected increase in this interest and for the bright future prospects of all this region in-terested in this production, in spite of dist-ance and the load of charges upon its sale and transportation to market? The reply must be, protection against foreign wool, and a home marker, upon our own soil, which was sustained through the most trying financial ordeal of the pust five years, by the wise pro-visions of the tariff of 1867, which protected the wool grower, and the wool manufacturer

alike.

The report of the Australian government upon its industries for 1876, deplores the low state of their wool growing interest, which for that year was five times greater than the combined returns of all other industries' including mining products of the continent; and adds that there is reason to hope that the combined influences of the boards of trade, industrial associations, and commercial circles of the Home government, of their own ports, and that of the boards of trade, of the commercial cities of America, will be able to break down the protective tariff of the United States and again open up that great market, States and again open up that great market, to their overstocked wool market. I may not give the words as the report is not at hand, but this is the text of the hope, held out to the Australian shepherd, in the last official report of that government.

official report of that government.

I have no hesitation in expressing the belief that should our ports be opened to Australis, to New Zesland, to Buenos Ayers, Capse of Good Hope, Adrianople, and the wood producing parts of the world, at such reduced rates of duty as will admit of free importation, the sheep in the Columbia valley, will not be worth the pelts which now cover them. We pay our herders \$400 per year and board, while the average of wages for the same service in the countries named is \$150, and board. The ruin of the shepherds' interests is not the greatest one to be feared in the event of the adoption of the free trade the event of the adoption of the free trade

and fabrics.

If time and space were at command for the full edification of the free trader upon this coast, who recognises the extent of this present and prospective interest, I should be glad to lay before your readers the late speech of the President of the "Department of Economy and Trade," of Great Britain. He congratulates his hearers, (the leading economists of the English nation), upon the triumphant results of the system of diplomacy by which he declares free trade is to be secured, but in the course of his speech, frankly admits his fear of the awakening of the masses in the countries who have adopted reciprocity, to its effects to transfer industrial interests to England, and run their industries. He regested to see the treaty diplomacy of the various European powers subjected to a parliament of the people, instead of being determined by the heads of governments. To use his own words, he finds reason for aprehension in the "fact that the last generation has seen an enormous developement of parliamentary institutions on the continent of Europe." ary institutions on the continent of Euro would have held on their way, and allowed them to sink or swim."

To return for a moment to the wool growing and manufacturing interest in this threatened change in the policy of the government.
I wan't to copy the words of Prof. Grothe, of
Berlin, a member of the Imperial Parliament
of Germany, upon the effect of free trade
upon their wool industries:

"We formerly had in Germany the best

"We formerly had in Germany the best wool in the world, and a most flourishing sheep husbandry. The whole world was at-tracted to the German market of fine wool. and the German woolen cloths in nearly all qualities was the best produced in any country. Since the first and second steps in the way of free trade, we have lost successively our great number of sheep, and our great quantities of fine cloth." He adds that a large portion of the wool now used in Germany, is purchased in London wool market, which, should friendly relations be disturbed be-tween the nations, would close the German

In addressing your readers through the FARMER, there is certainly no desire to raise a false cry of alarm, at the proposed changes. I well know that to the public, the evil seems a long way off. There is also a feeling of safety engendered in reading the President's message upon our business relation with foreign powers. Yet it is a safe adage "to pre pare shelter in advance of storms."

with its industries, will consider this matter and be prepared to enter protests against a change. That all industrial associations; the State Agricultural Society; the Grange organ-izations, and all who unite for material as-Muscovite. Austria and Italy are at this moment agitating as a necessity, a return to protection.

This policy, which is to be urged upon our country in the piace of protection demand. to be paid in shoddy goods, and the products of foreign cheap labor, instead of gold, for the sake of carrying the delusive banner of free trade hitched to any political party, cun-ningly placed there by interests in foreign trade and foreign exchange, let us at once bid good bye to the inspirations of advanced civ-ilization which has builded us an independ-ant people, and teach our children to be thankful for the crumbs that fall from the free-trade masters.

Heppner, Dec. 15th, 1877.

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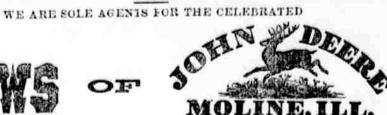
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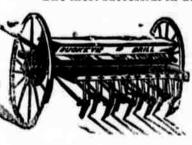


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