

to the number of inhabitants is not yet equal to our traffic with British Australia.

The five million (5,000,000) people of British North America bought of us last year eighty-five million dollars (\$85,000,000) worth of goods; the thirteen million (13,000,000) people of Mexico bought only twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) worth. The English-speaking people of the Dominion nearly seventeen dollars (\$17) a head; the Spanish-Americans of Mexico, the most progressive state which has been under the evil influences of the Spanish rule, less than two dollars (\$2) per head.

NO BOUNTIES FOR STEAMSHIP LINES.

I do not mean to raise any objection to every effort that can be rightly made looking toward an increase of exports to South and Central America, Asia, Africa, and the Philippine islands. I do object to all the proposed artificial methods of bounties to steamship lines, and yet more to taking on ourselves the burden of distant colonies. The only effective method of promoting exports is to promote imports from these non-machine-using countries, and in that way increase their purchasing power.

It is often held in support of the policy called protection with incidental revenue that if we put a tax on a foreign product it does not always increase the cost to the consumer, but is sometimes paid by the foreign producer through a reduction in price. Such is sometimes the fact. The price of the foreign product is reduced. But in such case the reduction in the price simply reduces the purchasing power of the producer to buy our goods. It is doubtless true that by the imposition of a duty on the potatoes, oats, and hay of Canada, especially of the Maritime provinces, the prices in Canada have many times been so much reduced that the products would not pay their cost. Therefore the growers of these products have not only been unable to buy the American goods which they desire, but vast numbers of Canadians have been forced to migrate to the United States season by season, in spite of contract laws, in order to get the means for supporting their families in Canada; thousands coming and going with every season who might have thriven in Canada by supplying the people of the United States with fish, potatoes, oats, barley, and hay, to our great benefit, while themselves enjoying an increasing measure of prosperity in their own country.

INVITE IMPORTS OF CRUDE PRODUCTS.

Who would have suffered in this competition? Only a few railroads would have been deprived of a part of their freight. The effect of these duties, especially on New England, being only to compel the people of New England to pay for a longer haul on Western food products, while losing a market for their goods in the Maritime Provinces, which

by every law of nature and affinity constitute a part of a family group of states lying south of the St. Lawrence and east of the Hudson river, which ought to be united by every possible bond of mutual service and mutual benefit, whatever may be the central government to which they owe allegiance. When the traffic is free from the obstruction of heavy duties imposed for protection with incidental revenue, and also freed from the mediæval absurdities of our navigation laws, our flag will follow our trade to and from all our ports.

We can have all the trade that the purchasing power of these countries and continents will permit their own people to enjoy when we stop the humiliating cry of pauper labor, and invite the imports of the crude and partly manufactured products which, being absolutely free of taxation in Great Britain and nearly if not quite free of taxation in other manufacturing countries, now serve to protect foreign manufacturers to the detriment of our own. But even if we have gains which open ports in Asia, Africa, and Oceania might give us in the next ten years, the larger market in these poor continents and states for our own products would be far less than the same policy would open for us among our kith and kin, the English-speaking people of Great Britain and her colonies.

WE MUST DIP THE BUCKET, TOO.

We may well apply to ourselves the story which Booker Washington told when meeting the efforts of the Southern states to induce immigration. He told the story of the captain of the ship far away on the ocean who signalled a neighboring vessel for fresh water. The answer was: "Dip your bucket over the side." Again the urgent signal came: "We must have fresh water." Again the answer: "Dip your bucket over the side." Not until the third time was the reply comprehended, and when the bucket was dipped over the side it brought up the fresh water of the Amazon river, whose current extended far beyond the land. The negroes are waiting for the recognition of the value of their service. The South is rapidly learning how to dip her bucket over the side. The commerce of the English-speaking people, who are our kith and kin and our neighbors, the whole world being today a neighborhood, is waiting for its rapid development by the exchange of products by which all would benefit alike. Our neighbors signal us again and again: "Dip your bucket over the side." When we learn that lesson, and when the commercial union of the English-speaking people has been established, the reign of law and the reign of peace will prevail. No nation burdened with militarism can then compete with us in the supply of the increasing wants of the world at large.

Under a policy of protection with incidental revenue, which is wholly at

variance with the policy established by Alexander Hamilton, supported by Clay, assented to after opposition by Webster, and practised for a century of the economic history of this country: At variance also with the principle of tariff reform laid down by the Republican Tariff Commission in 1883, and now at variance with the progress of the very interests which it is intended to protect, the time has arrived when moderate men of all theoretic views are likely to combine in securing a remedy for the perversion of the power of taxation which is even a perversion of the formerly accepted policy named protection, to the end that a simple and effective system of collecting the national revenues may be established under which "all taxes that the people pay the government shall receive" with the least burden or obstruction to the freely chosen pursuits of the people themselves.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The laws in Nebraska defining the methods of electing county commissioners and the laws which provide for the sessions of county commissioners and the laws which permit county commissioners to draw pay for an indefinite and unlimited number of days each year need revising and amending.

The present system is an abomination. Under it the mileages, per diems, and livery bills of county commissioners may be made very large and fat and profitable to county commissioners. It is reported to THE CONSERVATIVE that the office of county commissioner is considered profitable in some counties and that men holding positions on the board frequently make money thereout of. Bridge builders and repairers are sometimes on intimate and almost "dividing" terms with county commissioners, it is said, in some counties in some Western states. But when the law is properly revised and amended such scandals will be impossible.

LIFE IS SHORT AT BEST.

Yesterday birth; today life; tomorrow death. For the first we are not responsible. But from it all responsibility results.

For the second we are developed physically, mentally and morally so that we may end ill, or well, or indifferently!

For the third, which is imperatively the logic of the first and second, all men should be ready. The word of command to the great army of humanity which living and breathing marches the globe comes with inexorably unrelenting and unmitigating compulsion—Halt!

ORDERS.

THE CONSERVATIVE has so many extra copies ordered for its next issue, which will be the last for the year 1898, and will be sent out on the 29th of December—that the edition for that date will exceed TEN THOUSAND COPIES.