

## How High is the Dingley Tariff?

In a recent article written by Walter Wellman and printed in the Chicago Record-Herald, it was asserted that the tariff rates in the Dingley bill were placed high 'in order to afford a basis for treaty negotiations.'

An interview with Senator Hanna was printed quoting Mr. McKinley to sustain this contention and this interview prompted Mr. Wellman to make an investigation after which he wrote the following article:

How high is the Dingley tariff? Every one knows how high it was supposed to be at the time of its enactment. But that was based on conditions as they then existed. Since 1897 the prices of many articles have fallen, while the specific tariff rates have remained unchanged. The best proof is found in the actual duties collected on imports. Therefore the correspondent of the Record-Herald has obtained the following official data concerning the leading articles of import during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, showing (1) the total duties paid, and (2) the ad valorem rates to which such duties amounted:

	Ad valorem	Duties paid.	rate.
Sugar .....	63,000,000	72.44	
Cotton, manuf's of. 22,000,000	54.57		
Wool, manuf's of. 21,500,000	70.21		
Tobacco, manuf's of 16,500,000	110.63		
Silk and manuf's of 14,000,000	53.07		
Fibres & manufactures of, twines, etc .....	13,000,000	37.27	

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Liquors, malt, distilled and wines..	9,000,000	70.01
Tea .....	8,000,000	82.54
Iron and steel.....	7,000,000	38.15
Chemicals .....	5,500,000	26.96
Earthen ware.....	5,500,000	58.25
Fruits and nuts....	4,500,000	39.08
Leather and manufactures of.....	4,000,000	35.13
Glass & glassware	2,750,000	56.23

The lowest rate of duty in this list of leading articles is 27 per cent and the highest nearly 111 per cent. It will be noticed that sugar produces much more revenue than any other article. The people of the United States paid \$63,000,000 into the national treasury on their year's sugar purchases for the protection of the domestic cane and beet sugar industries, whose total output last year was worth \$30,000,000.

It is a striking fact that the average ad valorem tariff rate is higher now than it ever was before in the history of the government. For the fiscal year 1899 the rate on all dutiable imported goods was 52 per cent; in 1900 it was 49 per cent, and last year it was 50 per cent. In 1860 the rate was 20 per cent. After the civil war it reached in one year as high as 48 per cent, and had fallen to 44 per cent in 1890. Then came the McKinley tariff of 1890, and for the first time the rate of 50 per cent was reached in a fiscal year. But the high water mark years under the McKinley tariff—1891, '92 and '93—have been eclipsed by the last three years under the Dingley law. The highest McKinley average was under 50 per cent a year, while the highest Dingley average is a little above that figure.

The following official figures show the tariff history of the last forty years:

	Total imports.	Ad valorem dutiable (per ct.)
1860 .....	\$336,000,000	20
1865 .....	289,000,000	43
1870 .....	426,000,000	47
1875 .....	526,000,000	41
1880 .....	627,000,000	44
1885 .....	580,000,000	46
1890 .....	774,000,000	44
1891 .....	854,000,000	46
1892 .....	813,000,000	49
1893 .....	844,000,000	50
1894 .....	637,000,000	50
1895 .....	731,000,000	42
1896 .....	760,000,000	40
1897 .....	789,000,000	42
1898 .....	587,000,000	49
1899 .....	685,000,000	52
1900 .....	830,000,000	49
1901 .....	808,000,000	50

The reported organization of another great combination in iron and steel has attracted a good deal of attention here. There is also much discussion of the enormous profits of the steel trust and of the striking fact displayed in Shipbuilder Hanscom's letter to Congressman Littlefield that American steel has been sold in London at 95 cents per hundred pounds when the same steel was sold in America at \$1.65 per hundred. This serves to bring up the subject of the relations of the tariff to iron and steel prices in America, and to call attention to the following average ad valorem rates of duty paid on actual importations during the fiscal year 1901:

Iron and steel manufactures of—	Av. ad valorem rate of duty.
Bars, blooms, billets, etc.....	23.13
Bars or shapes of rolled iron....	22.20
Bars or shapes, rolled or hammered .....	16.32
All other and slabs, blooms or loops .....	24.21
Hoop, band or scroll or other iron or steel.....	33.19
Boiler or other plate iron or steel.	33.43
Sheets of iron or steel, common or black .....	41.86
Sheets and plates, pickled or cleaned by acid.....	43.39
Sheets and plates, galvanized or coated, etc.....	40.80
Sheets of iron and steel, polished, planished or glanced....	39.90
Sheets and plates and saw plates.	25.00
Tin plates.....	46.58
Wire rods, rivet, screw, fence and other .....	15.94
Wire of iron or steel.....	41.15
Wire rope and wire strand.....	53.97
Umbrella and parasol ribs, etc.	50.09
Wheels or parts of, of iron or steel .....	44.54
Bars of rails for railways.....	17.68
Sheets and plates, corrugated or crimped .....	35.88
Anchors or parts thereof and anvils .....	31.16
Beams, girders, joists, etc.....	20.90
Buckles, trousers or parts of, etc.	69.40
Card clothing .....	59.19
Chain or chains.....	45.29
Cutlery of all kinds.....	65.53
Files, file blanks, rasps and floats.	75.78
Firearms .....	45.73
Machinery .....	45.00
Nails, spikes and tacks.....	21.99
Needles .....	28.94
Saws .....	31.75
Tubes, pipes, flues or stays.....	33.82
All other manufactures.....	39.81

According to the manufacturers' bulletin of the 1900 census the total output of the iron and steel industries of the United States for the census year amounted to \$835,000,000. Treasury statistics show the average protection the industry has enjoyed since 1884. The average ad valorem rates of duty actually paid was greater in 1891 than at the time the McKinley law was passed. The average then rose to very high figures, and importations dwindled. At the present the importations are so small that it may be said American manufacturers have no competition whatever in the home market, but still enjoy an average protection of 38 per cent.

The value of iron and steel imported since 1884, with duties paid, and the ad valorem rate, were as follows.

	Values.	Duties.	Ad valorem rate.
1884 .....	\$42,917,747	\$14,799,117	34.5
1885 .....	33,093,257	11,973,908	35.3
1886 .....	38,631,777	14,631,875	38.0
1887 .....	50,618,985	20,713,233	40.0
1888 .....	51,079,969	21,283,832	41.0
1889 .....	43,510,133	16,909,340	39.0
1890 .....	43,498,074	15,384,175	35.3
1891 .....	55,895,390	18,260,171	32.3
1892 .....	29,816,634	16,519,325	55.0
1893 .....	34,858,928	21,916,447	63.0
1894 .....	20,559,368	14,063,671	70.0
1895 .....	24,047,406	11,641,561	48.0
1896 .....	25,934,117	10,064,356	39.0
1897 .....	16,361,777	6,572,930	40.0
1898 .....	12,809,186	5,830,089	45.6
1899 .....	11,796,059	5,140,784	43.6
1900 .....	20,857,843	7,815,928	37.6
1901 .....	18,389,109	6,988,479	38.2

Thirty-eight per cent protection on the \$835,000,000 iron and steel output of the census year amounts to the snug sum of \$317,000,000.

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