

CHEAP LABOR WANTED BY BRITISHERS

Correspondent Traveling in England Lays Bare the Hypocrisy of High Tariff Claims "To Protect Americans"

By Clyde H. Tavener. (Article No. 10.)

MANCHESTER, England, Aug. 24.—While the average workingman in free trade England receives less in wages than the American worker, the Briton's wages go further than the American's when it comes to purchasing foodstuffs, clothing, shoes and paying rent.

At the end of the year the employe of the British cotton mill, receiving \$4.48 a week (the average wage when the earnings of women, boys and men are included), is better off than the employe of the New England cotton mills who has received \$5.53 a week, which is the average weekly wage in the cotton industry in the United States.

A comparison of living conditions of mill workers in Manchester, Eng., or any of the surrounding mill towns, with those of Lowell, Mass., shows beyond question that the English workers under free trade live in better houses, wear better clothes and eat more wholesome food than the mill workers in the New England states under protection.

In New England more than half the cotton mill workers are foreigners. The mill owners have for years been systematically crowding Americans out of their factories to make places for foreigners, who live under conditions that the average American could not tolerate.

A foreigner is seldom seen in the British cotton mill. More than 90 per cent of the cotton mill employes are British.

"Why is it Southern Europeans do not come here to work?" I inquired of a British manufacturer.

"The principal reason is that we would not dare employ cheap foreign labor," was the reply, "even if it were profitable to do so, which it is not. If it became known a mill man was crowding out British to make way for foreigners I have no doubt in the world the British consumer would refuse to buy the output of that mill."

In Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island it is different. Just how different can be best shown with the words of Representative Augustus P. Gardner of Massachusetts, who has made a thorough investigation of the conditions of New England mill owners.

Mr. Gardner, speaking on the floor of the House on day on the subject of immigration, gave a graphic description of how the highly protected New England cotton mills import large numbers of the cheapest class of foreigners.

"For example," said Mr. Gardner, "suppose I am a Syrian, conducting a Syrian boarding house in the city of Lowell, Mass. Perhaps some mill sends down to me for hands. I furnish them at a somewhat lower rate of wages than is expected by ordinary citizen help. (American help) I find recurrent opportunities to supply the cotton mills with Syrians."

"Soon I hear that another mill is about to make an extension, so I say to myself, 'Back there in Syria is quite a profitable mine for me.' Perhaps I go to the mill treasurer and get an advance of money. Perhaps I have the money myself. I return to Syria or I send some trusted agent, very likely a Syrian resident of the United States. In Syria a number of emigrants are gathered together and they come to America, and either by direct route or indirect route, finally arrive at my boarding house in the City of Lowell. I tell them that if they do not pay me back the money advanced I will have them arrested, that they must hand over the full wages that they get in the mill on penalty of imprisonment. Everyone knows how easy it is for a stranger to break the laws or ordinances in a land where he does not understand the language, and they are held in terror of the police."

"Meanwhile I take all their wages while I feed them and keep them alive just as I would feed and keep a horse alive that I had imported for use in a livery stable."

In the textile trades of Great Britain 1,171,216 persons are employed. Manchester itself is a great city of 542,000 and within a radius of ten miles of Manchester are located a half a dozen cotton mill cities having a population of more than 100,000 each. You can search the great Lancaster cotton mill district from end to end and be unable to duplicate the conditions described in Congress by Representative Gardner.

Yet the cotton manufacturing industry is one of the most highly protected trades in the United States, the New England manufacturers at every revision of the tariff asking for and receiving higher duties on the plea they are protecting the "American" working man.

Strenuous Methods Used by Mrs. Stetka to Keep her Boy Out of Mischief



CHICAGO, Sept. 21.—Has a mother the right to chain her boy to keep him home, just as the government did the prisoners years ago, and as slave traders did? This is the question before the juvenile court here.

"I had to chain him," said Mrs. Stetka to the police, in giving her explanation. "He is so bad. He runs away and steals newspapers and I can't do anything with him to keep him home but to tie him. I am so busy all the time I can't keep my eye on him and all the rest of the children and do my work at the same time."

Mrs. Stetka's husband, it is said, is insane and is an inmate of Danzing. She has four children and has to work hard to make a living for her family. Juvenile Officer Phalen said Mrs. Stetka would not be arrested unless it was shown that she was cruel to her children.

As a result there was hardly a vacant seat in all the big enclosure. Dr. Stewart took for his topic "When Singleness is Bliss" and the first part of his lecture was devoted to showing the achievements that had been made when the individual man had sought seclusion or loneliness to further his thought or to aid in his work. Then he went on to the difference in ordinary life, of man's need of a helpmeet and finally touched upon the woman suffrage question which he unqualifiedly advocated.

DOUGLAS, Sept. 21.—(Special).—Were the management of the chautauqua to do nothing more it has not failed since it brought to Douglas "Sunshine" Hawks and gave the subscribers and the others who were fortunate enough to purchase stage tickets for Saturday night a treat so distinct as to warrant the assertion that the lecture was far and away the best which has ever been delivered in Douglas. In saying this the international is voicing the opinions of practically every one of the large audience which filled the amphitheatre Saturday night.

"Sunshine" Hawks is more than a lecturer. He is a rare combination of the natural born comedian and the natural born tragedian. His control of facial expression can only be compared to Richard Mansfield in his great play of Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde. Beyond this "Sunshine" Hawks has studied human nature and has solved that problem until it is an open book to him.

He uses a few grains of nonsense to season a dish of sound common sense and does it as successfully as the greatest chefs prepare their most delectable concoctions to tickle the palate of the epicure.

"Sunshine" Hawks makes one laugh, and one is glad to laugh. He goes further and not only makes one cry but glad that he can cry. He is in a distinctive class of his own and has won the hearts of all of Douglas who heard him on Saturday night. All who were then present want to hear him again next Friday and they get in the mill on penalty of imprisonment. Everyone knows how easy it is for a stranger to break the laws or ordinances in a land where he does not understand the language, and they are held in terror of the police."

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ALLUVIAL SOIL OF ARIZONA RICH AS EGYPT

It is a curious fact—and one which vividly illustrates what manifold variety of land wealth is to be found within our own borders—that the river valleys of Arizona resemble closely the Nile delta in soil, climate and irrigation, they contain the same alluvial rich by the silt-laden waters.

Arizona's Potential Wealth. The resources of Arizona are not generally appreciated. There are immense riches hidden in its hills. The copper, gold and silver mines now worked are valued at \$300,000,000. Though technically a "desert," it has a large arable area and the soil has 25 to 30 per cent of plant-feeding soluble matter—while over in Europe they wrest a living out of land which has only 3 per cent.

The Salt River Valley is an oasis in the desert—one of the glories of Arizona. To the traveler approaching through the solitary gray plains and dark brown mountains, its luxuriant vegetation is a sight that amazes and delights. The capital city, Phoenix, possessing every modern feature of civilization, is one of the magical results of irrigation. As in Damascus, its wealth is the gift of its streams. The Salt River has been a scene of irrigation enterprise since 1865, but progress has been ten fold more rapid in the past ten years. The valley is 40 miles long by 2 to 15 wide, and its arable area is about 400,000 acres. The rain fall being only 5 to 6 inches annually, the valley is wholly dependent on a supply of water from the Salt River and the Verde. This supply is fortunately assured by the immense drainage area—90 per cent of which is under Government inspection and control, in Indian reservations or national forests—and also by the Government irrigation works undertaken at a cost of \$6,000,000.

The Blossoming Desert. Grasses and cereals flourish in the Salt River Valley. Alfalfa, the favorite forage of great rivers. There is the same dry, bracing atmosphere, under a cloudless sky. Irrigation is just as necessary and just as magical in its effects. But there is this great difference in favor of Arizona: Modern farming methods and machinery will quadruple the yield per acre and render farming immensely productive, and supplies the best of grazing.

The Alfalfa crop, grows four to six crops a year—of one or two tons to the acre.

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With prices of alfalfa hay at \$10 or \$12 a ton, there should be profit in such a crop—one, too, which enriches rather than impoverishes the land. Good yields of wheat, barley and oats are obtained. With the increase of land values, owners of the large farms will quickly cut up their holdings. Ten acres of this valley land is said to be ample for a family.

Semi-Tropical Fruits. A considerable acreage is devoted to orange culture—the fruit commanding a high price in eastern markets, which it reaches very early. Grape fruit does well. Melons and cantaloupes of the Valley are famous for their flavor, particularly those of Mesa. Olives are a thriving crop, the keeping quality and flavor of the oil being excellent.

Other fruits grown successfully are the peach, apricot, pear, fig, almond, grape and strawberry. Profits from strawberries of \$500 to \$1000 an acre are reported.

The Yuma Project. Another great project in Arizona is the diversion of the waters of the Colorado river by means of Laguna dam, 10 miles north of Yuma, into two canals. The bottom lands comprise 17,000 acres in the Yuma Indian Reservation; in California, 20,000 acres in the Gila River Valley in Arizona and 53,000 acres in the Colorado River Valley in Arizona. Here the soil is the same rich, alluvial deposit as in the Salt River Valley, producing with the application of water enormous crops of alfalfa, vegetables, sugar beets, nuts, melons, fruits, cotton, cane and corn.

The Cycle of Fashions. Progress follows the line of advantage, substituting always the better adapted; it never returns on itself, never substitutes fish oil for kerosene, horse cars for trolley cars. Fashion, on the other hand, moves in cycles. Could we run the successive fashions of woman's hat or sleeve or skirt during a century through a biograph rapidly what a spectacle and disaster we should see, an alternating dilation and contraction, like the passing of some queer animal.—Prof. E. A. Ross, in Social Psychology.

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