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WOOL INDUSTRY THREATENED. The wool growers of Utah, now in session at Army hall in this city, cannot be blamed for taking a lively interest in national politics at the present time. Wool prices have been going down for months, grazing has been restricted and feed is short, three adverse conditions against which the industry is struggling.

In addition, it is proposed to revise the tariff downward, beginning with schedule K, the greatest menace to prosperity the country has faced since the Wilson-Gorman monster, that measure of "perfidy and dishonor," to use the words of Grover Cleveland, went into effect.

Schedule K of the Payne-Aldrich law is practically the same as the schedule K of the Dingley act. In fact, very few changes have been made since William McKinley was chairman of the ways and means committee of the House and reported the bill which ushered in the greatest era of prosperity ever enjoyed by any country in the history of the world.

The present schedule K, then, should be credited to McKinley, who was elected to the presidency and re-elected as a reward for the great work performed. In connection with the manner in which the data for schedule K was secured, it is called to mind that Chairman McKinley called a convention of experts to Washington to give him the benefit of their experience and honest advice, and to assist him with their technical knowledge.

This convention, in part, was composed of wool growers, who showed the necessity of increased protection (the Wilson bill put wool on the free list) to check the destruction of their industry, which was being wiped out. It was composed in part of both carded and worsted wool manufacturers, all of whom simply pleaded for enough protection over and above that required to maintain the sheep industry, to cover the difference in the cost of production between protected wools 200 per cent higher in the mills of the United States than on the continent of Europe.

The convention was also in part composed of importers of wool, whose interests were in favor of free trade in wool rather than domestic wool production. They all brought a knowledge of the circumstances surrounding wool production and its manufacture in other parts of the world, as well as in the United States.

Free wool had just been tried and had proved ruinous to grower and manufacturer alike, but its advocates were allowed a hearing. With all this expert assistance, Chairman McKinley evolved the present schedule K. Tried in the furnace of time, this particular schedule proves to have been scientifically constructed and admirably calculated to serve the purpose for which it was intended.

That is the history of schedule K, which is now being attacked by unthinking and unreasoning persons whose mission in life is to tear down rather than build up.

It is no wonder that the wool growers of the west, the Utah men included, should view the future of their industry with apprehension and alarm. Many of them lost their little all during the dark days of Democratic ascendancy, and now that they have been enabled to barely get their heads above water, a new danger is threatened as a climax to a series of unfortunate natural conditions.

It is no wonder that these men, members of both state and national associations, with an accurate knowledge of the existing condition of the wool industry, born of experience, should prepare to battle for their rights and to avert the impending calamity if possible.

The wool growers will not be alone in their misery in case the blow descends. Every man, woman and child in Utah—in the great west—will suffer if the wool industry is again paralyzed by foolish and vicious legislation. No great industry can be struck down without throwing thousands of men out of work, causing untold suffering to their families, and bringing disaster to the bankers and merchants and all others engaged in business.

But there is hope that the worst will not happen. The Senate is controlled by Republicans who believe in the principle of protection; and a Republican President occupies the executive chair in the White House. Under such conditions it should be utterly impossible for the Democratic House to destroy the wool industry.

Of course, tariff agitation is deeply injurious, tending as it does to unsettle trade. Yet if a lowering of the schedules can be prevented there is reason to hope for better times when the country has had time to take the meas-

ure of the agitators who have come to the surface in the past few months.

The sympathy of citizens of all classes is with the wool growers in their effort to prevent the delivery of a blow from the effects of which it would take the intermountain country years to recover.

IMMIGRATION QUESTION. An American writer who has just returned from Europe, and who is said to have studied the immigration situation over there, wonders why well-to-do immigrants go to Canada, Australia and South Africa instead of this country.

The writer has arrived at the conclusion that the true reason is because the British colonies are flooding Europe with literature setting forth the advantages of their respective localities in the most glowing terms and, incidentally, hurling a few bricks in the direction of the United States.

A campaign of this nature may have something to do with it, nevertheless there are other facts to be taken into consideration. First and foremost is the fact that since the close of the civil war the agricultural lands of the United States have nearly all been taken up, there being vast unsettled areas in the Dominion of Canada, South Africa and Australia. The well-to-do immigrants of Europe were not attracted to these countries so long as free homes were obtainable over here.

The reason why the less favored classes of immigrants pour into the United States is because there is no place else on God's green earth where they can make a living. It is undeniably true that immigration of this sort has been too large, and that a check should be put upon it. In fact, it can be truthfully said that immigration from any source is not so desirable that we should take any extra pains to obtain it.

The question is sure to be bothersome in the years to come, and the best thought of American statesmen will be required in its solution. This country has indeed been made a dumping ground for the undesirables of Europe for a generation or more. Yet many of them have been the victims of the most horrible oppression in their native land, and it would have been un-Christian and inhuman to have turned them back.

There are plenty of people in the United States to till the lands being reclaimed under the various irrigation projects, and we shall manage to scrub along if immigration ceases entirely, which is not in the least likely.

POLICY EASILY CHANGED. Circumstances quite frequently alter cases, and the facility with which the "policy" of some newspapers can be changed is indeed remarkable. A case in point is related by C. F. Warwick in his book, "Napoleon and the End of the French Revolution." The escape of Napoleon from Elba and his advance to the capital was thus announced by one of the Paris papers of a century ago:

"The Corsican brigand has landed at Cannes"; the next day, "The rash usurper has been received at Grenoble." Then the tone changed: "General Bonaparte has entered Lyons"; a few days after, "Napoleon is at Fontainebleau," and finally, "His majesty the emperor alighted this evening at his palace of the Tuilleries."

The policy of the Paris editor was to trim his sails so as to catch the passing breeze. When Napoleon was finally beaten and exiled to St. Helena, the paper in question probably referred to him again as the "Corsican brigand."

WHERE FOOD IS CHEAP. In addition to the job of watching Cuba, Uncle Sam is compelled to take notice of the fact that Santo Domingo and Hayti have sent their "armies" to the border, and that a clash has already occurred between Dominican customs guards and Haytian soldiers. It is the mission of the United States to keep the peace in all contiguous territory, whether in South or Central America or in the islands of the sea.

The presence of a little American gunboat in the waters of Santo Domingo is therefore perfectly natural under the circumstances. Perhaps the boundary dispute between the two countries will be settled by arbitration. It will be so settled if the rulers of the little nations know when they are well off.

Some time ago Santo Domingo was threatened with a descent of her foreign creditors. In order to prevent such a catastrophe the United States agreed to take charge of the customs houses and apply the proceeds to the liquidation of these foreign debts. It having been made clear that the Dominican officials could not be trusted with the handling of the funds.

Since that arrangement went into effect the Dominicans have been making some progress, though the idea of getting "easy money" has not been obliterated from the public mind, for lotteries are operated in all important towns and cities in the Dominican republic. In many of the larger cities there are from two to five, all under municipal supervision.

The state laws require that seventy per cent of the total receipts from the sale of tickets be distributed in premiums; five per cent is turned over to the local city councils to be used for the construction of streets and roads. After the actual operating expenses are paid the balance is distributed in different proportions to the public hospitals, schools, fire departments, and charities.

The revenue from the various lotteries serve in lieu of a municipal property tax, and comes into the treasury rather as a voluntary contribution than as a forced collection. The local Masonic lodges direct drawings in Puerto Plata and Santiago. The amount allowed for operating expenses is used by these societies for charitable purposes.

The average run of people of Santo Domingo are like the Mexicans, they will go hungry or even without shirts to their backs in order to buy lottery tickets. The drawings usually take place Sunday mornings in the quarters of the police department. Large crowds gather, the bands play and the Dominicans hold high festival. Tickets are only 60 cents apiece, and are divided into ten fractional parts and sold for 6 cents each. It is a poor Dominican who cannot beg, borrow or steal 6 cents, and some have even been known to work long enough to secure the coveted amount.

Living is cheap in Santo Domingo. Plantain, which grows in abundance, is made into meal and extensively used as food among the poor, and there are comparatively few rich people among the inhabitants of the island.

On account of the lack of facilities the meal is made in small quantities and consumed in the homes. The plantain is gathered green, peeled, sliced or chipped, and put out to cure. After three days in the tropical sun it becomes dry and hard. It is then pounded in a wooden mortar and sifted, the result being a rich, creamy meal, redolent of orris root.

There are many processes of preparing it for the table. The favorite form is a kind of porridge, prepared and served in the same manner as other leguminous and farinaceous substances, which has a decided saccharine taste and is very palatable. It is served in this form to children and convalescents. It is sometimes made into flakes and served with cream as a breakfast food, and is also made into different kinds of bread and cookies.

According to the consular reports plantain meal, when served with milk or cream, compares favorably with the best breakfast foods on the market. For making bread it is said to be a splendid substitute for wheat flour, and a hint is given that it could be marketed profitably by exploiters of breakfast foods.

It may be that owing to the ease with which food can be procured and the warmth of the climate that the true reason is found why the Haytiens and Dominicans are eternally fighting, it not with each other, then among themselves.

IT WORKS WELL. The pure food law is working satisfactorily. It may need a few more teeth, but upon the whole great good is resulting by reason of the activity of the officials of the department of justice.

Pittsburg commission men are among the latest sufferers. In that city the United States district attorney obtained an order from the federal court for the destruction of 4,442 cases containing 327,544 cans of sardines, the same being in a state of decomposition and unfit for human food.

On the same day a carload or two of oysters was condemned at San Francisco, because they were not only unfit to eat, but were in fact poisonous. Anything that looked like a fresh oyster used to be shipped from the Atlantic seaboard to the west, where it was consumed without question as to its origin or healthfulness. We know better now.

Only recently ever so many tons of liquid eggs, shipped by the cold storage concerns of Chicago to the eastern bakers, were intercepted by government officials and destroyed forthwith. This would be a source of gratification were it not for the fact that the price of eggs will be advanced to cover the loss.

That is not the fault of the pure food law. The Senate committee which investigated the high cost of living reported that the cold storage concerns were responsible in a great measure, and advocated restrictive legislation. There really ought to be a limit placed upon the amount of perishable foodstuff that can be stored. Under such conditions there would be no more attempts to place "spots and rots" upon the market, or to dispose of liquid eggs in a state of putrefaction.

It might also be a good idea to provide a more drastic remedy for such acts than confiscation and destruction of the goods.

"GUN-TOTING" BARRED. "Gun-toting" in Georgia is to be discouraged as the result of a crusade against the practice by the Atlanta Constitution and the more enlightened citizens of the Cracker state. In pursuance with the plan of discouragement, the judge of the western circuit has publicly announced that offenders found guilty in his court will be sentenced to a term on the chain gang, without the alternative of paying a fine.

That ought to discourage the chivalrous son of the sunny south who carries a pistol in his hip pocket, if he can be discouraged in such a pernicious practice.

Scores of persons were killed in the south at Christmas celebrations this year, and Waycross, Ga., furnished its quota of victims, as usual. There is reason for hope that Waycross will celebrate next Christmas under the new condition of things without murder being committed.

Scientists are much excited over the statement that a Berlin dog can speak German. If the canine can do that, other languages ought to be easy for him.

Z.C.M.I. Will Close Monday and Tuesday Next Monday we celebrate New Year's Day and all day Tuesday we close for Stocktaking.

Great End of the Year Clearance Sale Ends Today



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