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## FREELAND TRIBUNE.

Established 1896.  
PUBLISHED EVERY  
MONDAY AND THURSDAY  
BY THE  
TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited.

Office: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.

Make all money orders, checks, etc., payable to the Tribune Printing Company, Limited.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
One Year ..... \$1.50  
Six Months ..... .75  
Three Months ..... .45  
Two Months ..... .30

The date which the subscription is paid to is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. For instance: Grover Cleveland 23 Jan 07 means that Grover is paid up to June 26, 1907. Keep the figures in advance of the present date. Report promptly to this office whenever paper is not received. Arrears will be paid when subscription is discontinued.

FREELAND, PENNA., MAY 3, 1897.

### A Weak Defense Against Reform.

It is quite apparent to those who have interested themselves in the matter, that the attempt to have coal lands assessed at something near their real value will not be successful if the operators and corporations can prevent this much needed reform. The owners of these lands, as the TRIBUNE has shown in articles published in the past, pay taxes upon from 1 to 5 per cent of the actual value of their ground, and the movement to have this defect and disgrace remedied at the triennial assessment next year has become quite popular. Already, however, little paragraphs have appeared in certain newspapers which are under obligations to the coal companies, having for their purpose a desire to lead the public to believe that reform on the lines contemplated is unnecessary and intimating that the valuation is fair compared with other properties. This weak defense is commented on in the Wilkesbarre Telephone in a recent issue as follows:

"Constant vigorous agitation to secure for the people of this county a more equitable rate of adjusting the valuation and assessment of coal lands in proportion to the rate levied against all other taxable property prompts the present board of county commissioners to give out the statement that they propose to look carefully into the matter next year. This bit of information is given to the Record, which paper goes on to say that the present assessed valuation of coal lands on a basis of \$1,100 to \$1,300 per acre fixed by former commissioners was thought to be a fair valuation as compared with other properties. And it further wastes the public to believe that the preposterous falsehood that land is sold at about that price."

"Lacking time and space this week to refute this absurd statement, I will merely ask the Record to inform its readers when and where a single acre of coal land was ever sold for \$1,300 anywhere in the Wyoming Valley. In any previous arguments on this important question I have shown by indisputable figures that an acre of land containing an average thickness of 26 9-10 feet of unmined coal worth 50 cents per ton, has an actual value of \$462.50 per acre for each foot thickness of the coal."

"Now, let the Record proceed to multiply \$462.50 by 26 9-10, the estimated thickness of the veins, and it will be found that the real value of such land per acre is \$12,441.25."

"Right here I want to convince the Record that my estimate does not include the surface value of the land for building or agricultural purposes, because I know that less than three years ago the Record was willing to have the commissioners of the county pay to Lawrence Myers \$125,000 for a certain plot of coal land in the neighborhood of Jackson and North Main street, this city, upon which to erect the proposed new court house. As the plot referred to contains much less than an acre, and the price asked was only for the surface (Mr. Myers reserving ownership of the underlying coal), we can therefore see that coal land at \$12,000 an acre is much nearer the actual market value of such land than \$1,300 per acre."

## CASTORIA

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## WOOLEN MANUFACTURERS URGE MODERATION.

Admit That High Duties and Consequent High Prices Will Restrict the Use of Woollens.

Some of the severest criticisms not only of special duties and clauses, but of the whole accursed protective system, come from the protected manufacturers themselves in their struggle with opposing interests. Mr. S. N. D. North, secretary of the Woollen Manufacturers' association, is now and always has been a staunch protectionist. As such he believes that the 70,000,000 consumers of this country are legitimate subjects for plunder and that the manufacturers are the proper persons to enjoy the protection.

The free wool experiment which we have been trying for three years, besides being an object lesson in the way of cheap woollens, has taught the woollen manufacturers that they can make as much or more profit with free wool and moderate protection, which permits people of moderate means to wear real woollen goods, than with high duties on both wool and woollens, which restricts the use of woollens to people in good circumstances. The manufacturers therefore display more than their usual modesty and patriotism in the advice which they are giving to congress. Mr. North is in Washington to voice the manufacturers' patriotism. Here is part of his advice as taken from the Washington correspondence of The Dry Goods Economist:

I am free to say the bill is far from satisfactory to the woollen manufacturers. The chief fault to be found with the raw wool duties, which are so high that our manufacturers will find themselves sorely embarrassed. It is true the committee has provided compensatory duties which are probably sufficient to offset the duties on raw wool, but the difficulty will be, in my opinion, that the very considerable increase in price which must be made to cover the additional cost of raw material will have the effect of cutting down consumption to an extent that will be disastrous to the manufacturers. I do not contend that the rates on woolen manufactures in the bill are not sufficient to protect us against too severe foreign competition, but the limit of the consumer's purchasing power must control him in buying woolen manufactures, and I fear the rates of the new bill will very materially restrict consumption.

This is practically saying to Dingley, Aldrich and the other servants of the protected manufacturers at Washington: "Go slow with your high duties and don't try to protect too many. If you let everybody into the protection ring, there will be nobody outside to prey upon and we will have to prey upon each other. Don't make the mistake of taxing raw materials too high. We wouldn't mind it if we could sell our goods and charge the tax over to the consumer. But when the tax is so high that we have to make our prices almost out of sight we have found that we cannot sell so many goods, because the people can't afford to wear clothes—that is, woolen clothes, which are the only ones worth considering because they are the only ones which we manufacture. Our solicitude for the dear American consumer is such that we do not wish to compel him to clothe himself in the skins of beasts, which are neither fashionable nor healthful. Let us not tax him to death. Let us be reasonable and encourage him to live and to wear clothes. By so doing we can keep our mills running and give employment to American workmen at American wages, which, after all, is the chief object aimed at by us protected manufacturers."—Byron W. Holt.

### Why Increase the Coal Duty?

Under the existing tariff bituminous coal pays 40 cents a ton. The Dingley bill proposes to make this 75 cents. In 1895-6 the imports of bituminous coal into the United States were 1,343,835 tons. The exports were 2,246,284. The figures for Canada were: Imported from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc., 123,404 tons; from Quebec, Ontario, etc., 39,987; from British Columbia, 627,257; exports to these three divisions respectively, 413 tons, 1,671,302 and 3,094. Canada now proposes in case the Dingley rate is imposed to retaliate by a high duty on our coal, which will certainly not stimulate exports. Here is an expert business worth twice as much as the corresponding import business, and it is proposed to run the risk of ruining the former for the sake of screwing \$350,000 taxes out of the latter, and this on the plea of reviving American industry. Can any sane man fail to see that, even assuming that imports do not fall off, it is hardly worth while for the sake of a paltry \$350,000 to tempt Canada into ruining an established business nearly twice as large as that which is to yield the tax? Yet this is the way in which "the old thing works."

### The Protection Umbrella.

Senator Sherman at His Best.

Every advance toward a free exchange of commodities is an advance in civilization. Every obstruction to free exchange is born of the same narrow, despotic spirit which planted castles upon the Rhine to plunder peaceful commerce. Every obstruction to commerce is a tax upon consumption. Every facility to a free exchange cheapens commodities, increases trade and population and promotes civilization.—John Sherman in 1863.

### The Beef Trust's Title.

If congress can advance the price of hides 2 cents a pound in this country, the people will pay several millions a year more than they do now for their boots and shoes, and the money will go into the pockets of the Beef trust.—Hartford Times.

## SAME OLD CHESTNUTS.

By making the foreigners contribute from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually to get into our market we enable our own people to run their business at a profit.—American Economist, Organ of Protective Tariff League, March 26, 1897.

Uncle Sam: "Say, Dingley, you might as well come down. You're not getting any chestnuts, and you're not fooling voters. McKinley had some experience up that tree—it's a horse chestnut—in 1890. He pretended that he was making the foreigner pay the tax, but he soon found out what the people thought of him and his bill. The bulk of Americans are both honest and intelligent. The intelligent voter knows that you can't make the foreigner pay his taxes, and the honest voter prefers to pay his own taxes. You can never make your bill popular by such tomfoolery."

Champ Clark's Wit.

Champ Clark of Missouri is not only one of the wittiest men in the house of representatives, but he is one of the best posted on the tariff question. In ridiculing some of the rates of the Dingley bill that to him seemed subject to criticism, he recited how a man of the name of Goodyear went before the ways and means committee and secured the tariff he wanted by some skillful palaver about the great statement that Maine had produced. Then he said: "Mr. Chairman, that piece of 'soft soap' made it harder for every poor man in the United States to build a house. Governor Dingley swallowed the bait as quick as a trout would swallow a fly (laughter), and next summer some poor devil out west, living in a dugout 100 miles from a railroad station, who voted for McKinley under the deluded idea that prosperity would come under his administration and who has not heard of this tariff bill, ciphers it out that he can build him a two room cottage with lumber and other building materials at the old rate. He goes to the station to get the lumber and finds that the price has gone sky high, and he goes back to his home and says to his wife: "My dear, I am sorry that we must stay in the dugout. We cannot build our little house. A great man by the name of Governor Dingley has put the price of lumber and other things so high that we cannot do it, but, thank God, I have left dragon's blood face." [Laughter.] Next year, when my handsome friend from Iowa (Mr. Dingley) returns to that fine agricultural district which he represents, some man who has not been able to buy a coat because of the high price of woolen cloth will say to his neighbor, "There comes Dingley, who put up the price of woolen goods." But the successful candidate for the post-office in that district says, "Oh, but Dingley put divi-divi on the free list!" And in chorus they sing, "Dingley and divi-divi forever." [Laughter. Applause on the Democratic side.]

### Blaine Opposed a Duty on Hides.

The following letter from Secretary of State James G. Blaine in 1890 is supposed to have had great weight with the ways and means committee:

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1890.

DEAR MR. McKINLEY—It is a great mistake to take hides from the free list, where they have been for so many years. It is a slap in the face to the South American, with whom we are trying to enlarge our trade. It will benefit the farmer by adding 5 to 8 per cent to the price of his children's shoes. It will yield a profit to the butcher only, the last man that needs it. The movement is injudicious from beginning to end, in every form and phase. Pray stop it before it sees light. Such movements as this for protection will protect the Republican party into a speedy retirement. Yours hastily, JAMES G. BLAINE, Hon. William McKinley, Chairman Ways and Means.

Where is the Blaine this year who can head off the westerners who want their share of protection and foolishly imagine that they can get it by a duty on hides? It is perfectly consistent with the protection system to tax hides, especially as the bulk of the tax would probably go to a few monopoly butchers and ranchmen. But observe some of the effects upon our industries:

The importations of untaxed hides and skins last year were valued at \$20,216,528. The goatskins were valued at \$10,303,359. The former were mostly converted into sole leather, beltings and such like heavy material, for which our native hides are not thick enough. The goatskins are not produced in this country.

From this raw material we not only manufacture boots, shoes and leather goods for our own people cheaper and better than they are made elsewhere in the world, but we exported finished products of the value of \$20,242,756. Without free and cheap raw material this export trade would have been impossible, and our own people, as Mr. Blaine pointed out, would be compelled to pay more for their footwear. The wages paid to our workers in leather last year amounted to \$25,542,166.

### Protecting the Few Woolgrowers.

Suppose the Dingley duties on wool would give the woolgrowers all the protection claimed and that the price of wool would actually go up the full amount of the duty, which, of course, is absurd. What would be the effect upon the country at large?

Mr. Edward Atkinson, statistician, estimates the annual wool product at \$55,000,000 out of a total of \$13,200,000,000 produced by all the workers of the country and the persons dependent on the wool industry at 300,000 out of a total population of 73,000,000. The wool duty then means that out of every 240 persons 239 are to be "held up" for the benefit of the other one. This is a sample of what protection does. Of course more than 300,000 persons may sometimes raise a few sheep, but the interests of these others are more those of the consumer than of the sheep raiser, and they would lose more because of increased cost of woollens than they would gain by the increased price of wool.

### An Odious Tax.

The tin plate makers wish to boom their business by increasing the duty on imported tin plate, to the injury of the canning industry and other industries that flourish by reason of cheap tin plate. Another blow is struck at business by abolishing the rebate on exported tin cans. Now canned goods exported in cans made of imported tin are allowed a drawback of the duty paid, and thus an export business has been built up in canned fruits, oysters, vegetables, petroleum, etc. Over 4,000,000 tin cans are sent abroad annually, containing oil which competes with that of Russia. When Russia can buy tin plate at \$2.70 a box, while we have to pay \$3.50 for it, it is evident that our competition will be rendered difficult. Mr. Dingley robs Peter to pay Paul.—Baltimore Sun.

### Why We Shiver.

It is true that woolen clothing, underwear and blankets will be out of the reach of people of moderate means when Dingley has his way, but just think how sweet it is to suffer for one's country and to shiver in order that the robber barons may continue to wax fat and contribute to the "legitimate" expenses of the g. o. p!—Louisville Post.

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### RAILROAD TIMETABLES

#### LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

November 16, 1896.

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS.

LEAVE FREELAND.

6:05, 8:45, 9:05 a. m., 1:40, 3:25, 4:26 p. m., for Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.
6:05, 8:45, 9:05 a. m., 1:40, 2:34, 3:25, 4:36, 6:15, 6:57 p. m., for Drifton, Jeddö, Foundry, Hazle Brook and Easton.
6:15 p. m. for Hazle Creek Junction.
6:57 p. m. for Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton.
9:05 a. m., 2:34, 4:36, 6:57 p. m., for Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Ashland, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.
9:36 a. m., 2:34, 4:36, 6:57 p. m., for Stockton and Hazleton.
10:15 a. m., 1:14 a. m., 5:20 p. m., for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkesbarre, Pittston, Scranton and Pottsville.

SUNDAY TRAINS.

10:50 a. m. and 1:38 p. m. for Jeddö, Foundry, Hazle Brook and Lumber Yard.
6:38, 10:50 a. m. for Sandy Run, White Haven and Drifton.
7:38 p. m. for Hazleton, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.
10:50 a. m. for Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.
2:28, 2:30, 10:51 a. m., 2:30, 4:28 p. m., from Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, 2:30, 4:30 p. m., from Philadelphia, New York, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, and Hazleton.
9:36 a. m., 12:38, 6:57 p. m., from Stockton and Hazleton.
9:36 a. m., 2:34, 3:25, 6:57 p. m., from Scranton, Wilkesbarre and White Haven.

SUNDAY TRAINS.

8:38, 10:50 a. m. and 12:55 p. m., from Hazleton, Stockton, Lumber Yard, Hazle Brook, Foundry, Jeddö and Drifton.
6:38 a. m., 12:55 p. m., from Philadelphia, New York, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, and Hazleton.
10:50 a. m. from Pottsville, Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, Ashland, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City and Delano.
10:50 a. m. from Wilkesbarre, White Haven and Sandy Run.

For further information inquire of Ticket Agents, CHAS. S. LEE, Gen'l. Pass. Agent, Philadelphia, Pa.

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