

Where Tariff Extremes Meet

L. G. Brandon, Toledo, O.—I herewith enclose clipping from the Toledo News-Bee relative to the tariff and increased living expense, which by the way was not taken from across the ocean but from either shore of the Detroit river.

(Written by J. V. Knight, Special Investigator of the Toledo News-Bee)

Windsor, Ont., January 18.—This Canadian city is separated from Detroit by 2,561 feet of water and the Payne-Aldrich tariff wall.

Detroit is the typical American city. Time

PRICES OF FOOD AT DETROIT AND WINDSOR

Table comparing prices of various commodities like Butter, Eggs, Beef, Pork, Lard, Bacon, Wheat, Corn, Potatoes, Cabbage, Turnips, Carrots, Beets, Rutabagas, Parsnips, Turkeys, Chickens, Milk, Cheese, and Plug tobacco between Windsor and Detroit.

and again civic investigators have taken it as their model. Windsor, except for the tariff wall, is for all the world as much of Detroit as any part of Detroit itself.

It exists by the grace of Detroit. Its citizens gain their livelihood in Detroit. It finds all its amusements and much of its recreation in Detroit.

Confronting the American people is a situation—the increased cost of living—that has followed the strengthening of this tariff barrier.

The difference between the cost of living here and in Detroit shows it. The tariff alone is lifting its power against the people's pocket-books in their struggle to make both ends meet.

Take the man with the goose, for instance. He was an elderly German workingman, and he crossed to Detroit in the ferry that I took back over here.

"Feefty cent! Feefty cent! That's all I pay for him!" the owner of the goose protested, waving it above his head in emphasis.

Flop! Lewis threw the goose into a scales hopper. The dial showed seven pounds.

"Thirty-five cents duty," Lewis commanded.

"But meester! Feefty cent! That's all I

give for him. Thirty-five cent more? It's too much!"

The thirty-five cents was paid, Lewis grasping the goose politely but firmly in one hand and holding out a tariff manifest for the German's signature in the other.

"Do people buy anything but produce in Canada and bring it over?" I asked Lewis.

"Oh, yes. Here in Detroit they go over and buy English clothes. Here's an ad I noticed the other day.

"They can buy an English-made \$5 hat in Windsor for \$3. They wear old hats over on the ferry, and throw them away when they wear the new ones back."

Farmers in southern Michigan and farmers in western Ontario are the most prosperous in the world. Both can produce food at the same arbitrary cost.

This was the natural question after I visited the Windsor market house and priced everything for sale there.

"My candid opinion, after twenty-eight years in the grocery business on both sides of the river, is that it is 25 per cent cheaper to live in Canada than in the United States.

"Hundreds of Detroit people live over here in summer and rent homes. It's cheaper for them to go to work in Detroit and pay the ferry rate than to stay in Detroit and pay Detroit prices."

"Here, I'll show you. See this plug of tobacco? It's made in England, and this is a quarter's worth. The leaf in that plug was raised in the United States, shipped to England, made into plugs and shipped back here into Canada.

"The duty on the tobacco, if exported 2,561 feet across to Detroit, would be \$1.65 on each pound plug. The retail price in Windsor is \$1 a pound.

"Cherney is right," said J. G. Gangner, the biggest real estate operator in Windsor. "House rents here are as high as in Toronto—the highest in Canada.

"Their house rents and food bills here don't equal the rent of a good flat in Detroit."

The D. & B. I. Ferry company, operating the boats over the 2,561 feet of river, carries thousands of workmen every morning from here to Detroit.

So great is the workmen's traffic on the ferryboats that the company sells 100 "workmen's tickets" for \$1.50, good only mornings and evenings.

Walter Boug, who owns Windsor's biggest clothing store, is the man who sells Christy's London hats for \$3 here.

"Of course the duty is the only reason why I can sell a Christy hat for \$2 less than they do in Detroit," he told me.

"There must be a lot of money for somebody in American-made \$5 hats. It's the same way with clothes. The duty on good all-wool clothes is 44 cents a pound and 60 per cent of their value.

Butter, the best and purest country butter in the world, the pride of western Ontario's fine dairies, sells here retail for 28 cents a pound.

"The whole trouble now," said Mr. Snell, "is under production."

That same day the Western Dairymen's Association of Canada was meeting at St. Thomas, Ont., fifty miles from here.

the Payne-Aldrich tariff really protected these under-producing Michigan dairymen.

He informed me that the value of cheese exported since May 1, 1909, was \$17,633,363, and that the value of the 1909 butter exports from Ontario to the United States was \$508,625.

There was paid by the American people as duty on this cheese and butter over \$2,000,000. Yet the farmers of southern Michigan get no more for their butter and cheese than do the farmers of western Ontario.

The Central livery stable rents a horse and sleigh all afternoon for \$2. In Detroit the same rig rents for \$1.50 an hour.

Horses live on hay. If they eat Ontario hay it costs the liveryman here \$11 a ton. If they eat the same hay in Detroit, 2,561 feet away, it costs the Detroit liveryman \$14.50 a ton.

The farmers around here and around Detroit sell their hay for the same price to the jobber. Who gets the extra profit that the tariff wall extorts from the horse-owner?

On any snowy Sunday afternoon dozens of Detroit young men cross the ferry, rent a sleigh, and cross back to Detroit, paying 10 cents ferryage each way.

Advertisement for THE FALL 1909 Genuine English Featherweight HATS ARE HERE, featuring prices and contact information for W. BOUG.

An advertisement in a Detroit paper. But we can't all go to Windsor.

IN THE EGRET'S NEST

The angel who numbers the birds for the God of all things that be Had come afar from his journeying over the land and the sea,

"And some they were slain that man might live, for so hast Thou made the law; And some for the lust of their shining plumes, and all of them I saw;

And the Lord of the Little Creatures, who marks where His sparrows fall, And in the hollow of His hand makes room for the weak and the small;

The meat boycott has petered out, as might have been expected. Men who pinch their bellies in order to make up for their own political ignorance are not expected to stick to the pinching process long.