

MORRISON TARIFF BILL.

Abstract of the Reports of the Majority, and of the Minority of the Committee.

Majority and minority reports of the ways and means committee on the Morrison tariff bill were submitted to the house recently. The division in the committee was upon strict party lines. Morrison was asked when he proposed to call up the bill for action. He said he did not know. Other members expressed the opinion it would come up next week.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The committee on ways and means, to which was referred so much of the president's message and accompanying documents as relates to revenue, respectfully reports that in his message and accompanying documents the president has deemed it his duty to give congress information as follows: To make a start in the proposed reduction of revenue from imports the tariff commission had been created in good faith to undertake the work. In its report to congress it said: "Early in its deliberations the commission became convinced that a substantial reduction in tariff duties was demanded, not by mere indiscriminate popular clamor, but by the best conservative opinion of the country. Such reduction in the existing tariff the commission regards not only as a due recognition of public sentiment and a measure of justice to consumers, but one conducive to general industrial prosperity, and which, though it may be temporarily inconvenient, will be ultimately beneficial to special interests affected by such reduction. Entertaining these views the commission has sought to present a scheme of tariff duties in which substantial reduction should be the distinguishing feature. The average reduction in rates, including that from the enlargement of the free list and abolition of duties on charges and commissions at which the commission has arrived, is not less on the average than 20 per cent, and it is the opinion of the commission that the reduction will reach 25 per cent." The chairman of the senate committee on finance, in explanation of the bill before the senate last year, which, after various amendments, became a law, estimated at \$4,500,000 the reduction of revenue which would follow the changes in the tariff proposed thereby. These calculations have not been verified, so the question still presses, what legislation is necessary to relieve the people of unnecessary taxes. Your committee find that in the first six months ending Dec. 31, 1883, under the act of March 3, 1883, dutiable merchandise was imported into the United States valued at \$233,845,190, on which duties were paid amounting to \$96,014,130, being 40.91 per cent on the value thereof. In the corresponding six months of the year 1882, under the old law, the value of dutiable imports amounted to \$290,850,273, and the duty paid was \$111,268,507, or 42.65 per cent on the value. It thus appears that the

AVERAGE COST OF IMPORTING GOODS valued at \$100 was 1.74 per cent less under the new than under the old law. This exhibits a reduction in rates made by the act of March 3, 1883, amounting to 1.74 per cent of the duty. This is subject to an important modification resulting from changes in value and other conditions, some of which increase and others reduce the comparative ad valorem rates. The nominal reduction made by the proposed bill is 20 per cent, or one-fifth the present rates. With the Morrill tariff limitations in the bill, and the liquor and silk schedules omitted as they are, the actual reduction on the basis of last year's imports will not exceed 15.74 per cent on the whole importation of dutiable goods. Together with the average reduction made in the tariff commission bill, act of March 3, 1883, and that to be made by the proposed bill, do not equal the reduction at which the commission aimed. Wood, sawed timber, coal and all other such universal use among, and so necessary to all people, that in view of the present abundant treasury receipts, it is not deemed advisable longer to obtain revenue from a tax on these articles. The decrease of revenue as shown by receipts under the new law, other than that resulting from the nominal reduction of 1.74 per cent, results from a falling off to the value of report of \$25,000,000 in imports in the first half of the previous year under the old law. The reduction of revenue receipts under the bill reported is estimated at \$31,000,000 on the basis of last year's imports. To the extent the bill will relieve the people of unnecessary taxes. To that extent taxes will be reduced directly as a measure of justice to consumers and indirectly in largely increased proportions. From a statement made by the treasury of a copy of which is appended to this report, it appears that the duties or tariff taxes were decreased on some and increased on other articles of imported goods under the act of March last. While in this respect there has been no increase in the rates of wages in any, but a reduction of wages in most industries, as well in those whose competing products have received more in those that obtained less protection under the act of March last.

MANUFACTURES.

The condition of manufacturing industries is not satisfactory. In common with other industries they only recovered late in 1879 from the reverses and partial paralysis of five years' duration. In less than three years after this recovery such new evidences of industrial adversity appeared that in one of the largest, best paying and best paid industries, iron and steel, it culminated in a four months' stoppage, and idleness fell upon workers dependent upon it, not upon the capital invested in it. In the annual report of the American Iron and Steel Association for the year 1882, made May 1, 1883, by James M. Swank, secretary of the association, he says: "At the beginning of June nearly all the mills referred to, rolling mills in Pittsburgh and the West, were closed by a general strike which continued until last September, when work was resumed upon the scale of wages which had previously prevailed. During the strike of four months the prices of rolled iron did not advance, notwithstanding the stoppage of so many mills—a fact that clearly demonstrated that the capacity to produce this form of iron again, as in previous years, exceeded the demand. At the same time, it must be frankly admitted that our rolling mill capacity has for some time been in advance of the consumptive wants of the country, and that the check to the production of iron has not been afforded by the strike of 1882 was in no sense a calamity to manufacturers." It is believed that the condition of the iron and steel industries and the workers in them has not changed since 1882. The condition of other industries is not unlike, and differs only in degree from iron and steel. The calamity of frequent recurring industrial embarrassment and enforced idleness is inseparable from the enormities of our present system. The calamities of such a system always fall upon the laboring poor. Your committee, therefore, report the bill to reduce the import duties and war tariff taxes, with a recommendation that it be passed as a measure of partial relief to the people from unnecessary taxes, as a measure of justice to consumers, and conducive to the general industrial prosperity.

MINORITY REPORT.

The minority report, signed by Messrs. Kelley, McKinley, Hiscock, Kasson and Russell, presented the following, among other objections to the passage of the bill:

First—It will disturb business. The discussion of it in committee has already done this. It will unsettle values, retard incipient enterprises, cripple those now established, impair confidence among business men so essential to our development and prosperity, and bring no countervailing benefits.

Second—It will of necessity force down the price of labor in the United States. It will stimulate imports, increase competition from abroad, which can only be successfully met by reducing the cost of home products. We cannot too strongly emphasize our opposition to any legislation which ever tends to reduce our labor to the foreign standard, either in price or condition. The maintenance of a fair and adequate scale of wages for American workmen is indispensable to their comfort, their well being, and the education of their families, is essential to good order in our society, the stability of our institutions, and welfare and progress of our country.

Third—This proposed reduction will inevitably increase foreign importations, and as a consequence will, as all experience teaches, increase our revenues, to which increase every interest of the country is opposed.

Fourth—It is wholly unnecessary, unjustifiable, and in every aspect and to every American interest wholly hurtful. The enormous increase of capital and wealth during the last fifteen years under the protective tariff, now forces capital to seek employment in the development of all mineral, agricultural and other resources, to the advantage and gain of all our people, and a change or modification of the system will create such doubt of successful enterprises as to check their growth, and thwart the national development and progress, which is without precedent in the civilized world.

Fifth—It has none of the merits of a carefully matured tariff bill. It is not the result of a studious consideration of the interests of our people, their investments and employments, or of the condition of the public treasury. It proposes to reduce alike the duty upon every article of foreign import indiscriminately and without any examination of its effect upon particular industries, and wholly ignoring its necessary effect in advancing prices abroad by the destruction of competition at home. While nominally it is uniform reduction, in fact it is grossly unequal, under the limitations of the bill, and it will be found difficult, if not impracticable, of execution. It is a leap in the dark.

Sixth—That the feature of the bill which applies ad valorem duties to most schedules affected by it is especially objectionable, because it will greatly increase the existing evil of undervaluation and consequent frauds upon the revenue, as well as to so complicate the rule of assessment of duties as to greatly embarrass the administration of the law. Against the statement of the majority as to the effect of protective duties upon wages and

ON THE LABORING POOR. is the statement of the committee before the committee. All unite in declaring that protective duties are essential to fair and remunerative wages, and that every reduction in said duties inevitably results in lowering the standard of American wages. We dissent radically from the statement of the majority of the committee that the reduction of duties lightens by so much the burdens of taxation. The whole history of our national experience shows a constantly decreasing price as the effect of an increase of home competition. A reduction of duties which destroys our production and competition as inevitably results in putting up the price demanded by our foreign rivals. In the belief that the tariff legislation would remain without material change for a period of years, business has adjusted itself to it, producers have entered into contracts, and generally arranged their business in character and conformity with it. All classes of our people relied upon its reasonable permanence and freedom from immoderate and radical change, so that every consideration appeals to congress to let the present law stand and permit the business of the country to proceed without legislative disturbance. What the country wants most is a relief from congressional agitation.

A Pathetic Letter.

The following letter, addressed to the owner of one of the Gloucester vessels lost in the November gale, depicts in vivid language some of the sufferings entailed by the recent losses at sea:

SHAG HARBOR, Dec. 31, 1883.

Dear Sir—My husband, Charles Wabert, was lost on your vessel, and left me with seven small children, not one of them large enough to help me a bit. I have a small babe in my arms, and don't know which way to turn myself for the best. He has left me in a suffering condition. I have not any money to buy my children a bit of bread, and what I am going to do I do not know. I shall have to trust in God. I have no one to help me, for Mr. Wabert has no people in this province, and my parents are dead. I have not a friend to help me, only God.

Some nights I have put my little children to bed without anything to eat. It makes my breast ache to hear them cry for bread, and none to give them. If you could hear their cries for their father, and for bread your breast would ache too. There is no one but God knows what we pass through this winter. My eyes and breast are wet with tears as I write this letter. If you can assist me for our good Saviour's sake, do it with a little money, and I will bless you and God will bless you in the days to come. I do not know as I have any more to write at present. From your friend.

MRS. OLIVE WABERT.
Shag Harbor.

Old John Brown's Widow.

The Philadelphia Times publishes an interesting interview with William Still, the well-known colored man, who was one of the leading spirits in the "underground-railroad" movements, regarding the widow of Ossawatimie Brown, who died in California recently. Mrs. Brown was at Mr. Still's residence in Philadelphia when her husband was executed. "Dec. 2, the day of the execution," said Mr. Still, "was cold and clear, and Mrs. Brown was the first to come down that morning. She came down to the breakfast table calm and collected, without a sign of a tear or of mental suffering. In fact, she seemed rather cheerful and light spirited. No reference was made during the breakfast hour to the sad event of the day, and not until the hour set for the execution did Mrs. Brown show any signs of grief. But when the clock struck ten she grew deathly pale, and, as she sat with her hands folded across her breast as if in silent prayer, tears rolled down her marble-lined cheeks, and she presented a picture of heroic grief that I can never forget. For nearly an hour she seemed lost to all about her, but when the first feeling of bitter despair wore off, she said, 'Well I suppose the law is avenged, and the people are satisfied.' She then spoke of her husband cheerfully; of his intentions, of his zeal, of his honesty. She had always been in full sympathy with him in his undertakings, and had full knowledge of his plans."

How Camphor Is Made.

The Philadelphia Press says: Camphor is made in Japan in this way: After a tree is felled to the earth it is cut up into chips, which are laid in a tub on a large iron pot, partially filled with water, and placed over a slow fire. Through holes in the bottom of the tub steam slowly rises, and heating the chips, generates oil and camphor. Of course, the tub with the chips has a closely fitting cover. From this cover a bamboo pipe leads to a succession of other tubs with bamboo connections, and the last of these tubs is divided into two compartments, one above the other, the dividing floor being perforated with small holes to allow the water and oil to pass into the lower compartment. The upper compartment is supplied with a straw layer which catches and holds the camphor in crystals in deposit as it passes into the cooling process. The camphor is then separated from the straw, packed in wooden tubs, and is ready for the market. The oil is used by the natives for illuminating and other purposes.

Truth is Mighty and Must Prevail

Is a good old maxim, but no more reliable than the 'oft repeated verdict of visitors that

COOPERSTOWN, DAKOTA,

is the Queen City of a magnificent county and the most beautifully located of the many new and prosperous places of North Dakota. It is the

Permanent County Seat of Griggs County, and, though only a few months old, already has a representation in nearly every branch of business and each man enjoying a profitable trade. Plenty of room for more business houses, mechanics or professional men. Cooperstown is not only the

TERMINUS OF THE S. C. & T. M. R. R., but is also Headquarters thereof. In short, the place is, by virtue of its situation

The Central City of the Central County of North Dakota.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER! THE COMMERCIAL CENTER!
THE FINANCIAL CENTER! THE RAILROAD CENTER!

and the outfitting point of settlers for fifty miles to the North and West. The energetic spirit of Cooperstown's citizens, who in most cases have not yet reached the meridian of life, the singleness of purpose and unity of action in pushing her interests, have resulted in giving her an envious reputation for business thrift even this early in her history.

GRIGGS COUNTY

is the acknowledged Eden for settlers and home-seekers. Its soil is unsurpassed; its drainage the very best; its climate salubrious, and its railway advantages par-excellent. Public land in the county is becoming scarcer every day, yet there are still thousands of opportunities for the landless to get homes.

GREAT STRIDES

toward Metropolitan comforts have been made in Cooperstown and the wandering head of the weary traveler can here find rest and entertainment at an

BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANTLY APPOINTED HOTEL,

erected at a cost of \$21,000. The man who becomes a citizen of Griggs county's thrifty capital can have, without price or waiting, the advantages of

GOOD SCHOOLS AND SPLENDID SOCIETY.

The rapidly growing embryonic city of Cooperstown is surrounded on all sides by the very richest lands in North Dakota. Cooperstown, situated as it is in the very heart of a new and fertile region, must boom to keep pace with the

UNPARALLELED RAPID DEVELOPMENT

of the surrounding country. When you stop and consider the facts you will realize the advantages this new town enjoys. It being the terminus of a railroad, the entire country makes it a

UNIVERSAL TRADING POINT,

a fact demonstrated by the merchants already established and enjoying big trades. Cooperstown is not an experiment but is built on the solid rock of commercial industry. Sound investments can be made in Cooperstown city property or Griggs county farm lands by applying to the

COOPER TOWNSITE CO., Cooperstown, D. T.,

Or J. M. BURRELL, Sarborn, D. T.

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