

FRENCH RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island says that if the provisions of the reciprocity treaty with France "were understood by the interests to be affected by it there would be a thousand manufacturers here in less than a week protesting against it." That is not impossible. On previous occasions the overprotected manufacturers of Rhode Island have protested against the slightest abatement of excessive protection. But if the provisions of the treaty were understood by the farmers and most of the manufacturers of the West they would serve notice on their Senators that a failure to vote for the ratification of the treaty would be taken as an unpardonable offence.

Senator Aldrich is against the treaty because it will reduce the duty on knit goods from over 64 per cent ad valorem, which is practically prohibitory, to 51.5 per cent ad valorem. The Senators from New Jersey oppose the treaty because the duty on silk goods, which averages 53 per cent ad valorem, will be reduced to a trifle under 50 per cent. Possibly these senators are acting as their manufacturing constituents wish them to. If so, those constituents are scandalously greedy. When the Dingley tariff bill was framed some of the duties were made higher than they were in the McKinley law, so as to have something to trade on when reciprocity treaties were negotiated with France and other countries. Apparently the manufacturers who are the beneficiaries of those abnormally high duties do not wish to see one jot or tittle of them abated.

The French agrarians charge that the treaty sacrifices French interests. A small group of American manufacturers say it will do infinitely more for France than for this country. The reverse is the case. The average reduction of duties to be made by the United States is less than 7 per cent. The average reduction to be made by France is 48 per cent. If the treaty is ratified, as it should be, there will be a small increase in the imports of some French cotton, silk, and glass goods. There will be a great increase in American exports to France of provisions and breadstuffs. Of American meats France bought only \$3,900,000 worth during the last fiscal year. The treaty reduces the duties on hams and bacon 50 per cent and on lard 37½ per cent. The Western manufacturers of agricultural implements can appreciate the value of a reduction in the French duty of 41 per cent. Month before last the exports of wheat and flour to Great Britain were valued at \$5,540,000 and those to France at \$5,760. Wheat from the United States pays a higher duty than that from any other country. Under the treaty there will be no discriminations and France will buy American cereals more freely.

The treaty as it stands is of much value to this country. It does credit to the perseverance and skill of John A. Kasson, who negotiated it. Nevertheless, the indications are that it cannot command a two-thirds vote in the Senate. An effort is being made to get from France a year more of time in which to act on it. While that year is gliding by a few hundred thousand dollars' worth of French cotton hosiery and knit goods will be kept out of the United States. Millions of dollars' worth of American breadstuffs, provisions, and manufactures will be kept out of France.

This New Jersey-Rhode Island-Connecticut dictation is becoming offensive to Western producers. It is intolerable that they should be denied access to French markets in order that a few mill bosses may remain protected by duties ranging from 50 to 120 per cent ad valorem. What are the Senators from the middle West thinking of that they are not laboring to secure the ratification of this French treaty?—Chicago Tribune.

BEAUTIFUL. The touching and tender eloquence of Col. Bryan—never more liquid or saccharine than at a banquet—when dwelling upon the sweeter, and more preferable methods of Christianizing the Filipinos, at Lincoln the other evening, trickled from his tongue like sorghum. He declared that one Filipino educated and returned to his insular home would do more to elevate his race than a hundred thousand U. S. troops. We presume the thoughtful and learned colonel reasoned from his knowledge of United States Indian schools and the results achieved by graduates therefrom, upon their return to tribal relations. The colonel, no doubt, knows that whenever an educated Indian has gone back from the Carlisle, or any other great institution, for breaking savages into the gaits of civilization, that the entire tribe to which he belonged and returned has become immediately infected with

learning and piety. Contagious civilization and infectious piety are the instruments with which Col. Bryan proposes to elevate, ameliorate, educate, emancipate and exhilarate the yellow races of the isles of the Pacific. Could anything be more lovely and alluring than this gunless philanthropy?

Wadding cannon with leaves from the Bible; or, having military bands inspire our soldiers to vigorous assaults by playing sacred music, must give way to the Filipinos who return from the United States plethoric in wisdom.

IS NOT PORTO RICO OUR OWN.

Some commercial degenerates are said to have used the argument with the president that Porto Rico sugar and tobacco will compete with the American product. We must protect our own growers. Our own growers! Is not Porto Rico our own? Are not the Porto Rican growers our own? What kind of absorption is this? What kind of Americanization of our new dependence does it portend? It would leave Porto Rico worse off than it was under Spain, and it would impose on the people of this generous and justice-loving Republic the harder lot of exchanging places with Spain and coming down from our ideals to the level of that once proud and magnanimous people.—The Evangelist, Presbyterian Organ.

In the District Court of the United States, District of Nebraska.

In the matter of William Pottharst & Co., and Arend Renken, a member of said firm, of Talmage, Otoe County, Nebraska, Bankrupts. Case No. 86 In Bankruptcy.

On reading and filing the petition of Arend Renken, a member of said firm, bankrupt, for his discharge herein, it is Ordered that Monday, the 9th day of April, 1900, be and the same is hereby fixed as the day on or before which all creditors of and all persons interested in said estate or in the discharge of said Arend Renken, in Bankruptcy, shall, if they desire to oppose the same, file in my office in Rottmann Block, in Nebraska City, Nebraska, in said District, their objections in writing to the granting of said discharge, and file specifications of the grounds of said opposition. And the hearing of the same will be heard at the office of the Referee, Thursday, April 12, 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m., at Nebraska City, Nebraska. Witness my hand hereto at my office in Nebraska City, Nebraska, this 21st day of March, 1900.

JAS. W. EATON,
Referee.

H. W. JOHNS'
ASBESTOS ROOFINGS
PURE ASBESTOS NO COAL TAR
WATER & ACID PROOF REQUIRE NO COATING
ONE QUALITY · MANY STYLES · LOW PRICES
APPLICATION SIMPLE & INEXPENSIVE.
ASBESTOS ROOFINGS ARE FULLY GUARANTEED
H. W. JOHNS MFG CO.
· NEW YORK · CHICAGO · PHILADELPHIA · BOSTON ·
MAKERS OF
ASBESTOS MATERIALS, LIQUID PAINTS & STAINS
PIPE & BOILER COVERINGS ELECTRICAL MATERIALS