

THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, Editor. CENTRE HALL, PA., March, 26, '84

The following is very sensible and is a matter to which the REPORTER adverted over a year ago:

The following card, signed by all the ministers of Newport, is worthy of notice: "We, the undersigned, believing that the custom of feasting in the house of mourning, after funerals, results in more harm than good, desire to give notice that, as a rule, we decline to return to the house for refreshments," after funeral services. We also affectionately urge our people to avoid arranging for Sunday funerals."

THE TARIFF QUESTION.

III.

England's institutions and customs differ from those of the United States. England has an oppressive system of agrarian laws, which differs radically from the free land policy of the United States. In England the old feudal system still prevails to a certain extent, and it is very hard for a poor man to get possession of land in his own right. In America we have plenty of land, and every farmer can become a land-owner. Poor, mis-governed Ireland is the dominion of the aristocratic landlord, and she bears fruit in her wretchedness and misery. When England is compared with Germany, Austria, Spain, protective nations, with institutions very closely allied to those of England, it is found that there are more rapers in these countries than there are in England. What sort of a showing is this for protection? Moreover England had paupers before she adopted a free trade policy. John Stewart Mill, one of the greatest philosophers and thinkers England has produced, speaking of the subject of paupers and free trade, says that "no great improvement in the lot of mankind are possible, until a great change takes place in the fundamental constitution of their modes of thought." In his opinion no change in the condition of the degraded workmen of his country could be expected, until they received a moral and intellectual training, and could think for themselves. Such a thing as the mere change of free trade to protection could not have any perceptible effect either way upon ignorant workmen, and those states engaged in agriculture, stock-raising, etc., which are not protected. The Eastern and Middle states by census of 1880 had a population of over fourteen millions, with 56,006 paupers; while the remaining states and territories, with a population of thirty-five millions, or more than double that of the principal manufacturing section, had 32,599 paupers; giving a ratio of one pauper to every 290 inhabitants in the protected states, against one pauper to every 1100 inhabitants in the unprotected states. Or to take a more specific comparison, let us compare our own state, whose wealth consists chiefly in protected industries, with the state of Texas, where there are but few protected industries, and where the people chiefly follow agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. In 1880 Pennsylvania, with a population of 4,282,891, had 12,646 paupers for the same period Texas, with 1,597,749 inhabitants, had 533 paupers; giving one pauper to every 339 in Pennsylvania against one pauper to every 2,984 in Texas. A comparison with other states would show the same condition of affairs. Now these figures and facts prove just this, that where there is a high protection there the most paupers are to be found; and that a high tax, instead of bettering the condition of the people, really helps to grind them down. What other conclusion can be found?

Then again, protectionists tell the workmen of our country that if the tariff is abolished or altered, they will be compelled to compete with the cheap labor of the world and England's pauper-labor. The fallacy of this is very easily proved. The American farmer is taxed for his harness, for his farming implements, for his clothing, medicines, certain necessary articles of food, etc. If he has the good fortune to get a crop safely through droughts, grasshoppers, bugs, worms, storms, etc., after tilling the ground with heavily taxed implements, and reaping and threshing it with another set of heavily taxed machinery, then he must take it to market in a taxed wagon and with taxed harness. Finally his grain is shipped to market over rails taxed 65 per cent. The price of his grain is regulated by the supply and demand of the world, and he must sell his grain in a cheap market in competition with all grain producers of the world, while everything he has used in producing his crop has been purchased in a dear market. And yet the American farmer is by no means a pauper. Not only this, but practical experience has shown that skilled workmen have nothing to fear from either cheap or pauper labor. High priced American labor produces many things which are sold in countries where labor is very cheap and where the same articles are produced. Take for instance the manufacture of firearms. The United States can even undersell England, although the machinery and raw material for producing these firearms are heavily taxed. Switzerland would like to be protected against the importation of our cheap clocks and watches. Spain with cheaper labor yet than England, wants protection against some articles in which England is underselling her. England has nothing to fear from the Chinese in starting rival manufactures and underselling her, and yet Chinese labor is cheaper than English labor. In the United States the skilled workmen of the North have nothing to fear from cheap labor of Southern negroes. Why is this? Simply because intelligence and skill never need fear ignorant and cheap labor. There will always be work for the trained and intelligent workman. And yet protectionists, in face of all these facts, have the audacity to say that if the Democratic party succeeds in modifying this oppressive and injurious protective tariff system, then the workmen of this country will be thrown out of employment, and that we soon will have as many paupers as England.

HOW SPOOLS ARE MADE.

The birch is first sawed into sticks four or five feet long and seven-eighths of an inch to three inches square, according to the size of the spool to be produced. These sticks are thoroughly seasoned. They are sawed into short blocks, and the blocks are dried in a hot-air kiln. At the time they are sawed a hole is bored through them. One whirl of the little block against sharp knives shaped by a pattern makes the spools at the rate of one per second. A small boy feeds the spool machine, simply placing the blocks in a spout and throwing out the knotty or defective stock. The machine is automatic, but cannot do the sorting. The spools are revolved rapidly in drums and polished themselves. For some purposes they are dyed yellow, red, or black. They are made into thousands of shapes and sizes. When one sees a spool of thread "100 yards" or "200 yards," these words do not signify that the thread has been measured, but that the spool has been gauged, and is supposed to contain so much thread. When a silk or a linen or a cotton fiber wants a spool made, it sends a pattern to the spoolmaker. The pattern gives the size and shape of the barrel and of the head and bevel. These patterns determine the amount of thread that the spool will hold. One factory turns out 100,000 gross of spools per day, and consumes 2,500 cords of birch annually. Thirty-five hands are employed in the mill. During the Winter 250 wood-choppers are sometimes employed.

FORESTS AND DRAINAGE.

Cover a table with a thick stratum of spongy moss and pour on a gallon of water. The water will ooze through and trickle down the table, but very slowly, day by day, and that process of filtration will continue for a long time; four hours after the table will still be dripping wet. Then remove the moss and empty the same gallon pot on the centre of the table. This time the deluge will pour down in a thick rush and four hours later the table will be as dry as if nothing had happened. With the same difference of result a rain shower acts on a wooded and treeless country. The forest, with its net-work of moss and roots, absorbs nine-tenths of the moisture, and yields it slowly in brooks and perennial springs. A naked hill permits it to pour down in rapid deluge, brooks swell to torrents and rivers to seas; but in the Summer time those same rivers shrink to shallow creeks, their head waters in the treeless mountains have run dry.

THE USE OF COFFEE IN BRAZIL.

According to the statement of the Vice-Director of the Rio Janeiro Faculty of Medicine, it appears that in Brazil, where great quantities of coffee are used, and where all the inhabitants take it many times a day, alcoholism is completely unknown. It is further stated that the immigrants arriving in that country, though beset with the passion for alcohol, contract little by little, the habits of the Brazilians, acquiring their fondness for drinking coffee and their aversion for liquor; and, as the children of these immigrants, brought up with coffee from their early years, never contract the fatal habits known to their parents, it would seem that the number of drunkards in the country is in inverse ratio to the amount of coffee consumed. A South American correspondent of the Medical Times confirms the above statements, asserting that the number of cafes in the large cities of Brazil—where multitudes of persons, from the highest down to the lowest classes, go in to take a cup of that delicious beverage which none but Brazilians know how to make properly—is enormous; while drinking saloons or bars are very few, and their patrons fewer still.

A PERFECT PIECE OF MECHANISM.

The English Mechanic says: "Although the average speed of trains in the United States is 20 per cent. below the mean speed of trains in this country, all things considered, the service controlled by the American engineers compares favorably with any in the world. The American engineers at first copied English builder and made locomotives with single drivers; but, as it is their wont, they quickly made improvements, and we are not disposed to dispute with Mr. Edwards the dictum that the American locomotive of to-day is 'one of the most perfect pieces of mechanism wrought out by the hand and mind of man.'"

A LEAP YEAR SPOILED.

It is explained that the year 1900 will not be a leap year, although it is divisible by four without a remainder. In order to make calendar and solar time agree as nearly as they can be got for many centuries to come, the Gregorian calendar drops three leap years out of every four centuries, and these omissions are upon such leap years as will not divide by 400 without a remainder—although they can be divided evenly by 4. The year 1600 was a leap year, but 1700 and 1800 were not, and 1900 will not be.

If a man have not found his home in God, his manners, his forms of speech, the turn of his sentences, the build (shall I say?) of all his opinions will involuntarily confess it, let him brave it out how he will.

A new two-horse, iron axle wagon, for sale by A. J. Gove.

A newly born male child was found a few days ago in the Juniata river at Bridgeport with a piece of rope wound tightly about its neck. The supposition is that the body was sunk in the river with a heavy weight, which had subsequently become detached from its fastening. Suspicion rests on a young woman who recently came to the village, and whose whereabouts since have been shrouded in mystery.

The famous clothing house of Lewins & Co, otherwise known as the Philadelphia Branch, has done a larger business the past winter than any previous season, and far larger than any other similar establishment in this or adjoining counties. The secret of the big trade is low prices, and genuine goods. They keep no garments to deceive, and give you a guarantee that all is as represented.

A number of boys, whose ages do not average 10 years, organized a band in Erie county, to poison their respective mothers and flee to the West to become desperadoes.

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