

THE PROTECTIVE TARIFF.

A Reader's Opinion as to How Much it Benefits the Farmer.

HIGH VALLEY Ore., Dec. 22nd, 1890. EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

I consider the protective tariff is today the only real question before the American people. It is the only real question that affects the whole people, but more especially the poorer portion of the population, yet I think it is rarely, if ever, such an important issue was less understood by those deeply interested in it. I have heard, more than once, men of excellent business ability say they did not know anything about the tariff question; that it was too profound for them, yet they walk up to the polls, cast their ballot and claim they voted intelligently and would be highly indignant if you doubted it in the least. This ought not to be so with American citizens but it is so and will continue so as long as the people will allow the hiring politicians to do their thinking for them and fail to make the proper investigation themselves. As a matter of equal importance to the farmers is the tariff schedule in the McKinley bill. It is claimed by high protectionists that a duty on farm products is beneficial to the farmer. Now if this is true we are glad to know it; if it is not true we are equally interested in finding it out. Before a tariff on farm products can be a benefit to the farmers there must be a greater amount of farm products shipped to this country to come into competition with our home products. Now what are the facts in the case. In the first place we produce wheat and corn cheaper in this country than does any other in the world. Second, we produce in excess of our home demand, about ninety million bushels of wheat annually, and of corn, about one billion bushels annually. 75 or 80 per cent. are the entire exports of the country come from the farm. You can readily see what a small per cent. of the American exports come from the factory industries of the country. Two thousand and three hundred and eighty-eight bushels of corn, sixteen bushels of rye and nineteen hundred bushels of wheat were imported to this country in 1889. So you see that the farm products have no competition from abroad and hence the duty on the farmers products is not worth to him the cost of the printers ink that placed it in the McKinley bill, and the farmer that thinks he is protected by a policy of high protection will sooner or later find out he has been absolutely deceived.

The products of our industrial labor are naturally divided into two classes—those that come from the land and those that come from the factories. These are the sources of our wealth; the more we enlarge them the more we increase our wealth; the more we decrease them the more we reduce it, and it is conceded on all hands that the products of the industrial labor at present, considerably exceed the demand of the home consumption. To increase our market therefore must be the leading idea, the fundamental principle, with our legislators and statesmen. Now is this their leading idea or their fundamental principle? Most assuredly not. Does not Mr. Blaine who is the guiding star of the present dominant party, say that "the legislation which has occupied the present congress for the past ten months does not open a market for a barrel more of pork or flour." This is a very serious arraignment of the party to which he belongs and yet our pork, beef and grain are on the increase in excess of home consumption.

It cannot be denied that the McKinley increased tariff bill will have the effect of diminishing the market for farm products for it makes it more difficult for the foreigners to trade with us. This would not make much difference if we had nothing to sell to the foreigners or were not compelled to sell to him; but we have, and it is just here where the shoe pinches. We have a surplus of farm products to sell him, and if he does not buy this surplus our farmers will be bankrupt. The McKinley bill greatly vexes the foreign buyer, for it says to him in effect, we Americans don't want you or your goods over here, stay at home. Then the foreign buyer says "this is a game that two can play at, then your American flour, pork and beef can stay at home." It is a very poor policy to vex him whom you expect to buy of you what you must sell. Our farm products are being excluded from several foreign markets where heretofore they obtained a ready sale. From the fact that we have a surplus of farm products, much more than the home demand can consume, will be seen the grossness of the insult which is offered to the intelligence of the farmer by the protection which is pretended to be extended to these products. What

therefore is the value of the protective tariff to the farmer? None whatever, and to tell the farmer that he is protected is simply and plainly to rate his intelligence no higher than an infant in swaddling clothes. These facts will show the hideous injustice of the McKinley bill, and the grave wrong those representatives who supported that bill did to the farmers and laborers. They never once thought of the consumer—the laborer and the farmer—who has always to buy high priced goods. They only thought of the manufacturing barons and the money they would furnish to carry the elections. Who ever heard of a delegation of consumers going to Washington to ask for the passage of this McKinley bill? Who ever heard of a delegation of laborers going to Washington and asking for an increase in the price of their winter clothing? Who ever heard of a delegation of farmers going to Washington and asking McKinley and his committee to increase the price of their farming implements? No one.

J. W. MINNICK.

THE COVE.

Items of Interest From Our Regular Correspondent.

Cove, Dec. 21, 1890.

Cove will indulge in a grand ball and supper New Years.

Mr. Adam Crossman attended the funeral of Wm. Raley as a Knight of Pythias.

Peter Bloom of the soda works took a load of soda pop to Summerville and Elgin this week.

Master Edward Payne who is attending school at Walla Walla, is spending the holidays at home.

Mr. George Lamme of Rocky Bar Idaho, has joined his wife in the Cove and will pass the holidays here.

Active operations have commenced on the new Baptist church. The foundation is now being laid near the public school.

Fifty pounds of candy and 25 pounds of nuts will be distributed among the children at the Morrison Christmas tree tonight.

Testimony in the Conner-Rees water right case, was finished in Union this week. A number of witnesses were examined.

Jack Thomas returned from Burnt river, Monday. He brought with him a handsome deer. Jack would have thought much more of it, could it have disposed of two of its lower limbs.

Mr. Eugene Foster is suffering from an attack of typhoid fever, probably contracted while at the bedside of his brother-in-law in Eugene. He is under Dr. Deering's care and is doing well considering the nature of the complaint.

The rites of baptism were performed by Rev. Mr. LeRoy for Mrs. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Robinson, Mrs. Herbert Stevens and Mrs. A. R. Robinson last Sunday. The spot chosen was the warm springs near Mr. Sanborn's residence.

Minnick's wood saw finished cutting the communities wood Tuesday. We will now have nothing more arduous to do the rest of the winter, than pail the crumpled horn cow which stands on the corner waiting patiently for a hay laden wagon from the country to lope in sight, and occasionally dig some of the said wood out of the snow.

ALICEL NOTES.

New Towns Springing up—Regular Trains Now Running—Notes, Etc.

Alicel, Dec. 22, 1890.

Windy, windier, windiest.

Christmas, then comes 1891.

Two car loads of hay were shipped from Alicel this week.

The first passenger train went over the road last Saturday.

Mr. Tucker has one more week of school in the Fairview district.

There was quite a force of men at work on the side track at Alicel this week.

G. W. Ruckman shipped two more car loads of hogs to the Sound this week.

Chas. Cochran closed quite a successful term of school in the Imbler district last week.

The Construction company has turned the Elgin branch over to the operating company at last.

Three more new towns are to be laid out on the Ridge. Kettlebelly, at the Lone Pine; Hillsburg down at the Canyon; Conleyville at the upper end of the Sandridge.

Summerville is no more. It is to be moved out to Kettlebelly, on the Sandridge, near the river. Then it is to be incorporated and perhaps will take in Alicel, Conleyville and Hillsburg as suburban towns. Why not take in the whole Sandridge?

MINERVA ANN.

SPARTA ITEMS.

Development Work—A Ten-Pound Girl—Mining News and Notes.

Silver per ounce \$1.02 1/2.

Lead per 100 pounds \$1.40.

Copper per 100 pounds \$16.35.

Snow to the depth of two inches fell here Friday morning.

The first child born in Sparta for the past seven years was by Mrs. Al. Waldron, who is the happy mother of a lovely ten pound girl.

The melting shows are furnishing free water sufficient for "rocker diggin's," and quite a good many miners are taking advantage of it.

The outlook for this camp was never more favorable to success than now, and we feel proud that we are justly entitled to the name, "The Battle City of Oregon."

The ledge, or rather pay streak has increased to 34 inches in the winze being sunk from the tunnel level in the Oro Dell mine, and at 42 feet rich free gold ore and native silver is found.

Work on the principal mines here continue with renewed activity since the recent rich strikes in Del Monte, Oro Dell, Gray Eagle and Little Archie, and as we have always predicted, Sparta will take the lead in 1891, as the largest bullion producer in Eastern Oregon, and if not so, yet editors shall have a "basket" and new hats for all the boys.

PROCLAMATION.—To all ye little ones in the State of Oregon.—I am in receipt of an official communication from your old friend, Santa Claus, through the eminent courtesy of King Rex, in which he announces to you my dear little friends that owing to the passage of the McKinley bill, his distribution of toys made in foreign lands will necessarily be quite small.

The Eastern Oregon Gold Mining Company, of Detroit, Michigan, with Geo. W. Robinson, the lumber prince as president, will at once commence active and extensive development work on the Marrotte mines, now owned by them. This is one of the most promising free gold mines in our camp, and it is expected that 20 stamps will be dropping on ores from this property not later than July 1, 1891. This is one of the wealthiest companies now mining in Eastern Oregon, and under the present honorable management we make them welcome.

It is our intention in this article to show that we mean business in this camp, as the record of work done will prove. The figures given are absolutely correct:

Gray Eagle and Union mines, owned by Clough & Reed, have pushed their main tunnel 700 feet; two incline shafts sunk from tunnel level 200 feet; Arkansas Belle has done tunnel work 430 feet; Marrotte mine, (Little Archie) tunnel 100 feet, and winze No 1, 42 feet; winze No 2, 90 feet; Napoleon, (Marrotte group) shaft 20 feet; Del Monte shaft, will by Dec. 27, be 200 feet; Gold Ridge, incline shaft from 150-foot level in five feet of ore, 50 feet; Hidden Treasure, shaft 32 feet; Gold Hill, tunnel on ledge, 75 feet; Silver Queen, tunnel on ledge, 72 feet; Free Thinker, shaft, 20 feet; Tom Paine, shaft, 30 feet; Mogul Chief, owned by Sparks, of Baker City, tunnel, 60 feet; Atlantic and Pacific, shaft, 60 feet; Golden Gate, below 100-foot level, 40 feet; Weise, Buckland and Mix, tunnel, 400 feet; Wild Irishman, tunnel, 400 feet; Blue Gulch, C. C. Read, tunnel, 100 feet; Blue Gulch, Detroit Co., shaft, 70 feet; Ainsworth group, E. E. Clough, tunnel, 65 feet; Ollie Woodman, shaft, 62 feet; Bill Arbie mines, shaft and tunnels, 118 feet; Oro Dell, winze, from tunnel level, 60 feet; Belle of Kansas, (Oro Dell group) shaft, 21 feet; total, 3899 feet.

I am satisfied that at least 250 feet of shaft and tunnel work has been done on prospects that I have overlooked; yet the above is not a bad showing for "Poor old Sparta," as some of the "tin-horns" are pleased to call us. More anon.

O. S. B.

FROM EAGLE VALLEY.

The Sick are Improving—A Dance to be Given—Snow is Coming.

EAGLE VALLEY, Dec. 19, 1890.

Nice weather.

There is no snow in the valley yet. W. W. Kirby has returned from the east.

Mrs. W. R. Wise is in California, visiting her mother.

Winter has decked the high hills with the snow white robe.

Sheriff J. T. Bolles was in our valley the other day, on his way to Pine.

School has commenced in the Upper district with Arthur Parker as teacher. A large number of pupils are in attendance.

Our assistant postmaster reports that the registry list is rapidly increasing.

The Christmas tree has been secured to be used in this valley on Christmas eve.

The general roundup of stock has been made. The stock were in tolerable fair condition.

Why is it that the good looking men do not get married first? Difference in opinion, I suppose.

Go to G. W. Moody for information about the east. He has just returned from there and is able to give you facts and straight goods.

We expect to have a dance at the Craig school house on New Year's eve, and the lovers of that kind of amusement are cordially invited to meet again and have a most joyous time.

A dance was held in the Middle district school house on Dec. 13th, for the benefit of the Pine and Eagle valley hill road. About \$60 was realized after expenses were paid. William Gover, the manager on the road reports that the road will be completed in a few days. The stage has begun to travel the new road already.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Young has been sick for a few days, but at present is much better. Mr. Fred Givens who was on the sick list is also improving greatly. It is reported that John Bennehoff and his sister, Miss Ellibie, have got the measles. I have not learned what kind of measles it is, but hope it is not the more serious type.

NEWTON BRADFORD.

TELEGRAPH NEWS.

A Wretched Mail Service—Buying Christmas Presents—Notes, Etc.

ANTELOPE, Dec. 20th, 1890.

I wish THE SCOUT a merry Christmas.

Irwin Frazier is trapping lynx in the mountains.

Farmers are about through with their wood hauling.

Miss Bettie Lee, the belle of Antelope, is sick abed with fever, and the boys are in despair.

Antelope farmers return now-a-days from Union loaded down with Christmas presents for the children and their best girl.

The Hinckley Bros. are working out there assess nents, on their claims across Powder river. They are taking out some fine ore.

The Frazier boys found some rich ore up in Paddy's Paradise this fall. You can see the gold sticking out of the quartz. It is a blanket load, if it does not play out on them, the boys are millionaires. Good luck to them.

Mr. Blade Ashby has sold his Pyle canyon farm to his son-in-law, Mr. Frank Leavitt, engineer on the Union Pacific R. R. Mr. and Mrs. Ashby's many friends will be sorry to lose them especially their near neighbors.

Have you read Bert W. Huffman's admirable poem, "The River Spokane," published in the Daily Spokane Review of Dec. 15th? If not you should read it. In my opinion it is fine. To use a mining phrase, Bee, "Get in and drill," for you are doing yourself proud.

What in the deuce is the trouble with the mail service? There is lots of complaint up here. Judge Elmer of Baker City sent me a letter on Tuesday and it was eight days before I received it. Some photographs mailed up from Union was twelve days coming. The Spokane Review was over two weeks from the time I subscribed before I received the paper. For three or four days I will receive no daily Review and then they will all come in on one day. It would make a minister swear.

NANTUCKET.

Oregon Still Leads.

Last June at the June election Oregon cast 73,376 votes. Last month the State of Washington cast 54,803 votes. The June census, however, gives Washington a population of 349,390, while Oregon is only credited with 313,767 people. In other words, Washington's population exceeds that of Oregon by over 35,000, but Oregon polls during the year over 18,000 votes more than Washington. There is only one possible conclusion in regard to this matter, and unsavory as it appears there is no room to doubt that the cities of Washington, particularly of the "Sound" country, counted everything in sight and then "dug for clams." A fair and honest count would give Oregon at least 50,000 more people than Washington contains, and since our State has been the subject of considerable ridicule by our journalistic brethren across the Columbia, here is a fine opportunity to play even by giving documentary evidence to prove, that in this instance, the census returns are a deceit and a fraud, and that Oregon still leads our deserving sister State of Washington in matter of population.—Chieftain.

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