

TARIFF IN PICTURES.

ILLUSTRATIONS SHOWING WHO PAYS THE INQUITOUS TAX.

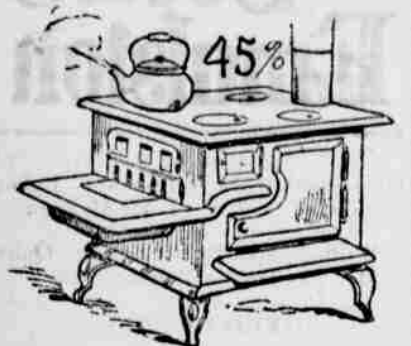
An Easy Lesson on the One Sided Operation of the Republic's Pet Hobby—The Conclusions of a Sensible Old Farmer Who Did His Own Thinking.

For many years the farmers of America have been dimly conscious that there was something wrong in our economic system. They knew that their profits were growing less every year, but they could not tell what was the matter. They bent themselves to their

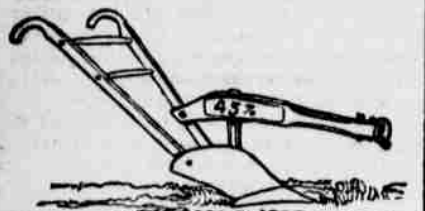


toil with renewed energy. They tried the eight hour system—that is, eight hours in the forenoon and eight hours in the afternoon. But it was no good. The profits grew still less and less. Finally one old gray haired fellow sat down and went to thinking, and this is what he thought:

"I have worked hard all my life. I have raised thousands of bushels of wheat and corn, of oats and rye, of po-



tatoes, apples and beans, and hundreds of head of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, ducks and geese, and my family has consumed but a very small part of them. What became of the remainder? I have given away a little to the church and charity, but it was very little; I wish it had been more. But what has become of the rest? I know we never ate a hundredth part of the wheat, corn and oats, or of the beef and



pork, or wore out in clothes a tenth of the wool. Where did it all go to? Who got it?"

Then he thought and thought, and at last he said:

"I know where part of it went. I paid some of it out for taxes. I wonder how much?"

Then he went to the cupboard and from a drawer he took out a bundle of papers, some of them yellow with age.



They were his tax receipts. He hunted up an old stump of a pencil and called his daughter Mary, who had been going to the district school, and said to her: "I want to call off these figures, and you set 'em down and add 'em up. I want to see what they all come to."

He had his tax receipts for two years, and when Mary had added them up and "proved" the sum, as she had been



taught in school, and she was sure she was right, she said that the sum of all the figures amounted to \$149.57. But the old man shook his head and said:

"It don't account for it all; it don't account for it all."

"Don't account for what, papa?" asked Mary.

"Why, all the cotton and wheat and corn and pork and wool and beans and

garden stuff and other things I have raised."

"Didn't we eat it?"

"Why, bless you, child, we could not have eaten one-thousandth part of it."



"Did anybody steal it?"

"Now, child, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. You know all our neighbors are honest. No one ever stole a cent from me." (Right here the old farmer was wrong.)

The old man worried about what had become of his crops. The more he thought about it the more he felt sure he had not consumed them. One day he said to his wife:

"Mother, do you know where the tax receipts are?"

"In the cupboard drawer."

"Are you sure that they are there?"

"I am sure. There is not another one about the house."



"Bring them here. I want to look over them."

The good old wife brought them. He spread them out on the table and looked them over. They were all there, for every year, for twenty years. Still the old man worried and wondered about what had become of his crops. At last he said:

"Mother, how much do you suppose we have given to the preacher for the missionaries and such things?"

"We have never paid him," she replied, "but five times, and we have given him in all about fifty or sixty dollars, and I have kept an account of what we have donated to the church. I will see."

In a few moments the old lady returned and said:

"We have paid to the church, the missionary societies and things like that \$37.50. It isn't much more than ten dollars a year. Do you think it is too much?"

"No, no, mother," he replied, "it is little enough, the Lord knows. But it don't account for it."

"Don't account for what?" asked mother. "What in the world are you talking about?"

"Why, all the wheat and corn, beef and pork, horses and cattle, sheep and hogs, chickens and turkeys, and everything else I have raised on this farm. I would like to know who got it."

"The storekeeper got some," meekly remarked the wife.

"I wish I knew how much," said the old man.

The good wife furnished him the figures. They were \$950.

Still the old man was not satisfied. It did not account for it, he said. He was gathering up his receipts when mother asked him what kind of taxes those receipts had been given for.

"State and county taxes," he said.

"Where are the receipts for the general government taxes?" she asked.

"I never had to pay any government taxes," he said. But a moment afterward he dropped the receipts and sat down in a chair and thought for awhile. At last he said:

"I don't ever remember having paid any government taxes. I must have forgotten it, but I can't for the life of me remember anything about it. I suppose I must, mother. Did you ever see any government tax receipts about the house?"

"What do they look like?"

"I don't know, but I must have paid some government taxes, and if I did I would take a receipt. But I can't remember anything about it."

A knock was heard at the door, and a neighbor came in.

"I am awful glad you came," said the old man. "I want to ask you about the government taxes. I can't remember about paying them, but I must have done so, I know. When do we pay them?"

"Every day and every hour from the cradle to the grave, and they levy them on us after we are dead, and if we don't leave any money behind us our friends pay them for us."

"How is that?" the old man asked.

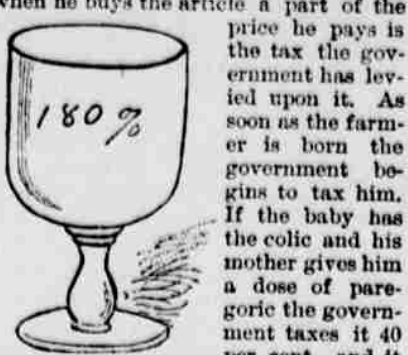
"The government puts a tariff on

every article the farmer buys, and when he buys the article a part of the price he pays is the tax the government has levied upon it. As soon as the farmer is born the government begins to tax him. If the baby has the colic and his mother gives him a dose of paregoric the government taxes it 40 per cent., and it never lets up on the taxing afterward while there is a cent in his pocket. Most farmers and workmen wear flannel shirts for a large part of the year.

"At 5 o'clock he gets out of bed and puts on a flannel shirt that is taxed 100 per cent. This costly garment, for which he paid twice what it could have been sold for at a fair profit, having been buttoned up with buttons taxed 150 per cent., he proceeds to put on a pair of trousers. They are made of coarse, heavy cloth, and the tax is made correspondingly heavy, so they cost him 100 per cent. more than they otherwise would. He straps them over his shoulders with suspenders taxed 65 per cent., and proceeds to put his feet into a pair of socks taxed 130 per cent.

"He wears coarse, heavy socks, and he must pay about four times the tax the rich man does for elegant, thin light ones. He then thrusts his feet into a

pair of coarse cowhide shoes, which have been taxed 25 per cent., after which he puts on a coat taxed 95 per cent. He wakes up his wife and goes out into the kitchen and starts a fire with coal taxed seventy-five cents on a ton, and the smoke goes up a brick chimney taxed 45 per cent.



"Then he goes to give hay to the cattle with a fork taxed 45 per cent. in a rack taxed 40 per cent., and feeds them salt taxed 44 per cent. out of a barrel taxed 40 per cent.

"After giving slop to his pigs out of a barrel bound with iron hoops taxed 35 per cent., he goes into the stable, taxed 40 per cent., to feed his horses out of troughs taxed 40 per cent.

"Meanwhile his good wife has arisen and cooked his bacon, which he had cured with salt taxed 44 per cent. (no rebate) on a stove taxed 45 per cent. The old farmer came to the house, and taking a pail taxed 20 per cent. went to fetch a pail of water (not taxed yet), which he got from a pump taxed 35 per cent. He closed the door taxed 20 per cent., which was hung on hinges taxed 35 per cent. and was held fast by a lock taxed 45 per cent. Then he washed his hands in a tin basin taxed 53 per cent., with soap taxed 20 per cent., and wiped them on a brown linen towel taxed 35 per cent. He went into the dining room covered with an oil-cloth carpet taxed 40 per cent., and sat down in a chair taxed 35 per cent. His wife pulled out a table taxed 20 per cent. and spread upon it a tablecloth taxed 40 per cent. She put on it some earthenware taxed 40 per cent. and white plates taxed 50 per cent. The knives and forks were also taxed 50 per cent. The glass tumblers out of which they drank milk were taxed 180 per cent., and the roof under which they sat was taxed 20 per cent.

"The good wife poured coffee out of a coffeepot taxed 55 per cent., and stirred it up with a spoon taxed 45 per cent. The bill of fare was not elaborate. It consisted of coffee taken out of a can taxed 55 per cent., bacon cured with salt taxed 44 per cent., bread made of flour taken from a bag taxed 35 per cent., and the butter seasoned with taxed salt. After breakfast the farmer put on a hat taxed 55 per cent., walked over a taxed carpet which covered a taxed floor, out of a taxed door hung on taxed hinges and fastened with a taxed lock, into God's air, not taxed yet. He then got some wire nails taxed 150 per cent., and taking a hammer taxed 50 per cent. and a saw and ax taxed 55 per cent. he repaired a pigeon with lumber taxed 30 per cent.

"After he had finished that job he went into the stable and put a bridle and harness onto his horses, taxed 35 per cent., led them out from the taxed stable to a

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