

CONCERNING HOPS.

If there were no official reports concerning exports and imports it would be difficult to show how misleading and false are many of the assertions of the opponents of the Wilson bill. But there are such reports in existence, and we have shown how completely, in many instances, they refute the statements of the defenders of McKinleyism.

The duty on hops, under the law of 1883, was 8 cents a pound. McKinley increased it to 15 cents. The Wilson bill restores the old duty. Mr. Hermann of Oregon said a few days ago, in the course of an attack upon the Wilson revision:

"Another blow is that which affects the hop industry. Our mild, moist, soft climate and deep, rich, and alluvial soils have made Oregon the home of the hop. Every variety reaches the highest development, but with all this, without protection, we cannot overcome the difference between our labor and that of Bohemia and Bavaria and other portions of Europe."

The truth is that about one-third of the annual crop of hops in the United States is exported and sold profitably on the other side of the Atlantic in open competition with the pauper hops "of Bohemia, Bavaria, and other portions of Europe." The crop in 1890 was 36,872,854 pounds. The exports for the last two years are stated as follows in the recently-published annual report of the Treasury Department upon the Foreign Commerce of the United States:

EXPORTS OF HOPS.

	Pounds.
1892	12,604,686
1893	11,367,030

This official report also shows the quantity of hops imported into Great Britain

for several years past, and how much was taken from the several exporting countries. We give below the figures for 1891 and 1892:

IMPORTS INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

Countries.	1891. Cwt.	1892. Cwt.
Russia	501	2,625
Germany	17,193	11,691
Holland	35,355	38,381
Belgium	42,637	39,041
France	15,893	12,296
United States	80,226	80,829
Total	195,266	187,507
Per cent. supplied by the United States	41.0	43.1

This table shows clearly how hops produced in this country are sold in Great Britain in free competition with the hops of the producing countries of Europe. It will be noticed that, in spite of what Mr. Hermann says about the labor cost in Bohemia, the hops of that country do not appear to have been sold in Great Britain in competition with those of the United States, although the American hops have no protective duty there, and that Bavaria has not been able to prevent the United States from supplying 43 per cent. of the British demand where the hops of all countries are sold on even terms so far as protective duties are concerned.

If the American producers of hops can sell one-third of their crop annually in European markets, competing freely there with the hops of all European countries and of the world, without the advantage of a tariff duty on the competing product, is it possible that they cannot undersell the hops of these foreign countries here at home without the assistance of any tariff duty whatever? What can be the real foundation of any protest against the reduction of the McKinley duty of 15 cents to the old protectionist duty of 8 cents?

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