

on imported French goods is paid by the people of the United States, the tax is really decided by the French people, and to that extent reciprocity brings us again to the condition we opposed in 1776—"Taxation without Representation."

The democratic party, in its platform, on the stump, and through its newspapers has told the people that it is their friend against the combinations of capital which, armed with special privileges, are to-day exploiting the American consumer. Let it stand forth and say that it will not be deceived by this latest scheme of protectionist ingenuity to throw dust in the eyes of the people and deceive the freetraders themselves. Let it not be betrayed into the support of a plan which, by its failure, is certain to make the ideas of tariff reduction odious. For the result of reciprocity would be almost surely a derangement of American industry, and a possible loss of the American market to many an American manufacturer. It would be to drive the American people back into the fold of the protectionists. The protectionists doubtless see this; and let the democratic party beware of being caught in the snare that is spread for it.

Let those who are listening to the current pleas of reciprocity give the American people a chance to benefit from their own resources, their own aptitudes, and vast natural opportunities. Let us escape the reproach so often made, jestingly yet truthfully, that no matter how the inventor may invent, no matter how many new economies may be introduced by the American manufacturer, the American statesman can be depended upon to meet him with new complications of taxation, and rob him of the fruits of every increased effort and achievement.



## EXPORT PRICES OF PROTECTED TRUSTS

BY BYRON W. HOLT.

(*Expressly for the Review.*)

**LEAD, TYPEWRITERS, TIN PLATE, STEEL RAILS, AND OTHER STEEL GOODS SOLD TO FOREIGNERS AT FIFTY TO SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. THE PRICE TO AMERICANS. PROTECTED MANUFACTURERS DANCE WHILE 75,000,000 PEOPLE PAY THE PROTECTION FIDDLER.**

ACCORDING to the *Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter* of December 28th, the lead trust has, for a great while, been selling lead abroad for about 2 cents per pound lower than to the domestic trade. As the price here has been about 4 cents, the export price must have been about 2 cents per pound. The import duty which the *Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter* thinks is "absurdly high," is  $2\frac{1}{8}$  cents per pound. It is this duty which prevents Americans from getting lead at about the same price paid by foreigners to our own dear infant lead trust. It is this duty which takes 2 cents out of the lean pockets of American consumers for every pound of lead sold, and puts them into the fat pockets of the trust magnates. It is this duty which doubles the cost of lead to the hundreds of industries for which it is a raw material, and handicaps them in competition with similar foreign industries which get lead of the same manufacturer.

The lead industry is not an exception. All of the protected trusts that are doing an export business—and most of them are boasting of their export trade—are charging from 20 to 100 per cent. more to Americans than to foreigners. The typewriter trust, which has for years maintained the price of \$100 for its standard machines in American markets, has always sold them for \$75 or less to foreigners. At present it is getting but \$60 for its exported machines.

Steel rails, steel billets, structural steel, and other similar steel goods are almost invariably sold for export at from \$5 to \$20 per ton less than at home. The duty of \$7.84 or more per ton protects the trusts in this infamous business, and the American people vote for the party that makes the duty that protects:

the trusts that plunder the people. The tin plate trust, which has cost us considerable more than \$100,000,000 during the last ten years, is now selling tin plate to exporting manufacturers at \$1 per box of 100 pounds, below the price to the ordinary trade. The price to Americans is kept about \$1.50 per box (the amount of the duty) above the price of foreign plates. The American consumer pays the duty (to the trust) and the foreign consumer gets the benefit of American competition in the world's markets.

Protection is a lovely scheme as seen by the protected trust or the foreign consumer. There are 75,000,000 Americans who do not share in the blessings of protection unless they enjoy hearing the manufacturers sing praises to protection, and seeing them dance around the protection fetich. In this case those who dance do not pay the fiddler. The overfed manufacturers dance to their hearts' content, while 75,000,000 people put their hands in their pockets and pay the fiddler. And what a dear fiddler is protection! On sugar alone, according to recent estimates by the sugar people themselves, we pay \$100,000,000 a year because of the duty; \$200,000,000 more can be added, because of the duties on iron, steel, and wool; \$500,000,000 a year is a small estimate of the cost to us of this fiddler. Will we never tire of his music and his bills?

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## SUGAR GIANTS AT WAR

CUBA is indeed an unfortunate island. It has survived its forty years of warfare with Spanish tax tyrants only to fall into the clutches of two great trusts—the beet-sugar and the sugar refining trusts? With one of those pulling for free trade and the other for higher tariff duties on sugar brought to the United States, the island is likely to be further elongated even if its tax wars are not renewed.

Although H. O. Havemeyer, the head of the sugar refining trust, has heretofore stood firmly for high tariff duties and dear sugar and has pocketed tons of millions of tariff-trust dollars, yet now that he fears that continued protection will turn more dollars into the pockets of the beet-sugar people than into his own, if, indeed, it will not soon drive him out of business, he turns traitor on his tariff-protected class and begins to talk of the tariff as the mother of trusts, and to sing the blessings of free and cheap sugar. Sugar, he tells us, is a most excellent food, and should be made as cheap as possible. Under free trade great quantities of it would be used in the canning, preserving, and other industries which would soon grow up. The people, with cheaper and more wholesome food, would soon become healthier. He paints a fine picture for us, but why did he not paint it sooner?

The beet-sugar barons who have been nursed on protection pap for ten years may now be too strong for Mr. Havemeyer, who is trying to pull the bottle from their capacious mouths. "I am confident," says Mr. Oxnard, president of the Beet-Sugar Association, "that Congress, backed up by the sentiment of the American people, will never allow Mr. Havemeyer to say what shall be done regarding the tariff on sugar."

Although Mr. Oxnard asserted, in an official statement in 1899, that the beet-sugar industry had nothing to fear from free trade in sugar with Cuba and the rest of the world, and presented statistics to show that they could make a profit of \$3 a ton under free sugar, yet he now heads a big delegation of well-dressed beggars, who are asking the President and Congress to continue the present high duties on sugar that the beet-sugar infant may live and flourish even if the whole Cuban nation should perish and our American people should starve when good, wholesome food is at our door.

Let the fight between the sugar-giant infants go on: "When thieves fall out, honest men may have a chance."

B. W. H.