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FREELAND, FEBRUARY 6, 1893.

The Hobby of Hazleton Politicians. The Wilkes-Barre Leader views the scheme of a few politicians to form a new county in the following light:

As to the difficulty of getting to and from the county seat, it is sufficient to say that there are counties of much smaller population and yet of vastly greater area in Pennsylvania...

Besides there are but few people who have to make frequent trips to the county seat and of these, we know from personal communication, a majority are very content with things as they are.

But all these things are mere excuses. The aim of the Hazletonians who are fighting the hardest for the new county is either offices or lot speculation.

The consideration that influence the Record and others in this section to favor it is politics. They have made themselves believe the new county would so divide the Democratic vote as to make not only Luzerne, but Schuylkill and Hazle Republican counties.

They are mistaken, just as they were when they thought that letting Lackawanna go would make Luzerne Republican, but they think they are right and that suffices.

It is not believed, however, that the Republicans generally of this section will be willing to make the business sacrifices the severance would involve for such a doubtful chance of partisan gain, and every day makes it more evident that the people not only of the farming districts proposed to be cut off, but those of mining districts as well, are more and more dubious of the wisdom of the move.

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THE WOOL INDUSTRY

FREE RAW MATERIAL THE TRUE BASIS OF PROTECTION.

Some Interesting Facts Concerning Practical Tariff Making—Duties on Imported Wool Are Wrong Because They Have Not Increased Production.

The Dry Goods Economist on Dec. 10 began a series of articles on "Practical Tariff Making" to show, as it stated editorially, "what would be needed to place our manufacturers upon substantial equality with their European competitors."

Since 1864 the duty on unwashed wool has varied from ten to twelve cents per pound, yielding a protection of about 50 per cent. In spite of this duty imports have steadily increased from 37,683,675 pounds in 1867 to 119,390,280 pounds in 1891.

The writer, Mr. S. Hawking, then explains why it is that this country lags behind. It is because of our poor wool growing climate and because the duty on wools has depressed our manufactures and compelled them to buy less American wool than if they could purchase freely abroad and make all kinds of fabrics.

He shows how the duties operated to raise prices of manufactured goods here and to give cheap wool to foreign manufacturers. He thus recapitulates the first article:

"The duties on imported wool are consequently economically wrong. First—Because they have failed to stimulate the growing of wool in this country in proportion to its unlimited pastoral resources.

Second—Because it is a gross injustice to compel the consumer of goods made of wool to pay twice over the duty paid on imported wool in consequence of the growers' inability to produce within 50 per cent. as much as the wants of the country require.

Third—Because domestic manufacturers are prohibited from buying such wools as are most desirable to their uses, and are compelled through the tax on wool to buy such wools as are not always suitable to their wants and the requirements of the goods they manufacture.

Fourth—Because domestic manufacturers, through being compelled to buy wools of light shrinkage, buy the dearest wools and are oppressed by the competition of the foreign manufacturer, who is not hindered by a tax on wool from buying the cheapest wools in the market.

Fifth—Because the tax on wool gives to wool a fictitious value and renders the use of inferior substitutes as adulterants a question of much easier practice.

Editorially it is noted that these facts contrast with President Harrison's recent "I'm-licked-but-I'll-stick-to-it" high tariff message, and it is remarked that the argument for free wool is irresistible.

Why Republicans Buy Elections. The New York Tribune of Dec. 18 takes Mr. Charles S. Fairchild to task for saying, at the annual dinner of the New England Tariff Reform League, that Republican business men had formed a "habit of contributing vast sums of money to buy elections" and to "undermine the foundations of society."

"Mr. Fairchild, do you know why these business men are willing to contribute to Republican campaign funds? There's some reason for it, surely. They don't do it for fun or because they have no idea of the value of money and are willing to waste it aimlessly and wantonly."

According to good Republican authority, the protected manufacturers wanted to pay higher wages to their employees. They imagined that this would not be permitted under a Democratic administration, so they concluded to pay large sums to an administration that would permit it. The people for some reason did not wish high wages and voted to relieve the manufacturers from any further responsibility in the matter.

That Free Trade Firm. The flint glass business in several lines has not come up to expectations. Several firms have blocked their furnaces until after the holidays. Manufacturers do not accumulate stocks like they did in olden times. They close down when they are out of orders. This is possible with natural gas, as they are not compelled to pay fuel rates for gas when blocking and they have no teasers to pay.

Another Trust Combine. The projected consolidation of the White Lead trust and the Lined Oil trust will inevitably invite attention to the very high tariff duties under the shelter of which these organizations have done business and fixed prices.

NO SUGAR DUTY.

If the Sugar Tax is Restored There Will Be Trouble for the Democrats. The report came from Washington on Dec. 20 that Congressman Catchings, of Mississippi, said:

"We can frame a tariff bill which will save from \$100 to \$150 a year to every family of five persons. In that case a small tax on sugar would not be felt by the people. The proposition to relax this commodity would, I suppose, meet with considerable opposition at the outset, but as it is the net result which must be looked at, and as the saving to the people would be much greater on other things, I think that a tariff on sugar affords the best means of raising a large revenue without at the same time imposing a burden which would be felt."

The sugar bounty law can be repealed at any time. The sugar bounty was merely a gratuitous gift by congress to any industry already in existence. I favor the repeal of the sugar bounty, but in its stead I want to see a tariff placed on the commodity."

Theoretically Mr. Catchings may be all right, but practically he is all wrong. It is easy to take duties off at any time, but it is difficult to put duties on in times of peace.

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An error is likely to creep in here. The World must not suppose that because protected manufacturers have but 1 per cent. of the total capital of the country invested in manufacturing that that is all they possess.

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FIVE PER CENT. OF OUR WEALTH INVESTED IN MANUFACTURING.

This Is the Result of Thirty Years' Legislation in Favor of Protection—How Certain Manufacturers Make Enormous Profits on Small Investments.

By the last census the total wealth of the United States is \$2,610,000,000, and the total capital invested in manufacturing \$2,800,735,884, or but 5 per cent. of the whole.

The World persists in misunderstanding the benefits of protection. It has never been pretended that the manufacturers constitute any considerable percentage of our population or that the capital invested in manufacturing was considerable.

The World is also mistaken in supposing that all manufacturers are protected. Only about one out of five are actually benefited by tariff legislation.

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CONSIDER THE WAGE EARNER.

Strip the Tariff of Its Monopoly Character Regardless of Revenue. It is going to be necessary to raise more revenue to meet the tremendous continuing charges fastened upon the public treasury by an extravagant Republican congress which sought to make relief from tariff robbery impossible.

The first thing to do is to strip the tariff of its monopoly character in every respect without fear or favor, no matter what the effect upon the revenue. The next thing will be to estimate the amount of the deficit likely to result from this cause and from previous legislation, and the third thing will be to consider the sources of the required revenue.

In regard to the sources of revenue, it is to be borne in mind that the tariff is objectionable not only as an instrument for compelling the many to pay tribute to the few, but also as a tax on consumption.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY.

BETHEL BAPTIST. Rev. C. A. Spaulding, Pastor. Sunday School, 10:00 A.M. Gospel Temperance, 2:30 P.M. Preaching, 6:00 P.M.

ST. ANN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC. Rev. M. J. Fallis, Pastor. Rev. Edw. O'Reilly, Curate. Low Mass, 8:00 A.M. High Mass, 10:30 A.M. Sunday School, 2:00 P.M. Mass on Weekdays, 7:00 A.M.

ST. LUKE'S GERMAN LUTHERAN. Rev. A. Belmont, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:00 A.M. German Service, 10:30 A.M. Praise Meeting, 7:00 P.M. English Service, 7:30 P.M.

WELSH BAPTIST. Fern Street, above Math. Services by Rev. A. J. Morton, of Kingston. Sunday School, 10:30 A.M. Welsh Service, 2:00 P.M. English Service, 6:00 P.M.

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The Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill R. R. Co. Passenger Train Time Table. Taking Effect, September 15, 1892.

Protecting the Free Trade. The leading statesmen of the world pronounce it the greatest work ever written upon the tariff question.