

revenue producer. No other imported commodity produces so much. This is because we use so much and because we import nine-tenths of what we use. As we import about four billion pounds, this pays the government about \$70,000,000 annually. I estimate the average duty at 13-4 cents a pound. The refined sugar, imported, pays very nearly two cents a pound; raw sugar more than a cent and a half. I believe the exact average amount is 1.68 cents. The total revenue from all articles imported is about two hundred and fifty millions, and, therefore, sugar alone furnishes about one-third of the revenue of the national government, derived from imports.

We import a very small amount of refined sugar. Most of the sugar comes in raw, to be refined by the sugar trust. The trust, therefore, imports the raw sugar. The sugar refining business has grown up in this country within the last fifty years.

The eleven months ending November, 1902, the total imports of sugar amounted to three billions, six hundred and twelve million pounds and of this total only seventy millions were refined sugar. These figures show the extent of the sugar refining business in this country. The sugar trust would like to have raw sugar come in free. Mr. Havemeyer, the president of the trust, said: "The tariff is the mother of all monopolies." At the same time he did not want refined sugar to come in free. According to Mr. Havemeyer a tariff on refined sugar was a blessing, but a tariff on raw sugar was the mother of all monopolies!

The duty on sugar shows how a tax imposed for protection is a tax for revenue as well. We cannot suppose that the republicans are blind to this fact. If not they are in favor of tariffs for revenue as well as protection. The only difference being that the democrats favor tariffs for revenue only while the republicans favor tariffs for revenue as well as protection. If the democrats were in power, they would probably impose a duty on sugar and call it a duty for revenue only, but it would nevertheless act as a protective duty. If there is a commodity, which some of our people desire to produce or are actually producing, and a duty is imposed upon the similar foreign competing commodity, then the duty becomes protective to the domestic commodity. Such is the duty on foreign sugar. The object is to produce a higher price in this country for the commodity in question than prevails in foreign countries. The price for sugar in Hamburg governs the price in all the world, because all the world goes there for sugar. It is the great exporting city of the world for sugar. Germany and Austria are the two great sugar producing countries. France and Russia coming next. Until we can produce sugar equal to our own demands, we shall have to go to Hamburg and buy sugar and pay the price there. The price there, plus transportation, plus duty, will be the price of foreign sugar here; and whatever this price is, our producers can charge for their share of the world's production. If we increase the duty from two to four cents the price of sugar here will be that much higher. This will be the case, until we can raise sugar enough to satisfy our consumption. As soon as this takes place, supply and demand here will govern the price.

It will be noticed, then, that the duty raises the price not only of all foreign sugar imported, but of all domestic sugar as well. In this way a duty becomes a tax upon the consumer. In this country, at the present time, it is a tax upon a great many consumers for the benefit of a few producers.

In the long run, however, it may be a public benefit.

In the last session of congress there was a great outcry against the proposed reciprocity treaty with Cuba. Now the opposition has subsided. Why? Because the beet sugar people have made up their minds that Cuban sugar will not lower the price here. Cuba will have to produce sugar enough to lower the price at Hamburg before it can be lowered here. This she cannot do. She has never produced more than a million tons a year in her best days (1895); and then no more than 770,000 tons came here. This, with our own production (150,000 tons), would make only 920,000 tons, not enough to half satisfy our own consumption. If all the Cuban sugar should come here, as we propose by the treaty, it certainly would have no effect upon the price at Hamburg, and as long as we have to go to Hamburg for half of our sugar (1,000,000 tons) we shall have to pay the price there.

There is nothing, now, to prevent the ratification of the reciprocity treaty with Cuba, except lack of time to

take a vote.

The duty on sugar ought to be lowered, not only with respect to Cuba, but with all the outside world. But this cannot be done until some other tax has been provided for the support of the government at Washington. We cannot reduce tariff taxes, until we can have a tax upon wealth. We must have an income tax, or some kind of a tax on wealth, before we can begin to abolish taxes on consumption.

Tariff taxes for revenue are far more unjust than those for protection. Each nation is trying to get the whole earth. It is as natural for each nation to protect itself as for each individual. Tariffs for revenue are more unjust because they are more unnecessary than tariffs for protection. Tariff taxes exist, simply because a few rich folks want the great army of poor folks to bear the burdens of government. This is the reason for all those tariffs that are made for revenue only.

Although this article is getting long, I must refer to one more fact: On the 5th day of March, 1902, the high contracting parties of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden, i. e., every considerable nation of Europe except Russia, signed a "convention relative to sugar," the object of which was to suppress the direct and indirect bounties by which the production or export of sugar might benefit. If this "convention" is carried out by the "high contracting parties," there will be no more bounties on sugar in Europe, and we can arrange our tariff duties with that understanding. Heretofore we have had to impose high duties on sugar (and perhaps some other commodities) partially because some of the European countries were encouraging and protecting their sugar industry by bounties, sometimes on production and sometimes on exports. This made it necessary for the United States to impose a "countervailing duty" as it was called. It counterbalanced the bounty on European production or exportation, and thereby enabled our citizens to stand on a level with European subjects.

Those who think that we ought to have free trade or a tariff for revenue only ought to study the history of tariffs in Europe, and then they will come to a proper understanding of the meaning of protection and its necessity. JNO. S. DE HART, Jersey City, N. J.

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WHAT CAUSED IT

Lincoln Daily Star Wins Decisive Victory Over the "Poor Old Journal"

The Independent has refrained from commenting upon the mayoralty contest in Lincoln for a number of reasons: Its field is national and not local; the pre-primary contest was within the republican party and, on the surface at least, a fight for supremacy between two daily newspapers. No extended comment would be made now, further than to compliment the Lincoln Daily Star upon its decisive victory, were it not that that victory has really a deeper significance.

The result is not so much a victory for the Star because that paper is controlled by the minister to Brazil, as it is because the State Journal's managing editor is one Will Owen Jones, who once upon a time graduated after a six-weeks' course in "journalism" down at Bosting. It is not because George A. Adams is so much superior to Hudson J. Winnett; doubtless either of these gentlemen would make a good mayor as mayors go these days. But it will be found, after sifting out the chaff, that the real reason of Winnett's overwhelming defeat is simply a case of "too much Jones."

"Curses, like chickens, come home to roost," and the republican party is beginning to feel the effects of having such a paper as the State Journal professing to be a republican paper. Members of the republican party formerly chortled whenever Jones printed a particularly atrocious lie about some populist in his "More Or Less Personal" hell-box. It was excruciat-

ingly funny to see Jones get after the pops. What if he did lie? That will simply strengthen us, they then believed. But they failed to see that no party, no newspaper, and no person can gain any permanent advantage by adopting the tactics of Jones. Finally it began to react upon republicans and grew to such an extent that another republican newspaper was a necessity.

The Independent has no wish to belittle the Star as a newspaper. It is bright, newsy, up-to-date; it is red-hot republican and, of course, filled with a lot of political rot editorially upon national questions. But in its statements of fact it is truthful—and that is the strongest feature of any paper. Men may honestly differ in matters of opinion, and they have a moral right to do so; but the insidiousness of artfully told lies is far-reaching. The Star's phenomenal growth since last October is in great measure a healthy protest against the rottenness of the State Journal; it is a healthy protest against Jones and his cowardly slanders in the "More Or Less Personal" column. Of course it took energetic newspaper men to build up a paper like the Star in a field occupied by a long-established paper, but any thoughtful man can see that had the State Journal always been conducted along the lines followed by the Star, there would have been no Star today.

The Independent believes that Mayor Winnett, with his experience, is better qualified for mayor than is Mr. Adams. But Mayor Winnett is a victim of his friends—a victim of "too much Jones."

THOSE PHENOMENAL FIGURES

Published in these columns two and three weeks ago, showing what strides have been made by the

BANKERS RESERVE LIFE, are still the talk of business people, whether in the life insurance business or engaged in other lines.

B. H. Robison, president of the Bankers Reserve Life association, the aggressive western company which has become so widely and favorably known, shook up the dry bones of the life insurance world in his annual report. In insurance circles the phenomenal figures contained in that report have been the principal topic of discussion ever since they were made public. Friends are congratulating the company with great sincerity and foes are admitting that no other life insurance company in the west has ever made so remarkable a record. JUST THINK OF THE FIGURES! Premiums for 1902.....\$ 179,509.14 Invested assets for 1902.. 68,659.18 Cash in bank Dec. 31, '02. 25,284.61 Net ledger assets Dec. 31, '02 92,943.99 New business 2,332,750.00 Total insurance in force.. 5,234,500.00 DEATH RATE LOWEST IN AMERICA.

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