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[ESTABLISHED 1888.]

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...HURSDAY, JULY 14, 1892.

The Sheep Industry.

Iowa Homestead.

...r. C. A. Fowler, of Huron, South ...before the late meeting of sheep ...t Aberdeen, South Dakota.]

...ct is the "Sheep Industry." ...ry is of great importance to ...rs of Dakota and will be a ...d profitable one, provided we ...e intelligent care that a ...n would give to other kinds ...n order to succeed in this ... good stable must be pro... sheep to protect them from ...cold and stormy weather. ...have plenty of room, good ... exercise and all the millet, ...fodder they will eat. Some ...e of advantage, especially if ...illet be fed, and water and ...egularly be given them.

...shepherd will improve his ...ve some ideal and will en...ch it. He will use thor...cks, and will soon have a ...l show that he understands ...nd will be to him not only ...ofit, but also of pleasure.

... the people who came here ... their condition financial... engage in the sheep in...nage it intelligently, will ...onable expectations. We ... experience we have had ... this industry is the most ...we can engage in, and we ...o any policy that will ...re it.

...perienced some dry sum...ve withered our grain ...ted our hopes, and we ... will come again; that ...the natural condition of ...at it has been two dry, ...aters dried up that once ...is arid region from the ...to the Arctic Ocean. ...s good for sheep. They ...grass and will give us a ...ol and lambs, if other ...l. We are engaged in ... as a temporary busi...ing better presents it...manent one that prom...eturns than any other, ...ticians will keep their ...of us. ... that will come from ...p will cause the aban... re-occupied by a con... prosperous people. ... who imagine that, on ...at interest that is being ... business will soon be ...me unprofitable. ...n idea, as there are ...00 sheep in th United ...r than there were in ...pulation has rapidly ...riff should remain as ...ger and his friends ...g the subject, in try... the free list, we will ... the wool that is re...dy, to the great ad...ers and to the people

...anufacturers tell us ...ds of wool that can... United States, that ... are not adapted to ... on a subject they ...ut. ...s of soil and climate, ... the best of carpet ...roducers were forced ... by a wrong classifica... Believing that the ...ep industry depends ... have but little pa...ans who would inter... Springer's bill, put... free list, passed the ...ge majority, and if it ..., would be of great ...er in the land. ... fertility of the soil ... our industries, and ... is indispensable, es...ndustry. ... sheep is said to be ...them and intelligent ...dy of the soil would ...ed for generations to ...ing is exhausting to

...ushels of wheat per ... straw, would take ...t 30 pounds of nitro... phosphoric acid and ...h. It is these ele...e to land, and with... worthless. If Mr. ... should become a ...votell to sheep, ... "more that ... protection will ... raising. ... twice ... prompt ... "fight it out" ... this year but for ...fore than a mil... the sheep indus... by foes who would destroy it have the means in their hands to prevent it if they have courage and independence enough to use them. If I am not ...y mistaken they will be heard from at the first opportunity, to express their disapprobation of the free wool apostles in their efforts to destroy our most profitable industry.

The politicians forget that the majority of the farmers have been reading and thinking, that they are wiser to-day than they were years ago and are no longer clay to be moulded according to the will and pleasure of political potters. I stand before you to-day, not as a protectionist, not as a free trader, as people honestly differ on these questions, but believing, as I do, that the future of this industry depends upon protection, I am a protectionist as far as wool and its manufactures are concerned.

It is evident that protection to wool would be of little use to the growers of the manufacturers were not protected, for the country would be filled with foreign woolen goods. Many of our mills would stand idle and we would lose the home market for our wool. But we object to the manufacturers' receiving from 30 to 40 per cent. protection and free wool.

If wool is put on the free list, we will insist that its manufactures shall also be placed there. As McKinley would say, we are opposed to free wool on the sheep's back, and taxes on our backs. It is unfortunate that sheep have so many enemies.

It is said that dogs destroy $4,000,000 worth of them annually; the wolves also are destructive; but we can stand the dogs, the wolves, and make sheep profitable, but we can't stand Springer's free wool bill, if it should become a law.

I had always supposed that John Randolph was the great enemy to a sheep, but Springer surpasses him, as Randolph would only go out of his way to give it a kick, but Springer would destroy it, and annihilate an industry of vast importance to every shepherd in this country.

We are told by some manufacturers that if foreign wools were admitted free the price of our wools would be higher. Do any of you believe such nonsense, that manufacturers want dearer wool? We produce something over one-half of the wool that is required in this country, and the balance must be made up by its importation, or manufactured goods.

When the goods are made in this country it gives employment to many thousands of working men who will consume American Agricultural products.

We have no objection to foreign wools coming to this country so long as we are unable to supply the demand, but we do object to them coming in free. It would be very unwise to let Australia with its 110,000,000 of sheep, whose flocks could soon be doubled with its millions of acres of unoccupied cheap lands, with its cheap labor and no taxes to pay here, to bring its wool free of duty. It would give that country such an advantage as to result in the entire destruction of our sheep industry. We often hear it asserted that the tariff makes the poor man pay from 50 to 70 per cent. more for his clothing, that with free trade more woolen goods would be consumed and clothing would be cheaper. Such statements are very misleading.

It takes nine pounds of fine unwashed, Merino wool to make a suit of clothes. The duty is eleven cents per pound, and if the duty be added—which the protectionists deny—the only additional cost of a fine suit would be 99 cents, so far as the duty on wool could affect it. We don't believe that clothing would be cheaper if free wool destroyed the sheep industry in this country, when foreigners could dictate the price of wool to our manufacturers.

It is claimed by some that protection does not increase the price of wool, but we should remember that wool is low everywhere. Scoured and combed wool sold in London for 37 cents per pound, 21 cents less than it sold for a year ago, which would be about 8 cents for our unwashed wool. I freely admit, that so far as I know, the wool growers have never received the full benefits that were expected from protection, and for obvious reasons.

The importers all knew that the McKinley bill was sure to become a law, and they filled this country with manufactured goods, which of course affected the price of wool.

But we must not conclude that protection has been of no benefit to us, for without it wool would be lower than it now is. The tariff of 1883 was wrong in its classification, which the importers took advantage of. All wools which were not of Merino or English blood, from all parts of the world, were admitted by paying a duty of a little over 3 cents per pound. Many millions of pounds of scoured wools, worth 60 cents per pound, converted into "ring waste" were brought to this country, paying the low duty as carpet wools.

The Secretary of Agriculture said that 77 per cent of all our wool importations was classed as carpet wools, which was too near free trade to be of much benefit to the wool growers of this country. The McKinley bill puts a duty of 30 cents per pound on waste, shoddy and noils, which will exclude them and make a greater demand for our wool. The tariff act of 1867 was more effective. That act divided wool into three classes. Class 1—Clothing wools, Merino's or wool of Merino blood. Class 2—Combing wools.—Leicester, Cotswold, Lincolnshire or combing wools of English blood. Class 3—Carpet wools.—All wools that were not Merino or of Merino ...d were not of the three breeds mentioned or of English blood, could be admitted by paying a duty of 3 cents per pound. These are the reasons why former tariffs have not been of more benefit to us. The McKinley bill will serve us better. I know not whether you are protectionists or free traders. As for myself I believe in a great deal of free trade; in fact, about one-half of all our imports in value are on the free list, and it may be that more articles should be placed there, but wool is not one of them. Whatever our opinions may be as to the best policy of the government on these questions, to be consistent we must be protectionists, so far as wool is concerned.

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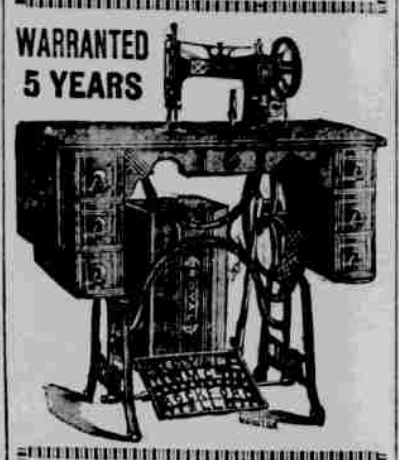

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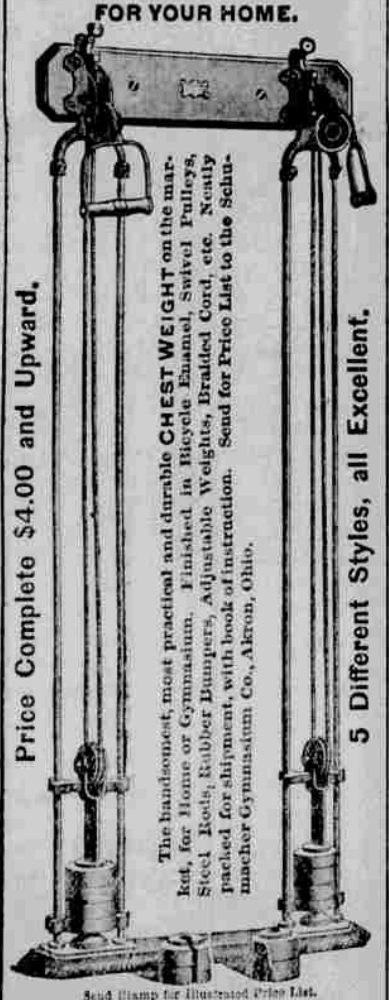

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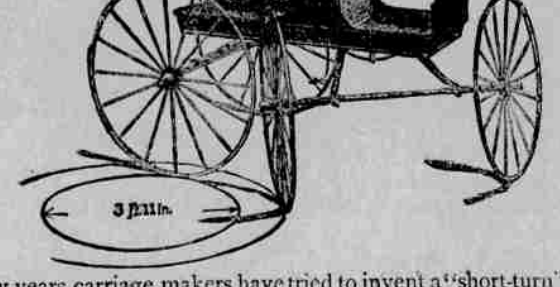

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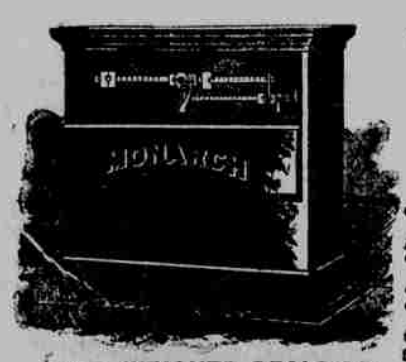

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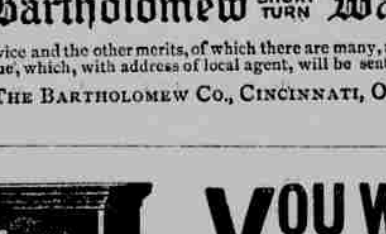

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