(Continued from 1st, page.)

take away all possibility and danger of foreign competition in almost every part of the country. Not less rapid has been the growth of our coal production.

THE COAL DUTY.

The coal area of the United States, as stated by Mr. Seward in the *Coal Trade* for 1893, is estimated at 192,000 square miles, of which 120,000 can be comfortably worked at present. This coal area is over three times larger than that of the rest of the world combined. The existing duty of 75 cents a ton on iron ore and on bituminous coal cannot be justified either as a protective or a revenue duty.

The importations into this country are too small to add materially to our revenue, while no one contends that the cost of mining is higher in the United States than in the countries that might seek our market. It could never have been intended that a constitution which establishes perfect freedom of internal trade among the states should countenance laws that hold one section of the Union, however remote, tributary to other sections for the supplies of those necessary materials whose location is ordained by natural law and not by human choice.

This House in two Congresses in recent years having, full debate, passed laws putting wool upon the free list, it is not deemed necessary in this report to attempt a restatement of the reasons for doing so. It is enough to say that the tariff upon wool, while bringing no real benefit to the American wool-grower, least of all to the American farmer, who, in any balancing of accounts, must see that he yearly pays out a good dollar for every doubtful dime he may receive under its operation, has disastrously hampered our manufacturing industry and made cruel and relentless war upon the health, the comfort and the productive energy of the American people.

Logs are already on the free list. We have gone a step farther and put undressed lumber generally on that list. This may serve to cheapen and improve the dwelling-houses of some of our people, but it is justified if it shall accomplish nothing more than to delay the rapid destruction of American forests. We have also placed hemp and flax unhackled on the free list for the reasons stated above, that we may give to the American workingman untaxed material to work with, and that we may give the finished product, as far as possible, to the consumer with but a single tax, and that a moderate one, instead of a medley and cumulation of taxes during the process of production. In addition to these so-called raw materials we have released from tariff duties certain important articles and manufactures which we have shown our capacity to produce cheaper than any other country, such as high copper and the more important agricultural implements.

Any article or manufacture which can sustain the competition of like foreign articles in other markets can defy such competition in the home market, and is not protected by the duty, but by its own intrinsic superior cheapness and quality. The only effect of a duty on such articles is to enable those who make them to charge higher prices to the citizens of their own country than they charge to foreigners, and this has been notoriously the case with both copper and many agricultural implements. In adjusting duties upon what may be called the finished products we have tried to impose such rates as will not distroy or destress any of our home industries on the one hand nor on the other to secure to them an oppressive monopoly of the home market. For this rule we have the recognized authority both of well-known and leading tariff reformers, and of those who in days past were considered moderate protectionists.

The report here quotes from speeches of the late Senator Beck, Mr. Carlisle, the late President Garfield and Senator Sherman, and continues:

It is neither necessary nor practicable in this report to specify the particular reductions we have made upon the long list of articles that still remain in the dutiable list. The tables which have been prepared for use of members of the House give full and minute information as to these changes. A few only of the most important need be here enumerated. In the earthenware schedule we have made substantial reductions, still leaving rates as high as were deemed necessary in the war tariff. In common window-glass, where close combinations have kept up the prices to consumers under a scale of duties averaging more than 100 per cent., we have made a reduction of about one-half.

GLASS.

Upon the larger sizes of plate glass, where the duties were even higher, we have made a reduction of about one-third. In the iron and steel schedule beginning with free ore and a duty of 22½ per cent, on pig iron, we have reported a scale of duties considerably below those of the existing law graduated according to the degree of manufacture, which should bring benefit to the consumer, without calling for any halt in the imperial progress of that great industry in our country.

The duty upon steel rails has been put at 25 per cent, which according to the reports of our department of labor, quite compensates for all difference in the cost of production in this country and abroad. There seems to be an authentic report that the pool of American rail-makers, which under the shelter of the present duty of $13.44 per ton has kept up prices to the American consumer far beyond the cost of production and legitimate profits, has been reorganized to continue the regulation of their prices above the proper market rates.

As all shippers and expecially American farmers are vitally interested in cheapening the cost of transportation, rates of duty upon steel rails should be adjusted so as to protect them from monopoly prices and monopoly combinations.

TIN PLATE.

Upon tin-plate the duty has been gauged with reference to the revenue it will bring into the Treasury, and the difference between this duty and that upon the black plate has been lessened with a view to discourage what may not unjustly be called the bogus industry of making American tin-plate by the mere dipping in this country of the imported black plate. In the sugar schedule we should have preferred to wipe out at a single legislative stroke the existing bounty system.

We believe it to be contrary to the spirit of our institutions, and can conceive of no circumstances under which we should have advocated or approved its introduction into our laws. We have found it existing there, as we find it virtually existing in every other schedule of the tariff, and dealing with it in the more open and offensive forms, as we have dealt with other schedules where large property interests are at stake, we have reported a provision for its repeal by such stages as shall gradually obliterate it from our laws while permitting those who have invested large means under the expectation of its continuance, reasonable time in which they may prepare to take their stand with the other industries of this country.

Duties upon imported tobacco leaf suitable for cigar wrappers, which were so erroneously advanced by the act of 1890, have been placed at such figures as, after careful investigation, were likely to produce most revenues to the treasury, but this object has not alone decided the rates. Their amounts is so high that no domestic producer need claim that there is not abundant protection, and to spare, for his product in them.

Of the staple agricultural products, including meats and provisions, we are such large exporters and must continue to be such large exporters, that any duties upon them are useless for protection and fruitless for revenue, and generally can be imposed for the purpose of deluding farmers into the belief that they are receiving some consideration and benefit under the tariff, although the prices of their products are fixed in the world's market in competition with like products, produced by the cheapest labor of the world.

For the producers of our great export staples, which have fully supplied the home market, must overflow and seek large purchasers elsewhere. The only effect of a protective tariff is to take away from them from one-fourth to one-half of the products for which they could exchange their surplus in the open market, should they venture to buy in the market where they are obliged to sell, or to compel them to give a like portion of the avails of their labor, when turned into money, by increasing the cost of what they buy in the home market. Recognizing that the American farmer has been through many years the patient victim of the protective system; that by immense present sacrifice he was buying for himself a home market, and that this promised home market is farther from him to-day than ever before, we have aimed to secure for him such relaxation of burdens as will permit him to enjoy more of the fruits of his own hard and faithful labor. To the farmers of the country we have given untaxed agricultural implements and binding twines, and untaxed cotton ties for the additional reason, in the latter case, that cotton is the largest export crop of the country sold abroad in competition with the cheap labor of India and of Egypt, believing that it was sufficient for the private tax gatherer to follow the farmer in the markets of his own country, and not to pursue him into all the markets of the world. As cotton-bagging can be used but once we have thought it but just to extend the drawback system to such bagging made of jute butts when used upon our exported cotton, a privilege which the exporter of wheat can already now enjoy, coupled with the further advantage that the same bags may be used for successive exportation of grain. In the schedule of spirits, wine and other beverages the changes made are slight, and with the view to production of increased revenue from these very proper sources of revenue taxation. The duty upon spiritous liquors is put at double the internal revenue tax upon the same, while the duty of 50 cents a gallon on still wines imported in casks is retained with a proviso limiting the duty on such wines to 100 per cent.

TEXTILE FIBRE.

In cotton, flax, hemp and jute schedules reductions have been made in accordance with the general scheme of the bill as heretofore explained, but they are not believed to be of such a marked character as to call for any special explanation. The placing of wool upon the free list has justified a very substantial reduction of the duties on woolen goods. Of the woolen tariff it may be said, as was truly said of the woolen tariff of 1828, "that it is the masterpiece of ultra restrictionists and exhibits all the worst features of the system."

Although the imports of 1892 show an average duty of 95.82 per cent, in the woolen schedule, it cannot be said that woolen manufacture has been a flourishing industry in this country, or that the American wool-grower has secured remunerative prices for his wool. With free wool we anticipate great benefits to the consumer of woolen goods, a revival of the woolen industry such as that which followed the tariff of 1857, and a steadier and a better market for the American wool-grower. The present tariff is not only cruelly exorbitant, but is so adjusted as to bear most heavily upon the poorer people.

FREE WOOL.

Illustrations of these inequalities are given and the report proceeds: The long exclusion of our woolen manufacturer from two-thirds of the wool of the world has prevented this great industry from attaining that vigorous life and independence it might otherwise have reached, and recognizing the duties which we would place at present upon competing foreign fabrics must be somewhat higher than a permanent schedule ought to be, we have provided for this general decrease, hoping that in a few years our manufacturers will assert their skill and ability to manufacture from the world's wool. In the carpet schedule we have not felt it necessary to adopt this sliding scale because that branch of our textle iddustry has long been one of the most flourishing of all our manufactures, has asserted its full control of the home market and recently has been threatening to invade with American products the markets of other countries.

With free carpet wool we have believed that this industry might well stand the reduction reported in the bill without imperiling its vigorous growth and prosperous existance. We are said to consume nearly two-thirds of all the carpets manufactured in the world. With the cheapened production due to the removal of the duty on carpet wools of which we are not ourselves producers, there will naturally be a greatly increased consumption of all kinds of carpet in our own country, the largest part of which must inevitably fall to our own manufacturers to supply.

The average rate of duties levied under the existing law upon the dutiable goods imported in 1892 was 48.81 per cent. Had the duties proposed in the present bill been levied upon that year's importation of dutiable goods the average rate, including those we have transferred to the free list, would have been 30.31 per cent.; but so many of the rates of the present law are prohibitory it is impossible to say what its real rate of taxation is, yet it is safe to affirm that it is much higher than any import will disclose.

It must be understood, however, that the rates above mentioned can be called closely approximated and not mathematically correct, but they illustrate the extent of the reductions proposed by the present bill and the relief which it will give to the taxpayer, and especially to the laborers of this country. Taking the importations of 1892, the latest which were accessible to the committee when its tables were prepared, the new rates would operate a reduction of nearly one-third of the duties collected under the tariff, but this great reduction in taxes actually paid to the government is no measure of the lightening of the burden to the taxpayers of the country.

(Continued on 2nd, page.)

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