

AMERICAN FREE TRADERS

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

A Reply to the Arguments Advanced by the Friends of Protection.

New York, August 20.—The following address of American Free Traders has been published: To the Friends of Freedom: The inability of a large Democratic majority in the national House of Representatives to pass a bill for tariff reform looking only to the removal of a heavy burden of taxation from a few great industries, and the refusal of the representatives of the Republican party and their allies to even consider the abatement of tariff taxation in any degree, imperatively calls for aggressive and uncompromising political action by the friends of commercial freedom. There can be no doubt that a majority of the sane people, as represented by the sane members of the present acting in union with one or the other of the two great political parties, are convinced of the practicability and necessity of tariff reform and the abandonment of the hitherto dominant policy of high, discriminating and unnecessary taxation. A clear statement of the reasons for the protectionists and the free traders is itself a demonstration of the truth of this assertion. On the one side the advocates of "protection" start with the assumption that, under a free and republican form of government, the power of taxation may be used by the state to build up private fortunes, on the one side, and to raise wages. For a long period they have reduced this assumption to practice by imposing heavy taxes on articles now necessary to the processes of great domestic industries for the benefit of special interests of very small relative importance to the aggregate industrial interests of the whole country. Thus for years past our fiscal policy has been practically dictated by the manufacturers of pig iron and the growers of wool, although the aggregate values of the annual product of pig iron and wool is not equal to the value of the annual egg and poultry crop of the country, and not to be compared with the value of either hay, wheat, corn or cotton. Encouraged by long toleration the demands of these special interests increase in audacity as is shown in the recent proposition of Samuel J. Randall, their representative, to advance the duties on tin plate from 1 to 2 cents per pound. This article is used largely for the preservation, by canning, of an excess of our meat, vegetable, fruit, fish and oil products which, without such treatment, could not be marketed, but would be wasted. The present duty, freights and commissions added, constitute a bounty which would cover the payment of double the wages paid in Great Britain. But as the foreign manufacturer is conducted at a minimum of profit (the price of tin plate being the lowest ever known in history), the present tax is regarded as insupportable, and Mr. Randall proposes, in spite of an overvalued Treasury, to increase this tax from \$5,000,000 to an aggregate of \$15,000,000 and collect by adding to the cost of the preservation of meat, fish and fruit (decreasing our export market accordingly), the milk pails and cans of every farmer, the cooking utensils and dinner pails of every workman and the construction of every dwellinghouse and railroad car in the country—all for the benefit of a few iron manufacturers and capitalists in Pennsylvania. On the other side the principles of free traders may be simply stated as follows: 1. They demand that the whole system of Federal taxation be so constructed and readjusted that all the taxes the people pay shall be received by the government without the diversion of any part for the fostering of private interests. 2. That the promotions and true protection of American industries, as to be found in the removal of all taxes from articles which constitute the foundation, or are necessary to the processes, of our various industries, and that the incidence of taxation be restricted as far as possible to articles which are ready for final consumption and of which the use is voluntary rather than necessary. 3. They claim that the abandonment of the present high discriminating and unnecessary tariff taxes, and the levy of national revenue on a comparatively few articles on which taxes can be collected with the least interference with the freely chosen pursuits of the people are the necessary steps to gradually inure to the country full industrial employment and high wages, an abundant protection and low cost, extended markets and a permanent revival of commercial activity. The trade competitors of the United States are invited to meet the debt and with the support of great standing armies, which in turn entail a burden of taxation so heavy as to impair their resources, cripple the energies of their people and increase the cost of their products. To successfully make the tax system of the government, which has happened to be only necessary that the people of this country adopt a policy diametrically opposite. Other nations must then disband their armies and set their soldiers to work with better wages and better substitutes than they now have, to afford them any chance for competing with a country so rich in resources, so intelligent and active in respect to population, and so free in respect to government as the United States. It is for such a result that the American Free Trade League invite the cooperation of the patriotic men of all political parties. The recent trial of strength in Congress shows that a change of a single district in half of the States from the side of the protectionists to the side of the free traders is all that is required to reform the revenue system of the government. In more than this number of districts a change of less than 5 per cent. in the vote will change the district. A comparatively small number of those opposed by conviction to a policy of taxation restriction can thus produce the desired result. It is therefore essential that each friend of commercial freedom, in anticipation of the nomination in his Congressional district, shall determine and as far as possible publicly declare his determination not to vote for any candidate for Congress who is not opposed to a tariff for "protection," except where it is necessary to defeat by electing an avowed protectionist opponent a candidate who straddles Democracy by voting in special legislation on the one hand, while claiming support from the tariff-paying masses on the other. In what cases it may be best to vote an independent candidate in the field and in what cases to abstain from voting must be left to the

WEEKLY CROP REVIEW.

A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE OUTLOOK FOR

The Corn Belt Indicated, and a Somewhat Increased Yield—The Condition of the Wheat Crop.

Chicago, August 20.—The Farmers' Review will print the following crop summary in this week's edition: The detailed reports from the corn belt indicate an improvement in the outlook for the corn crop in Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota, in all of which States there is the present promise of a full average crop. This is in accordance with the tenor of the reports from the last three weeks, but in some instances, in the three States named, the outlook is declared to be unusually promising. In Belmont, Durkee, Logan, Lucas and Montgomery counties in Ohio the yield promises to equal that of any week in 1895, while the remaining counties indicate a yield ranging from 50 to 95 per cent. In Fayette, Henry, Jay, Lagrange, Morgan, Montgomery and Pike counties of Indiana a more than usually large yield is indicated. The remaining counties reporting an average yield from 55 to 90 per cent. In Carver, Meeker, Ramsey, St. Louis, Sherburne and Wadena counties of Minnesota an average yield is indicated. The remaining counties reporting this week promise 50 to 95 per cent. In an average, Barry and Saginaw counties of Michigan promise a full yield. Montcalm county has the promise of only 45 per cent. of an average, and the other counties range from 45 to 85 per cent. of an average. In Hamilton county, Nebraska, the outlook is favorable for a full yield, while Butler, Harlan and Webster counties indicate a full yield. In Douglas, Gage, Otoe and Richardson counties of Nebraska the outlook is for less than one-half the usual yield. Ellis county in Kansas shows a full average, while Cherokee, Butler and Lyons promise only 40 to 50 per cent. of an average yield. In Osage county the average yield is 30 per cent. In Vernon and Kenosha counties the average is 85 per cent., while Dunn, Lafayette and Sauk counties give the promise of less than half the usual yield. In Illinois a general improvement of 5 to 10 per cent. is noted, but the general average for the State remains low. In DePue, Green, Henry, Madison, Stephenson and Whiteside counties averages range from 40 to 50 per cent. In Bond, Cass, Coles, Crawford, Christian, Danage, Fulton, Kankakee, Lake, Macomb, Pulaski, Shelby, Stark and Warren counties the average ranges from 60 to 90 per cent. In Washington county the yield will be less than 20 per cent. of an average. The general average is low for all the Iowa counties, running from 40 to 90 per cent. In Ringgold and Wayne counties the average is 40 per cent. In Fayette, Jasper, Jones, Crawford, Mitchell and Winnebeck counties the average is 60 to 70 per cent. In Cedar, Davis and Linn counties the average is 80 to 90 per cent. The average in Missouri ranges from 30 to 65 per cent. The average for the State does not promise one-half of an average yield. In Dakota the yield of wheat is averaging from 12 to 18 bushels, and the grain is grading well. In Minnesota the yield of wheat ranges from 8 to 24 bushels, rating very irregular. In many counties in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin the ground is reported too dry to permit of fall plowing, and the effect of the drought are also still seriously felt, owing to the drying up of the pastures. Unless relief by rain comes shortly stock will go into the winter in poor condition. Fruits are reported as abundant in all the Western States, with the exception of Michigan. Hog cholera is reported in St. Francis county, Mo.; Ringgold county, Ia., and in Christian, Green, Pulaski and Shelby counties, Ill. As a rule, however, hogs are reported as unusually healthy.

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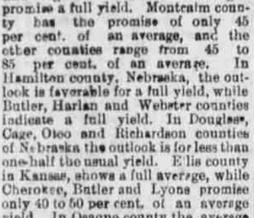
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