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TILLAMOOK, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1892.

\$1.50 Per Year.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT

IT IS DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT PRODUCED IN THE WORLD.

The American Product an Important Factor in Fixing the Price—Withdraw Part of the Land from Wheat Growing and the Price Will Rise.

The world's price of wheat, which is the Liverpool price, is determined first of all by the amount of wheat produced in the world. The amount of wheat left over after the home demands of all wheat growing countries have been supplied determines the amount that can be sent to Liverpool. If this amount is large the price will be low; if small, the price will be high. This is the Liverpool price really fixed by the wheat growers themselves, instead of that market's fixing the price for them.

This is not to say that American farmers of themselves fix the Liverpool price. They do not, because it is a foreign market. They must meet there the Russian, the Hindoo, the Australian, the Argentine, the British American, and the price is adjusted by the competition of all bidding against one another. Even though the American crop is short, that of Russia or India may be large, and the plentiful supply from this source may depress prices. But since this country is by far the largest seller of wheat in Liverpool, it follows that our farmers play the most important part in fixing the Liverpool price, as well as the price in their home market. According to figures from the department of agriculture the production and prices of wheat for eleven years were as follows:

Year	Total production bushels	Average value per bushel
1880	48,540,000	85.1
1881	38,320,000	119.2
1882	50,135,470	88.2
1883	52,190,100	91.1
1884	51,275,000	94.5
1885	36,712,000	77.1
1886	47,218,000	65.7
1887	46,623,000	65.1
1888	43,853,000	92.6
1889	48,560,000	99.8
1890	39,232,000	83.8

This table establishes beyond a doubt that the price of the wheat of our farmers depends most of all upon themselves—that is, the amount they raise. It will be observed how unerringly the price adjusted responds to the amount of production. Thus the yield of 48,540,000 bushels in 1880 brought 85 cents a bushel, but the next year, with the smaller yield of 38,320,000 bushels, the price was \$1.19. The succeeding year the yield went up again to 50,135,470 bushels, and, sure enough, we find the price down again to 88 cents. So on through the whole table.

It will be noticed, however, that there is a general tendency during the first ten years of the period toward lower prices. This was due entirely to foreign competition. During these years Russia and other wheat countries were rapidly increasing their production and sending more and more wheat to the Liverpool market, and so narrowing the demand and depressing the price of our wheat. In 1889 we sold Liverpool 65 per cent. of the wheat marketed there. In 1890 we sold only 33 per cent. This was what depressed American wheat prices in recent years. Not till our farmers are released of the necessity of sending any of their wheat to Liverpool will they be able to raise fair prices from year to year. When we cut substantially all our own wheat—and we will in a very few years, except when, as this year, the yield may be abnormally large—then, and not till then, will wheat growers enjoy enduring prosperity. There is just one road to this condition, and that is by continuing Protection—Protection which will enable competing foreign farm products, such as barley, hemp, hops, flax, wheat, tobacco and fruits, so that land to produce them at home may be withdrawn from wheat growing, thus diminishing the supply of grain; and which will build up factories and multiply consumers of breadstuffs by promoting the manufacture at home, to the extent of our own consumption at least, of textiles, tin plates, pearl buttons, cutlery, machinery and everything else we use. If we made all we consume of these things here and produced sugar beets sufficient to supply our consumption of sugar, we should not have to export a bushel of wheat. It will not be long under this McKinley tariff till we actually do not export a bushel. Then our farmer can prosper as plentifully as the Hindoo in the East, at the head of the lute, more than ever before, farmers are interested in maintaining a Protective tariff.

Short Tariff Serious.

While the primary object of a protective tariff is not to lower the cost of manufactured goods, yet statistics show that such is the inevitable result. The price of a line of goods upon which a protective duty is levied may at first be slightly advanced, but competition soon brings it down lower than before.

On the other hand, Protection gives to the farmer good prices for his products. The manufacturer who realizes a fair price on his goods, the laborer who gets more wages than he could earn abroad, the merchant, the clerk, the professional man, short, every one—is willing to pay such prices for his needs as will insure to his fellow man a good return for his labor.

There may be too cheap. There is a reasonable level, and when it is reached prices can go no lower. The nation or its people be prosperous. The life in the United States of the necessities of life are about the same as in England, while we have much more with which to buy them. The prices of manufactures are lower than in periods of low tariffs; but lower than ever before in our history. To go much lower would mean to the manufacturer, idleness to the laborer, and less consumption for

SPRINGER AND THE LABORER.

What His Free Wool Bill Would Mean to the American Workingman.

It does not require much effort to see the ruinous effect which the enactment of Mr. Springer's bill, abolishing the duty on wool and greatly reducing the duties on its manufactures, must have on American wool growing. The importation of \$72,000,000 in wool manufactures in addition to the \$13,000,000 last year sent to this country (for Mr. Springer says that the decrease in the revenue will be made up by an increase in importations, and on the basis of last year's imports this increase will be at least \$72,000,000), \$115,000,000 in all, would simply be the importation of 345,000,000 pounds of wool, though in a manufactured form, to take the place of so much American wool in our markets. This quantity, increased by even the amount of raw wool now annually imported, 119,000,000 pounds—it would doubtless be more under Mr. Springer's free wool measure—would give a total of 464,000,000 pounds of wool that would come in. Deducting this quantity from our total consumption of wool, 600,000,000 pounds, we find that there would remain a market for only 136,000,000 pounds of the 600,000,000 pounds annually produced in this country. These are the results which Mr. Springer himself admits will follow from his wool and woollens bill.

But the farmer will not be the only one injured. The additional \$72,000,000 in manufactured wool which Mr. Springer says would be imported under the lower duties which he proposes would of course supplant an equivalent quantity of American goods and compel Americans to reduce their output by that amount. Now, \$72,000,000 worth of foreign goods at the undervalued prices at which they are imported would be equivalent to at least \$100,000,000 worth of domestic goods at American wholesale prices.

American woolen and worsted mills must therefore make \$100,000,000 less in goods than they make now. That means that the 60,000 mill hands which it takes to make \$100,000,000 in finished products must lose their places and \$10,000,000 in wages. Foreigners would do the work and receive the pay.

But \$10,000,000 is only an insignificant item in the great total loss which labor would suffer from Mr. Springer's \$72,000,000 addition to our present imports of wool manufactures. It takes account only of the wages paid for direct labor in manufacturing, about one-fifth of the whole amount of labor involved.

Take a piece of woolen cloth, trace it back to its original elements before they were touched by the hand of man, commencing with the labor of shipping, handling and placing on the shelf of the jobbing house the finished piece of cloth, following it through all the processes in the factory, not forgetting the labor of the engineers, firemen, watchmen, clerks and overseers employed about the establishment, nor the labor involved in producing the coal, wool, oil, belts and the score or more of other classes of miscellaneous supplies consumed in the factory, then following the raw wool as it is handled and transported from farm to factory, including the farmer's labor of tending and shearing the flocks, raising hay and grain crops to feed them, not omitting even the salt they eat and the labor of producing it—if all of these and all other elements of labor are counted, fully 80 per cent. of the whole sale selling price of the goods, which we have placed at \$100,000,000, represents labor cost of production. In other words, Mr. Springer would take \$80,000,000 from American labor in order that the worsted and woolen mills and working people of Bradford and Huddersfield and English and Australian wool growers might prosper.

To realize what this means to American industry generally one has only to imagine what the condition would be in any factory town if all the factories should shut down. Every tradesman, professional man, clerk, car driver, barber, cook and chambermaid in the place would suffer. The town lives on the wages received by the working people which are spent for household necessities and general supplies, and are passed from hand to hand, imparting life and nourishment to all branches of industry. The withdrawal of an annual disbursement of \$80,000,000 from the channels of trade would be like drawing a corresponding proportion of life blood from a healthy body. The results in both cases would be similar. Activity would give place to inaction, strength to weakness, health to languishing sickness. That is what Mr. Springer's measure means to labor and its dependent interests.

Benefits of the McKinley Law.

President Harrison has been presented with a handsome American silk seal plush overcoat by the Hind & Harrison Plush company, of Clark's Mills, and the firm has received the president's acknowledgments. The plush was manufactured at Clark's Mills, and the coat was made by R. G. Hoerlein, the Fayette street custom tailor. The goods are far superior to that manufactured in England, and through the benefits of the McKinley bill they can be manufactured in this country as cheap. About four yards of plush were used in making the coat. The coat is very light, but exceedingly warm, and it makes a neat appearing garment. The factory at Clark's Mills is the only one in the state where the plush is made, and it is running full time and employing a large force of men.—Utica Herald.

The Woolen Industry Prospers.

There has been an increase of 5,000 in the number of hands employed and the capital invested has doubled in the wool manufacturing industry from 1880 to 1890. These are the official figures. We thought that our wool manufacturing industry was dying out, that woolen

WAGES ARE RISING.

THE CONTENTION THAT THEY HAVE FALLEN IS DISHONEST.

Individual Cases of Advance or Decline Prove Nothing—Accurate Results Only Possible by Thorough Investigation, Which Has Shown Higher Wages.

It has been asserted and reiterated over and over again that wages have fallen since the McKinley tariff was enacted. It is the one single survivor of the multitude of falsehoods sent abroad during the campaign of lying in 1890. It survives, not that it was more fit than the others—"McKinley prices," for example—but from the difficulty of securing labor statistics complete enough to obliterate it. "McKinley prices" were disproved by simply comparing the market reports as published before and after the new law took effect. But there are no regular reports published on rates of wages. Tens of thousands of changes are annually made in this country, some involving increased, others decreased wages or hours of labor. They have occurred, do occur and will continue to occur independently of any tariff in response to the varying conditions of industry. If orders for goods come flowing in, the labor in the industry which makes the goods will be fully employed and wage reductions will be impossible. But if short crops curtail the purchasing power of consumers or the demand becomes inadequate to the supply because of overproduction or a change in fashion even, or for any other cause, labor in the industries concerned will be injuriously affected, and if the unfavorable conditions continue wages will fall. The law of supply and demand will continue to operate inside, and so far independently of any tariff law that can be framed. Thousands of changes in wage rates, both up and down, were made in the most prosperous years this country ever knew; they are made now under the McKinley tariff, and will be made unless Edward Bellamy or Henry George succeeds in revolutionizing the existing industrial system.

As a rule, changes in rates of wages do not get into the public press beyond the local papers. A reduction in wages, being more unusual in this country than an advance, is more likely to be chronicled. Ever since the McKinley law passed, the Free-trade papers all over the country have watched like vultures for instances of wages reduction and gloated over these misfortunes of the working people like birds of prey. The New York Times in particular has been on the alert to record and exult over every reduction of wages in order to ascribe it to the McKinley law. Reading its editorials on this subject one would get the impression that a 5 or 10 per cent. decrease in wages was an unknown occurrence before the McKinley act passed. We have before pointed out its shallow dishonesty in this respect. It collects ten or a dozen or a score of cases of reduced wages and proclaims that wages generally are falling. It boasts not the thousands of cases of increased pay which have occurred under the new law.

Only after a painstaking canvass of all the industries of the country and of the wage changes occurring in them can any one form an intelligent opinion as to whether the general course of wages is up or down. But your zealous Free-trade "reformer" does not care for that. He is bent on making out a case against Protection, and in his desperation at the lack of favoring evidence does not hesitate to manufacture it.

In this connection it may not be amiss to call attention to the fact that the annual report of the bureau of statistics of labor of New York state for 1891 chronicles 1,941 cases of increased wages, 2,065 cases of decrease in the hours of labor—virtually increases of wages, also—and only 411 cases of reduced wages. Yet all that year the New York Times was loudly proclaiming that wages were generally falling.

No less instructive is the record of the state bureau of labor statistics of Illinois, which has issued a report on coal statistics for that state. Not only has more coal been mined in the first year of the new tariff and more men been employed than ever before, but wages have averaged higher while coal has been cheaper.

With a single exception, and that the most unimportant, wages were higher in 1891 than in any of the three other years considered. These are the results arrived at by scientific investigation. Similar results would appear in every state from similar investigations. Wages are going up under the new tariff.

Low Wages in Bohemia.

According to the report of Consul Hawes, the average weekly wages of 100,000 working people in 1,131 establishments in the consular district of Reichenberg, Bohemia, are 6.13 florins (\$2.57) for adult males and 3.73 florins (\$1.50) for adult females. Judging from the deposits in savings banks and the capital of building and loan associations in the United States, it is not too much to say that the average American workingman, after paying for everything he has used (and he lives better than the workingman of any other country in the world), has as much money left at the end of the week as a woman earns in Bohemia, and almost as much as is earned there by a full grown man. This fact speaks more eloquently in favor of our protective policy than any theoretical argument we could adduce.

Only a Sample Case.

In 1853, under a low pottery duty, an assorted package of ordinary white ware cost ninety-five dollars on the dock. Today, under the McKinley law, the same quantity of ware would cost

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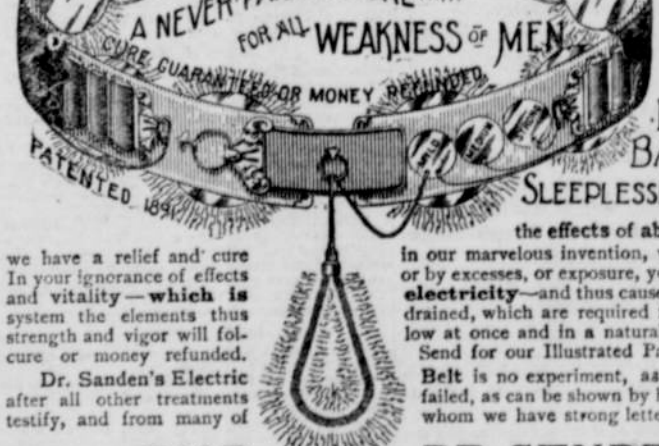
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