

PROTECTIONISTS

The Friends of the Foreigner.

Those more or less learned gentlemen who profess to believe in the philosophy of a man's lifting himself over the fence by pulling upon his boot straps, never tire of posing as the friends of the American—and especially of the American workingman—and are unceasing in their efforts to convince their tender charge that free traders are traitors seeking to deliver them into the hands of the enemy. This is the "last ditch," and when all other arguments fail, these conservators of the workingman wave the American flag and call upon all patriotic citizens to rally to its support.

But the worm will turn; free traders have from time to time questioned the protectionists' claim to the exclusive proprietorship of all that is good and holy, and even Governor Campbell, of Ohio, had the temerity to carry the war into Africa by charging Major McKinley and his party with favoring the foreigner at the expense of the native. In doing so he sought to prove from dealers' price lists and other sources that these benevolent gentlemen who carry on extensive manufacturing enterprises for the purpose of employing American workmen have been accustomed to selling their goods to foreigners at a lower price than to the workmen of their own country. The charge was, of course denied by the Major, with a proper amount of indignation, and voluminous evidence introduced to show that it was false, that either the prices were not less or that the goods were of inferior quality. That was a golden opportunity to expose the hypocrisy of these self-styled friends of the laboring man, but Governor Campbell was not then equal to the occasion; he contented himself with quoting figures against figures and heresy against heresy, which was only such evidence as would satisfy those already satisfied.

Had Governor Campbell read to his audience from the present tariff law—the veritable McKinley bill itself—he would have had evidence which the doughty Major could not so easily have explained away. Section 10 of this law, to prevent Americans from doing what they wish to, provides: "That all medicines, preparations, compositions, perfumery, cosmetics, cordials, and other liquors manufactured wholly or in part of domestic spirits, intended for exportation, as provided by law, in order to be manufactured and sold or removed, without being charged with duty and without having a stamp affixed thereto, shall, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, be made . . . in bonded warehouses." Then follows minute directions for the guidance of the officers to prevent abuse of this provision—which abuse would consist in the manufacturers selling these goods to a native as cheaply as to a foreigner. "Any materials imported into the United States may . . . be removed in original packages from on shipboard . . . into the bonded warehouse in which such manufacture may be carried on, for the purpose of being used in such manufacture, without payments of duties thereon. . . . No article so removed, nor any article manufactured in said bonded warehouse, shall be taken therefrom except for exportation, under the direction of the proper officer having charge thereof."

This is the provision of the protectionists' own law, and if these goods are not sold to the foreigner cheaper than to the native the law fails of its expressed purpose. It provides that invalids in need of medicines, ladies who use cosmetics and perfumes, and the dyspeptic who takes a little cordial for his stomach's sake, must, if they be Americans, pay the excise duties on domestic spirits and import duties on the imported ingredients of which

these articles are made, but if they be English, French, Italians or Hottentots, the excise and import duties are remitted.

Section 24 provides that "Metals in any crude form requiring smelting or refining to make them readily available in the arts, imported into the United States to be smelted or refined, and intended to be exported in a refined but unmanufactured state, shall . . . be removed in original packages or in bulk from the vessel or other vehicle on which it has been imported . . . without payment of duties thereon."

Section 25 provides, "That where imported materials, on which duties have been paid, are used in the manufacture of articles manufactured or produced in the United States, there shall be allowed on the exportation of such articles a drawback equal in amount to the duties paid on the materials used, less 1 per centum of such duties."

These two provisions, like the first, are put in the law solely for the purpose of enabling the protected manufacturer in this country to sell his goods to the foreigner at a less price than to his fellow-citizens. Thus the duty on imported salt used in curing fish must be paid if the fish be eaten by Americans, but is remitted if they be consumed by foreigners. Perhaps, after all, it should not be surprising that that patent ass, the farmer, should spend his days in producing with heavily taxed American made tools, wheat for a foreign market where he meets the competition of those who use untaxed American made tools. How can he be expected to have healthy brains—or any at all—when the far-seeing protectionists have, by this cunning device, taxed the cod fish out of his reach?

If canned meat prepared here be eaten by a native, the duty on the tin of which the can is made, and the salt in the meat must be paid, but if consumed by a foreigner these items of expense in production are remitted. It is reported that the Standard Oil Company has received from the Government more than a million dollars in drawbacks on tin used in its foreign trade. If this does not enable it to sell to foreigners cheaper than to our own people, then there is no law of trade.

What is the use of quarreling over price lists and heresy evidence? The law upon which protection stands is framed for the very purpose of enabling our manufacturers to compete in foreign countries with those whose competition they say they cannot meet here. What rot!

Free traders are accused of sacrificing the welfare of our people for that of the foreigner when they demand that all men shall trade where and how they please; but the protectionists have discriminated against those whom they profess to love in favor of those they profess to hate. It is high time the workingmen were saved from their friends.—Stoughton Cooley in The Standard.

THE BLACK DEATH.

Dr. Creighton looks upon it as a "soil poison," spread mainly by the movement of the ground water, but does not attempt any further elucidation of its actual nature. We agree with him in thinking that this and all similar poisons must have originally arisen by a process of evolution. This, of course, points to the conclusion that they are organized and have a life history of their own; while recent pathological research renders it highly probable that they are bacterial. That the poison once formed can be reproduced in the human body is, we think, unquestionable, and also that it may be conveyed to distant places in clothing, etc. If its organic nature be admitted, it becomes less difficult to understand the total disappearance of certain zymotic diseases, as some change in environment, of which we may be totally

ignorant, might be sufficient to suppress it.

Of the disastrous effects upon the moral and material condition of the people of England produced by the depopulation caused by fourteen months of the black death, it is difficult for us to form any conception. Dr. Creighton shows that, though between this date and 1666 there was no such extensive epidemic, "for more than three centuries bubo plague was never long absent from one part of Britain or another."

The sweating sickness, of which there were five epidemics between 1845 and 1501, seems to have been even more terribly sudden in its onset and fatal issue than the black death. Many persons were struck down and died in the street, so rapid was the action of the poison. The popular idea, which receives some measure of support from Dr. Creighton, was that the virus of the pestilence was brought over by the Norman soldiery of Henry VIII, the germs having possibly remained in the soil, and were at intervals restored to renewed activity by favoring conditions. Not much light is thrown upon the interesting fact that both this disease and the plague disappeared from this country quite suddenly.

AN ESSENTIAL RIGHT.

The refusal of President Frick, representing the Carnegie Company, to employ at the Homestead mills or to recognize in any way the Amalgamated Ironworkers, is a blow at an essential right and a fundamental necessity of workingmen. When capital combines labor must unite. It is bound to do so by the first law of nature—the law of self preservation. When workingmen are denied the right to band together they are denied protection against being oppressed separately. This is obviously what Mr. Frick is aiming at. With the Amalgamated Association destroyed there would be absolutely nothing to prevent a reduction of wages at any time when the greed of the protected monopoly should bring over cheaper labor from abroad to take the place of the Homestead workers. When capital organizes itself in trusts it cannot blame labor for organizing itself in unions. And to lock out skilled and faithful workers because they stand together for the right to have some voice in fixing their wages, and to invoke the aid of the militia in breaking down their organization, is an arrogant attitude having no law or justice.—New York World.

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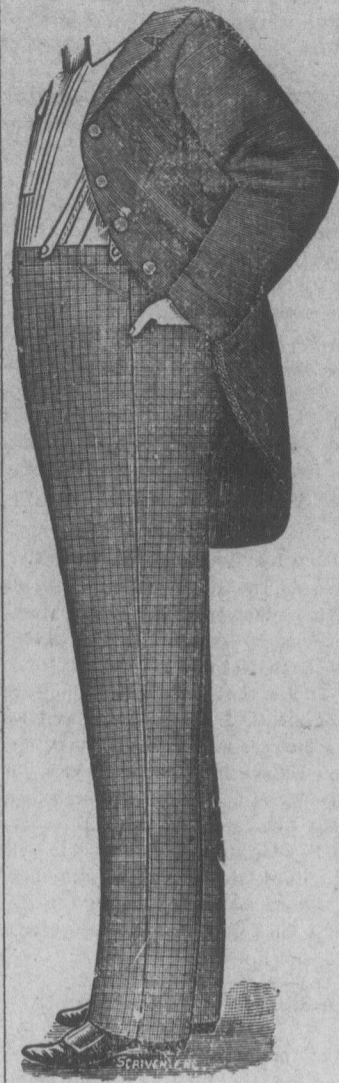
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