

Practical Tariff Talks

When a business man not only voluntarily agrees, but insists, upon a tariff tax being levied upon the raw material which he uses in manufacturing, it is a safe proposition that therein he has found a way to make money for himself.

Statistics submitted to congress in several recent speeches show that the average price paid the American wool grower in recent months has been but 4 to 5 cents above the foreign price.

The tariff on cloth imported into America and sold in competition with the home production is burdened, in addition to the ad valorem rate, with a specific duty of 44 cents a yard, which is presumed to be the amount the home manufacturer must pay for the raw material entering into that yard of cloth in excess of what his foreign rival pays.

A great many speeches have been made by republicans, in congress and out of it, warning the democrats that if they reduced the wool tariff below 11 cents a pound, disaster would follow.

In truth, statements of this character are the purest buncombe, and any argument based thereon is entitled to no consideration. The primary purpose of a tariff on wool or upon anything else is to increase the price of the domestic product and thus induce capital to enter the industry.

mestic price but 4 or 5 cents, what justification remains for continuing it at the old figure, and if a tariff of 11 cents yields a price increase of only 4 or 5 cents, how would a reduction, as proposed by the democrats, below 11 cents, kill the industry? C. Q. D.

WATCH IT GROW

Mr. Bryan has given instructions that every new subscriber shall receive The Commoner for a period of two years (which will carry it beyond the presidential election of 1912) for the sum of one dollar.

F. P. Bingham, Pa.—Enclosed find money order for one dollar for the renewal of my subscription for The Commoner. I want to indorse Mr. Bryan's stand upon the wool tariff, also all of his anti-trust views.

J. S. Hamilton, N. J.—You may renew my subscription to The Commoner, also send it to my brother, Dr. A. R. Hamilton, Pa. I wish to register my protest against Mr. Underwood's position on the wool schedule and to say that I as well as any number of my democratic friends stand squarely with Mr. Bryan on the free wool proposition.

W. D. Olmey, Iowa—I heartily approve of the work you are doing, as outlined, and will give it attention and do all I can to help to push the good work of your splendid magazine.

Whitfield Tuck, Winchester, Mass.—Enclosed is the fifteenth subscription card I have sent you within a short time. The people want to hear what Mr. Bryan says for they believe in him. Yours for victory in 1912.

The following named readers have sent in new subscribers:

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BARGAINS IN WOOL

Representative Finly H. Gray, in house of representatives: "The woolen manufacturers can well afford to make the bargain, for they do not live up to their promise to divide the tribute collected from the people with the wool growers.

"During the last thirteen years the tariff upon Indiana wool has been 11 cents per pound and yet the average Boston price has been only 4 cents above the London market for the same wool and the average price for 1910 is only 1 cent a pound above the foreign market.

"But that is not all. While the wool growers have been induced to support a tariff on wools on the promise of being allowed to share in the tribute collected from the consumers of woolen clothing, the woolen manufacturers have been collecting an average tariff tax of 90 per cent off of the American people, including the wool growers themselves, amounting as variously estimated from \$175,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually.

"While under this promise to divide profits with the wool growers and while the American people have been paying \$175,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually to stimulate the sheep industry, the number of sheep in Indiana has declined from 832,856 in 1900 to 710,238 in 1909 and the wool clip from 4,537,975 pounds in 1900 to 1,644,638 pounds in 1909."

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WHY THEY PROTEST

Chicago Tribune: Mr. Bryan, who serves notice on his party enemies that he will not submit to be cudged or scoffed into silence, may take this comforting knowledge to himself: There would be no objection to his counsels or his advice if men influential in the democratic party, but opposed to him, did not recognize him as still powerful. If what Mr. Bryan said went to careless ears his party opponents might grin, but they would not protest. They do protest, and the grin is Mr. Bryan's.