

sum paid in wages in that State was \$6,377,975 in excess and an aggregate production of \$31,315,310 in excess of the previous year. In view of this showing of the increase in wages and of the reduction in cost of articles of common necessity and of the marked advance in prices of agricultural products, it is plain the tariff law has not imposed burdens but has conferred benefits upon the farmer and working-man.

SOME SPECIAL EFFECTS

of the acts should be noticed. It was courageous to attempt to rid our people of the long maintained foreign monopoly of the production of tin plate, pearl buttons, silk, plush, lace, etc., once or twice given to the importer under this view of the constitution in order to increase important importations and revenue "for revenue only" is the limitation. Reciprocity, of course, falls under denunciation for its object and effect is not revenue, but promotion of commercial exchanges, the profits of which go wholly to our producers.

Once or twice in our history the production of tin plate was attempted and the prices obtained by the Welsh makers would enable our makers to produce at profit. But the Welsh makers at once cut prices to a point that drove America out of the business and when this was accomplished, again made their own prices. A correspondent of the *Industrial World*, the official organ of tin plate workers, published at Swansea, in its issue of June 10, 1892, advises a new trial of these methods. He says: Do not be deceived. The victory of the Republicans at the polls means the retention of the McKinley bill and means a rapidly accruing loss of 80 per cent. of the export American trade. Had there been no Democratic victory in 1890, the spread of tin plate manufacture in the United States would have been both rapid and bona fide. It is not yet too late to do something to reduce the price of plates. Put them down to 11 snillings per box of 100, 14 by 20, full weight basis. Let workmen take half pay for a few months and turn out more, then let the masters forego profits for some time."

And again that paper says it is clearly to the interest of both employer and workman

TO PRODUCE TIN PLATES,

tariff or no tariff, at a price that will drive all competition from the field, but in spite of doubts raised by elections of 1890 and of the machinations of foreign producers to maintain their monopoly the tinplate industry has been established in the United States, and the alliance between the Welsh producers and the Democratic party for its destruction will not succeed. Official returns to the treasury department of the production of tin and tin plates in the United States during the last fiscal year, show a total production of 13,240,880 pounds, and a comparison of the first quarter of 828,022 pounds, with last 8,000,000 pounds, shows a rapid development of the industry. Over 5,000,000 pounds during last quarter were made from American block plates and the remainder from foreign plates. Mr. Ayer, treasury agent in charge, estimates as the result of careful enquiry, that the production of the current year will be 100,000,000 pounds, and by the end of

the year our production will be at the rate of 2,000,000 pounds per annum.

Another industry that has been practically created by the McKinley bill is making pearl buttons. Few articles coming to the United States from abroad are so distinctly the product of starvation wages, but without unduly extending this letter I cannot follow in detail the influences of the tariff law of 1890. It transplanted several important industries and established them here and revived or enlarged all others. The act gives to miners protection against foreign silver-bearing lead ores, the free introduction of which threatened the great mining industries of the Rocky mountain States, and to wool-growers the protection for their fleeces and flocks which saved them from a further and disastrous decline. The house of representatives at its last session passed bills placing these ores and wool upon the free list. The people of the west will know how destructive to prosperity these measures would be.

This tariff law has given employment to many thousands of American men and women, and will each year give employment to increasing thousands. Its repeal would throw thousands out of employment and give work to others only at reduced rates. The appeals of free traders to working men are largely addressed to prejudices or to passions and are not unfrequently pronounced communistic. The new Democratic leader rages at the employer and seeks to communicate his rage to the employee. I greatly regret that all employers of labor are not just and considerate, and that capital sometimes takes too large a share of the profits. But I do not see that these evils would be ameliorated by a tariff policy, the first necessary effect of which is a severe wage cut, and second, a large diminution of the aggregate amount of work to be done in this country.

OUR WORKMEN.

If the injustice of his employer tempts a workman to turn back, he should be very sure his blow does not fall upon his own head or upon his wife and children. Workmen in our great industries are, as a body, remarkably intelligent, and are lovers of home and country. They may be roused by injustice or what seems to them to be such, or be led for a moment by others, into acts of passion, but they will settle the tariff contest in a calm light next November, and with sole reference to the prosperity of the country of which they are citizens, and of the homes they have founded for their wives and children.

No intelligent advocate of the protective tariff claims it is able of itself to maintain a uniform rate of wages without regard to fluctuations in supply of and demand for products of labor. But it is confidently claimed that protective duties strongly tend to hold up wages, and are the only barrier against a reduction to the European scale.

The South American States have had liberal participation in the benefits of the tariff law, and though their representatives have generally opposed the protection policy, I rejoice that their sugar, rice, coal, ores, iron, cotton cloths and other products have not been left to the fate which the votes of their representatives would have brought upon them. In the construc-

tion of the Nicaragua canal; in the new trade with South and Central America; in the establishment of American steamship lines — these States also have special interests, and all these interests will not always consent to be without representation at Washington.

Our adversaries speak only of increased duties imposed upon tin, pearl buttons and other articles by the McKinley bill, and omit altogether any reference to the great and beneficial enlargement of the free list. During the last fiscal year \$458,000,772 worth of merchandise, or 55.35 per cent. of our total importation came in free (largest percentage in our history), while in 1889 the per cent. of free importations was only 34.43 per cent. The placing of sugar upon the free list has saved to the consumers in duties in fifteen months after paying bounties provided for, \$87,000,000. This relief has been substantially felt in every household, upon every Saturday's purchase of the workingman.

ONE OF THE FAVORITE ARGUMENTS

against a protective tariff is that it shuts us out from participation in what is called with swelling emphasis "the market of the world." If this view is not a false one how does it happen that our commercial competitors are not able to bear with more serenity our supposed surrender to them of "the market of the world," and how does it happen the partial loss of our market closes foreign tin plate mills and plush factories? Our national advantages are protective tariff and reciprocity. This policy makes it possible for us to have a large participation in "the market of the world" without opening our own to competition. That would destroy the comfort and independence of our people.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The resolution of the convention in favor of bi-metallicism has my cordial adherence and support. I am thoroughly convinced that the free coinage of silver at such rate as will maintain equality in the commercial uses of the two coined dollars would conduce to the prosperity of all great nations of the world. One essential condition is that these dollars shall have an equal value in all commercial transactions, not only as a medium of exchange but as a measure of value; and when unequal measures are called in law by the same name, commerce is unsettled and confused, and the unwary and ignorant are cheated. Dollars of unequal commercial value will not circulate together. The better dollar is withdrawn and become merchandise. The true interest of all our people, especially farmers and working people, who cannot closely observe the money market, is that every dollar, paper or coin, issued or authorized by the government shall at all times and in all its uses be an exact equivalent, not only in debt paying, but in purchasing power of any other dollar. I am quite sure if we should now act upon this subject independently of other nations we would greatly promote their interests and injure our own. The monetary conditions in Europe within the last two years have, I think, tended very much to develop a sentiment in favor of the larger use of silver, and I was