

1875, and from this table we extract the following particulars relating to the six largest cities:

(IV).—UNITED STATES—1860-75—Six Leading Cities—Population, Local Taxation, and Debt.									
Population in 1,000's.		Cities.		Taxation. Min. £.		Indebtedness. Min. £.		P. C.	
1860.	1875.			1860.	1875.	1860.	1875.	1860.	1875.
No.	P. C.	Baltimore.....	116	58	176	3,58	6,59	83	59
212	347	Boston.....	37	2,08	241	2,26	9,03	207	207
247	341	Chicago.....	261	1,15	1,445	68	4,02	488	488
159	395	New York.....	28	6,46	480	4,65	28,08	504	504
813	1,046	Philadelphia.....	30	2,16	317	4,80	12,12	152	152
585	736	San Francisco.....	37	71	538	74	1,08	45	45
56	271								
3,923	3,136			3,00	13,14	16,71	60,92	202	202

We have in these six cases in the fifteen years, the local taxation quadrupled (3 to 13 million £), and the debts nearly quadrupled (17 to 61 million £). Upon the whole fourteen cities, the American critic says, "In the aggregate the population has increased 70 per cent.; the taxable value, 156 per cent.; but the debt, 270 per cent.; and the actual taxation for State, county, and city purposes, has increased 363 per cent. Or, stating the same facts per head of population, the figures are increased in valuation per head, 51 per cent; in debt per head, 117 per cent.; in taxation per head, 171 per cent. The inhabitants of American cities are rapidly approaching the point when they will sacrifice to their city and State Government the whole annual increase of their combined labour, while to this is added the burden of national (Federal) taxation. It is clear that the fiscal exactions consume nearly the whole annual increase of the capital of the nation, and sufficiently explains why it is so difficult for our merchants to overcome the existing financial and industrial depression as compared with the power they exhibited in the past generation of rapid recuperation after a financial ebb; and this is more especially and painfully true when we remember that by far the largest part of the vast indebtedness of our cities and States, since the end of the war in 1864, has been for wholly wasteful purposes—bribes, plunder, jobbery, and wanton squandering."

In December, 1877, the Free-trade Club of New York, composed of leading merchants, manufacturers, and capitalists, addressed a petition to Congress, setting forth in clear and emphatic language the cost and evils of the Protective system.

We extract one of the paragraphs at the close of the petition:—

If you ask us, for example, why the great

industry of clothing manufacture does not flourish, we point you to the tariff table for an answer. Clothing wool is protected by a tax of 51 per cent.; dyes are protected by 60 per cent.; lining silks by 60 per cent.; velvet by 60 per cent.; silk thread, 40 per cent.; spool thread, 75; alpaca lining, 70; linen, 40; foreign cloths, 60 to 80; even needles, 25 per cent. How can the American makers of clothing prosper with such a load.

Then, as regards the real cost of Protection to the American people, the petition says:—

We ask you to remember that the mere Customs' duties are only a portion of what the American consumer must pay for the privilege of Protection. The cost of all home productions is increased, and with the average of duties at 40 per cent. it is moderate reckoning to calculate that the American people have had to pay during the last twelve years, 20 per cent. per annum more for the domestic goods they have consumed than they would have had to pay under the tariff of 1857. Putting the annual value of the home manufactures at no more than 600 million £, the tax for Protection over 1857, and apart from the Customs' duties, must be set down at no less than 120 million £ a year—that is to say, the American people in the last twelve years have paid the enormous sum of 1,440 million £, or three times the national debt, to foster industries which are now in a more distressed condition than ever. Not one penny of this has passed into the United States Treasury.*

After these extensive collections of evidence, there can be no difficulty in perceiving that the distress in the United States is the direct consequence of flagrant, persistent, and stupid violations of nearly every rule of economical science and every lesson of commercial experience.

* The following message of 1st February, 1878, from Washington, shows that the Free-trade party have at last succeeded in making some impression. But actual legislation on the following basis is still, we fear, distant:—The new Tariff Bill, now before the Ways and Means Committee for final revision, will not be considered in the House for some time. The bill reduces the number of dutiable articles, which is now over 2,000, to below 600, everything not specially mentioned being free. It reduces duties from 5 to 60 per cent. Every duty is reduced or abolished excepting those on wines, spirits, and tobacco. The bill imposes only one duty on each article, instead of a complex system of double duties, frequent in the present tariff. Wherever possible the duties are specific. The bill abolishes many obnoxious provisions in the present law in the methods of collection, abolishing petty charges, and simplifying Custom-house business. In making valuations, 5 per cent. is added to invoice value to cover freight and all other charges. The revenue expected under the bill will be an increase of \$17,000,000 on the present revenue. The bill is expected to reduce the cost of collection, which is now \$7,250,000 to \$3,000,000. It is entirely a revenue reform measure, and comes into operation on the 1st of January, 1879. No idea can be formed of its fate in the House. When its consideration begins, it may be materially changed. The majority of the House favour low duties, but the Protectionists believe they have the control of the Senate.

— The Merchants Bank has, at the urgent request of the business men of Mitchell, decided to continue its agency in that town for the present.

MACHINE TWIST AND SEWING SILKS.

In the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE of February 23rd, 1877, we referred at some length to the establishment in Montreal of a factory for the production of machine twist and sewing silks exclusively for the Canadian market. Everybody interested in the advancement of home industries will learn with satisfaction of the success which has attended the efforts of the enterprising firm of Americans who thus ventured to attempt supplying our home market in the face of an already tolerably good connection with the trade established by other houses both in England and the United States. The readiness with which the Canadian merchants welcomed the new enterprise was, however, largely owing to some years satisfactory acquaintance with the character and quality of the goods made by the firm in the United States, where they have been in operation since 1863. Their success in Canada will be apparent when it is learned that whereas the firm employed only fifty hands at the time of our previous writing, they employ about one hundred to-day, and these too, consisting of hands that have meantime made great progress in skill and dexterity, represent a far greater amount of labor in proportion than they did at that time. Under the intelligent training received, the young Canadian girls employed show a skillfulness that would not discredit their distant relatives at Lyons and St. Etienne; and of the well trained hands brought over about two years ago from the United States factories of the firm, only one now remains in the factory here. The increased demand arising from the superior quality of the goods manufactured in this city has rendered necessary the increase of hands referred to, as well as some important additions and improvements in machinery, and as far as we can learn there is little if any other machine twist and sewing silks now used in Canada. As the Messrs. Belding Bros. were the first in the United States to place their own name on their goods, so they are the first firm to show their confidence in the Canadian people, that they would yield preferable support to any firm in their midst who should give them as good an article and at as low price as could be procured elsewhere, if for no other reason than that it secured profitable employment to scores of people who in turn become profitable consumers among us, customers to that extent for the necessities of life. Instead of the consumers of this manufacture contributing as heretofore to the employment and