

## "AN ACT OF MADNESS."

### THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF PROTECTION.

If We Are to Achieve Commercial Supremacy We Must Hold to the Policy That Has Made Us Industrially and Financially Supreme.

A timely article on the subject of "Commercial Empire and Protection" is contributed by Hon. Edward N. Dingley to *Gunton's Magazine* for October. It is just now quite the fashion among certain expounders of "advanced" economic theory to assert that protection has outlived whatsoever usefulness it ever had in the matter of developing and sustaining domestic industries, and, in view of the new conditions which have arisen, must now be greatly modified, or, better still, altogether abandoned. Such is the purport of an article in a recent number of the *Forum*, and to this proposition Mr. Dingley addresses himself with the vigor and zeal born of an intense conviction that the abandonment of our fixed national policy just at a time when its successful operation has wrought such splendid results would be an act of madness.

It was by establishing and maintaining a protective tariff, as Mr. Dingley points out, that the founders of our republic, after having thrown off the political yoke of England, took steps to throw off the commercial and industrial yoke which the "mother country" had so firmly fastened upon the necks of the American people. How successful was this determination and what magnificent results have flowed from the practical realization of the hopes of the fathers of the republic are matters of history. Today the republic stands supreme among the nations of the earth—supreme, industrially, commercially, and financially; the home of the most prosperous and powerful nation the world has ever known.

After the lapse of a century from the passage by congress of the first tariff bill under the federal constitution, framed by Madison and approved by Washington—an act "for the support of the government, for the discharge of debts of the United States, and for the protection of manufactures"—the same fundamental principles remain alive in the Dingley tariff law of today: the raising of revenues and the encouragement of domestic industries. The effective manner in which these principles are carried out under the existing tariff law, together with the demonstrated fact that because of the increased employment and the increased purchasing power of the people a protective tariff produces more revenue than a free-trade tariff, are matters which Mr. Dingley's article emphasizes most convincingly. Similarly cogent is his demonstration that the "home market can be preserved only by maintaining to the highest possible degree the purchasing and consuming power of our own people." This is the pivotal point of the whole question.

Turning to the question of commercial supremacy, Mr. Dingley urges that "a nation must be industrially and financially supreme before it can be commercially supreme; it must be strong at home before it can be strong abroad." It is for the full development and maintenance of this strength at home that the writer appeals—a strength which has come by and through protection, and which will remain with this nation as the result of steadfast persistence in the faith of the fathers who planned protection as the surest, the only, way to secure for their country absolute freedom, absolute independence, absolute prosperity. If for no other reason than to serve notice upon all whom it may concern that protectionists see nothing in existing conditions which suggests the wisdom of abandoning the American policy, but are, on the contrary, firmer than ever in their adherence to that policy, Mr. Dingley has done well to make public his views in the article in *Gunton's* from which we have quoted. Protectionists know where they stand, and it is well that the "advanced" theory expounders should also know.

### NOT OVERPRODUCTION.

#### Underconsumption Caused Our Troubles in Free Trade Times.

Some of the free traders, like Mr. Bryan and Mr. Belmont, are still talking about the "burdens" of the people. Other free traders, who have sense enough to know that the people can't be fooled with any claptrap about "burdens" when they are in the midst of such prosperity as exists today, when work is seeking the worker and when the Saturday night wage is larger than it has ever been before, are looking about for some more available weapon to use against the protective tariff. The bugaboo they present is overproduction. This is a more subtle argument than that of the "burden" cries, but not more sound. Facts are quite as strong against it. Farmers, manufacturers and merchants all find a strong and steady demand for all their wares, and the prices are good. The demand for labor is unusually good, and is on the increase. These are not the signs of overproduction. People don't go on buying after they have had enough, and employers don't continue to hire more laborers when they have products enough on hand to satisfy existing demands.

The chances are that the free traders are not at all sincere in their cry against overproduction; but, if they are, it is only further evidence of their utter inability to understand economic principles. If the American people consumed no more in times of industrial activity, such as the present, than in times of industrial depression, such as

the years from 1893 to 1896, overproduction would be a reality. But industrial activity, with the increased work and wages which it means for everybody, brings also increased consumption on the part of everybody. As we produce more and have, therefore, more of the wherewithal to buy, the more numerous are our wants and the greater our demands for the products of other workers.

The economic system is a system of interdependence. The market for the increased product in any one industry is at hand in the increased demands of the workers in every other industry. Furthermore, if, instead of having more of the luxuries of life, we prefer to lay up money, there are the world's markets to take the surplus products which we don't want for ourselves. Our increased and increasing foreign trade shows that we are taking advantage of them.

In any case, so long as human nature is what it is; so long as the more we can have the more we want, there will be no overproduction. In free-trade days we have more than once suffered from underconsumption, but we have never yet had a case of overproduction, and we are not likely to have such a case.

### Prosperity and Education.

From all over the country there are reports that the enrollments at public and private schools, from the primary grades to the universities, are larger this year than ever before. Some increase might have been expected as a result of the steady growth of population, but the marked gain noted this season is much more largely due to the general prosperity of the country. Thus the good times that have resulted from wise national policies, from large crops and from good markets not only bring employment to all who seek it, not only afford good investments for all who have money to invest, not only increase the earning power of both labor and capital and contribute to the comforts and necessities of daily life, but they open the way for more liberal education. Children who had been forced to earn something for the family are released from their employment and sent to school. Young men and young women who have had but limited opportunities for higher education now find themselves able to attend the colleges and universities. The benefits of prosperity are incalculable, but among them one of the greatest is along educational lines.—*Kansas City Journal*.

### Never Again.



Wage Earner: "No, I thank you; not any for me. I tried your game in 1892, and know exactly how it works. Protection is good enough for me."

### A Destructive Remedy.

Since the election of McKinley production has increased at such a rate that the per capita consumption in 1899 will probably be more than double that of the disastrous years under Cleveland. We can only maintain this rate of consumption by keeping our mills employed, and that can only be done by preventing the encroachments of foreigners, who are constantly trying to break into and break down our market. If we dispense with protection we simply invite Germany and other countries where capital has been effectively organized to drive our industries to the wall. No sane people will take such a risk. If the trusts become oppressive the American people will take them in hand and regulate them, but they will not commit the blunder of destroying the manufacturing industries of the country in a senseless effort to avert an evil which may be remedied by a resort to sensible methods.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

### Truth as to Trusts.

Mr. Oxnard's statement that trusts are the result of competition which has taken business beyond a paying point is certainly the truth as applied to most cases. Combinations are the law of present day tendencies, and it is only natural that when competition so reduced profits that there was nothing left for the producer, combination should step in to prevent such a slaughter. This does not justify such combinations, but merely explains them. It also indicates the foolishness of connecting these results with the tariff. The greater trusts now in the United States were formed under the Gorman-Wilson tariff system. The greatest trusts in all history have been formed in other countries at other times and under nothing in the shape of a protective tariff system.—*Peoria (Ill.) Journal*.

### You Must Know.

The laboring men who still cling to Bryanism should take into consideration this fact: When Bryan made his previous tour through the country they could go and hear him without losing any time whatever from the jobs they didn't have. Now every industrialist inclined mercantile and day laborer will have to "lay off" from his job or miss the speech. The lesson is clear enough.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

### TALK WITHOUT THINKING.

#### People Who Argue That the Removal of the Tariff Would Abolish the Trusts.

That a free-trader is a person who simply recites formulas without a thought as to their application is again shown by the attitude of the remnant of the old Cobdenite contingent in the Chicago conference. One after one the votaries—a man named Purdy from New York and a man named Holt from Boston and a man named Seymour from Chicago—like savage priests beating the temple gong, intone solemnly the words, "Abolish the tariff and you abolish the trusts," thump their breasts, bump their brows and retire into the robing room.

Not one of these men had apparently ever thought of the consequences of the practice proposed any more than he had examined the basis of the theory propounded. He had heard that the tariff prevented competition, that a lack of competition created trusts and that trusts raised prices, and that, therefore, the lack of a tariff would prevent trusts and lower prices. Not one had ever tested the grounds of the major premise, nor noted the patent facts that the greatest trusts are the unprotected industries, and that the greatest increase of prices has been in the most keenly competed industries. As with cause so with effect. Not one can possibly have considered for an instant the immediate result of the adoption by the government of the course proposed.

The American Sugar company and its solitary rival are in all men's minds when the subject of a trust in a protected industry is mentioned. Let us suppose the tariff abolished on this commodity. What would be the result of the impact of the German, Austrian, French and Belgian goods upon the producers of the American goods? Which would suffer—the great combination with its \$50,000,000 capital, its enormous reserve of undivided profits, its huge plants and consequently cheap output, or the single corporation which is fighting it? Is it not plain that it would not be the "trust" or combination of concerns which would succumb to this foreign competition, but the individual concern? And what, then, would be the result? We saw it here a little over a year ago when the foreign steamship companies formed a pool to wring double rates from the United States government for carrying the Spanish prisoners to their homes. The result would be the formation of that thing so completely irresponsible and wholly unconscionable in its absorption from the governance of the public opinion of its vicinage—the international trust. We would have a thing whose excesses would be blamed in Germany upon the American sugar trust. And the healthful domestic competition, which inside the tariff, with the aid of jealous public sentiment, had regulated the price of the commodity, would be extinct.

Every step of these processes must be unavoidably plain to the most commonplace mind at the moment that it is concentrated on the subject. Yet gentlemen travel a thousand miles, considering their "problem" all the way, and never once putting their formulated solution to the most obvious test of practice. There is no barbarian religion more thoroughly benumbing to the mind than the outworn doctrines of free trade.—*New York Press*.

### Prosperity for All.

The editorial writer of the *Gratiot Journal* in last issue said that "the prosperity of the country had not reached the middle and lower classes of society," and then proceeded to get off a canned article on trusts. The *Journal* writer knows, if he has given the matter any attention, that even Ithaca factories are running on fuller time than they were during the last administration. There isn't a farmer in the vicinity of Ithaca that isn't getting more for his cattle, sheep and other stock. There isn't a workman in the country that can't get work if he wants it, and at good wages. The iron mines, the iron mills are hustling their hardest, something they weren't doing in '94-'96. Think of it! Big factories refusing orders because they are already filled up for three years to come, with their mills running on double time, and then have some one here yell out that the middle and lower classes are not feeling the better times.—*St. Louis (Mich.) Republican-Leader*.

### Are There Any So Blind?

Ten thousand dollars paid to working men and women by four Xenia factories last Saturday. "The butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker"; the dry goods dealer and the grocer; the clothier, the shoe dealer and the printer; and every line of trade, and the landlord, each got part of this money. Within a few hours it had passed from hand to hand and had bought the necessities of life to make home comfortable and happy. This is what internal industries do for a nation. This is what the Republican party has long and bravely fought for—protection to American industries. Is there a man or woman in our community so blind as to not see that these should be fostered?—*Xenia (O.) Gazette*.

### Howling Not Popular.

Mr. Bryan is against trusts, but he hasn't said yet what he would do to throttle them were he elected president. And it may be necessary for him to outline a policy before the people place their undivided confidence in his ability. Mere howling isn't popular any more. The voters are too busy with the new McKinley prosperity to listen to declamation.—*Winchester (Ill.) Standard*.

# OUR OLDEST PACIFIC ISLANDS.

## We Expanded in That Direction Over Forty Years Ago.

Out in the wild waste of waters southwest of Hawaii, ten days' sail from that island and four days' sail from the nearest land, the American flag has flapped and fluttered over two tiny bits of land for more than forty years. Baker and Howland are the names of these old Pacific possessions of ours. They nestle close to the equator near 176 longitude, and are marked on every good-sized map of that part of the world. Yet how few of us have ever known that we expanded in the Pacific long before the guns roared at Fort Sumter. Peacefully we took possession of them, peacefully we have held them. No congressional debates have ever occurred as to their form of government, no senate has ever been called upon to ratify an

land was leased to the American Guano company. There was no safe anchorage about the island and the company placed a buoy about a mile and a half from the western beach. This is the only anchorage today.

Baker Island forms an irregular quadrilateral figure about a mile long and a fraction less than a mile in width. It is of coral formation. There is absolutely no water on the island, and drinking water can be obtained only by distilling sea water. The topography of the island is somewhat similar to that of Howland, save that on the west side is a small open bay, in which is a boat anchorage.

The island is encircled by a reef some 300 feet wide, and its jagged heads are awash at high tide. A

beat about for days before an anchorage is possible.

Baker Island was discovered by Capt. Henry Foster, of the bark *Jamaica*, in 1857. It was reported from time to time by various other mariners, but was not accurately charted until Commander Meade visited it, in 1872.

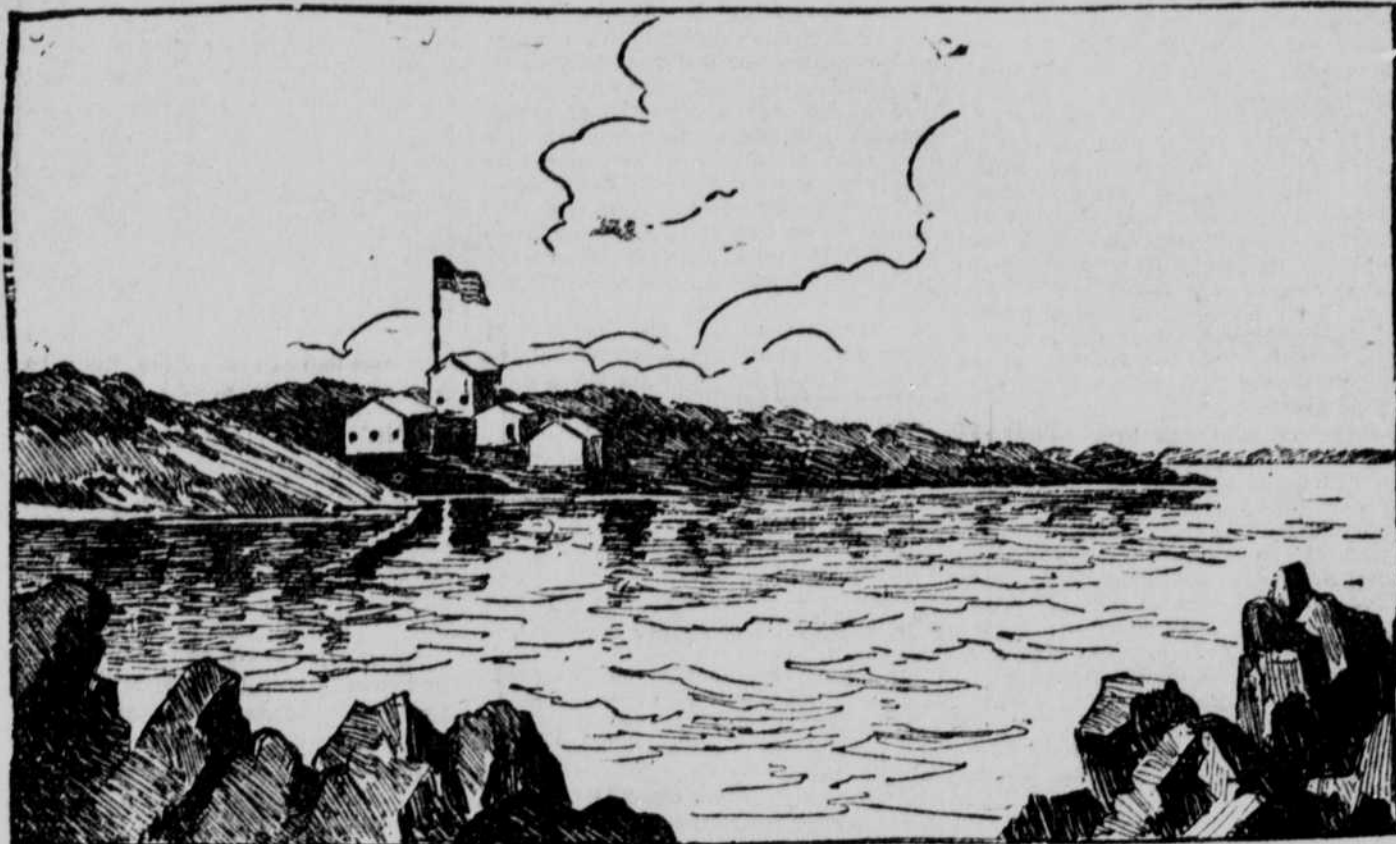
The island is a veritable death trap of the sea, as its wreck-strewn reef attests. Not only are shores strewn with wreckage, but nearly a dozen skeletons of ships still exist in the clutches of the reef.

Such are our other possessions in the South Sea.

### MRS. LANGTRY'S HOME.

#### A Country Residence in an English Village.

Mrs. Langtry's country residence is situated in the pretty village of Kentford, four miles from Newmarket. It is fitted throughout with all that modern convenience and luxury could suggest. The entrance hall has a wooden



THE ONLY HARBOR ON BAKER ISLAND.

appointment of a governor over them. In fact, they are so far from anywhere that even the most persistent office-seeker would scarcely accept an appointment there. Howland or Holland Island is the larger of the two, and is separated from Baker Island by an arm of the sea about twenty-five miles wide. It is about two miles long and a trifle over a half mile in width. It was discovered by Capt. G. E. Netcher, of the American bark *Isabella*, Sept. 9, 1842, and was formally taken possession of by him the next morning in the name of the United States. He raised a flag on the island and deposited a box at the foot of the staff containing a record of what he had done. In 1857 the island was visited by the whaling bark *Portsmouth*. The flag staff erected by Capt. Netcher had been blown down by the winds, but the bark's captain found the record and promptly raised another flag. He was determined that it should stand, and how well he succeeded is shown by the decaying stump which still stands there, though another flag staff was raised some fifteen years later, on a higher part of the island, by Commander Meade, United States steamer *Nar-ragansett*. Capt. Netcher also discovered another island, quite mountainous, and evidently of volcanic origin, about forty-five miles north of Howland, and took possession of this also in the name of the United States. Near the center of the island are thickets of small trees covering an area of many acres. The eastern side of the island is composed of a succession of ridges, generally of sand and shells. At earlier stages of the island's growth these may have successively formed the weather shore. Bits of pumice and driftwood are scattered all over the island. There are no springs on the island, but water may be obtained by digging a few feet. In the center the island spreads out in a plain containing about 400 or 500 acres. This is susceptible of cultivation, but the island would be valueless were it not for its coral and its guano deposits. The guano covers the entire middle part, from north to south, and is from six inches to four feet in depth. At the time of Commander Meade's visit, in 1872, the guano export was about 8,000 tons annually. Considerable coral was also being exported.

During the early fifties the British ship *Pelican* was wrecked on a reef near Howland Island. The crew managed to get to the island in safety. Some years later the huts they had lived in and other traces of the trip, in 1872, could not be found. The men had disappeared. What had become of them will doubtless never be known. Doubtless, tired of the eternal solitude, and of battling with sea birds and rats, with which the island abounds, they built a raft or a boat and put to sea, only to meet death in the mighty waters.

Howland Island will never be visited by tourists for the sake of its scenery. It is almost flat, of coral formation, and rises but twenty feet above the level of the reef, only about twelve or fifteen above the level of the high tide. The western side of the island is slightly depressed, and much of it is covered with an abundant growth of vegetation.

Shortly after the civil war the is-

strong current, running nearly four miles an hour, sets in around the island and makes navigation near it extremely dangerous. The land slopes away so abruptly from the reef that an anchor will not grapple, and for this reason a number of large mooring buoys are anchored just outside the reef.

Approaching the island from the western side, the large white buildings of the Houlders Bros., a guano firm, of London, to whom the guano deposit was leased, can be seen fourteen miles from shore. If a ship should be at the buoy there, she can be seen for an hour before the island comes into view.

From this side the island presents a pretty picture, with the white houses nesting in the arms of the surrounding greenery on top of the reddish coral cliff. High above them all waves the stars and stripes. But not always does that flag wave there. It is used as a signal to incoming ships, as well as a symbol of our ownership.

From November to April it is practically impossible for a ship to approach the island, and during the other months of the year a landing is not always possible. This is entirely due to the strong current around the island. When a vessel approaches the land she hoists the jack at the fore royal masthead. If conditions are favorable, the ensign continues to float from the signal staff on shore, and the ship approaches the buoy, but if there is any danger the flag on shore is hauled down, and, to prevent being wrecked on the reef, the ship must stand to sea, sometimes compelled to

parquette flooring of a very pretty and unusual design and leads through an oak archway into a large, oak-paneled reception hall. There is a dog stove, with old Dutch tiles, and from this one passes to a most charming dining-room, in which is fitted a brass-mounted stove. In the drawing room the woodwork and furniture are enameled white, the walls being hung with green ribbed silk, and separated from the billiard room, into which it looks, by a handsomely carved screen, enameled white. It is understood to be these rooms which are reproduced in Mrs. Langtry's play, "The Degenerates." The first floor is approached by a principal gallery, oak staircase with carved newels and paneled soft, and a large landing and corridor leads to the six principal bedrooms, each of which is fitted with enameled white mantels and tiled hearths, the appointments being well chosen. There is, at the fringe of the pleasure grounds, stabling for eighteen horses, and fortunate must be those "gee-gees" who find shelter therein, for better arranged stables are seldom seen. The property formerly belonged to George, Lord Bishop of Columbia, but the "faire" owner has, even within the last three years, spent some thousands in improvements.

### A Valuable Product.

Last year 5,200,000 pounds of aluminium, valued at \$1,716,000, were produced in the United States. The value per pound was therefore 33 cents. In 1888 19,000 pounds of that metal were produced, valued at nearly \$3.33 a pound.

## BOER METHOD OF TETHERING HORSES.



The Boer never carries forage for his mount, but depends on such pasture as the spot he chooses for his camp may afford. The way the horses are hobbled, as shown in the drawing, is certainly as effective as it is cruel. Protests have been made by humane members of the South African colonies and republics, but the custom seems too deeply rooted to be easily abolished.

Silly—These Socialists are a dangerous lot. Subbubs—Only to themselves, though. These church affairs won't hurt you unless you attend them.

One Briton in every five has an account in the postal savings bank.