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Electric Age.

Just as the nineteenth century was the age of steel, the twentieth century, in its beginning at least, is the age of electricity, and electricity demands copper in ever increasing quantities. For the last six decades of the nineteenth century the production of the leading metals increased at the rate of almost exactly six and one-half per cent., compounded yearly, but in the last decade of the century copper left the other metals behind, and for 15 years past the average ratio of increase in copper production has been eight per cent., compounded yearly. This difference of only one and a half per cent., in the ratio of yearly increase, may seem small, but like the fable of the horse's shoes, for which the first nail brought a penny and each nail thereafter was doubled in price, the cumulative results are surprising, and at the end of 15 years have run into hundreds of millions of dollars. With electricity finding new uses daily and with a rapid extension of electric energy for power, traction and many other employments, there is small hope, declares Copper Handbook, that the poor old world will be able to curtail its copper bill to any important extent, and every reason to believe that the world's copper, ten years hence, will cost considerably more than the world's iron and steel cost ten years ago.

The common custom of that part of the world which calls itself civilized is to seclude its choicest art products in museums and galleries, where they are seen only by the small proportion of people willing to go out of their way and to spend time and money in visiting them. Japan and some other countries, which, according to prevailing Anglo-Saxon ideas, have not yet fully emerged from a state of barbarism, have made art a part of the common life, so that even the humblest citizen is familiar with beautiful handwork. It has occurred to some leaders of thought in Denmark that acquaintance with artistic achievements should belong to the general education, and to that end a plan is being developed for displaying the work of Danish railroad stations. If the scheme materializes it will be interesting to watch results. At least the public will learn to know what artists are doing, and if it is really true that art, hung on the walls, is educative and uplifting, then people will derive a benefit they do not get from museums.

Berlin has recently been astonished by the appearance of messenger boys in the American style, to take the place in some respects of the red-capped Dienstmannen who have so long done the errands of that city. At a loss for a word to describe these new arrivals, the Berlin public has had to use the English words, after trying all sorts of substitutes, such as Ellbuben (Hurry-boys)—which plainly does not apply; and Berliner Blitzhasen (lightning hares)—obviously sarcastic. But "messenger boys" is a pretty hard combination for the Berliners to master, and it is rapidly becoming Messing-boys, which, literally translated, means "boys of brass"—by no means an ill-fitting designation if the Berlin youngsters, are like their New York confreres. At first the general public mistook them for English naval cadets or a new division of the Salvation Army. Now their mission is recognized, and so far as the experiment has gone, they bid fair to become a permanent institution.

Perhaps the thread trust craftily put out the story that the price of cotton was to be advanced to ten cents a spool so that the public could feel so relieved when it was denied as to forget all about the advance from five to six cents at retail.

A woman in London, Eng., has been sent to prison for five years for obtaining money under false pretenses. She represented herself to be a sister of J. Pierpont Morgan. One touch of nature doesn't always make the whole world kin.

WITH OPEN TARIFF

HOW EMPLOYERS MIGHT DEAL WITH TRADE UNIONISM.

Instead of Raising Millions Which to Fight Organized Labor the Manufacturers Might Spend Their Money in Breaking Down Tariff Protection.

It would seem that zeal for the open shop on the part of the National Association of Manufacturers has subsided in favor of zeal for the open tariff. At least one would infer as much from the strenuous propaganda lately inaugurated for an all-round overhauling of the tariff schedules. At the recent annual meeting of the association declaration was made for tariff revision at the earliest practicable moment and also for a general system of trade treaties involving a still further reduction of tariff duties. Perhaps the impression prevails among some of the wage payers of the association that the quickest way to get the open shop is through the tariff. Probably they are right. Than wage reduction because of tariff reduction nothing is more certain to break the ranks of trades unionism.

When prices of commodities have been forced downward by the larger inflow of competitive goods from abroad that must follow lower tariff duties wages must also go down. When lack of employment comes as a consequence of allowing foreigners to do a larger portion of the work that Americans have been doing, and when three men are looking for two men's jobs, instead of two men being hard to get for three men's jobs, the open shop problem will have solved itself. Men do not strike for higher wages or shorter hours when work is scarce; only when work is plenty.

Open the tariff gates and you will have the open shop. There will then be no need of the million-dollar fund with which to fight trades unionism. Indeed, there is a better way to produce the desired result: Use the million-dollar fund to fight tariff protection.

The impression that the National Association of Manufacturers is dominated by forces which care more for an open tariff than for an open shop, and would rather fight labor by increasing competitive imports than cultivate amicable relations with wage earners by upholding the tariff protection, which alone can insure both employment and wages at high water mark, is strengthened by the views expressed in a recent interview in the New York Herald, by H. E. Miles, chairman of the committee on tariff and reciprocity of the National Association of Manufacturers, also a member of the committee on resolutions, and, presumably, author of the tariff ripping and reciprocity declaration already alluded to. In this interview Mr. Miles expresses a desire for downward tariff revision at the earliest practicable moment. He wants the tariff torn open at the next winter's session of congress.

"The inequalities of the tariff schedules now operative are unnecessarily, needlessly, improperly taking, by governmental sanction, hundreds of millions of dollars from the many and adding them to the fortunes that the president is watching with alarm."

This is the way Mr. Miles puts the case. It is only another way of saying that "protection is robbery." Mr. Miles might safely be trusted to write the tariff plank of the next Democratic platform. Too many people are doing too well; therefore, let us see to it that opportunities for doing well are without delay circumscribed. Tariff reduction will do the trick. Let us have tariff reduction forthwith. Thus Mr. Miles, as we read him.

That Chairman Miles of the tariff and reciprocity committee correctly represents the views and purposes of the forces that are permitted to control the acts and deliberations of the National Association of Manufacturers on the tariff question we do not for a moment dispute. For a long time past the fact that half-way protectionists and all-the-way free traders held the reins in that organization has been increasingly apparent. Just now the association is being very extensively quoted and most flatteringly commended in the free trade newspapers. That tariff ripping and reciprocity resolution of last May has made a great hit in this direction. But we do not believe that anywhere near one-half—probably not one-third—of the association's membership subscribe to the views of the Miles faction. They have been led by the nose to voting the approval of that which they had not looked into and did not rightly comprehend. We believe that a large majority of the manufacturers in the association are protectionists, but not of the Miles type. Perhaps the day is coming when this fact will be made more evident. Digging one's own grave is not a permanently cheerful occupation.

Keep the Money at Home.

If there was no more protection for American manufactures than there is for American ships, it would not be three years until the per capita of money in the United States would be reduced from \$34 to less than half that sum, and the army of tramps that would be wandering aimlessly like beasts of prey, about the country, would be bigger than the host that Xerxes started with in the hope of making the conquest of Hellas. The country that keeps its money at home is the country that rules the world.—Salt Lake City Telegram.

IN CONFLICT WITH LAW.

Strong Proof That German Tariff Agreement is Illegal.

Illegality is the strongest count in the indictment framed in the protest of the American Protective Tariff league against the German tariff agreement. Authority is not lacking in support of the contention that the "export price" provision of that agreement is in direct conflict with a law of congress which points out the procedure by which the basis of dutiable value must be ascertained. Actual market value in the country from whence the goods are exported is the basis established by congress; not an "export price" nor the value named by a local chamber of commerce.

In the American Economist is printed in full the decision of the United States circuit court of appeals, rendered March 26, 1907, in which the court holds, after quoting section 19, of the customs administrative act, that the duty of the collector is plain; he must assess tariff duties upon the ascertained actual market value in the country from whence the merchandise was exported. Says the court:

"The rule thus fixed by statute is plain and simple, binding alike on importer and collector. Neither may vary nor evade it. Neither may appeal to other criteria of value."

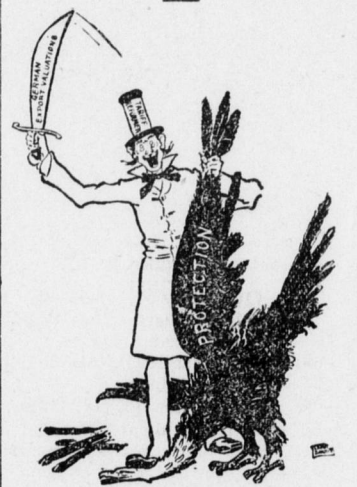
Referring again to the binding force of the law enacted by congress, the court said:

"By the express command of the statute the collector was prohibited from considering anything but the actual market value of the wool in the principal markets of Turkey. Having ascertained that value, he should have levied duty accordingly."

Nothing could be plainer than this. Not an "export price" shaved down for purposes of tariff evasion; not a valuation named by a local chamber of commerce composed of the men most interested in tariff evasion; but "the actual value of the merchandise as bought and sold in usual wholesale quantities"—that is the rule "fixed by statute," which neither a collector of customs nor a secretary of state, a secretary of the treasury, nor a president himself can set aside or disregard.

Under the decision of the United States circuit court of appeals the duty of congress is plain. Both houses should, without regard to party lines, unite in a joint resolution demanding the abrogation of a tariff trade agreement that is clearly illegal.—American Economist.

WOULD CLIP THE EAGLE'S WINGS.



The Tariff Tinker Never Sleeps.

The tariff tinker is one of the most unique of modern freaks. In promoting his favorite scheme for the unbalancing of business equilibrium he never sleeps. He is the festering sore and the intermittent fever that afflicts struggling enterprises and he yields only to heroic remedies.

It is undoubtedly true that the tariff could never be adjusted to suit everybody. Probably each and every one of the 500 manufacturers who assembled in New York recently could suggest a tariff that would benefit his particular business.

But how about the thousands of workmen, manufacturers and merchants whose interests would not be considered in the revision? No matter who demands free trade or its substitute, tariff "revision," there is no question that under present schedules the nation is enjoying a period of greatest prosperity in its history.

Why not leave well enough alone?—Scranton Tribune.

Tariff and Trusts.

Morgan J. O'Brien, a former justice of the New York supreme court, tells the Democratic party that it "should get back to Cleveland's platform, which was tariff reform." To his mind "the evils of trusts have been wrought through unfair tariffs." The very day on which these momentous things were being delivered in London for American consumption announcement was made of the formation in free trade Great Britain of the Universal Steel Trust, designed to regulate and control the production and distribution of steel throughout the entire world! The United States is to cure trust evils through free trade. How, then, is Great Britain to cure her trust evils? Through a return to protection? Morgan J. O'Brien is talking through his hat. Protection has not produced the trusts, and free trade cannot eradicate them. That is the view of President Roosevelt—or was, not long ago. It is the view of all protectionists. And it is the truth.

A BRIDGE FALLS; EIGHTY MEN DROWN

HUGE STRUCTURE FELL INTO THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

FIVE MILES FROM QUEBEC.

Ninety Men Were at Work on the Bridge When Without a Moment's Warning It Dropped Into the Water Below.

Quebec, Que.—A section of the new bridge across the St. Lawrence river five miles below this city collapsed late Thursday, carrying scores of bridge workers and mechanics into the water. It is estimated that the loss of life is at least 60 and may exceed that number by 20. The bridge was about a mile and a half in length and half of it, from the south shore to midstream, crumpled up and dropped into the water.

Ninety men were at work on this section of the structure and the whistle had just sounded at 5:30 for the men to quit work for the day when there came a grinding sound from the bridge midstream. The men turned to see what had happened and an instant later the cry went up "The bridge is falling." The men made a rush shoreward, but the distance was too great for them to escape. The fallen section of the bridge dragged other sections after it, the snapping girders and cables booming like a crash of artillery.

The steamer Glenmont had just cleared the bridge when the first section fell. The water thrown up by the debris came clear over the bridge of the steamer. The captain at once lowered boats. The small boats piled backward and forward over the sunken wreckage for half an hour, but there was no sign of life. The twisted iron and steel held its victims in a terrible death grip. A few floating timbers and the broken strands of the bridge toward the north shore were the only signs that anything unusual had happened. There was not a ripple on the smooth surface of the St. Lawrence as it swept along toward the Gulf.

All the men drowned were employees of the Phoenix Bridge Co. and subcontractors of Quebec and Montreal.

The southern extension of the bridge which collapsed was rapidly nearing the zenith of the immense steel arch which was to span the river. For 800 feet from the shore the massive steel structure reared an arch with no supports save the piers from the shore and one pier in the river about 150 feet from the shore, while the outward extremity was 150 feet above the water.

The end of the half arch bent down a trifle and a moment later the whole enormous fabric began to give way, slowly at first, then with a terrific crash which was plainly heard in Quebec, and which shook the whole countryside, so that the residents rushed out of their houses, thinking that an earthquake had occurred.

Of the 92 men working on the bridge eight so far have been recovered. Of the other 84, 16 have been taken from the water dead and it is feared that the great majority of the others have been either drowned or crushed by the falling girders.

The bridge was begun about seven years ago and it was to be finished in 1909. Subsidies had been granted by the federal and provincial governments and the city of Quebec, and the estimated cost of the work was \$10,000,000.

The Phoenix Bridge Co., of Phoenixville, Pa., had the contract for the construction of the bridge, and its men were working from both sides of the river.

Montreal.—The Quebec bridge was remarkable in that it was to be the longest single span cantilever bridge in the world, the length of the span in the center being 1,800 feet, or 200 feet longer than that of the Fifth bridge, at present the world's longest single bridge span.

RUNYAN WAS A FORGER.

Defaulting Teller of a New York Bank Tells of Crimes He Committed Before Making Big Grab.

New York.—Chester E. Runyan, the defaulting teller of the Windsor Trust Co., had known Laura M. Carter only two weeks and had been in her company less than 12 hours altogether when he gave her \$15,000, according to his testimony Thursday at the trial of Mrs. Carter. Mrs. Carter is charged with having received money which she knew to have been stolen. Runyan, the defaulter, was the principal witness against her.

Although he had previously testified that she had suggested to him that he get all the money he could from the trust company, he admitted under cross-examination that he had committed several forgeries in April and May. This was before he met Mrs. Carter and he said she did not suggest them to him.

The Plague Appears in Frisco.

Washington, D. C.—Advises received by the marine hospital service at Washington show that from August 12 up to Thursday there have been nine cases of plague at San Francisco and six deaths. Two of the cases were sailors from coasting vessels.

Fire Destroys Courier Journal Building
Louisville, Ky.—The building of the Courier Journal and Evening Times was destroyed by fire early this morning. The building was five stories in height. All the employees escaped. Loss \$200,000.

AN OFFER TO MEDIATE

IT IS MADE TO FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

Presidents Roosevelt and Diaz Ask the Little Nations to Hold a Peace Conference.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt and President Diaz simultaneously have telegraphed notes to the presidents of the five republics of Central America offering the good offices of the United States and Mexico in bringing about a conference of the republics for a discussion of plans to maintain peace. The announcement that this action had been taken was made Wednesday by Acting Secretary Adee, of the state department. It was stated also that the notes would not be made public here until they had been received by the Central American states and probably not until replies had been received. The exact time of sending the notes was not made known, but it is possible that replies from some of the countries already have reached Washington and it is believed that all will be here within 24 hours.

Mr. Adee on Wednesday received Minister Godoy, charge d'affaires of the Mexican embassy, and they conferred concerning the steps taken looking to the settlement of Central American disputes and ending the almost incessant warfare between the republics. Neither would admit that the Central American republics had been invited to hold the conference at Washington, but Señor Corea, the Nicaraguan minister, is authority for the statement that such an invitation soon will be extended. In fact, he telegraphed President Zelaya to that effect.

In diplomatic circles here it is said that none of the republics can afford to decline to accept the proffers of mediation made by the United States and Mexico and that this means that permanent peace practically is assured.

FOUR KILLED AT A CROSSING.

Trolley Car and Automobile Collided, Wrecking the Smaller Vehicle.

Rochester, N. Y.—Dr. George Waldron, a physician of Rochester; Mrs. Catherine Farnsworth, of Rochester, and Mrs. William Scandling and Mrs. Jane Hobbs, both of Hopewell, were instantly killed Wednesday afternoon in a collision between an automobile in which they were driving and a Rochester & Eastern trolley car, near Canandaigua.

Dr. Waldron went to Hopewell in the morning with his daughter to visit at the home of William Scandling and had taken the three women, all of whom were more than 65 years of age, for an automobile ride. They were on their way to the Freshour crossing to meet another friend of the Scandling family.

Witnesses of the accident say that as the machine approached the trolley tracks it was seen by the motorman. According to them the motorman made a signal and Dr. Waldron slowed up. Then, apparently thinking that he could cross before the car reached him, he started on again. It is thought that the automobile did not respond readily to the levers. It was caught on the tracks and the occupants thrown out with great force. The bodies were frightfully crushed.

Cash Dividends Deferred Ten Years.

New York.—Payment in cash of dividends on the preferred stock of the Erie Railroad Co. was deferred for ten years by the action of the board of directors of that company Wednesday. The directors voted to declare a semi-annual dividend of 2 per cent. on the first preferred stock and an annual dividend of 4 per cent. on the second preferred stock, both dividends to be payable in 1917. They announced that application will be made to the public service commission of New York to issue dividend warrants to stockholders in the meantime. The warrants will bear interest at 4 per cent.

Lion's Victim Dies.

Pittsburg.—Investigations started by the police department and the coroner of Allegheny county into the death of Mrs. Anna A. Huske, 64 years old, who was terribly injured by an escaped lion at Luna Park Tuesday, resulted in the arrest Wednesday of Clarence Chappelle, 19 years old, who has been committed to jail as a witness to "murder." Chappelle is the young man who cleaned the cage which the lion usually occupied.

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