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MINING JOURNAL

J. B. ODER, Editor.

FROSTBURG, MD.....OCTOBER 28, 1893.

It Does Regulate Wages.

After several platitudes the Cumberland *News* prints this paragraph:

The JOURNAL's contention "that labor, as a rule, does not get all the tariff provides for it," may be conceded to a certain extent. Is that any fault of the system? Is that any reason why all protection by tariff duty should be swept away? Certainly not.

The JOURNAL is making *some* progress.

It has never before been able to extort any sort of confession that "labor, as a rule, does not get all the tariff provides for it."

But it has the acknowledgment now that its contention is correct—*in part*.

The JOURNAL is then asked—"is that any fault of the system?"

We are obliged to answer that it is. A system whose express object is to protect labor falls very far short of accomplishing its mission if it does not follow its purpose from source to destination.

If government were to "protect" society by merely supplying the costs of that protection, society would be in a bad way.

But government not only provides the means; it sets forth the ways, and keeps its iron grip upon the transgressor to the last hour of punishment.

The second question is inapt, because no such thing as sweeping away all protection is proposed, or can be proposed.

The plan of this article compels us now to quote the platitudes, the italics being ours:

The republican proposition is that a general system of protection by import duty on foreign manufactures creates conditions favorable to the development of home industries, and in that sense is the greatest bulwark and protection to labor. *The wisest economists hesitate on approaching the line of interference between employer and employed upon the question of the remuneration of labor.* When government, by a wise policy, lays the foundation of national prosperity; when it creates conditions favorable to the development of manufactures by placing a restraining hand upon outside competition, *it has done its entire duty*, and very properly leaves *the business relations of employer and employed* to be settled by the parties interested in accordance with *local* usage, custom and law.

That there may be no mistake concerning the *News'* meaning, we will add four more lines:

No authority on political economy that we ever read—unless it be the Frostburg JOURNAL—sets up the theory that *the tariff would, could or should regulate wages.*

It also says that the democrat in the Congress of 1890 who proposed to *condition* the benefits of the tariff upon the honesty and integrity of the employer did it for "claptrap and buncombe; that, if his proposal had been adopted, he would have "*probably* voted against the measure," and, last of all that—

A tariff law, with the door open to exceptions and conditions of this kind, would have been about as foolish and impractical a piece of legislation as ever was devised.

The strongest link in this chain of indictments is that which charges an attempt to have the tariff "regulate wages" with being, not only insincere, but "foolish and impractical."

Yet the *News* in June last explained at some length that the tariff on coal was reduced in 1871 *because coal, freights and* MINING WAGES *were "abnormally high!"*

In this instance the tariff change stepped in between the employer and employed, not only in the mines, but on the railroads, and also between the man who sells and the man who buys coal.

The tariff was not then the shy, retiring, hesitating personality that the *News* pictures now, nor was it a "foolish and impractical piece of legislation." It was reduced to *bring down the price of coal* and the *rate of mining wages*, and it did its perfect work!

In the JOURNAL's judgment, therefore, there is no good reason sustaining the inference that the amendment was offered in bad faith.

Had it been adopted, it would have been a glorious gift to labor. It would have been millions for labor—not a cent for boodle!

Nor is it "foolish and impractical." Under the systematic oversight of a man like Carroll D. Wright, assurance of a strict compliance with the law would have been doubly assured, and, *no matter whether employers availed themselves of the condition or not*, labor would have gotten directly or indirectly the vast bonus which the tariff realizes in its name and behalf, but which goes somewhere else.

A shining example of the truth of our contention is illustrated right in our own region. *Here that "claptrap, buncombe" proposition is practically in full force.* Here all that the tariff provides is given by our mine-owners to their miners—given to a class protected only in the rate of 25 *per cent.*, yet getting better wages than classes for whom government has provided more than three times the amount of protection!

The difference between the *News'* notion and the JOURNAL'S view is this—the *News* holds that government can provide its benefactions, but cannot distribute them; the JOURNAL contends that if government provides, it should also see that its provisions go to the rightful beneficiaries.

The *News* holds that government may raise a fund for distribution among classes and leave the work of distribution to trustees without bond; the JOURNAL contends that if government can rightfully raise such a fund, it is not only morally but ought to be *legally* bound to see that the fund is equitably divided and paid to those and those only for whom it is raised.

In plainer terms—if government taxes consumers for the benefit of laborers, government owes it to both classes to see that the proceeds get to the men to whom the money belongs.

In still plainer terms—if government is rightfully able to "rob Peter" and wrongfully unable "to pay Paul," or to see that Paul *is* paid, government is a highwayman doing business without a highwayman's open purpose, or even a highwayman's excuse.

Consummations to be Wished.

The converted man who returned his pension because his new views on morality would not permit him to enjoy the profits of a fraud, offers an example which, if imitated, would greatly lower the expenses of the government.—Baltimore *News*.

And almost fill the land with the very age and body of practical relgion.

What is This?

A Washington dispatch of Wednesday says:

Representative Coombs, of New York, introduced in the House today a resolution directing the Committee on Ways and Means to prepare a tariff bill, the feature of which is a schedule "for the protection of labor."

One would hardly know what Mr. Coombs is after but for this explanation:

Domestic manufacturers may have their products placed on this favored schedule whenever they can show that the labor cost, including the use of machinery, is greater here than in other countries.

This is *in esse* the same proposal which the protectionists of labor voted down last Congress, and which the Cumberland *News* denounces as "foolish and impractical."

Whether, however, it is a needful stipulation under a tariff designed to protect labor incidentally is to be doubted.

But under one *specially* dedicated to that laudable end, it is indispensable.

Not only so—it cannot be made too imperative or too searching.

Pledged to Give Him Both.

A speaker at the republican meeting at Eckhart said that the Sherman law was a democratic dodge to catch votes in the Western States and that the republicans alone could repeal it and would repeal it.—Cumberland *Times*.

Senator Sherman does not agree with the Eckhart orator. He said his bill was devised to prevent the enactment of a radical free coinage bill—said this, however, before Vest, of Missouri, informed him that no such bill could become a law without President Harrison's signature.

The bill was a sop to the silver element for tariff support—next to the highest form of protection in exchange for a lower grade.

Moreover, it made the presidential nominee *appear* to the silver States as a friend of silver—a silver bid for silver electoral votes.

As the scheme did not pan out, there is little wonder that the authors pretend that they and they alone are disgusted and can and will destroy their own demagoguery.

But, gentlemen, why so savagely destroy the welfare of the silver miners, built up under your inspiration and patronage?

And, miners, does it not sound strange to hear the apostles of high protection of mining wages in Allegany county preaching damnation to high protection of mining wages in Colorado, Montana, Idaho and Nevada?

Strange—that you are expected to take the roof from over the head of the silver miner and add it to that which already shelters the weaver of New England—that same weaver who wants the coal miner's roof over his own head, too?

And that your platform announces you are pledged to see that the weaver gets both roofs!

"Put Him Out!"

Gov. McKinley, relying as usual on the ignorance and gullibility of the Ohio electorate, may beat Neal at the polls, but the latter is knocking the wind out of the governor on the stump.

The governor still holds with fatal tenacity to the notion that "the foreigner pays the tax."

Then Neal comes around and asks—Why, then, Major, did you take the tax off sugar?

That is, why did the governor take the tax off the foreigner and load it on the American consumer of sugar?

In addition to this stunner, at Zanesville, while the Major was glorifying the benefit sugar consumers had derived from a typical sample of McKinley free trade, an old gray-whiskered gentleman wanted to know whether, in addition to making his countrymen pay the tax—

—our people do not under your Act also pay a bounty of twelve millions dollars annually to about thirteen hundred sugar planters in Louisiana, amounting to over nine thousand dollars each?

As McKinley, endeavoring to answer, floundered deeper and deeper into the mire, the old man pumped him full of unanswerable questions until the sympathetic audience began to yell—"put old whiskers out!"

But the venerable gentleman, a citizen of high respectability, addressing the audience said:

Gentlemen, it will not be necessary to put me out. I asked Gov. McKinley, with whom I served in the army, a few simple questions. If you are not satisfied with his answers I will go out without the formality of putting me out.

Only two things more now seem to be necessary to learn—

1, Was the sugar bounty designed to protect labor?

2, And do the planters, through whom the money is sent, deliver the boodle to the consignees?

His Duty.

The Cumberland *News* is roasting Congressman McKaig for traveling under the suspicion that he somehow favors free coal or a reduced duty.

The JOURNAL hopes McKaig is not guilty.

For if he will look at the high protection platform which threatens to carry this county in a few days he will see that he nor any other democrat can afford to travel on it.

He will see that he will have to make his fight directly *for* coal, and not for those who want free coal.

He must stand immediately and directly for the miners first, last and all the time, and not for the textile operative first and then for the miners.

He must stand for Allegany county *all the time* and not for New England at any time.

He need not adopt the stand taken here that the tariff reformers are to be damned because the high protectionists of New England demand free trade in coal.

All he has to do, in short, is to see that if the high protection demand for free coal is gratified, that high protection must *first* be convicted of the crime.

The Great Regulator.

The following story is given on the authority of the New York *World:*

Of all the pretenses made before the Ways and Means committee by a Fall River manufacturer this was the worst:

You have it in in your power to regulate the wages of our employees. Will you give them bread or a stone?

The Cumberland *News* may now see that one of the highest "authorities on political economy"—a Fall River manufacturer, not only "sets up the theory that the tariff would, could or should regulate wages," but he insists upon and clinches it by quoting Scripture.

Will the committee give his employees "bread or a stone?"

As though he had commanded, misapplying an equally well-known citation:

In the sweat of the committee's faces shall my employees eat bread.

It is no part of the committee's province, or duty, or privilege to give any man's employees bread or stones.

The committee has neither to give.

The bread, made in the sweat of the farmer's face, belongs to the farmer.

To take it, or any part of it, to feed a factory operative is robbery!

The Advantages Against Us.

We notice steamer "*Lucania*," of the Cunard Line, has broken all previous records on her last voyage by the use of Pocahontas coal. This coal must possess some remarkable properties for the generation of steam, as nearly all records that have been broken lately have been done by the use of Pocahontas coal.—Coal Trade *Journal*.

And still we are taught here that quality does not count,

But it does, and selling in Boston, for instance, at 15 cents a ton less than Georges Creek, quality counts twice against us.

Now, suppose the high protectionists had not three years ago voted down the stipulation that protection should be available only to those entitled to it, Pocahontas would have to pay actually 50 cents for digging coal—a point in our favor.

Then, with our nearer proximity to the seaboard, we would have the two points, instead of neither.

And still we are specially protected—in an American tin horn.

The Law Sometimes a Bad Tutor.

The public school system seems to be an acknowledged failure in West Virginia.

A brutal teacher at Clarksburg, trying to kill fish by wholesale, had an arm blown off by dynamite and sustained other injuries which may prove mortal. If he lives he will have to be prosecuted for dynamiting, a serious offense out there.

Near Parkersburg the beast in charge of a school licked a white pupil until he was a blue scholar, and now the beast will have to let the law come in and inform his pupils that discipline is brutality, and rebellion against brutality is the highest scholastic virtue.

The beast's side of the case has not been heard, but no matter how strong the provocation which may have driven him to some excess, there is evidently enough namby-pamby sympathy for juvenile deviltry out there to dethrone him and destroy the *morale* of his school.

Still Kissing the Hands that Smite Us.

The Baltimore *Sun* says:

There is a rumor on the rounds that the present duty of 70 cents per ton may be abolished altogether. Representatives and Senators interested in this tariff, it is stated, have expressed a willingness to accept a reduction to 40 cents per ton. It is not probable that the ways and means committee will take any definite action on the coal tariff until the interested Senators and Representatives shall have been consulted.

There is nothing very definite in that statement.

But if worse or the worst comes, it will show that New England interests still have the call on governmental favor.

And that Allegany county, strange to say, is standing openly square and avowedly flat-footed by those same New England interests.

The Laborer is Worthy of His Hire.

Noah Allen, who was the friend of the miners during the strike in Kansas and who carried a subscription paper for the relief of suffering miners, now claims $300 of the relief fund for his services.—Coal Trade *Journal*.

Mr. Allen's claim is correct.

He walked and talked—swung his legs and churned the King's English with his jaws until his own sufferings reached the $300 limit.

He has a chance to make a stake out of charity and his office of walking delegate expressly entitles him to it.

Trans-State Loyalty.

The Cumberland *Independent* finds fault with the *News* for advising its readers to steer clear of Eastern shore dispensations.

The *News*, however, is quite consistent.

It knows that the Allegany wheelbarrow is headed toward New England.

They Can't Agree.

The industrial and commercial houses at Buenos Ayres think it is due to the threatened decline in the premium on gold.

In the business centres of the United States they fear that a premium on gold is threatened.

In provincial places, like Cumberland, they believe it all comes from the probability that the foreigner will have to pay us less taxes.

Whoop-ee!

The latest news from New England this morning indicates that the whole manufacturing interest has gone raving mad with insane activity to get to work in "swift answer to the certainty of silver purchase repeal."

Add to this the fact that Allegany county is standing solidly by the same interests and supporting their demand for free coal, it is no wonder that spindles and shuttles have gone crazy with hilarious industry and that labor leaps galumptiously from the jubilant hills.

Still Talking.

The newspapers of the New England States continue to give space to the discussion of the possible effect of the abrogation of the duty on coal on the price thereof.—Coal Trade *Journal*.

And they are not caring a snap about the welfare of the "home industry" of mining in Allegany county.

They are leaving that sort of self-abnegative and self-abasing idolatry of home industries that are away from home to the phantasmagorical patriotism of their home market victims everywhere, especially those who are traveling on platforms like one we have improvised as a moving sidewalk partly to carry a county ticket into power.

Boomerang.

The local editor of the Cumberland *News*, quoting last week the statement that "the wheat supply of the country had decreased that week some nine millions of dollars," said the "loss was directly due to fear of tariff tinkering," or words to that effect.

It depends now whether the *News* was accepting the statement as the farmer's or miner's friend.

For if the farmers lost nine millions, the miners and other so-called "protected" industrials, must have made nine millions in the consequent saving in the cost of bread.

From which it would appear that "the fear of tariff tinkering" was worth in one week to this region alone about three thousand dollars!

Maybe—Maybe Not.

On Thursday Mr. Wilson, chairman of the Ways and Means committee—

—declined to state what action had been determined upon on coal. While there are rumors that it will be upon the free list, there are rumors just as well founded that a substantial duty will be placed upon it.

That is pretty even anyhow.

But suppose coal remains undisturbed, will not tariff reformers catch blixen just the same?

And will not miners still walk to the polls by scores and endorse and re-emphasize New England's demand for free coal?

Will they not still travel on a platform and record boiled down to this?—

Away-from-home industries first; our own last.

Men who obtain any degree of protection in spite of such suicidal conduct are far luckier than they deserve.

COUNTY NEWS.

A Present Duty.

Subscribe for the JOURNAL.

Died.

At his home, Vale Summit, Sunday, October 22, 1893, Mr. Anthony Kelly, at an advanced age. Funeral at St Michael's church, Frostburg, Tuesday morning.

Orphans' Court

At Tuesday's session this week—

Conrad Brode, guardian to Philip Brode, settled his first and final account.

Daniel J. Betz, administrator *c. t. a.* of Thomas McNeill, deceased, settled his sixth and final account.

Clayton Purnell, executor of Thomas G. McCulloh, filed a report of sale of the real estate of said deceased.

Boom at Flintstone.

"No Name" writes to the Cumberland *News* from Flintstone under date of Oct. 24:

We care very little whether the Senate takes a vote on the silver bill or not. The western towns of this county are proud of their coal mines, Cumberland boasts of its manufactories and a hundred thousand dollar court house, &c., but Flintstone is getting there too. Mrs. Henry A. Elbin gave birth this morning to triplets, one boy and two girls, total weight, twenty-two pounds. Dr. A. P. Twigg says they are very pretty and all doing well. I don't know which is the proudest, Henry or the doctor. Our town is not as large as some others in the county, but they can't keep us down.

Married.

At the residence of the bride Wednesday, October 25, 1893, by Rev. R. M. Strickler, Mr. Benjamin Yates and Miss Alice B. Richardson, both of Ocean.

At the Ocean Baptist church Wednesday, October 25, 1893, by Rev. R. M. Strickler, Mr. John Seamon and Miss Elizabeth A. Wellings, both of this county.

At the residence of Mr. William Wellings, Ocean, Md., Wednesday, October 25, 1893, by Rev. R. M. Strickler, Mr. William Yates and Miss Laura B. Edwards, both of this county.

The Coal Trade.

Shipments of coal from the mines of the Georges Creek coal region were in long tons—

For week ending Oct. 21, 1893..... 75,452
" year to same date.....3,345,842
Increase compared with last year.... 287,733

The latest news from the markets is gleaned as follows:

The Eastern soft coal trade is suffering just now from a lack of coast-wise vessels at the shipping ports, which, as we have previously stated in this column, were detained by adverse winds, and accumulated in a great fleet on this side of the Cape. These vessels have now reached the discharging ports, at which there is a great demand for empty cars. Owing to this cars have been loaded and are on the way to ultimate destination, leaving the discharging ports bare of cars. This will handicap consignees, and will cause a great amount of demurrage on vessels. It will also have the still worse effect at this time of delaying a great number of these vessels in returning to the loading ports, and it will affect the soft coal trade considerably by not giving facilities for removing the coal from the lower ports. On account of the lack of vessels at shipping ports there is a great quantity of coal in cars standing there now. To such an extent has this gone that the railroads have put an embargo on further shipments from many of the coal companies. The lower ports have suffered from the winds and storms to a much greater extent than the New York harbor shipping ports, where the tows to and from New York discharging wharves have not been affected.—Engineering and Mining *Journal*.

The bituminous market is in a very unsatisfactory condition, business, is about as quiet as we have ever known it. About the only movement is on old orders.—Coal Trade *Journal*.

Religious.

In the Ministerial convention at Glyndon, Md., Rev. James P. Wilson, formerly of Frostburg, said in connection with church benevolences that "the minister ought to lead and himself give." "Mr. Wilson," says the Baltimore *Sun*—

—is a descendant of the Stewart family connected with the Annapolis tea party. His grandmother was a cousin of Peggy Stewart, for whom the burned ship was named.

Religious work in the State was discussed in the Maryland Baptist convention, in connection with which—

Mr. John Williams, of Ocean church, Allegany county, advised the delegates to come up to Allegany, where there was pure air and no mosquitoes. He said there was a large field, but very little Baptist seed sown there. His church was called Ocean because it was located amid oceans of coal and sin. He could tell how to undermine coal, as he had been a miner for fifty-three years, but couldn't tell how to undermine sin.

Another paragraph concerning him is as follows:

A pleasing incident of the afternoon session was the singing of a hymn by Mr. John Williams, of Allegany county. He is a veteran Welsh coal miner and rendered effectively a verse of his own selection—first in English and then in Welsh.

Personal.

The Cumberland *News* says that the death of Marshal MacMahon of France recalls the fact that there are descendants of the famous Irish family from which he sprang residing in Allegany county. There is excellent authority for the statement that Mr. Philip MacMahon, at present superintendent of Ocean mine of the Consolidation coal company, is a lineal descendant of the family of MacMahons, to which the Duke of Magenta belonged.

Miss Lilian Porter, of Piedmont, W. Va., is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Little, at Midlothian.

Journalistic.

George V. Hobart is the *factotum* of the Sunday *Times*, Cumberland. He is a humorous writer of fine ability, a newspaper man of experience and at short range one of the best fellows in the guild.

The Lonaconing *Star* was seven years old Thursday. It takes occasion to say it is still growing, and the JOURNAL hopes it will be able to continue enjoying the same great blessing. The *Star* is one of the county's most readable papers.

LATEST NEWS.

Jack Brown is still wondering.

And so is Ike Newton Tross.

GENERAL ITEMS.

Two of a Kind.

The princely and the pauper communist are apparently far apart, but really they are very near together. They both adopt as a rule of conduct the sentiment of the well-known couplet, which declares—

That he should take who has the power,
And he should keep who can.

—Religious *Herald*.

A Western Frostburg.

Our city lighted by electricity, supplied with water by a splendid system of water works, and protect from fire by a fire company composed of stalwart young men, will take its place among the progressive and important cities of the State.—Pleasant Hill (Mo.) *Gazette*.

Struck Water.

An artesian well at Crisfield, this State, 1,060 feet deep, develops a spontaneous flow of 70 gallons a minute. This is one of two wells, and a chronicle down there says "it is now conclusively proved that a well can be driven anywhere in this section with satisfactory results."

Importance of a Comma.

Cards are out for the marriage of Jennie McKee, to Samuel Mitchell October 25.—Cove (Kansas) *Gazette*.

If we were a sweet girl thing, we'd hate like the mischief to marry a man by the name of Samuel Mitchell October 25.—Hay City (Kansas) *Sentinel*.

Wanted to Dodge.

Gilt Edge—There comes Windy West, let's go down this alley.

Eeer Swell—Why? do you owe him anything?

Gilt Edge—No, but he has been to the World's Fair and wants to tell every body all about it.

October.

"Oh, be less beautiful or be less brief,
Thou tragic splendor, strange and full of fear!
In vain her pageant shall the summer rear?
At thy mute signal, leaf by golden leaf,
Crumbles the gorgeous year."

—*William Watson*.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

MY FRIENDS,

A few Words with You, if You Please.

Don't you think it time to

HUSTLE AROUND

and prepare your homes for

Winter Weather?

A GOOD

Heating Stove

in this case is a prime desideratum, and I am fully stocked to please you.

It is well worth your time to make your selection early. It is a good plan to "never put off until to-morrow" what could have been the day before yesterday.

Frank C. Beall
"The" Hardware & Stove Man

Oct 7

Stacks —OF— New Clothing —AT— WINELAND'S.

No time to write an advertisement until next week. Meantime—

Come and See FOR YOURSELF.

MARX WINELAND.

Oct 7

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.

Mens and Boys' latest style dress **Hats**—stiff and soft.

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.

Samuel J. Edwards & Son.

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

D. P. MILLER,

REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE,

CUMBERLAND, MD.

Dec 10