

"Naturally, I think that the Republican party has shown that it is the truest possible friend of the workingman in the tariff, contract labor and immigration laws. I have noticed that some free traders attack the Republican party because, while it keeps out through its high tariff foreign manufactures, it lets in foreign workmen who work for low wages and who come here to cheapen the price of labor. The complaint does not come with good grace from men who are in favor of letting in free inferior foreign products and thereby reducing the wages of American labor to the low foreign standard. The policy of the Republican party does keep out inferior foreign products. The party will, if it continues in power and time develops the necessity of more rigid laws limiting or excluding foreign workmen, proceed to the enactment of such laws. Possibly that time is near at hand."

DEATH OF CHARLIE BROWNE.

On August 26 a telegram was received in this city containing the shocking intelligence that Charlie Brown, the eastern buyer of Z. C. M. I., had died in New York City, at 4 a. m. today, of typhoid fever, after an illness of four days. The employees of Z. C. M. I. share in the grief of the immediate family and relatives of the deceased in their bereavement, and the front doors of the institution are draped in black.

Deceased, accompanied by Mr. Romney of the carpet department of Z. C. M. I., left this city for his usual autumn sojourn in New York, on July 17. The two remained a day and a half in Chicago, and then proceeded to New York. Mr. Romney soon returned to this city, and when he parted from deceased the latter did not appear to be in the best of health, but was able to attend to business. The full particulars relative to the attack that carried him off, further than the statement that it was typhoid fever, are not known.

Charlie Brown was one of the most popular young men of this community. About three years ago he succeeded Robert Watson as eastern purchasing agent of Z. C. M. I., and has held the position ever since, much to the satisfaction of the officers of the institution. His ability and fidelity admirably fitted him for it.

His home was in the First ward, this city, and he leaves a wife and five children. He was aged about thirty-five years.

Mrs. Brown, wife of the deceased, had been apprised of her husband's illness several days ago and left for New York on the 7 o'clock train over the U. P. this morning in company with J. H. Burrows, of Z. C. M. I., to nurse him back to health. Two hours after her departure a telegram was received announcing his death.

Superintendent Webber immediately telegraphed to Mrs. Brown apprising her of her husband's sad demise and asking her to take the first west-bound train and return home.

The body was being embalmed today and is expected in this city on Sunday next. The deceased's mother, a most amiable woman, is stricken with grief and has the sympathy of a host of friends, in common with his wife, children and other relatives in their terrible affliction.

PROTECTION AND DISEASE.

FOR some time past the New York *World* has been publishing letters from prominent writers on economics, relating to the question of tariff. At first it published a series of communications favorable to the McKinley bill, and to the principle of protection as an American political doctrine. Now it is publishing letters from men advocating free-trade or rather tariff reform. The first of the series on this side is from the pen of David A. Wells, of Norwich, Conn., a well known and able writer on political economy.

His letter is a carefully prepared one, and confined entirely to the tariff on wool. It covers very nearly one whole page of the *World*. And from the care and study given to its compilation it will, doubtless, figure as an influential campaign document on the side of the tariff reformers. But Mr. Wells takes a new and original view of the question. In fact, he traces a connection between tariff and disease:

The United States grow annually about five pounds of wool per capita of the population, while nine and one half pounds per capita is ostensibly consumed. No other fibre entering into textile fabrics has so great a variety of qualities as wool. In the tropics it approaches hair in that respect. In moist, cool climates it resembles silk, while in Southern Russia and Western Asia the wool is only adapted for rugs or carpets, owing to its coarseness. Hence Mr. Wells concludes that it is nature and not legislation which determines what kind of wool a country shall produce. No country, he contends, can produce wools of all grades, therefore the United States in attempting this, try to do what is impossible. And since the various grades of wool required for different varieties of manufacture can never be obtained at home, Mr. Wells thinks it is absurd to attempt offsetting a climatic defect by a protective tariff. Independent of this the people need 800,000,000 pounds of wool more than is grown at home. The exclusion of foreign wools causes this deficiency to be made good largely from "shoddy."

Shoddy is the name given to the fibrous material obtained by tearing or grinding up old woollen fabrics of all kinds. This material is still further classified according to its degree of disintegration as "mungo," "waste," "devil's dirt" and so on. At one time shoddy was made in Europe and shipped here as woollen raw material. In 1867 a duty of 300 per cent. was imposed on all shoddy, and on cloth manufactured from it. Of course this shut it out completely. The arguments used for its exclusion were, that the rags from which it was made were collected from prisons, hospitals, lazar houses and dumping grounds, and of course must necessarily propagate disease in this country.

The restrictive law of 1867 became almost prohibitive of shoddy, and American manufacturers began to produce it at home. They began to import woollen rags from Europe. In 1870, 512,792 pounds were imported, in 1880 1,388,283 pounds and in 1889, 8,622,209 pounds, thus giving an increase in the importation of eight hundred per cent. of disease-laden rags in nine years.

Though Mr. Wells admits that in the process of tearing, cleaning, scouring and steaming most of the original impurities of the rags can be and are removed, yet he claims that owing to the manufacturer these processes are imperfectly performed, and that there is danger to health in wearing clothes made from shoddy.

M. Wells also traces a direct connection between disease and tariff. He says that owing to the absence of woollen clothing in the United States, the morality from consumption and pneumonia is greater than from any other cause, the rate per 100,000 deaths annually exceeding that of the cold and wet climates of the British Isles. In 1880 in the United States, in every 100,000 deaths, there were 12,000 from consumption and over 8000 from pneumonia. For the same year in England and Wales the corresponding figures were 9000 for consumption and over 4000 for pneumonia.

Thus it will be seen that Mr. Wells considers tariff reform from a sanitary point of view as well as from an economic side. His observations are worthy the attention of scientific men, and as far as they relate to shoddy, should be generally considered.

WHY ARE RUSSIANS STAVING?

WITH the unlimited agricultural resources that Russia has it is rather singular that the peasants or anybody in that realm should be suffering for food. Russia is far from being densely populated, and its habit has been not only to support itself in the matter of bread, with an abundance of which people never starve, but with its surplus in this article frequently to keep the wolf from the door of its neighbors.

A people with such a habit of living and with still undeveloped sources at their command of making a livelihood to be in want for bread is indicative of something wrong besides the crops. Who could conceive of a failure in the crops in this country great enough to take the bread from the mouths of the bread winners, as is reported of Russia? Yet there is apparently no more cause for such a thing in that country than here.

The truth is that it is not so much bad crops as a thoroughly bad government that is starving Russia to death. From the ignorant brute who in the capacity of a tax collector hunts down the peasantry to pick their pockets, all the way up to the tyrant on the throne, for whose personal uses this wholesale robbery is largely carried on, the government seems to be one vast system of Gadiantonism.

Instead of the toiler profiting in any degree by his labor, his entire surplus over and above a very meager living goes to support the robbers that have him in their power, and to strengthen the force that makes his slavery perpetual. From the produce of every workingman's labor must be fed and supported ten or a dozen loafers in uniform. Within a year this force of government highwaymen has been increased; and vast expenses have been incurred in other directions of a similar significance to the peasant toiler.

This is the sort of bad crop that is