

**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."

**WILSON VS. DINGLEY.**

FORMER TARIFF MAKER EXPOSES ABSURDITIES OF THE DINGLEY BILL.

Says It Is "the Most Ultra Protective Tariff Ever Proposed"—Will Encourage Trusts and Discourage American Labor—Makes Some Serious Reflections Upon the McKinley Bill as a Revenue Producer.

Ex-Postmaster General William L. Wilson is credited with the authorship of the tariff bill now in force. His hands were tied so that he could not make the bill nearly as good as he desired to make it, and the bill as finally passed was not nearly as good as when it first passed the house. It was, however, a great improvement upon the McKinley bill and is a model as compared with the Dingley monstrosity. We quote the following from Mr. Wilson's criticism of the McKinley and Dingley bills in a recent number of the New York Herald:

These bills are so nearly identical in general structure and particular items, excepting as to the sugar schedule, that it may be well to consider the effect of the first bill on the revenue of the country. Both bills are vast and voluminous schemes of class taxation, the production of public revenue being an incident and entirely subordinate to the purpose of taxing all the American people for the benefit of a small part of the people.

The protectionist has but one remedy, which he applies whether the revenue be redundant or deficient. If times are prosperous and more money than is needed pours into the treasury, he increases taxes by a scheme that turns the larger part of their avails into private pockets, and this reduces public revenue. If times are depressed and less money than is needed pours into the treasury, he seizes the pretext of increasing public revenues by adding enormously to the amount of private exaction.

The act of 1890, whatever its other effects, did reduce revenue. From a large surplus it swept us headlong to a deficiency, although it weighted the people with heavier taxes and although another law, passed in July, 1890, turned into the treasury as a part of the general assets to be used for paying expenditures a trust fund of more than \$54,000,000 which belonged to the national banks and had always been held for the redemption of their notes.

Even before the Harrison administration ended we should have been confronted with a large deficiency but for the use of this trust fund and the further fact that Secretary Foster, by a change of bookkeeping, added to the treasury balance \$20,000,000 of token and subsidiary coin not before treated as a treasury asset. With these extraordinary additions, even, we wound up the fiscal year June 30, 1893, with a surplus of only \$2,341,674 as against a surplus for the fiscal year June 30, 1890, of over \$85,000,000 before the above trust fund and subsidiary coin were touched. And during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1894, through all of which the McKinley bill was in force, expenditures exceeded the revenues to the amount of \$69,863,269, notwithstanding the fact that the expenditures of the government were \$15,952,674 less than in the preceding year.

This statement shows how absurd and groundless is the claim constantly made by the protectionists that recent deficits in revenue are due to the substitution of the existing tariff for the McKinley bill. Nothing is more certain than that if the bill had been in force during the last three years the annual deficit would

have been immensely swollen, while the people in a season of depression and hard times would have staggered under much heavier burdens of taxation. Even in this disastrous period, customs duties under the existing law have increased from less than \$132,000,000 in 1894, the last year of the McKinley bill, to over \$152,000,000 in 1895 and to over \$190,000,000 in 1896.

In the sugar schedule alone the balance in favor of the existing law is about \$55,000,000. The customs revenue reached nearly \$40,000,000, scarcely any of which would have been receivable under the McKinley bill.

That the Dingley bill, present conditions considered, is the most ultra protective tariff ever proposed to be enacted in this country plainly appears from Chairman Dingley's statement that if levied on the importations of the last fiscal year it would have increased the revenue \$112,000,000—that is to say, it would have gathered from an importation of \$775,724,264 of imported merchandise the enormous sum of \$272,000,000, which is nearly \$50,000,000 more than any customs revenue ever collected in one year in this country in the past. And to say that its rates will probably check dutiable imports to the extent of reducing the estimate to \$70,000,000 is only another way of saying that to that extent such rates are prohibitory.

American consumers are shut in the home market to be preyed upon by combinations and trusts without possibility of relief from outside competition. Such combinations, by joining to keep up prices and to curtail production, wage more merciless war against the employment, the opportunities and the compensation of American labor than any possible competition from abroad could do.

The falling off of importations under the present law dispels the illusion that the American laborer is anywhere deprived of employment by the importation of foreign products. The gratifying increase in our exports of manufactures is equally strong proof that these laws are helping us to enter and command new markets, which means not only larger employment for our artisans, but more home consumers for our farmers.

In the new tariff bill spunk is on the free list. We have our opinion of a man who is compelled to use imported "spunk."—Philadelphia Call.

**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.

**Iniquitous Lumber Tariff.**

"The proposed tariff on lumber," the Boston Transcript (Rep.) says, "is simply a measure to pick the pockets and crush the industry of a large, useful and influential class of American citizens. It is uneconomic, unscientific, suicidal. The statements upon which this schedule was made up are shown to have been insidious and misleading. The result will be to strip the country not of an annually recurring income, but of its white pine principal, which at present rates is within ten years of exhaustion, and also to ruin a large class of business men in this country who deserve better things. It does not seem possible that men claiming to represent the people will permit such a measure to have the force of law. If they do, it will cease to be folly and become iniquity."

**Fooling the Farmer.**

Sample taxes from the Dingley bill, with comparisons showing the overwhelming foreign competition to which the farmer is subjected and what protection the ways and means committee regards as indispensable:

| Duty.   | Imports to United States, 1896. | Exports from United States, 1896. |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dingley bill.   | 1896.                           | 1896.                             |
| Barley, 30c. per bu.                                      | 887,384 bu                      | 7,680,331 bu                      |
| Corn, 15c. per bu.  | 4,388 bu                        | 96,092,825 bu                     |
| Oats, 15c. per bu.  | 47,566 bu                       | 13,012,500 bu                     |
| Rye, 10c. per bu.   | 154 bu                          | 188,406 bu                        |
| Wheat, 25c. per bu  | 2,110,030 bu                    | 60,050,080 bu                     |
| Flour, 25c. ad val.                                       | 1,384 bbls                      | 14,620,864 bbls                   |
| Butter, 6c. per lb.                                       | 52,067 lbs                      | 19,373,913 lbs                    |
| Potatoes, 25c. p. bu.                                     | 175,240 bu                      | 680,040 bu                        |
| Total value of these exports during the fiscal year 1896. |                                 | \$139,923,632                     |
| Total value imports.                                      |                                 | 1,861,553                         |

**Admits Prices Will Be Higher.**

With regard to Chairman Dingley's admission that the duty on wool will increase the price of wool, the Kansas City Times says: "The consumer and not the foreigner, therefore, pays the tariff tax. It concedes also that the home producer puts up his prices arbitrarily. Mr. Dingley's own words are a confession that the Dingley bill is a fraud and a robbery of the people for the benefit of the few individuals and corporations."

The most retroactive feature of the Dingley bill is the provision for paying back to the big manufacturers their campaign contributions.

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