

The *Mountaineer*, referring to an article in the *Eugene Guard*, says:

"The sophistry in this argument is that the tariff duty is paid by the consumer. This is a mistake. For instance, English manufactured goods are taxed highly, and this revenue is not paid by the wearer of English clothes, but is simply a barrier to keep these goods out of the market. If it were otherwise congressmen could not have presented American made clothes, all wool, before the last session at a less price than the imported article. The tariff is not a tax upon the American consumer, but on the foreign importer. If it were not levied, goods would be as high as they are now, but the money would be sent out of the country to enrich European capitalists. Protection is only a tax on the foreign manufacturer, and not on the American citizen. It simply says, if you want to clothe yourself with English goods, this country will make the importer pay a heavy duty into the treasury of the nation. This is by no means a tax on the wearer; but has the effect to decrease the price of the article by competition. Democratic sophistry is always on the surface in that party's politics, and it is well that the fallacy of this trash should be shown, by the statement of certain facts, that the tariff is never added to the price of articles, but it is placed on the market in competition with the home article, and must rise or fall on its own merits. When protection would become a tax on the consumer, republicans, as in the article of sugar, will be pronounced free-traders, as they in no wise believe in taxing those who are compelled to use an article when it cannot be manufactured as cheaply here as it can in Europe. The economic policy of the republican party considers the greatest good to the greatest number, and in every instance patriotically give preference to all articles the result of American labor."

Never in all our reading have we seen so much unadorned sophistry compacted in so brief a space. "The tariff is not paid by the consumer" says the *Mountaineer*. This is the sheerest nonsense. Just as well say that the consumer does not pay the freight. Let us see. A Boston importer orders a thousand dollars worth of woolen goods from England. The freight on the goods from Manchester, England to Boston is \$30. Does the *Mountaineer* pretend that this \$30 is not a part of the original cost of the goods to the importer, and that he does not so consider it when he sells to the wholesaler? And does not the wholesaler add this additional as a part of his original cost when he sells to the retailer? And does not this retailer add it to the price of his goods when he sells to the consumer? Now, suppose this importer had no freight to pay, but instead he had to pay his goods through the custom house at Boston where he would be required to pay 90 per cent duty, (this is the average duty on woolen goods under the McKinley bill) which would be \$900. Now, would not this importer add this \$900 to the \$1000, (the cost of the goods), thus making \$1900 as the original cost of his goods laid down in Boston? And would not this be added when he sold to the wholesaler? And would not this additional cost be carried down through every change until it reaches the consumer? And as he does not sell, but consumes or uses the article, is he not the final payer of the tax?

The veriest tyro in business knows that our statement is the truthful and logical one, and that the *Mountaineer's* twaddle is the shallowest kind of demagoguery; aye, it is worse than demagoguery. It is an open, brazen attempt to deceive its readers. We can not believe it ignorant on so plain a subject.

The *Mountaineer* says clothes, American made and all wool, were exhibited before the last congress that were sold at a less price than the imported article. If clothes at such prices were exhibited they were evidently of the shoddy kind that now overburdens the American markets everywhere. A very sufficient answer to this clothes argument of the *Mountaineer* is found in this question: "If all wool, American clothes could be sold, before the passage of the McKinley bill, cheaper than the imported article, why did McKinley and his coadjutors increase the duties on woollens from an average of 67 per cent, to an average of 91 per cent? Again the *Mountaineer* says that, the tariff is never added to the price of articles." Is this ignorance, or is it something worse. Let every reader be his own judge.

The *East Oregonian*, poking fun at the *Statesman*, wondered if that paper would not attribute the present good price of wheat to the McKinley bill, not thinking for a moment that the *Statesman* was so far gone as that. What must be the surprise of the E. O. when it reads the *Statesman's* answer: "And why not? The home market is the greatest and the best." And thus the protection organs day by day write themselves down as demagogues.

Those democrats who are expressing a hope that Campbell will defeat McKinley, and that a democratic legislature may be elected in Ohio should bear in mind that Ohio is a republican state with a normal majority of 25,000. This backed up by the bushels of money that will be thrown into the campaign, by means of Sherman's call upon the banks and McKinley's upon the manufacturers of the country, will leave little ground upon which a hope may be based to win a democratic victory in that state.

The girls of Portland are already interested in the proposed changes in the style of dress. Skirts aren't going to be in it any more.—Sunday Welcome.

But we predict that, as of yore, there will be some thing in the skirts.

SIGNIFICANT.

It is quite significant that the republicans of Ohio are now attempting to relegate the tariff issue to the shade and to bring the silver question up as the leading one. McKinley and Sherman in their speeches opening the campaign devoted nearly all their time to silver. The republican editors of the state the other day held a meeting at which it was resolved to push the silver question and to remain mute on the tariff issue. This shows that they are afraid of the growing sentiment in favor of tariff reform. But these gentlemen will not be permitted to make the issue alone. It takes two parties to make an issue, and the democrats of that state will compel these beneficiaries of the robber tariff to defend themselves on the case they have made.

Jerry Simpson, the sockless man, makes a mistake on the sub treasury scheme but he makes no mistake in his tariff views. Hear him:

We are in earnest and we think that the people of America have been greatly wronged. I go to the republican party and ask them for its remedy. It replies, "Put up the tariff." And yet you have been putting up the tariff for thirty-two years. I asked Mr. McKinley: "If tariff raises wages, why is it that Great Britain, a free trade country, pays twice the wages protected Italy does? Why is it that Great Britain pays double to her wage-earners what she paid in 1847, when she became a free trade country? Why is it that Great Britain pays her laborers one third more than the laborers receive in the protected countries of Europe?" My idea is that the freedom to trade with others is a primal right. What have the republicans done? They have shut us off from the markets of the world. Oh, yes, they put wheat and corn and oats in the duty list. We have a surplus of them. Was there any need of protection there? What we need is a chance to trade with all the world.

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