

THE SHEEP AND WOOL BUSINESS.

A SHEEP MAN'S EXPERIENCE.

Paper Read by Geo. W. Hamilton Before the Farmer's Institute Held in Fulton, Mo.

I am no partisan; wear no man nor party collar, never did, and, please God, never will. I voted for Cleveland, and voted too, in the election of Tuesday for Democrats and for Republicans. But my subject has been taken into politics and thither I must follow. If I consider it at all, in order to take my bearings.

There is nothing political in my feeling, however, and especially there is no bitterness in my feeling toward those who differ from me. I know that very many of them are great-hearted, broad-minded lovers of their country, and of their fellow men; but I think they have been mistaken. Business facts and business pointers are what we're after, and to business facts and pointers I shall endeavor to restrict myself as far as possible. I think it is susceptible of proof amounting to demonstration that the wool-growing industry of the United States has practically been destroyed by free wool.

Our country needs 650,000,000 pounds of wool annually. Australasia produced in 1891, 550,000,000 pounds; Cape of Good Hope, Africa, in 1891, 128,081,000 pounds; River Platte, South America, in 1891, 376,000,000 pounds; the United States in 1891, 285,000,000 pounds.

In the foreign countries named there are no winters, no expensive winter feeding—no improvements in the way of buildings for feed and shelter, small herds are needed and herders' wages are pitifully meagre, there is no civilized government expenses to help carry on, nor Christianity, nor even civilization to support, and the freights from there to our market are as follows:

From Argentine and Platte River to New York, 1/2 cent a pound; from London to New York, 1/2 cent a pound. The freight on wool from St. Louis to New York is 1/2 cent a pound; from Colorado to New York, 2 cents a pound, and from Montana to New York is 2 1/2 cents per pound.

We cannot compete. The man who would persist in trying to do so, would be ruined irrevocably.

The industry had become great under protection, ranking seventh in the United States. A table before me gives (under normal conditions) the following estimate:

Capital invested in sheep, \$120,000,000
Farms and barns devoted to sheep, 400,000,000
No. farms and flockmasters, 1,000,000
No. men employed a portion of the year, 100,000
Pounds wool produced in yr. 329,410,545
Value of wool, \$ 80,000,000
Number of sheep, 45,000,000
Value of sheep sold for meat and wool, \$ 30,000,000
Amount paid in wages, \$ 25,000,000
Val. services flockmasters, \$ 50,000,000
Cost washing & shearing, \$ 5,000,000
Amount paid for labor, \$ 80,000,000

Showing a capital invested of \$520,000,000, employment to 1,000,000 men with wages and value of services \$80,000,000, and a total annual product resulting of \$110,000,000.

Of course clothing has been made cheaper, and everything else for that matter, but we sheep men believe that there may be other blessings in this country than mere cheapness. That it was a case of destroying a temple to erect a stable; of jumping over bundles of straw; of saving at the spigot to lose at the bung-hole; of killing the hen that laid the golden egg; that there was a wiser way.

We believed that cheap wool was coming, fast; nay, was already here, and had come and was coming, precisely in the way in which mutton was becoming very cheap, namely by the perfectly healthful and sure, and altogether beneficial process of production; benefiting everybody; producer and consumer, and the country as a whole.

For in 1890 the United States produced 600,000,000 pounds of wool, and in 1891 the United States produced 285,000,000 pounds of wool, a wonderful increase, and wool down to 20 cents—the unquestionable result of protection and production.

Some good friends have comforted us by assurances that they have given us the whole world for our market. Unfortunately they have in reality given us market to the world, and have taken away the only market possible for us in the world.

By the report of the U. S. Commission, January 1894, there had been 20 to that time, a destruction of values in sheep, and one wool crop alone of \$25,000,000, and there had been millions of acres well reigned to desolation and \$100,000,000 yearly must go out of our country to pay for foreign wool, and all of it in gold.

"Ah," an old gentleman exclaimed the other day, "I wouldn't be in a business that required protection." You wouldn't, wouldn't you? What do your fences mean? Why do you build them? What would you think of some politician—ravenous for office—some Populist or Single Tax man, or Socialist, who should invite the people to tear them down and to let foreigners eat you up? Wouldn't you think you deserved better treatment and fair consideration—that your government should protect you? "Ah," but you say, "your business is made an especial favorite; you have peculiar advantages." I reply, the wool business had peculiar environments, and was under conditions very different from horses and hogs or cattle; and there was consequently no favoritism accorded to whatever. It was fair, not favoritism. Couldn't you, or Jones, or Robinson, or any man, engage in it on an equal footing with us? If it was so favored, beyond requirements and beyond the other industries, why did not you avail yourself of its advantages? The fact was, the great patience and industry required to make a success with sheep was very generally acknowledged and proved that the protection that was extended was largely out of sight to supply the needed requirements to make it profitable.

It is a big question, protection, as the wool men had found out from long consideration, under the menaces and forays they had been subjected to. The country, too, is finding out by experience and education. Cotton was so low two years ago at 10 cents, that conventions were called in the South to reduce the acreage.

Free wool and shoddy has affected cotton exactly as oats affects corn, and together with the times, has depressed the price from ten cents down to five cents. They won't be able to buy "cotton mules" down there, at least not a high priced mule. The sugar men in Louisiana are similarly affected as regards "sugar mules" and the sheep men must forego patronizing the furniture man, and the clothing man, and the harness man, and the hardware man, and the carpenter and the laborer. So run the ramifying lines of commingled interest reaching everywhere from every business and from every industry.

Not many years ago nickel was worth about 84 a pound. At present it is worth not much more than 25 cents a pound, and it is now being asked what dastard conspirators secretly, at the dead hour of midnight, demonized nickel?

It is well to bear in mind ex-President Harrison's remarks at the Carnegie hall meeting in New York, and let it be iterated and reiterated during the campaign. He said, "No prospect of Republican success ever interfered with business." There is a whole volume of argument in favor of the election of McKinley in that one brief sentence.

In a recent speech to a delegation from Lisbon, Ohio, McKinley, after referring to the establishment there of a tin plate factory, said: "I submit to you, no matter what may have been your politics in the past, whether you would not prefer to have that tin plate factory in your country and in your state than to have it in Wales." That simple question involves the whole tariff question: Will you have factories abroad or at home?

The Bryan shouters are careful to ignore the fact that the Democratic free trade papers in 1892 spoke of the business conditions as "provokingly healthy." The trouble in the United States has been created since that date and its causes must be far removed from the incident of 1873. It was free trade in 1893 that did the mischief, and not a change in the monetary system made twenty years earlier.

Major McKinley was nominated by the Republican party, not because of his views on the currency question, but because he is the typical representative of the policy of protection. It was the desire for the re-establishment of protection that compelled the Major's unanimous nomination, and the Democratic candidate must not be allowed to dodge that issue.

The Carriage Press says that an engineer who makes regular runs through that city on the "Prisco," is responsible for the following train order: "Take our train McKinley and Hobart for the white house. Train Cleveland and Stevenson abandoned. Drop two cars silver—one at Bland station, the other at Teller station. Look out for Tom Reed's switching train one mile east of Water Tank. Pick up car William J. Bryan with hot box and busted journal."

Bryan advocates talk much about "low prices" and still only four years ago Bryan declared in a speech in congress: "I want to say, as emphatically as words can say, that I consider it as false economy and vicious in policy to attempt to raise at a high price in this country that which we can purchase abroad at a low price."

A speaker down in Indiana the other day uttered the following truism: McKinley is as broad as the platform. His heart is as wide as humanity itself. He holds within his splendid purpose, all classes and all conditions of men. The Republican party, with outstretched arms, bids welcome in this great contest to all races and all religions. The doors of Republican hospitality stand open alike to all Jews and Gentiles of the republic, and to all Americans, no matter under what skies they may have been born."

Attorney General Harmon, in a public statement, takes up for consideration Mr. Bryan's contention that federal interference in local affairs is never justifiable. The popera candidate obtains his authority upon the question from what is known as the Altgeld-Dobs plank in the Chicago platform, which denounces, in other than three words, the interference of the federal administration in the Chicago riots of 1894.

It is Mr. Bryan's contention and therefore necessarily the contention of every one of his supporters, that the federal government has no right, under any circumstances, to interfere for the suppression of a riot until called upon by local authorities. This it unquestionably did do in that year, and by the promptness and vigor of its interference did restore order and save an immense amount of property, and probably scores of lives. The usual method was not followed, which is first an appeal by the municipal authorities to the sheriff of the county, then an appeal from the sheriff to the Governor, and then from the Governor to the President. Mr. Bryan promises that if elected he will not enforce such a federal interference; that if a local government catches fire and threatens the property of the federal government, he will let it burn unless asked to put it out by the local authorities, obliging all the red tape regulations, or, as Mr. Harmon puts it, "According to Mr. Bryan, there is some law implied in the constitution a prohibition of the use of force by the United States against persons who within the limits of a state, may be resisting its officers and disobeying all its operations as a government, unless the local authorities first make request or give consent. This is contrary to the settled principle that while the federal government's opinion is confined to certain subjects it has, as to those subjects, all the attributes of sovereignty, and one of these is always and everywhere within the territory of the states which compose it, to suppress and punish those who in any way interfere with the exercise of its lawful powers."

Here is a specimen of the demagogic rant with which William J. Bryan continues to insult the intelligence of the workmen of this country: "My friends, there are two kinds of employers in this country, those who pay wages and receive work in return and are satisfied, and then there are those who expect when they hire a man to work for them that the man who works will sell his vote as well as his muscle to his employer."

As a lawyer, Mr. Bryan should know that mere assertion substantiates no charge. Yet he has made this charge repeatedly, that employers seek to control the votes of their employees; but has backed it only with assertion. Not a particle of proof has he produced. Not a single employer has been able to name who has been seeking to dictate to the men who work for him how they shall vote.

It is reasonable to assume that if Mr. Bryan had been able to obtain any sort of proof of this favorite and frequently repeated assertion, he would have produced it and made it public in his most sensational manner. Alas, he has not done this; it is equally reasonable to assume that when he says that there are employers who expect their employees to give their votes in addition to their labor, he lies. Moreover, it is reasonably certain that he knows he lies, for there is no doubt that he made efforts to secure some sort of information that would bolster up, or failure to secure it must have convinced him that his assertion is a falsehood.—Albany Express.

How do our farmers like for Mr. Bryan to speak of them as "peasantry?"

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

The little free riot which recently enveloped Louisville will cost the taxpayers when they have it all paid about \$2,000,000. Bryanism isn't economical.

The only thing that is "coercing" the labor vote into line for McKinley is the realization on the part of the laborer that he has everything to gain by a restoration of protection and reciprocity and everything to lose by the introduction of a 50 cent wage paying dollar.—Omaha Bee.

We must restore the protective system before we undertake any other legislation. The labor of this country has already waited too long for a return of work and wages.

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LABOR'S LOT IN MEXICO.

REPORT MADE TO THE CHICAGO TRADES ASSEMBLY.

Peons Slaves to Masters—In Abject Poverty and Without Clothing to Cover Them—Men Get Niggardly Wages—Out of the Pitance They Pay High for Necessities.

On October 1st organized labor in Chicago, listened attentively to a report on the condition of labor in Mexico as two representatives of the Chicago Trade and Labor Assembly actually found it.

A special meeting of the organization considered the report. Politics was eliminated. Amazed at the servitude and economic misery existing in a silver standard country, the delegates received the report officially, spread it upon the records of the organization and by an overwhelming vote gratefully thanked their representatives who had thus given their services for the good of American workmen.

Held up before the eyes of the intelligent wage-earners as a mirror of facts, the report reflected a plain warning which visibly impressed the delegates.

P. J. Maas and Patrick Enright, the men who stood before their comrades in toil and made the report, are two of the "plain people—men whose work has not been merely in the abstract. Both are veterans in the ranks of union labor, respected and honored by their associates and trusted because they always have maintained a reputation for fairness between man and man. They are also of opposite political faiths.

Had Showing for Mexico.

The report was a joint one, based on the unanimity that the American wage-earner is a price compared to the Mexican toiler. In substance it was a comprehensive statement of information gained by two American trades unionists, who left Chicago September 11 and mingled with the working classes of Mexico. It was a tour of practical inquiry. They saw for themselves. The result discloses that the price of labor in a silver standard country has decreased, while the cost of commodities has increased.

In comparison to American wages and American prices they found the economic condition of the Mexican workman one that was pitiable in the extreme. They warned all American labor to stay north of the Rio Grande. Mexicans are, in many instances, more chattels of the hacendado, enslaved with shackles of pauper wages and perpetual debt which preclude all possibility of industrial independence. Labor in that country was found to be a mere skeleton, starved by employers who held unbridled sway and took advantage of the absence of organization and lack of education among the working classes.

Messrs. Maas and Enright also reported that Mexico, as a nation, was merely marking time in the grand parade of civilization and progress, while others marched onward. Upon the bones of women and children who eked out a miserable existence on wages of 18 and 25 cents a day, industries are founded. Labor unions are unknown. Education seldom knocks at the Mexican laborer's door.

Peons in Feudal Slavery.

While laws forbade peon slavery, thousands of them are toiling on haciendas in the hot rays of a tropical sun, ignorant of their emancipation, because they cannot read or write, and their masters maintain aerial sway because they will not tell them of their rights nor permit communication with intelligent people.

While the union commissioners found no poor houses in Mexico, they found nearly every thoroughfare a pathway of out-stretched hands of men, beggared and broken down by modern slavery, now at the mercy of charitable Christians and perchance the stunted alms placed in their withered palms by fellow countrymen.

One significant feature of the document was the statement that the Mexican workman had absolutely no standing socially or politically.

In point of service, they found that Mexican worked from ten to twenty hours. The average was fourteen. In some places they found the boss did not accept clocks as a guide of labor, but compelled their employes to work to the full extent of physical endurance each day. From the ruins of this underpaid and overworked condition, the Mexican employe, it is said, never rises, but exists half-starved until he joins the wrecks of humanity on the highway pleading for alms, or else adds another life on the altar of a deplorable industrial system.

Low Rate of Wages.

Mexican wage schedules would, in the opinion of the Trade and Labor Assembly visitors, give American workmen a chance in doing so. Carpenters in Mexico receive a minimum wage of 75 cents a day; the maximum is \$1.25. Bricklayers and masons get 57 1/2 cents a day in the City of Mexico. At Zacatecas the highest paid to these mechanics is 87 1/2 cents. Printers receive from 37 1/2 to 57 1/2 cents per day, except in the City of Mexico, where the tourist trade increases the rate to \$1.50. Painters earn from 75 cents to \$1.25; stonecutters, 87 1/2 cents to \$1; plasterers, 50 to 87 1/2 cents; street car drivers and teamsters, 50 cents to \$1.

Day laborers receive a daily average of 37 1/2 cents. Fourteen hours of hard manual labor brings in some instances the sum of 50 cents.

In many cases the inquiry revealed that day labor received a compensation of 18 cents for barbarously long days. Servants, they discovered, received from \$3 to \$5 per month. This compensation does not include board.

It was also ascertained that Mexicans, whose capital was their muscle, lived more like cattle than humans. In adobe houses, with primitive garb and practically no furnishings, they subsisted on corn, chili peppers and scant diet, because the Mexican store-keeper has marked up prices beyond the reach of impoverished hands.

A deplorable social and physical condition has resulted, and the observations of Messrs. Maas and Enright

created astonishment when they cited them. Both sexes are in many instances sockless, half-clothed and half-starved. Morals are depraved. Only 60 per cent of the total population can read or write.

All the stores in Mexico they found that flour, which costs 2 cents a pound in Chicago, was 8 cents a pound in the City of Mexico. Butter valued at 18 cents in this city ranged from 25 to 75 cents in Chicago to 8 in Zacatecas and 12 1/2 in Guanajuato. Two-dollar shoes were \$4 and \$5 in Mexico. Most of the Mexican laborers wear either breach cloths or remnants of trousers, and go barefooted, while their seldom see a pair of shoes. Personal attire is another object lesson said to be due to pauper wages.

Milk is from 6 to 9 cents a quart across the Rio Grande. In Chicago it is 5. Coffee, quoted here at 25 cents a pound, is 38 in the City of Mexico. Potatoes are from 3 to 5 cents a pound, while soap, which retails here for 5 cents a pound, commands 17 cents. All other prices in commodities and the necessities of life were found to be correspondingly advanced, while wages in variously had a downward tendency.

As a result, it was ascertained from personal observations that Mexican wage-workers and their families sacrifice the pleasures of butter, sugar, milk and other indispensable adjuncts of an American laborer's household. Mexican who wish to sit down at their tables must pay \$3 for kitchen chairs.

Clothing was found to be accordingly expensive. Calico, which retails at 5 cents a yard in Chicago, commands the price of 27 cents in Zacatecas and 11 cents in the City of Mexico. This is only one of many similar instances.

In comparing Mexican prices and wages with those of the United States the currency of the respective countries is the basis. An American dollar, under the present gold standard, outranks the value of the Mexican coin.

Report Is Adopted.

When the special session of the Trade and Labor Assembly was called to order at 3 o'clock to consider the report of President James O'Connell was in the chair. He announced the purpose for which the meeting had been called. There was a large attendance.

P. J. Maas read the report. Mr. Maas is general organizer of the American Federation of Labor, also organizer of the seventh district of the International Typographical union. He commanded general interest, and at the completion of the report his colleague, Mr. Enright, made a brief speech of concurrence in response to frequent calls.

Mr. Enright is a veteran in the history of local organized labor. He is a member of the executive board of the Iron Molders' Union of this city. In substance he verified the statements read by Mr. Maas as being a plain, unbiased and truthful result of the inquiry. He said it was not a matter of politics, but one of fact which anyone who investigated would corroborate. He had similarly served trades unionism.

After the applause had subsided, it was moved that the report be received, spread upon the minutes of the assembly and practically adopted as a portion of the official record of the organization, with thanks to Messrs. Maas and Enright. This motion was promptly carried by an almost unanimous vote, the only opposition being J. J. McGrath and August Ledners of the Bricklayers' Union, both of whom are pronounced silver men.

NO SECTIONAL DIVISIONS.

Major McKinley on the Restored Fraternity of North and South.

(From speech to West Virginia delegation at Canton, October 7th, 1894.)

The interests of your state are identical with the interests of my state. What will benefit one will benefit the other; what will injure the one will injure the other. They have no divided interests. They are one and indivisible. No longer are they separated in interest or affection or fraternity by the unhappy events of thirty-five years ago. The wounds that inflamed have been healed. The bitterness then engendered has been assuaged. The fires of passion then burning have been quenched.

We are all an equal part of the glorious union of states, all equally interested in preserving its indivisibility; all alike concerned in the strength and integrity of the Union; in upholding public law, in maintaining that great bulwark of American rights, the courts of the country, with the old flag waving its folds of protection over us and as near to the hearts of the men of the South as to the men of the North. (Tremendous applause.)

It will be a glorious day in the history of our country when the North and the South shall be united in control of the government, brought together in the execution of a common purpose, agreeing in a common policy for the good of all, and together making laws and administering which shall be national in fact as well as in name.

We will never reach our full and imperial power as a government until that only shall demonstrate its presence in a national triumph, which shall be the joint work and common triumph of all sections of our country. This is my aim and my prayer; and if this contest shall result in promoting that greatly to be desired result it will be the greatest victory for the Union and for American destiny since Appomattox. (Tremendous applause.)

Parties, my fellow citizens, are only the instruments in the hands of the people for the accomplishment of the good of the country. They should not require our fealty or allegiance as a single moment after they have ceased to be instruments for the public good, for the public honor, and for the public weal. Party attachments, strong as they are, should be quickly broken if to continue them means injury and hurt to the country's highest interests and the welfare of all the people. (Renewed cheering.)

No patriotic citizen can, with his own self-respect, mindful of the interests of his state and country, follow any long has been a member of it, when that political organization assails the currency and credit of the government. (Applause.) Nor should former political opinions be closed against revision when experience has demonstrated that those opinions are clearly wrong.

THE OLD FARMER'S REASONS.

It won't take long to expound out and tell the reason why I vote for McKinley and for Hobart by and by.

I've two substantial reasons, and I want to give 'em out. For the benefit of any who are laughin' 'round in doubt, Now, I can't begin to argue with the counter volunteer.

Who could'st run a one-hoss shoe, for to save his life, if a year, Because he fills of billions and the millions of surplus.

And does a man's balance sheet with the total of any loss. Let him be ahead and say, but I'll never quit to forget.

The lines from '91 to '95, I can hear them 'cussin' yet. And how it left us singarin', so heavy was the load of any loss.

Till the nation's grand just called the liber, And a pretty hunt we showed. How the country went on prosperin' under good republican rule.

And how the men in charge of it kept their heads, and kept 'em cool. Out of every class we flourished in, set by the dirty mob.

The G. O. P. just brought us out and did a splendid job. I'm trustin' still the same today in the principles sublime.

That will stand for human progress through all the coming time. The other option any one with half a pinch of sense.

Will not outstay me any far, or straddle on the fence. When I choose such men as he who governs Illinois.

A teachin' on sound docters with the left of it. And faith in the government for 'doin' what's right.

And leadin' this 'ere land of ours to anarchistic night. I, however, without thinkin', or takin' any note.

Just turn my back upon 'em and look the way I vote! They would benefit the masses, (them asses, they, themselves), by leadin' his fair nation to the place where Satan dwells!

I've got some sense that can't be touched by argument or bluff. My vote goes for McKinley and sound money, that's enough!

Will Bryan? Why, he's tonguey and can make a flaming speech. But the first he makes after is some ways 'beyond his reach.

He's just travellin' round the country, and I know what I advise. It's a sort of scheme he's workin' his fame to advertise!

But when it comes to enter his royal White House, he'll get there—evadin'—if he late! —Billwater (Miss.) Gazette.

Silver Currency and Wheat.

One of the favorite assertions of the Bryanites is that the values of silver and wheat rise and fall together, and that the low price of the latter is directly caused by the cheapness of the former. A free coinage writer in a Chicago paper takes this view, and publishes the following table in connection with his article:

Year.	Wheat, per bu.	Cotton, per lb.	Silver, per oz.
1873	81 51	80 188	81 208
1874	81 43	80 181	81 208
1875	81 42	80 150	81 240
1876	81 24	80 125	81 150
1877	81 24	80 118	81 201
1878	81 34	80 111	81 152
1879	81 07	80 103	81 222
1880	81 06	80 65	81 22
1881	81 11	80 115	81 145
1882	81 19	80 114	81 178
1883	81 19	80 114	81 136
1884	81 19	80 114	81 110
1885	81 04	80 108	81 064
1886	81 07	80 108	81 074
1887	81 07	80 108	81 074
1888	81 07	80 108	81 074
1889	81 07	80 108	81 074
1890	81 07	80 108	81 074
1891	81 07	80 108	81 074
1892	81 07		