

WHAT IS A TARIFF?

Who Owns It?—Answers to a Working-man's Questions.

Working-man—I read a good deal nowadays about the tariff, especially since the President's message appeared. What is meant by tariff?

Answer—The plan of raising money for the expenses of Government, by which it is collected at the custom-houses, from duties upon imports, and on sales directly from the people by excise or internal revenue taxes.

W.—What are the advantages of this plan? Ans.—It is the cheapest way to get the necessary revenue, and it saves the people from the annoying visitations of tax-gatherers. It is the plan which was adopted when the present Government was established in 1789, and has, except in the emergency of war, been adhered to ever since to the exclusion of all others.

WHO PAYS THE DUTIES? W.—Who pays the duties collected at the custom-houses?

Ans.—If the articles imported are such as are largely produced here, the foreign producer pays a part of the duty. If the articles are not produced here, the duty is added to the foreign cost, and we have to pay it ourselves.

W.—Why do foreigners pay a great part of it in the former case?

Ans.—Because experience has shown that when an article is imported from a foreign country the price falls below the foreign price with duty added. Hence, to meet our home price, as the duty is fixed, a reduction must be made from the foreign price, and we have to pay it ourselves.

W.—Then, in such cases, foreigners contribute to the support of our Government? Ans.—Yes, and justly so, because they get the benefits of our markets, and our laws, for which they would otherwise pay nothing.

TARIFF FOR REVENUE ONLY. W.—Why do we impose duties on articles not produced here if we have to pay them ourselves?

Ans.—We certainly ought not to do so; but there is no idea so unreasonable that it will not have supporters. And there have always been men in this country favoring this plan of relieving foreigners from taxation. It is known as tariff for revenue only.

W.—Do these men understand that our people have to pay all the duties under a tariff for revenue only?

Ans.—The more intelligent among them do, but they are partial to the English revenue system, and forget that British laws and taxes are no better fitted for this country now than they were a century ago.

PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE DEFINED. W.—Can you explain, briefly, the meaning of the words "Protection" and "Free Trade"?

Ans.—Yes. Protection means that adjustment of the tariff on such things as may be produced here which requires the payment of duties high enough to effect the greater wages paid to those engaged in producing them, and thus protect them in their occupations against the competition of cheaper wages in foreign countries.

W.—How much higher are wages here? Ans.—Nearly twice as high as in Great Britain, three times as high as in France and Germany, four times as high as in Italy and Russia.

THE NEED OF A TARIFF. W.—What difference does this make in the cost of things produced in this country compared with the cost in Europe?

Ans.—That depends on the amount of labor required to produce them. The labor may be half, three-quarters, or even a larger part, of the cost. Iron ore and limestone in the ground are of little value. But by combining them with labor they become pig iron, worth fifteen to twenty dollars per ton. Any other material, they may be converted into watch-springs, worth more than their weight in gold.

W.—This is the result of labor, and it is evident that this kind of work can not be carried on here unless the men engaged in it are protected by duties high enough to cover the difference between foreign and American wages. This is what protection does, and, therefore, a tariff framed for this purpose is called a "protective tariff."

HOW PROTECTION BENEFITS ALL. W.—Are there any other reasons why a protective tariff is better for our country?

Ans.—Yes, there are several other reasons. I will mention some of them:

1st.—By creating and sustaining a variety of important industries which otherwise could not exist here, it diversifies the occupations of our people, and affords a market for their different qualities and talents. It also prevents so many persons crowding into a few industries. For example, the people employed in manufactures are withdrawn from farming, and become consumers of food instead of producers. This prevents excessively low wages in farming, and raises the price of farm products.

2d.—It cheapens the price of things which are protected by encouraging competition among those engaged in producing them.

SKETCH OF ENGLAND'S POLICY. W.—Why, then, was it ever adopted?

Ans.—To make a long story short, England had for centuries a strong protective tariff, and under it built up flourishing manufactures, and increased the prosperity of the people. But about fifty years ago her manufacturers found they were not able to compete with those of other countries, and they could sell, and needed larger foreign markets. By a large expenditure of money and the use of able speakers, they finally secured a majority of Parliament in favor of free trade. This would enable them to reduce wages so that they could make goods cheaper than other nations. To do this they offered to supply the raw materials to the other nations, and to supply them with the raw materials of other countries, and to supply them with the raw materials of other countries, and to supply them with the raw materials of other countries.

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A FLATTERING RECORD.

What the Republican Party Has Done for the Nation.

It subdued Rebellion and saved the Union.

It conquered war and established peace.

It gave freedom to a race and a free ballot to all men.

It was patriotic enough to create a debt to carry on war and honest enough to make provision to pay that debt.

It made liberty universal throughout the States and the flag honored throughout the world.

It made treason odious and loyalty the badge of respected citizenship.

It dignified labor and secured its rightful reward by protective tariff laws.

It raised the Nation from bankruptcy and secured for public credit the faith of the financial world.

It made persons and property and freedom of thought and expression secure in every part of the land.

It has practically given each citizen a free home by securing the public domain from the monopoly of capital.

It has, by a rigid supervision of corporate franchise, made transportation cheap, safe and rapid for persons and property.

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DEMOCRATIC FORGERY.

How Cleveland and His Machine Proposed to Beat General Harrison.

While the Ho that General Harrison said "a dollar a day was enough for working-men" is effectually killed for the present, we learn the Democrats are trying to revive it by asserting that proof of the fact will be produced "when the proper time comes." The proper time is understood to be a day or two before the election, and the plan to embrace the publication of false and perhaps forged affidavits to the alleged fact when it will be too late to take any steps to refute them or punish the rascals who put them out. This would be quite in keeping with Democratic tactics and with the spirit thus far shown in the campaign. Democratic liars and mud-slingers have made rapid progress since the campaign opened, but we expect to see still more remarkable developments of meanness and mendacity before it is ended. The Democracy of this State are desperate, and will stop at nothing to avert the defeat now plainly impending. The absolute invulnerability of General Harrison's character and record engages them, and his growing strength with the people will drive them to expedients entirely outside of the pale of respectable politics, in the hope of rescuing a lost cause. Whatever can be done in this direction by the corrupt use of money, and the worst acts of the worst school of politics, will be done. As an indication of the latter, and in the line of this affidavit business, Senator Voorhees is reported as having said a few days ago that evidence would soon be produced establishing General Harrison's active connection with the Know-Nothing movement. It is proper to say here and now that if such pretended evidence is produced it will be an unmitigated lie, and should consign its framers and forgers to a place in the penitentiary. Another indication of the Democratic plan of campaign is the statement recently made by one of them to a commercial traveler, that "we intend to carry the State if we have to pay twenty-five dollars a vote to do it." We have no doubt that they intend this very thing, and that they do expect to carry the State by such methods as those indicated, supplemented by the free use of money. But we do not think they will succeed. Corruption, rascality and lying may be potent weapons within certain limitations, but they are not strong enough to counteract a great popular movement or to reverse a plainly foreshadowed majority in a State like Indiana. This is the people's year, and we have an abiding faith that General Harrison's reputation and the Republican cause will be safe in their hands, in spite of the desperate efforts of corrupt politicians. Nevertheless, the knowledge that such schemes are being concocted should cause Republicans to be more than ever on the alert and redouble their efforts for success.—Indianapolis Journal.

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