

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTE advertisement featuring a logo with a star and the text 'ABSOLUTELY PURE THE OLD RELIABLE SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTE'.

Advertisement for 'BROWN'S BITTERS' with a large illustration of a man's face and the text 'It's our children who will control the world after we are gone...'.

Advertisement for 'JOS. GAYES' SON' located at 'No. 26 Twelfth Street', listing various goods like 'Wall Paper' and 'Room Mouldings'.

Advertisement for 'STANTON'S OLD CITY BOOKSTORE' at '1201 Market Street', listing 'SPORTING GOODS' and 'Base Balls, Boxing Gloves, etc.'.

Advertisement for 'CARLE BROS.' at '1808 Market Street', advertising 'EASTER CARDS' and 'A LARGE VARIETY OF VERY CHEAP' goods.

Advertisement for 'BANK OF WHEELING' with 'CAPITAL \$200,000, PAID IN' and listing directors like 'William A. Bennett' and 'John V. Vance'.

Advertisement for 'BANK OF THE OHIO VALLEY' with 'CAPITAL \$175,000' and listing directors like 'William A. Bennett' and 'John V. Vance'.

THE IDLE LOOMS

Show the Destruction Wrought by the Free Wool Tariff. THE GREAT INDUSTRY RUINED. Half Depends the Support of a Million People Upon One Great Industry.

NEW YORK, April 23.—The Mail and Express publishes the following correspondence from E. C. Howard, a Boston staff representative: The secretary of the national association of wool manufacturers, Mr. S. N. D. North, certainly as well equipped as any man in the United States to discuss with expert knowledge the present condition of the wool industry in this country.

That is a conservative estimate, Mr. North promptly replied. "It is not strictly correct to say that half the looms are standing still all the time. It would be more exact to say, though it amounts to the same thing, that all the looms are standing still half the time. I mean that if you take all the few looms that are yet running on full time, all the many looms that are running on partial time and all the looms that are not running at all, the result of the calculation must be that half of the normal capacity of the looms of the woolen industry in this country is idle."

Mr. Fletcher went to an inner office and returned with a letter in his hand. "I will read you this letter," he said, "on condition that you do not publish the names." The letter was addressed to a prominent commission house in Boston, which represents some of the largest woolen mills in the country. It was written from Chicago by an expert who had been out there to investigate the condition of the western market for wools. The letter stated that there were no sales at any value. Nobody was buying, even at less than the cost of production. Large wholesale dealers in wools, the writer said, would willingly talk by the hour, explaining why they could not place any orders. The nub of their reason was that they could not buy from others when nobody would buy from them. The writer advised his Boston firm to turn inform the mills they represented not to put any more material into their looms for the coming season, as they would find no market for their product if they made it.

That, if I may use a vulgar term, is all right. It is largely outright misrepresentation. It contains the fraction of a truth and part truth, you know, is worse than outright lying—because dress goods for women have not suffered so much, as a domestic product, as have wools for men. You may be very hard up. You may not be able to buy a suit of clothes for yourself. But it is a part of the American character that we know perfectly well that whatever happens your wife must have a new dress. And she gets it, even against her unselfish protest. A human sentiment like that has a commercial effect. But that doesn't lessen the facts and figures, which you can obtain from the best authorities, that half the woolen looms in the country are idle. More would be idle if the manufacturers responded to the exact conditions of the trade. I don't want to make the woolen manufacturers pose as philanthropists in any false sense. But how can they close their mills and throw into idleness and starvation thousands and thousands of honest, thrifty, faithful employees? Reduction of wages won't help us. Why, there was a cut in wages of about 1 to 15 per cent when the present tariff went into effect. That has helped us some in keeping the mills going, but if another cut of 10 per cent were possible—and it isn't that would not entitle us to keep these cheap importations out of our market.

into a yarn that will stand the strain of the loom. We have in this country no machinery adapted to the manipulation of these low grades of stock. This cotton and tender yarn is skillfully worked into fabrics, which only the cotton warps hold together, until it has been marketed and worked up into clothing.

It was insisted with much vehemence, while the present tariff was under consideration, that the first effect of its adoption would be to enormously reduce the quantity of shoddy worn by our people. If a free wool would, in fact, do away with the use of wool substitutes altogether, by making wool so cheap that everybody could afford to wear all-wool garments, it has operated in exactly the opposite way; it will continue to so operate as long as it continues to exist. It has opened our market to fabrics adulterated beyond the possibilities of American imitation, and forced a general deterioration in the quality of American fabrics compelled to compete with them.

Idle Looms in Providence. I also called on Mr. Charles Fletcher, of Providence, president of one of the largest woolen factories in the world. I asked Mr. Fletcher whether the statement, published in the Mail and Express on the authority of Mr. James Dodson, of Philadelphia, that half of the looms in the seventy-five woolen mills in and near Providence are idle, was correct. "Yes," Mr. Fletcher replied, "that statement is within the mark. It is a conservative estimate to say that 50 per cent of the capacity of the woolen mills of Rhode Island is standing still, and the worst of it is that the percentage will increase instead of diminish. It would not be correct to say that 50 per cent of the employees are idle, but nearly all of them are idle half the time. That is to say, the men are working only three or four days a week—in most cases only three days. That means that they are earning only 50 per cent of their normal wages. I wouldn't like to estimate with any pretense to accuracy the average normal wage of an adult woolen worker; but, assuming it to be \$2 a day, or \$12 a week, you can truthfully say that such a man cannot earn now more than \$6 a week. That, mind you, is for skilled adult labor."

"Has this caused great distress in Rhode Island?" "In many cases it has. For example, not all the mills are running, even on half time. Some have shut down entirely, throwing the heads of hundreds of families into the street in enforced idleness. Why, only the other day the Saxton Worsted Company was forced to go out of business entirely. And for what reason? Not for any fault in management, nor for any lack of business enterprise or capacity, not for any deterioration of plant. It was not one of the largest mills, but it was one of the best equipped in the United States, with the finest machinery, turning out a good product, which ranked high in the woolen market. The simple trouble was that the mill had no work to do, and had heard of the company in the effort to keep its mill running, for the principal purpose of giving work and wages to its employees, has lost since 1893 over \$200,000. Now, those figures concern another company's affairs and I don't vouch for their absolute exactness; but that is what is generally understood. Other mills have shut down and others must, they have continued to run at a loss, until they can't stand the strain any longer. Of course, all this means 50 per cent reduction in the average pay rolls of all the mills that are still running, but it means also the total suspension of pay rolls of mills that have been and will be forced to stop entirely."

Mr. Fletcher continued: "That is only a typical letter. The same report is repeated from men who travel in all centers of trade, east as well as west. These reports disclose the immediate trouble with the woolen industry, which is that there are no buyers. Now, why are there no buyers? Because they are supplied with cheap foreign goods. The figures of importations since Cleveland came in of woolen goods from England, France and Germany tell the story. We can't keep these foreign goods out under the present tariff. By the use of shoddy and inferior wools these foreign mills can turn out about twice the yardage at the cost. Why, in woolen industry is being clothed in revamped rags," burst out Mr. Fletcher indignantly. I asked him how he accounted for the repeated reports in Democratic and mugwump journals of a revival of the domestic woolen industry.

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Advertisement for 'BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO COMPANY' with the headline 'To ALL Merchants Who Retail TOBACCO.' and 'Blackwell's Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco'.

Advertisement for 'GEO. R. TAYLOR' with the headline 'Warm Weather Goods' and 'You doubtless are interested just now in Summer Underwear, and if so you can be supplied at our store with any kind you want, as our stock of'.

Advertisement for 'LADIES' CAMBRIC UNDERWEAR' and 'LADIES' MADRAS WAISTS' with the text 'Our new stock is being received and will be complete on the 23d inst. All our Muslin and Cambric Underwear is made to order just as we want it, and we think its merits are pretty well understood by our customers.'

Advertisement for 'GEO. R. TAYLOR' with the headline 'Summer Dress Fabrics, Canopy Top Parasols, Close Rolling Umbrellas, Summer Hosiery, Gloves, Persian Ribbons.' and 'No trouble in being suited in a Black Dress Pattern of any kind, but a good deal of trouble sometimes in deciding which piece of Persian Silk you like the best for a waist or dress when there are so many handsome styles to choose from.'

Advertisement for 'GEO. R. TAYLOR' with the headline 'LIGHTNING HOT DROPS' and 'CURES Colic, Cramps, Diarrhoea, Flux, Cholera, Morsus, Nausea, Changes of Water, etc.' and 'HEALS Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Scratches, Bites of Animals and Bugs, etc.'

Advertisement for 'EVERY WOMAN' with the headline 'Dr. Peal's Pennyroyal Pills' and 'Sometimes needs a reliable, monthly, regulating medicine. Only harmless and the purest drugs about be used. If you want the best, get Dr. Peal's Pennyroyal Pills.'

Advertisement for 'WALL PAPER' and 'ROOM MOULDINGS' with the headline 'The Largest and Finest Line of WALL PAPER' and 'At all prices, from the cheapest to the finest! Special attention given to contract work.'

Advertisement for 'REAL ESTATE TITLE INSURANCE' with the headline 'Wheeling Title and Trust Co.' and 'If you purchase or make a loan on real estate have the title insured by us.'

RAILWAY TIME CARD table listing arrival and departure times for various routes including Baltimore & Ohio, Main Line East, and others.

RAILROADS table listing Baltimore & Ohio, Main Line East, and other routes with their respective schedules.

TRANS-OHIO DIVISION table listing routes between Columbus and Chicago with arrival and departure times.

WHEELING & PITTSBURGH DIV. table listing routes between Wheeling and Pittsburgh with arrival and departure times.

Wheeling & Elm Grove Railroad table listing routes between Wheeling and Elm Grove with arrival and departure times.

Advertisement for 'Artificial Limb Mfg. Co.' with the headline 'Manufactures the best quality of artificial limbs, trusses, supporters, crutches, etc.' and 'H. F. BEHRNS, 311 Market Street.'