The Commoner.

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. This should be interesting reading to the tariff burdened supporters of the Taft-Aldrich-Cannon administration and will no doubt recall to memory the predictions made by Mr. Bryan during his last famous battle for the common people against the privileged interests. In the early history of this country Charles C. Pickney, one of the envoys to France made this famous utterance when approached by one of the foreign representatives asking tribute of the United States: "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute." However, things have changed since then and there are now in this great United States of ours which was once freed from tyranny by our forefathers, millions paying tribute (to the trusts) with not a cent for defense after the expense of their meager existence has been met:

(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. Ferries cross the water every three minutes, but the wall is insurmountable.

Detroit is the typical American city. Time

PRICES OF FOOD AT DETROIT AND WINDSOR

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In the following parallel the figures are retail prices on the same quality of goods in what is practically one city, the division being a river less than half a

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mile wide and a tariff wall:	6
Price in Price in	
Windsor. Commodity. Detroit.	0
28cButter, best, 1b36c	0
34c42c	6
	0
6 % c Beef, cheapest cut, lb 10c	_
13c Pork, mess, lb 20c	6
11cLard, prime, lb13c	(
19c Bacon, breakfast, lb24c	0
\$1.00 Wheat, No. 2 red, bu\$1.11	0
60c Corn, No. 2 mixed, bu 78c	6
70c\$1.10	0
5@7c8@15c	6
40c	6
50c	(
25cBeets, bu60c	(
85c Rutabagas, bu 40c	(
50c Parsnips, bu 60c	(
20cTurkeys, dressed, lb25c	6
11c Chickens, dressed, lb 15c	(
7c	0
11½c	6

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.

\$1.00......Plug tobacco, lb. \$2.00@3.00

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. But the invisible barrier is there—the high Payne-Aldrich tariff wall, monumental and menacing.

Confronting the American people is a situation—the increased cost of living—that has followed the strengthening of this tariff barrier. The situation is a direct result, as has been charged by the people, of this 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 pocketbooks 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. J. W. Lewis, deputy customs collector, signaled man and goose inside his

"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. Why, then, should the prices of farm products be from 15 to 100 per cent higher in Detroit than here?

This was the natural question after I visited the Windsor market house and priced everything for sale there. W. J. Cherney, who runs the biggest grocery in Windsor said:

"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. You can buy first quality groceries and produce here for less money than you can get second-rate goods in Detroit.

"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."

"How does the tariff come in on that?" "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. And yet it is better than other brands that sell for lots more money in Detroit. If it wasn't, why would people from Detroit come to my store and go out with their pockets full of it?

"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. In Detroit it is \$3 a pound. The brand is a well-known world standard."

"Cherney is right," said J. G. Gangnier, the biggest real estate operator in Windsor. "House rents here are as high as in Toronto-the highest in Canada. Yet I rent all the houses I have on my list every summer to people from Detroit, who say they save money by living here. They save it on what they eat and wear.

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 workingmen every morning from here to Detroit. They pay the boat fare and street car fare additional to get to work in Detroit. They are Americans, most of them.

So great is the workingmen's traffic on the ferryboats that the company sells 100 "workingmen's tickets" for \$1.50, good only mornings and evenings. The regular fare is five cents.

Walter Boug, who owns Windsor's biggest clothing store, is the man who sells Christy's London hats for \$3 here. They cost \$5 in Detroit, 2,561 feet away.

"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. "They invoice to me \$24 a dozen. I sell them for \$3. The Detroit merchant would pay about \$1.50 duty on each

"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. That would be \$12.50 on that \$15 suit hanging there. It's as good a suit as you can buy in Detroit for \$25. It would have to be sold there for more.

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 same grade of butter sells in Detroit for 36 cents, an increase of just 28 per cent. I called up Lawrence W. Snell, who owns the most select creamery in Detroit. His products are on the tables of the Pontchartrain and Cadillac hotels there.

"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. I called up the secretary, J. J. Parsons of Jarvis, Ont., to see if 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 1999 butter exports from Ontario to the United States was \$508,625. Total value of butter for year and cheese since May 1, 1909, \$18,141,988.

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. Why, then, the high prices only 2,561 feet away? And who gets the extra profit on the Michigan produced butter and cheese?

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. But the Detroit horses don't eat Canada hay. They eat Michigan hay. But it costs \$14.50 a ton, too. The tariff on hay is \$4 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. They take their girl, friends riding for less than a third what they would have to pay if the ferry didn't help them across that 2,561 feet of water.

THE FALL 1909 0 Genuine English Featherweight 0 HATS ARE HERE 0 United 0 At the 0 \$3.00 States same old price \$5 price-See us also for British Gloves, Underwear, Hosiery, Sweaters and Raincoats -there's money in it. W. BOUG Direct Importer of British Wearables 0 for Men 0 7-9 Sandwish St., W. Windsor.

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 he spake to the Lord of the Sparrows:

"True was my count today, Them that were slain I numbered, and the

sparrows that fell by the way; And down in the reeds and water-grass of an island in the west.

I counted the young of an egret, that starved in the egret's nest.

"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 counted all whose songs were hushed within their little throats-The slain for the law of living, and the slain

for their shining coats. True have I numbered them all, and the smallest along with the rest-

The young that starved in the rushes, alone in the egret's nest!"

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 Father of the fatherless gave ear, and He listened and heard,

And behold, He has asked a question: "And what of the mother-bird?"

Now answer, you who wear the plumes that were stripped from the mother-breast;

Tell why the young of the egret starved, alone in the egret's nest! -Anne McQueen, Tallahassee, Fla.

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.