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MINING JOURNAL

J. B. ODER, Editor.

FROSTBURG, MD.....AUGUST 26, 1893.

Reverie.

Many very smart people who will not permit anybody to interpret Scripture for them have no opinions on the doctrine of high protection for an elect few except that which their party holds for them.

Many others who contend that "salvation is free" are red-hot believers in trade that is enslaved.

There are religious folks giving money with one hand to elevate foreign pauperage and with the other casting sovereign suffrages to keep heathenish destitution down where it is.

As matters of fact, however, the freedom of salvation is fettered somewhat by the collection basket to support the church, and to some extent the freedom of trade is necessarily hampered by a tariff for revenue to support the government.

Food, raiment and shelter—all involving exchange, should be as near free access to all as possible. Indeed, everything, including luxuries, should be easy to get.

The best definition of "wealth" yet printed is *plenty*.

The urgency of *need* is the measure of real slavery. Look how we fret when the water supply is short, and how we take it as a matter of course when it is superabundant.

Hence, trade should be free as possible, and it ought not to be regarded as treasonable to say so. When we build railways, canals and ships we *work* to make exchange easy—*work* to make the time spaces between bargain and delivery, and delivery and payment brief as possible. So that the man who invented the phrase, "short credits make long friends," must have derived the maxim from the gospel of "quick transit." For it is pretty certain that whatever makes credit easy promotes the freedom and stimulates the volume of trade, until it has come to pass that the man who asks for no credit at all is esteemed to be the freest of all freemen. "Pay as you go" is the very quintessence of free trade, and the man who exemplifies it is a walking Declaration of Independence.

Moreover, the doctrine of untaxed abundance has a moral, if not a christian side to it which ought not to be regarded as heterodox

With "plenty" as a reward for industry there would be comparatively *no* loss by thieving, and no double loss in the cost of punishing thieves. There would be no anarchists, nor inducements for men to become anarchists. There would be fewer individual ruins and family disgraces. The "four hundreds" would broaden out to four thousands.

For instance, it is a fearful thing for an unprotected man to learn that for the sake of "home industry" he is doomed to wear shoddy clothes, and that for promoting the same cause the wolf is to be at his family's door all the time. If he be a thinking man, such as we are multiplying and stimulating by our scheme of popular education, he is almost certain to blossom out into a "head centre" or a walking delegate.

All the tendencies of restricted, hindered, taxed trade are towards social disorganizations and estrangements, even at the very shrines of the people's worship. The bread and wine—symbols of the supernal hospitality which rules angelic fellowship and is as wide as the moral universe, pass from lip to lip of classes wilfully unknowing each other out-of-doors. "The brotherhood of man" is a practical myth, and "the Fatherhood of God" a substantial fable. Practice belies profession and pretension discredits faith.

"When," therefore, "in the course of human events," "protection" establishes a class, and "high protection" another class, "it follows, as night follows the day," that the unprotected constitute the third of the series, looking down. These are "the hewers of wood and drawers of water" for both masters; these are they who are fooled at every biennial election with the pretense that the salvation of the country depends upon the prosperity of one-seventh of its population and the legalized destitution of the other six-sevenths.

How long, O Lord, how long?

Something to Welcome.

The Coal Trade JOURNAL could not afford to throw out the following injunction if it were not well founded:

There is a very general recognition of the value of the trade reports of the Coal Trade *Journal* by the parties who are most deeply interested. It will not do for the make-believe reporters of coal trade topics to throw any doubt thereon.

Being so well fortified, the JOURNAL will reproduce the same paper's observations anent the Baltimore *Sun's* article, elsewhere quoted:

Some persons in Baltimore appear to be considerably agitated over the possible competition of Provincial coal with the coal from Maryland in the New England States. They may possess their souls in peace, for there is no great possibility of any extended trade in Provincial coal in the New England States.

Some persons in this region, too, may rest easy.

If the tariff is reformed, the article they have to sell will not be disturbed.

If the tariff is reformed, the articles they have to buy will be cheaper.

Hence, there is positively nothing to fear, but really much to hope for—that their 50 cents per ton will buy more goods than now.

Explanation.

It is easy enough to say the hard times are caused by the lack of confidence, but it is difficult for any good democrat to explain why confidence is lacking.—Cumberland *News*.

As a matter of fact, there is not much "lack of confidence" away out here in the country, but that little is retailed in wholesale lots by partisan newspapers.

The situation illustrates fully the sad efficiency of co-operative burglar alarm advertising.

Artesian Wells the Thing.

The *News* did not make the broad assertion that all water possessed fertilizing qualities, and the JOURNAL has wasted time in telling us what part water generally played in the germination of vegetable matter.—Cumberland *News*.

The *News* said:

No water is pure that does not flow a reasonable distance.

That was pretty "broad" when first printed, and it still looks so.

However, let us accept the *News'* qualification and still we are in the dark as to what spring water does *not* possess "fertilizing qualities."

For that is exactly the water, in the JOURNAL'S humble judgment, that Cumberland wants, should have and should get.

But this will not do, for the *News* continues:

What the *News did* say was that spring water possessed certain fertilizing properties which were lost after flowing any considerable distance. Any work on scientific agriculture will afford that information, as most of them explain clearly how the fact has been demonstrated beyond doubt. These fertilizing properties are absorbed at what is understood to be the very fountain head of the spring, and they render the water impure and unwholesome to a certain degree. The JOURNAL, therefore, cannot be correct in its third proposition that "the nearer it is to its source the purer it is."

The "fountain-head of the spring" is, remotely, the ocean, but no salt goes into the clouds; or, if it does, it is laid down in the process of filtration through the earth.

The next "fountain-head" may appear in any of the *strata*, but the "source" the JOURNAL speaks of is where, having passed through *all* the layers and finding eventually the level of the great reservoir whose bottom is the last and impermeable crust of the globe, it rises through fissures and overflows at the outlets we call "springs." These are the visible "sources"—the ones to which the JOURNAL referred when it spoke of—

—the rivers of life where they first emerge from long filtration below the mineral *strata* and reflect in the crystal depths of spring and rivulet the glory of the stars.

But if, before reaching the nadir of filtration, the subterranean rivulet finds outlet directly from a mineral *stratum*, the water is classed accordingly and its "fertilizing "quality, or its medical value, if any in either case, is determined by its nature and strength.

As before stated, the JOURNAL'S *deep* well, in the absence of springs, would go far below all minerals for the water that has left all possible taints of vicious contacts behind.

The Very Thing.

In spite of all the JOURNAL can do to make the Cumberland *News* happy it still clings with fear to the gorgons of democratic disenchantment. This time it finds fault with tariff reform scholarship:

The appointment of Mr. Wilson, chairman of the committee of ways and means of the House, will not do much to restore public confidence. Mr. Wilson achieved his reputation by his ability to theorize in a scholarly manner upon the subject of the tariff. His closest friends will not insist that his ideas are practical, or that he knows anything of the working of the tariff by experience. He is simply a dreamer—a poet—a critic—who may do more damage in six months by using his present opportunities to crystalize some of his impracticable schemes into national legislation than can be remedied in two years.

The JOURNAL differs with the *News*.

There is nothing "impractical" in bringing overtaxed commodities down to a level with coal, for instance; in other words, down to a revenue basis.

Why should not miners want such a reduction? Why should miners want to be compelled to pay a higher rate for protecting other industries than their own enjoys? Indeed, why should they want to pay twice as much rate to the weavers of their blankets as they get themselves? Why should they want to be compelled to do this and take their lives in their hands every morning besides?

We repeat--why should these *lovers of liberty* want to be *compelled* to pay two rates and get only one?

We ask these questions because Mr. Wilson's scholarship takes in the pre-eminent and incontestable facts that the tariff on coal is already down to the revenue basis; that miners are sellers only of labor thus incidentally protected, and buyers of nearly all highly protected manufactured articles. He knows that the miner's opportunities and privileges as a seller are limited, while his obligations and necessities as a buyer are innumerable and unavoidable. He knows, in short, that of all the protected workingmen, the miners, *deserving the most*, are protected the least.

Moreover, he comes from a district underlaid with coal along a belt 150 miles long and of varying widths. In fact, every pound of what the *News* calls "Cumberland coal" that is dug in West Virginia comes from his district. This he is bound to take care of, or out of Congress he goes. In taking care of his own he saves our trade.

That coal will not go on the free list is doubly sure! Speaker Crisp could not have otherwise more effectually accomplished that object if he had been under a guarantee to do it.

The consequence is—the unthinking, credulous miners of Georges Creek are more fortunate than they have deserved.

Canadian and Maryland Coal.

Under the above caption the Baltimore *Sun* says:

The question of bituminous coal is now largely occupying the attention of the New England press. The annual consumption of soft coal in the factories of that section is six million tons, and the theory there is that the tariff of 75 cents a ton adds just that much to the cost, namely, that for the protection of the coal industries of Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia the New England manufacturing industry is taxed $4,500,000 each year.

This verifies exactly what the JOURNAL has contended for all along—that whenever the tariff on coal is abolished, if ever, it will be in answer to a high-protection New England demand.

The *Sun* continues:

This is entirely different from the New England conception of what a tariff ought to be, and its repeal will be urgently demanded when the time comes.

Just so. New England is for "protection" only of its own interests. The fraternity of "protection" does not bind it to even friendly concern for Georges Creek. Indeed, it will throw fraternity and even loyalty overboard to get free coal. It will break down that Chinese Wall, otherwise so impregnable, to get free coal!

A stranger feature of the situation, however, is visible right here at home. The unconcern manifested in New England for our welfare; indeed, *the New England war upon the very little protection we have* arouses no resentment toward those who are actually waging it. The miners seem to be still gullible by the same old lies. At this moment, with the New England papers preaching free coal, they ignore the open treason to "protection" thus apparent, and still give credence to the colossal absurdity that nobody is or can be concerned in obtaining coal free of duty but the democrats!

But outside of Pennsylvania every State interested in the tariff on coal is normally democratic!

Now miners, with "high protection" States demanding that a democratic product shall come to them *free*, and with democratic States resisting that demand before a democratic court, which side is going to win?

That question embodies the situation.

Study it, miners, and then inquire honestly—upon what principle or pretext the democrats of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennesse, Georgia and Alabama, are going to yield unselfishly the little advantage they have to the hoggish greed of their political enemies in New England?

The miners of this region should not, therefore, fear. With all their partisan perverseness, they will be saved from their friends—saved in spite of themselves.

Correction.

To go back to the proposition upon which we agree, that no water is perfectly pure, we claim that it is capable of demonstration by analysis that water does not, as the JOURNAL states, take up more poison than it lays down by a rapid flow over a sandy or pebbly bottom, but on the contrary it releases its impurities to a very great extent and leaves them to be absorbed by the system of filtration over which it passes.—Cumberland *News*.

In its previous article the *News* did not account for the water's purgation in that way. It said:

It has deposited its deleterious or fertilizing matter on the banks, and the evidence is to be found in the rank vegetable growth that follows the course of the stream for at least the distance mentioned.

Whether, therefore, the "sandy or pebbly bottom," or "the banks" get it is now in doubt.

But the JOURNAL "did not make the broad assertion" that water "takes up more poison than it lays down," etc. It was careful to qualify its contention by saying—

—much depends upon the nature of the tributaries and water-shed on each side of the river.

And, in short, *if this be favorable*, "motion," or rapid flow, will aid in purification.

If unfavorable, "it will take up—from tributaries and water-sheds—more poisons than it will lay down."

For instance, the Potomac rises somewhere up in the mountains of West Virginia. In all probability it is comparatively pure water at its source. To say it is equally pure at Cumberland, after taking in all the intervening feeders and drainages, is incredible.

More Philosophy.

The JOURNAL thinks the tariff scare is an after-thought. It most assuredly is an after-creation.—Cumberland *News*.

Yes—after India jumped on your highest and best protected product, some hobgoblin had to be extemporized to divert popular notice from the true cause.

Now, we have the remarkable spectacle of a party scaring the people with the notion that all other highly-protected articles are in danger of destruction unless the same policy is continued toward them that ruined silver.

A very rare instance this, showing that the sauce which kills the goose saves the gander.

Fair Logic.

Did you ever notice that the man in front of the grocery who knows more than anybody else about what Congress ought to do in the present crisis, is usually the fellow who has the poorest credit inside the establishment?—Salisbury (Pa.) *Star*.

And if he be a borrower of the *Star*, he is just the sort of fellow to grab at the notion that the prospective ruin of high protection is what is the matter with the country.

If he is correct, then we know exactly how to establish the fact that his extreme poverty of credit is due, not to his errors or shiftlessness, but to what the reformers are going to do with the tariff.

Tough on "Sorts."

The proceeds will go toward erasing a debt of $175,000 (one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars) resting on the church.—*Ledger*.

The above refers to the object of the Baptist lawn *fete* of this week.

"*Erasing* a debt" is a prodigally bad piece of diction, but it is not at all extravagant compared with the way those ciphers were squandered on a $175 debt.

Mistakes Corrected.

The *Ledger* errs when it imagines the JOURNAL is prejudiced against its motor.

The JOURNAL is opposed to motors, because they are wasteful.

Good water, shot through a motor, is as fruitless of effect as if poured down a rat-hole.

But, honestly, *Ledger*, the very reason why you allege that the JOURNAL is unfit for public office implies a quality that would make the great paper a regular arc among the average incandescents of public economy and safety.

Inshallah!

Postponed, at Least.

Had Harrison been re-elected it is not at all likely that a syndicate of New England capitalists would have made any investments in Cape Breton coal lands.—Cumberland *News*.

Nevertheless, we have it flat-footed in Russell Harrison's paper, Frank Leslie's *Weekly*, in September, last year, as a cure for the high price of coal, the suggestion that—

New England at least may be expected to *speedily demand reciprocity* with the Dominion as to coal.

"Reciprocity" being the short cut to free trade, the probability is that if Gen. Harrison had been re-elected, New England's demand would have been heard and heeded ere this, and we would *now* have free coal.

As it it is, it is only a local spectre doing foreign service in the plan to carry the county this fall.

A Certainty.

It is said by some that the reduction of 5 cents per $100 in the county tax rate was partly if not wholly accomplished by treating the $20,000 in demnity for the burned courthouse as income.

If this statement be correct, the arrangement is fictitious, and the next Board must make it good by increasing the rate of taxation correspondingly.

Suppose, then, the next Board be democratic—wont we hear that Board roundly denounced for incompetency, or extravagance, or both—just as the party is now harried for the shortcomings of the last national administration?

If the next Board be republican, why, of course, the increase will not be audibly noticed.

But in any event, the rate will be much higher next year than this.

And it will not be due to popular apprehensions concerning the tariff either.

Afraid They Will be Saved from Their Friends.

The demand for soft coal begins to show an unmistakable decrease and the condition of the money market is being fairly reflected in the trade. Overtures are made by the very best class of consumers for additional time, but this will be difficult to obtain in the case of such an article as coal, which so largely represents (probably 90 *per cent.*) a spot cash outlay.—Engineering and Mining *Journal*.

That close condition of outlay and in come—that narrow margin of 10 *per cent* is what New England brought coal to in 1872, "because coal was too high."

This, after failing in a strenuous effort to get the rate 33⅓ *per cent.* still lower.

And yet the political friends of New England in this county are awfully afraid their enemies, the tariff reformers, will yield to the New England demand for free coal.

The cry from Macedonia was—

Come over and help us—

but from here it is couched in the injunction of "Barnacle" in the old drama, "The Victim;"

Have naught to do with the villain; he threats to leave my brother take my purse!

A Pointer.

Prof. Rudolph de Roode, a Morgantown chemist of high repute, has analyzed a sample of Monongahela river water at Fairmont, and finds therein "eleven one-hundredths of albuminoid ammonia." He then writes:

When the amount of albuminoid ammonia exceeds .10 parts per million a potable water should be regarded with suspicion. The amount found, viz: .11 parts per million, while not great enough to condemn the water *absolutely*, is nevertheless sufficient to cause it to be regarded with suspicion.

No such stream as Georges Creek empties into the Monongahela river above Fairmont, yet Prof. de Roode finds enough unwholesome matter in the water to enjoin its consumers to regard it "with suspicion."

That is about equivalent to the JOURNAL'S exhortation to Cumberland people last week:

—be honest with yourselves concerning that river water; give yourselves the benefit of all doubt of its purity, and go down deep in your pockets for the money to obtain *deep* mountain water!

In this connection it is proper to say the Cumberland *News'* understanding of the JOURNAL'S meaning of "*deep* mountain water" is erroneous. The well the JOURNAL favors would be located outside the city, small-bore and extend, metal-lined, away down into the old red sandstone. If not a spontaneous flower, the water would be pumped day and night, affording but little space and no time for the collection and absorption of poisonous gases.

To a resort of this complexion Cumberland must eventually come.

The Atlas of High Protection.

An exchange refers to the farm, which it calls the mud bank, as being all right amid the crash. Yes, the mud bank is solid enough, but it limps terribly in its dividend-paying department.—Salisbury (Pa.) *Star*.

"The mudbank" pays nearly all the dividends it makes—to the wrong men.

Instead of its owner getting its profits, they go to his pets, the highly protected industries.

Meanwhile, the mudbank is not only unprotected, but it has to remain so.

Its owner may damn free trade, as he frequently does, strange to say, but he is both the exemplar and victim of that principle.

He is, in fact, an economical suicide.

For not a tax nor a tariff is paid that does not eventually come out of "the mudbank."

"The mudbank" is the unprotected protector of the highly protected, and its owner should be the last man to grumble at the consequences of his own self-destructive folly.

Exhortation.

Do not lose any sleep about the tariff being taken off coal. It may be a fact that the fools are not all dead, but they are not controlling the country.—Lonaconing *Review*.

The way our neighbor is beginning to pack away huge chunks of good sense in small parcels is a warning to older papers to reform their verbiage as well as their foolishness.

The New Thumbscrew.

If there is no hell, as some would have us believe, how are the liars to get their dues?—Salisbury (Pa.) *Star*.

Threaten 'em with free trade.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Proposition to Issue Notes Based on Bullion.

To the editor of the *American*.

I have been gratified to observe the steady contention of the *American* for an honest currency. May I suggest a plan on which it seems to me all who believe in gold as a safe and sufficient basis, but who would not object to the use of silver also, on the condition that silver be of equal intrinsic value with gold, might possibly unite. All bi-metalists, too, honestly such—I mean those who are not interested in the special sale and appreciation of the products of our white metal mines—I should think, would be satisfied with the same—the plan I suggest. It is this:

1, Cease to coin either gold or silver. 2, Let the markets of the world regulate the value of both metals, just as they regulate other values—iron, copper, wheat, corn, cotton. 3, Issue United States notes, redeemable in either gold or silver bullion at the market price. 4, For "elastic" purposes, let the Secretary of the Treasury expand or contract currency by the purchase of bullion—gold and silver—at market price, and issuing bullion notes, redeemable in bullion at said price; or selling bullion, receiving said bullion notes and withdrawing them from circulation, as the interests of business might dictate.

Why coin silver or gold? All men prefer notes solidly based on an intrinsic amount of bullion held by a strong, solvent and honest government. This because of their convenience, as compared with the weight of metal.

This would place the two metals on the same basis intrinsically, whatever the market variations. The notes would be stable. Every one would welcome them. Just as gold notes now circulate at their face value, even among foreign nations, because based on an assured real value, so then would silver notes.

By-the-by, did not that sagacious and able man, the late Secretary Windom, suggest some such plan?

Of course, a "subsidiary" coinage, both gold and silver, as necessary for change and small transactions, to the extent of the required millions, is not incompatible with this plan. Such might be employed. Ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce pieces of gold; ditto of silver, and then a number of smaller denominations of silver, as now, might be stamped and issued. No one would seriously object to them, though the market price of the bullion might vary. They are almost entirely used in home circulation, and everybody would be glad to use them, stamped, as they would be, by our government

It is folly to talk of forcing other nations to take our silver coins when intrinsically depreciated. To buy silver and coin it, and issue notes upon it redeemable in gold or silver at coined value, means, practically, redemption in gold. It cripples commerce, taxes the nation heavily to carry the depreciation, tends to loss of confidence; yet, we have heavy silver-producing interests. Entire States in the West depend on silver production and sale. Patriotism would seem to dictate that we should do nothing to injure their interests, other things being equal. Let them have a fair chance in the markets of the world, just such a chance as cotton, copper, iron and wheat have. To say that one ounce of silver—worth but fifty-six cents or seventy-five—shall circulate as one hundred cents, is unjust to the rest of the nation. It would be as reasonable for the government to say that cotton should sell at ten cents when worth in the world's markets but six, or wheat should bring ninety cents when worth in the market but sixty. That is class legislation with a vengeance. The sober sense of all good business men thus revolts against a 16 to 1 ratio when silver is away down. It cannot be forced, even by law, on the world. But the bi-metallist, who wishes to maintain our silver interests, seems to have a fair right to say, "Give the white metal a good and honest chance." Under the stress of necessity, our Western silver kings would soon find the way to reduce the cost of getting out their metal and yet have a fair profit. You may trust American genius for that.

But, to ask the rest of the nation to tax itself by millions and derange at the same time all business matters, by taking a depreciated metal at an appreciated price, is a little too much for even patriots. A gold standard, doubtless, would be chosen by most unprejudiced business men and citizens. Something, however, is due to American productive interests. Patriotism and the "good of the whole" here enter. An honest bi-metalism, if practicable, I think all interests might unite upon. Such, I think, I have proposed. The plan proposed by Hon. Tom Johnson, of interconvertible bonds for elastic purposes, seems to be really valuable and practicable.

GEO. V. LEECH.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

THE 3R'S AND 3S'S

Read,
Reflect,
Resolve

To equip yourself with some of the following

Seasonable,
Serviceable,
Substantial

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Refrigerators, Water Coolers,
Icecream Freezers,
Screen Doors, Wheelbarrows,
Window Screens,
Lap Dusters, Rubber Hose.

ALL SIZES
POULTRY WIRE

In the pleasant summer weather,
Let us deal once more together.

Frank C. Beall
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June 3

When the Nights
GROW longer and cooler, turns her thoughtful consideration and study to

Comfort Calico,
Cotton Bats,
Flannel,
Feathers,
Ticking.

The cheapest and best in the town are unbodiedly in our store only.

Our Feathers are strictly clean, live-geese FEATHERS.

We do not handle any inferior, mixed grades.

The above list comprises just a few articles partly to indicate to our many customers what seasonable goods will be advertised later on in the fall.

D. F. McMULLEN & CO.

Aug 19

SAMUEL J.
Edwards & Son,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers
IN
Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Trunks, Satchels,
98 BALTIMORE ST., CUMBERLAND, MD.,

OFFER the finest line of Ladies, Misses and Children's **Shoes** in black, tan and red; in button boots and Oxford ties; also Men's, Boys and Youths' **Shoes** in buff, calf and Russia tan,

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In traveling requisites we have on our second floor an immense stock of **Satchels** and **Trunks,** prices all marked in plain figures. A visit to this department is especially interesting.

☞ You are cordially invited to call and examine our goods. Polite salesmen will take pleasure in showing you through our stock, whether you wish to buy or not. We guarantee better goods and lower prices than you can obtain at any other store.

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April 15

$10 PER MONTH
For 13 Months
WILL PURCHASE A DESIRABLE
BUILDING LOT

NEAR the NEW YARDS of the B. & O. R. R. in Cumberland. These Lots are 25 x 150 feet, well located and are cheap. For particulars call on or address

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Dec 10