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THE TARIFF AND THE WORKING MAN.

A few days ago a press telegram from Johnstown, Penn., stated as follows:

Practically every department of the great Cambria Iron Works shut down last night for an indefinite period, throwing at least 2,000 men out of employment. About 3,000 men will be given a few hours' work a week. Lack of orders is given as the cause of the suspension.

Preceding the suspension of work at this great establishment, Mr. Cyrus Elder, connected therewith, wrote a communication to a local newspaper in which he commented upon the situation, particular reference being had to the free trade

attitude of Mr. Bryan, the Democratic candidate for president of the United States. Many of the remarks of Mr. Elder are as applicable to Canada as to his own country, and should command the attention of all Canadians. Alluding to a remark made by Mr. Bryan in one of his electioneering speeches to the effect that "the only way to stop the increasing flow of gold" from that country "is to stop falling prices," Mr. Elder says:

Falling prices of what? Falling prices of the agricultural products, which we export in payment of our foreign debts. That means, of course, that beef, pork, and grain, and flour are to be increased in price, which will add to the cost of living of the workingmen. What does he propose to do for them? Nothing. He spoke and voted in favor of the Wilson bill. He is a rabid free trader. He has a smattering of political economy, and probably believes that protection is a fraud, and that the Democratic tariff, which he helped to enact, is a blessing to the country.

Mr. Elder might also have said that a change in the fiscal policy of the country could not possibly have any more effect upon the export prices of its agricultural products than it would have upon the rising and falling of the tides. He was certainly right in his remark that the workman who voted for a free trade fiscal policy, or a policy leading to free trade, voted to perpetuate and intensify the blight and depression that now rests upon all the industries of that country, and upon Canada also. A change of policy in the United States as in Canada, could not possibly give more employment to the workingmen, but less, without the possibility of an increase in wages.

Mr. Bryan's party, under Mr. Cleveland, started out four years ago to cheapen everything. Cheapness was the great desideratum. The tariff robbers were to be effectually squelched. Ports were to be opened to cheap goods from foreign countries, and all the land was to be covered with blessings and benefits. They were active in 1892, as they are now, in arraying the masses against the classes—the workingmen against the employers of labor—and they were successful. Their lies were credited and their promises were trusted, and what has been the result? The injury done to the farmers and workingmen under the wool and woollen schedule in the Wilson-Gorman tariff was the greatest mischief done, but all the other industries suffered, because one cannot be prosperous while the others are prostrated. It is true that after the elections of 1894 when the House of Representatives became pro protection, there was some improvement in business and advance in wages, but the combination of Democrats and Populists succeeded in defeating the efforts of the Republicans to restore tariff protection, and the boom of last year, weak though it was, was short lived, and the situation is now perhaps as bad, and quite likely to become worse than at any time since the election of Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. Bryan and the free trade Democratic speakers during the present campaign have made most bewildering assertions to show the loss caused by protection to the different branches of industry in the United States, but the vagueness of them is more than suspicious, for they cannot be sustained by any common-sense reasoning. Mr. Elder, however, substitutes palpable facts, as far as his establishment is concerned, for the vagueness offered as arguments by Mr. Bryan and his friends by comparing the wages paid by the Cambria Iron Company and the values of its products in 1893 and 1894 with 1892, which was certainly a banner year as regards the prosperity