

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.