

AFRAID OF ENGLAND. Views of Steel Rail Manufacturers on the Tariff Situation. OPPOSITION TO A REDUCTION. The Present Rate Must be Retained to Insure Prosperity.

WORKMEN HAVE DECIDED OPINIONS. Prices in Europe Are Very Likely to Take a Big Drop at Any Moment.

The steel rail manufacturers in Scranton join with those of Pittsburgh in opposing any reduction of the present rate of duty. The workmen express similar views.

SCRANTON, February 27.—The proposition of the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate to reduce the tariff on steel rails to 10 per cent of course meets general disfavor among the managers of the two great steel industries here, the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company and the Scranton Steel Works, and the matter has been thoroughly inquired into by them in what way the reduction could possibly be of any benefit to the steel industry of the country.

General Manager Edward T. Moffatt, of the Lackawanna Company, said: "The Senate Committee's proposed action is unwise; and if put into force under conditions likely to occur, would work considerable injury to our steel industry."

This agitation he regarded as the outcome of the present high price for rails in England, which was due to an unusual demand and the advanced rate for the scarcity of coke, and so long as those factors remained, the American industries could well compare with England, but when demand and cost of coke come down, the English rail will drop also, and if the tariff is reduced to the amount proposed, there will be nothing to stop English steel from crowding out the home product unless the wages of American steel workers are brought to the foreign level. The same manufacturers of steel rails should be given no reason to fear inroads on their market by the English mills.

W. W. Scranton, the President of the Scranton Steel Works, also even more outspoken. He said: "If the Senate Ways and Means Committee wants to shut down all the steel plants in the Eastern part of America, or force the well-paid steel workers down to the same level of wages as are paid to English mill hands in the same line of work, let them reduce the tariff on steel rails to 10 per cent. Nothing would do more to more thoroughly demoralize the steel industry in Pennsylvania, in which there are now millions of dollars invested and tens of thousands of men employed. Just at present, however, there isn't a chance to fear, but the high prices in England for rails is liable to drop at any time to the point when rails were put on board ship in London for \$18.50.

THE CERTAIN RESULT. "This \$10 tariff would not bring rails up to the present American price when they would be landed in New York, the ocean freight being no more than is the railroad freight from New York to Scranton. The Eastern mills, however, would have the benefit of the protection which the heavy railroad charges for freight would secure them, but for the Eastern mills there would be nothing whatever except to reduce wages to about one-half what they now are, and the unusual wage distribution through the country would only tend to dishearten workmen, provoke disturbances, and every way tend to a demoralization of an industry that has advanced to great proportions, and is really one of the foremost in America.

Wages are the foundation of the price of every marketable commodity, and the price at which these articles sell in different countries are a measure of the wages paid for the labor in their production. A combination of circumstances, however, has forced English rails way beyond their usual prices, but these are liable to sudden change, and this would undoubtedly be precipitated the moment the Senate bill is passed into a law. It is a project making this wholesale reduction in the duty.

QUALITY THE SAME. "There is no use in talking about the superiority of our rails, any more than of better workmanship. There is very little difference in the quality of the English and the American rail. If a new process is ascribed in England, it does not remain a secret long, and the English steel mills of the United States, for all steel manufacturers have expert chemists whose duty it is to at once learn the mysteries of new processes, and mechanics who study closely the workings of steel machinery and appliances. These experts are constantly on the go from mill to mill, and I think it would be very hard to find for Scranton and every other Eastern city that has extensive steel plants for the tariff on rails to be reduced in any sum from the present rate.

The two steel mills here produced one-third of the steel output of the United States last year, and one-sixth of the product of the world. They give employment to over 7,000 men and boys in the mill, and in the mines that provide them with coal, and when the coal trade is stagnant, as is the case just now, they are the life of the Lackawanna Valley.

One of the most progressive Board of Trade men said this afternoon that the Senate Committee has made a great mistake in attempting to modify what is an important item of tariff duty, and that the proposition most certainly came from a misunderstanding of the causes that have raised English rails to their present high prices.

CONDENSED WORKMEN. The men in the mills, the millmen and other leading workers, through their foreman, this evening, looked at the proposition with horror, and regarded it as one that would bring ruin upon the American steel rail producer. They condemn the measure from every standpoint and say the committee's action, if presented to Congress and made a law, would be the cause of breaking up what is the best branch of employment in the country—one that requires manhood's best strength and endurance, and which now, with all its attendant hardships, but here, that insures good wages, sound wears away the life.

There was an earnest hope that the Senate Committee would let well enough alone and memorial praying them to let the steel rail duty untouched will be signed among the mill hands and forwarded to Washington before the close of the week.

BIGGER THAN THE CRIEF. Old Habes Corpus More Powerful Than a Police Superintendent. ST. LOUIS, February 27.—Anton Heubler, chief of the St. Louis police, has been adjudged guilty of contempt by the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction, and the Court is now deliberating upon his punishment. Chief Heubler was served with a writ of habeas corpus two weeks ago in behalf of Cleve Fleming, a woman who was in Omaha for grand larceny. He ignored the writ, turned the prisoner over to an Omaha officer, and now, unless the woman is produced in two days, Chief Heubler will go to jail. When he realized the jeopardy in which he is placed, he sent Captain Campbell to Omaha to bring the woman back at all hazards.

DEDICATED AND OCCUPIED. The New Thirty-Sixth Ward Police Station Is in Use.

The new police station of the Thirty-sixth ward was formally opened yesterday. Five months since the building was commenced, and, as now completed, presents an appearance as handsome as that of any station in the city. Superintendent of Police Gamble Weir and several other police officials arrived about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and dedicated the new station to the use of the West End. The day sergeant will be W. P. Murray. Sergeant "Angie" will preside at night. The patrolmen are Joseph Barr, Ernest Lucka, Frederick Willis and Patrick Welch.

A STAGE-STRUCK YOUNG GIRL. Hows Away from Home and Hasn't Been Heard of for Six Weeks. Mary Kiawaska, a 14-year-old girl of Oakland, has been missing from her home since the 18th of January, and the matter of finding her has been placed in the hands of Superintendent Dean of the Anti-Cruelty Society. He will begin at once, and will ask the assistance of Inspector McAleese.

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF. —Howell H. Hazen has been appointed Postmaster at Parkersburg, W. Va. —Thomas O'Brien, Jr., was hanged in Lexington, Ky., yesterday, for the brutal murder of his wife and child.

GRAY'S BONDSMEN SUED. The Ex-Sheriff Alleged to Have Failed to Execute His Property Seizure.

EXCEPTIONS TO MCKELVY'S ACCOUNT. The Fidelity Company Wants All the Money Owed by the Lawrence Bank.

AFTER THE WIDOW'S SHARE. Judge Over Refused to Sustain the Exceptions in the Beilstein Case.

Notes from the Court House. In the suit of Jacob Vich and wife against D. W. C. Bidwell, an action on a lease, a verdict was given yesterday for the defendant.

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CAUGHT A TEACHER. A Young School-Master Arrested for Selling Green Money.

THE TELL-TALE NOTE FOUND ON HIM. Exceptions Filed to McKelvy's Accounts by the Trust Company.

EX-SHERIFF GRAY'S BONDSMEN SUED. Judge Over Dismissed the Exceptions in the Contest Between George Beilstein's Widows.

A LOTTERY FOR NEVADA. An Attempt Will be Made to Put the Project Through the Legislature.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CATARRH. No single disease has entailed more suffering or hastened the breaking up of the constitution than Catarrh.

FREE! FREE FROM PAIN! In one minute the Catarrh of the Genitalia is cured.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. CARPETS, WALL PAPER. BIG STOCK. NEW GOODS. LOW PRICES.

Geo. W. Snaman, 136 FEDERAL STREET, ALLEGHENY. Our New Spring Hats, 20 Per Cent Less.

Our New Spring Hats, 20 Per Cent Less. An unheard-of opportunity to get reliable clothing at a much reduced price.

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