MILAN EXCHANGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1883.

NO TARIFF.

Free Trade Universal. Direct Taxation to Support the General Government.

An Economist says: It is a demostrated truth in economy that the good of each is best for all." The policy based upon what is known as the balance of trade, that ruled Europe three hundred years, from the elevation of Charles V. to power, "that whatever is gained by one party in trade is at the the expense of another, is exploded forever." Or thus, if one nation is trading freely with another, both parties fairly dividing profits, then by destroying half this trade the one will be able to monopolize all the profits to itself. "The moral of this is, ignorance and selfishness are twin brothers," "Good of each is best for all." This lifts the science of economy into the "purest with the purest moral sentiment. Thus the economy or moral sentiment that should prevail in exchanges between individuals, or our several states, should prevail between individual nations of the earth. We remark, proper conception of the purpose, and extent of the tax power, granted by constitution being paramount. We refer to Art. 1, Sec. 8, of the constitution. "The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." The tax power, as here disclosed, was granted for the sole purpose of raising revenue to conduct the operations of the government; the perversion of this from its legitimate object is to convert it in part from a revenue into a penal power, a power which if fully admitted would be sufficient of itself to possess the government of people. For if the government has the right by the constitution to cause the property or fruits of labor of one to go to another, it has the right to control all the property of the people, is considerable advance in a tirade that lacks but one step of complete despotism. For do you see anything in this section to justify the perversion that manufacturers have a right to the earnings of others? Do you see any power granted to raise revenue for other than to meet the expenses and indebtedness of the government? The revenue for monopolies now being much larger than for the government, do you not think, if such had been the design in the constitution, that something would have been inserted to that effect? Do you think they would have mentioned the smaller revenue, and said nothing about the larger if such had been here granted to congress to raise rev. enue alone to meet the disbursements of the government. To convert this power to any other purpose, in be-

half of protection, is tyranny. We remark, the duties on tea and coffee were repealed and about one hundred and fifty articles remain on the free list that are not produced in our country and therefore if taxed quantity and doubled in market price would produce no protection. This shows how little protectionists care for duties that produce revenue for government alone. Such articles above all others that raised or manufactured in this country and therefore producing no protection should be subject to duty. Such duties would be free from constitutional objections, and if duties on such articles should their whole interests. It is time the fall short of sufficient revenue (it government is divorced from this sys-

country and England, page 113, says: "The commission draws the general conclusion that in some divisions of cotton manufactures and textile labor the wages in America do not greatly exceed those in England, while in other subdivisions they will range like spinning, for instance, from 30 to 40 per cent, greater in this country than in Great Britian. We crave your close attention. The tariff commission, to show the country the effects of revenue tariff and free trade upon the prices of wages, compare prices of wages in this country, a nation of political liberty, which liberty is the barometer of wages which largely itself increases the prices of wages, with prices of wages in England, a nation destitute of political liberty, the destitu tion of which itself reduces the prices of wages, as shown from statements of Elglishmen themselves, viz: "An atmosphere of ethics," co-operating English master workmen who traveled in this country to look into our industrial progress and report to his fellow workmen at home used this lan_ guage in his report: "You will never be able to understand the report of what I saw, unless you first know what it is for people to be set on fire by liberty. A workman gets through with 50 to 100 per cent. more work in the United States than ever known to do in same number of hours in Europe." This testimony is an appendix to and corresponds with ecos nomical facts adduced before, that pauper labor while in Europe is not formidable as a competitor, but after arriving in this country and fired by liberty it becomes an important factor in role of competition. The only fair logical exponent therefore of the case as the prices of wages is to compare equals-to compare kingly governments with kingly governments, and free governments with free gov. ernments. England is a free trade country, Germany and France are tariff countries. Prices of wages in entire control of the property of the England are from fifty to one hundred per cent. higher than in Germany, France or any other European nation, and she out strips all the continent and America in the markets of the world. Why do the commisand to consummate consolidation at sioners not prove that prices of wages once, which it is now doing by de- in England now under free trade are grees. Claiming and exercising the less than when under tariff reign? right to dispose of the fruits of labor Why do they not prove (tables are at their command) that on reduction of duties or at our nearest approach to free trade prices of wages are less than when duties are highest. All these tables would be fatal to their assumption and therefore are not ads duced. The fact is free trade or reduction of duties lessening the cost of production, lessening the cost of living-increasing production which increases demand for labor, stands proven from all history-from all tables to produce highest prosperity-highest prices of wages relatively. Highest duties increasing cost of production-increasing cost of living-decreasing production which decreases demand for labor, stands proven their design? Undoubtedly power is from all history, from all tables, to produce lowest prosperity, lowest prices of wages relatively.

Again, our nearest approach to free trade was in decade from 1850 to 18-60 under Walker tariff reduced in 18-56 from 20 to 14 per cent. on total imports, culminating into the highest prosperity of our history. "Our cotton crop doubled in the decade in per pound. Wheat and corn increased 80-per cent. in quantity and nearly as much in price. Labor was contented; strikes were hardly ever heard of; prices of wages were relatively higher than ever before." This government owes a duty to itself, to the laborers of this country, to be the government of the whole people and might be enough) for government tem of siding in plundering the earn-

requirements, raise it some other way ings of men who have to contend than by taxing labor; let this protect- with all the world, burdened with ive head the bane of the country be heavy-weights, that others may have lopped from the system. Tariff Com- monopoly at home- at home, not on mission on prices of wages in this the broad ocean-not abroad in foreign markets-but at home, protection on protection at their own doors. Shut down upon these inducements and openings to corruption and expenditures and subsides by abolishing protection, and you would hear no more about distribution, government telegraphing; all these tariff booms would be heard no more. This government, removed from siding in money-making in behalf of monopolies by abolishing protection, would rise to higher behests and would at once become a central all-protecting sun, around which all industries, equipoise restored, would revolve and continue to revolve in rejuvenescence grandest of the age.

D. C. CALDWELL.

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