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# STORY OF COTTON IS A THRILLER

## A Narrative That Concerns the Welfare of Millions.

### SHOWS EVILS OF PROTECTION.

Whole People Robbed by a Tariff That Rich Manufacturer May Benefit. Robert Kenneth MacLea, Consulting Expert of the Tariff Board, Shows That the American People Are Mulcted of \$88,000,000 a Year.

New York, Aug. —Did you ever hear the story of cotton?

It is as thrilling as a narrative of adventure. It is as interesting as a novel—interesting particularly because it concerns the welfare of millions of people who wear cotton goods. It is interesting because it is the dress of the poor, the universal substitute for wool and silk. It is interesting, furthermore, because it is true.

The story of cotton is the story of a protective tariff for the benefit of rich manufacturers at the expense of the whole people who wear cotton goods.

It has been reasonably calculated that because the cotton tariff is fixed by the Payne-Aldrich law the American people are paying \$88,000,000 more every year than they should pay for their cotton goods and that a saving of this amount could be accomplished by a reasonable reduction in the present duties.

The story of cotton is told by an expert, Robert Kenneth MacLea, consulting expert of the tariff board, in a series of articles published in the New York World. Mr. MacLea's views are the views of a lifelong Republican, a friend of the protective policy of the Republican party, but at the same time an opponent of tariff graft and favoritism. To this work Mr. MacLea has brought a varied experience, covering more than twenty years, in the manufacture and marketing of textiles.

He first distinguished himself as an advocate of honest tariff legislation by finding the "jokers" of the Payne-Aldrich act, when the agents of a few New England mills were permitted to write their own rates to suit themselves. He was chairman of the tariff committee of the New York Dry Goods Merchants' association and in that capacity conducted a campaign which attracted the attention of the newly created tariff board. To accept the position of consulting expert to the board he gave up the management of the domestic business of the New York

# Facts Suppressed and Issues Evaded by Taft Tariff Board

By **ROBERT KENNETH MACLEA,**  
Formerly Consulting Expert of the Tariff Board.

Under the pressure of promise to fight chicanery and fraud in tariff legislation, I deem it a public duty not to withhold the facts in my possession relative to the investigation of the cotton manufacturing industry. Regretful that my experience with the board warrants such conclusions, I am compelled to present the following indictment:

- I. SUPPRESSION**  
That the tariff board, in its report on manufactures of cotton (Schedule I) has suppressed findings of vital importance to the cotton industry, to the public and to the government, but inimical to the special privileges of a few New England manufacturers who were permitted by Senator Aldrich to write the cotton schedule to suit themselves.
- II. PERVERSION**  
That the tariff board has perverted other facts, thereby avoiding exposure of tariff injustices that have benefited the few at the expense of the many manufacturers.
- III. EVASION**  
That the tariff board has not, as stated by President Taft to congress, drawn any conclusions that would "be valuable in advising the congress and the people" of the changes that ought to be made to make more equitable their the wool and cotton schedules effects. The board did not attempt to draw conclusions, "scientific" or otherwise, from its "scientifically" collected data, but sidestepped that responsibility by arguing that such deductions as its data justified were not called for under the specifications of its employment.
- IV. EMASCULATION**  
That the tariff board's report was arranged so as to be incomprehensible to either legislators or laymen; that tables were deliberately disassociated or emasculated if not suppressed, and that a congressman would require the services of a statistician and a clerk six months to make head or tail of the jumble of data presented as a basis for intelligent tariff revision.
- V. FAVORITISM**  
That the tariff board avoided altogether investigating certain phases of tariff graft hidden in "jokers" of the Payne-Aldrich law.
- VI. CONVICTING**  
That the tariff board falsely reported that it was impossible to obtain abroad
- VII. UNFAIR**  
That the tariff board betrayed the confidence of American manufacturers by publishing data that should have been held for confidential information of legislators; that competitors were given thereby valuable trade secrets, while the foreign manufacturers divulged nothing of similar character or importance.
- VIII. DISINGEN-UIOUS**  
That the tariff board's treatment of economic questions vitally affecting the relation of the tariff to the protection of consumers was disingenuous and misleading.
- IX. PARTISAN**  
That the tariff board has proved not to be the "nonpartisan" and scientific instrument promised by President Taft, that its members displayed inexperience in business, incompetence and extravagance, I have been forced reluctantly after a year's intimate association to accept the opinion that the tariff board has been nothing more than an effective cog in a "standpat" political machine, that some of the men who clamored most loudly for a tariff board and some of the men appointed thereto worked all the time complacently in the knowledge that the creation of the board was a scheme to prevent genuine tariff reform as long as possible by "gunning the cards and delaying the game," a charge frequently made, but which I for a long time discredited.
- X. CONVICTING**  
That such facts as the tariff board has reported sustain the charge, as to both the wool and the cotton schedules, that the consumer has been robbed outrageously as a consequence of excessive duties and that the profits have not gone into the pockets of the laborer to "maintain an American standard of living."

# "JOKERS" HID REVISION UP

## Actual Raising of Duties Effected by Payne Bill.

### COTTON AND WOOL SCHEDULES

Both Indefensible, and President Taft Knew It—Suppression of Facts by the Tariff Board—Statistics Employed to Mislead the Public.

By **ROBERT KENNETH MACLEA,**  
(Formerly consulting expert of the tariff board.)

New York, Aug. —On not a single one of the ninety-five all cotton samples of fabric taken as the basis of the tariff board's investigations of the cotton schedule was there an actual reduction of the tariff by the Payne-Aldrich law.

The samples were selected with great care by the combined judgment of the board's experts, endorsed by the leading jobbers of the United States as being representative of all classes of fabric in use in this country, each sample being chosen because it was typical of the most used material of its particular weave or class. Ninety-five all cotton and five silk and cotton samples comprise the 100 that appear in the tariff board's cotton report.

Forty-seven of the ninety-five in the all cotton class pay 33.00 per cent higher duties under the Payne-Aldrich than they did under the Dingley tariff.

Payne-Aldrich "Jokers."

Of these forty-seven classes of material on which the tariff was increased nine are the fancy weaves made in three or four New England mills commonly grouped as the "Lippitt-McColl interests." This is the clique of New England manufacturer-politicians who were permitted by Senator Nelson W. Aldrich to write the cotton schedule to suit themselves.

Of the nine Lippitt-McColl fabrics the Payne-Aldrich law jacked up the average duty from 36.57 to 60.33 per cent. In other words, the promised "revision downward" on these goods was really a revision upward amounting to 64.97 per cent of the Dingley rates.

The remaining thirty-eight classes of all cotton fabrics on which the duty was increased were not generally the product of the favored New England ring. Under the Dingley law these thirty-eight fabrics were assessed an average duty of 35.36 per cent. Under the Payne-Aldrich law they pay 44.58 per cent—a revision upward equal to 26.07 per cent of the former rate as compared with 64.97 per cent increase on manufactures of the favored few.

On just three among the 100 samples was there a decrease in duty. These were the silk and cotton fabrics (silk mills) that pay more than 100 per cent duty. On these three samples the reduction averaged 5.96 per cent on the former duty—a reduction from 116.70 per cent under the Dingley law to 110.44 per cent under the Payne-Aldrich law. On one of the silk and cotton samples there was an increase amounting to 21.98 per cent. The fifth of the silk and cotton samples was left unchanged.

On the forty-five of the ninety-five all cotton samples there was no change in duty.

On the three remaining samples (completing the total of 100) no comparison is made because of apparent lack of authentic foreign prices.

And still President Taft said in his speech at Boston, April 25 last: "It (the Payne-Aldrich bill) was a vastly better bill than the Dingley bill. If I had refused to sign the Payne bill it would have maintained the Dingley bill with higher rates than the Payne bill."

When Mr. Taft made this statement he must have known that it was untrue. As for the wool schedule, he knew that the rates were not higher in the Dingley law than in the Payne-Aldrich law, for right after signing the latter bill did he not denounce its wool rates as "indefensible?" And, as for the cotton rates of the Payne bill, he knew they were just as "indefensible" as the wool rates, for at the time he made this statement in Boston he had the tariff board's report on cotton before him.

It is true that the cotton report of the tariff board did not make this information available at a glance to Mr. Taft or to congress or to the public. The tariff board carefully avoided giving this information in a gettable, understandable form.

Suppressed the Answer.

"Was the tariff raised or lowered?" has been an insistent question ever since the Payne-Aldrich law was enacted three years ago. The tariff board avoided answering it.

In making my official report to the board I submitted a table that did answer this question in respect to each one, excepting three, of the 100 cloth samples around which our months of investigation centered. After much side-stepping and discussion this table was expurgated and published in its emasculated form. The board's excuse was that it was not its duty to answer the question; congress could make its own computations. The official explanation for refusing to publish the table show-

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# CONDENSED NEWS

Nicaraguan rebels attacked and captured the town of San Jorge.

Part of the \$272,000 loot robbers got from the Bank of Montreal at New Westminster, B. C., has been recovered by Chicago police.

It is almost certain that Nat C. Goodwin, comedian, never again will appear on the stage to play a part. The actor is paralyzed in his lower limbs.

Colonel Raymon Vasquez and Captain Theodore Rodriguez, held for conspiracy to violate the neutrality law, sawed their way out of jail at Douglas, Ariz.

Opposition to the recall of judges and of judicial decisions was expressed at the annual convention of the National Association of Probate Judges at Chicago.

Mrs. J. Ogden Armour, after undergoing a serious surgical operation for the removal of a fibroid tumor at a Chicago hospital, was reported to be rapidly recovering.

Because one man refused to join the union several thousand workmen are idle at the collieries of the Lehigh company in the Panther creek valley, Pennsylvania.

Bitten by a pet cat suffering with rabies, Harry Hanson of Mountain Iron, Minn., may be a victim of hydrophobia. The boy was taken to St. Paul for the Pasteur treatment.

There were 615 mine workers killed in the hard coal mines of Pennsylvania in 1911, according to the annual report issued by James E. Roderick, chief of the state bureau of mines.

Mrs. Champ Clark was named as president of the Missouri Ham and Bacon show, which is to be held farmers' week, in January, at the University of Missouri agricultural college.

Progress on the Panama canal is very satisfactory to the chief engineer. The upper approach wall of the Pedro Miguel locks has been brought to the full elevation throughout the entire length.

Two German military officers were killed while flying near Freiburg. This makes the third double fatality in Europe during September in which members of army flying corps were the victims.

The interstate commerce commission suspended freight rates on grain, proposed by the Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railways from points in Iowa to Chicago and the east.

Rebel movements to the east and west of Agua Prieta were reported, leading to the conclusion that the mobilization of Mexican rebel bands with the view of attacking Agua Prieta had failed.

Evangelism in the United States has "degenerated into commercialism and professionalism," according to Dr. J. M. Gray, dean of the Moody Institute, who spoke before the National Conference of Evangelists at Chicago.

The third annual convention of the American Manufacturers' Export association ended in New York with a banquet. At its closing business session the association elected Congressman William C. Redfield of Brooklyn president.

Two witnesses were examined in Hot Springs, Ark., before Special Commissioner C. F. Huff in the hearing to determine what Sam Shepps said in Hot Springs at the time he was taken into custody as a witness in the Rosenthal murder case.

Jose Ramon of San Antonio, Tex., was shot and killed and Francisco Basquez was seriously wounded as the result of a race quarrel among circus employees at Rochelle, Ill. Police are searching for a negro who is said to have done the shooting.

The board of directors of the Modern Woodmen issued a formal call for a referendum vote of the membership to determine whether the action of the recent head camp held in Chicago in increasing the society's insurance rates shall be sustained.

The Guatemalan government has rejected proposals of a syndicate headed by Dr. F. S. Pearson, an American, who is president of the Mexico and Northwestern Railroad company, to irrigate the extensive plains of the Zacapa district in Guatemala.

Mrs. John Epps, who served twenty-three years in the Indiana woman's prison for the murder of her husband and who was paroled six years ago, has been vindicated by the deathbed confession of Henry Epps, a brother, who, before dying, said that he had poisoned his brother.

Bradstreet's says: All in all, business, despite this or that irregularity, is certainly in excess of all but the best of previous years, and the fact that there is no disposition to rush things indicates healthy conservatism that tends to make the absence of speculation conspicuous.

A silver service has been handed over by the Panama government to the secretary of the American legation, W. W. Andrews, to be presented to the United States gunboat Yorktown, in recognition of services rendered by that vessel in connection with the foundering of the steamship Taboga.

Helena Gray, an investigator, whose work at the last session of congress for the Graham committee of the house, created a scene upon the floor, in which she was charged with being a "woman lobbyist," was arrested upon a warrant sworn out by the Indian bureau, charging concealment of public records.

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