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## OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF THE SUCCESS OF INVENTORS.

The difficulties which want of means and influence places in and the discouragements of those who should stand ready to a few are enriched by their production. The general answer aid with their influence any attempt to relieve the onus of labor and increase the return of capital employed, seem to be enough to dishearten those who hope by their improvements to benefit themselves while adding greatly to the advantage others still greater in the path to pecuniary success, which must be removed before the benefit intended can be realized by the mass. We allude more particularly to the jealousy with which any improvement, deserving the name, is viewed by those whom it will most directly and certainly benefit.

Possessors of capital, whether it is invested in mechanical enterprises or not, view with more than a critical eye any device which proposes to aid them in the increase of their capital or its advantageous investment. To them the inventor appears as a harmless visionary, annoying and verbose, impractical and troublesome, well got rid of by a few words of important production. The history of the world teaches us as understood by the fearful disciples of Malthus? milk-and-water encouragement, or perhaps by a bluff notice quence of these rebuffs, perhaps often repeated, the disappointed and disheartened inventor ceases effort, sees afterward his invention reproduced by another, made one of the grand inventions of the age, and spends the remainder of his life in legal squabbles, out of which he will consider himself fortunate to secure the crumbs of the feast at which the capitalist and the plagiarist fare sumptuously.

Singularly enough it is that those whose experience has driven them through a similar course, and who by a lucky the inventor. And those whose fame, if not fortune, has been attained by their persistence seem ashamed to make their virtue of perseverance glorious by encouraging followers in the eries have made their names famous as to achieve a presentation to Queen Victoria or the Emperor Louis Napoleon. But these notable men are not ignorant or forgetful  $\bar{\text{of}}$  the means that gave them fame; for at dinners given in their honor and in sketches or biographies of their lives they are not ashamed named not only possible but probable. to rehearse the circumstances of annoyance, the obstacles, the difficulties that faced them and troubled them before success was assured. But they seem to suppose that their inventions and their value to the world absolve them from any further concern about the welfare of the race or the well-doing of individuals. The old British doctrine, "Once a subject always a subject," is entirely applicable to the realm of invention. No man who has worried through the annoyance, and trouble, and travail, and agony of discovery, and come out successful against great odds, has any right to repudiate his allegiance iff as the parent of monopolies. to the great republic of improvers and refuse his aid to those who strive to reach his eminence.

But these are not the worst obstacles in the way of the inpath easy after having demonstrated by fair experiment the what is now being done in this direction. absolute valve of his invention, but the road is still rough. General T. J. Cram, of the United States Corps of Engineers, reward? We cannot see it. On the contrary, every advance,

ty to whom he wishes to dispose of a machine, or right, he is Clair Flats. The improvement consists in the construction of not certain that he has made a success, even in a single in- a canal, one and one-half miles in length and three hundred stance. Although no direct objection can be urged against feet wide, and of sufficient depth to permit the passage of vesthe facts adduced or the demonstration shown by experiment, sels drawing thirteen feet at low water, and is built with a not unfrequently the purchaser and user will bring forward view of increasing its depth to eighteen feet in future if resome objection not really tenable, and without logical argu-quired. The bank is flanked by dykes of timber to be filled ment to support it, but which, to him, is all-sufficient. It is by the excavated earth. The timbers are to be saturated with difficult to manage such cases. It is hard to combat prejudice. creasote to retard decay. Few unacquainted with the subject Attachment to old forms of tools, to machinery perfectly un- will realize the great increase of facilities for navigation derstood, to familiar methods, is hard to overcome. With which this canal will afford. An examination of a map of the all their faults the mechanic loves his own tools and own lakes will however show at once the importance of the work. methods the best. Only the all-powerful influence of interest can avail to overcome this sentiment.

mechanics, is the hardest difficulty met by the inventor and tem of piers and canals having for their object the increase of introducer of new tools, appliances, and methods. Is there dock facilities at the above named city and a huge breakwater not too much of it; too much of a disposition to give the for increased safety of the harbor. The canals are to extend cold shoulder to all projected, or even perfected improvements; into the town, twelve hundred feet from the shore line. too much of the old time sneer of "visionary" directed to the inventor, too much of an adherence to the old and not enough be built in sections three hundred feet in length, to be sunk to attention to the new, by our mechanics and manufacturers? to the water line; and it is contemplated to build thereon an Would it not be better, not only for the inventor or discoverer, limmense storehouse covering the entire length, if experiimpartially, test honestly, and judge rightly, than to allow entire area the storehouse will cover, from which also the size prejudice to work injury to themselves and produce disap- of the breakwater can be estimated, is one hundred and fiftypointment to the inventor?

#### DOES AMERICAN INDUSTRY NEED PROTECTION?

The man who undertakes to answer the question which stands as the caption of this article, must be one of broad views. A mere superficial observer must necessarily err in his conclusions upon a subject, which has puzzled the minds 74 of careful and thorough thinkers. It is not our intention to 74 definitely answer this question here, but to call attention to a point, which, in all that we see written or hear spoken upon the subject, seems to be in a measure overlooked.

Commissioner Wells has told us in his able report, that a tariff is a tax.—Admitted. He also asserts that a tariff on imports is a tax that, under all circumstances, is paid wholly or in part by the consumer. Granted also

The general argument against protection based upon this well understood and admitted fact, is that the imposition of to this argument which is as old as the idea of protection itself, is, that the advantages which accrue to the commonwealth from the protection of special industries, by the wise imposition of duties, compensate for the increased price of the out rehearing the arguments usually put forth in its support. we will at once state our proposition. The political health of United States, as compared with Europe, naturally tend to unduly develop agriculture, at the expense of many industries of vital importance to the general good. These latter, fostered by a judicious legislation, can be sustained without detriment to the agricultural interest.

that the relations between nations are liable to frequent and the domestic manufacture of such commodities remunerative for a decade, if distributed equally during such a period.

But especially is it dangerous to fail in the protection of such industries as furnish material for national defence. All governments have recognized this fact, and have either taken full control of them or have made it certain that the cutting off of a foreign source of supply would not prove a source of embarrassment. The same principle can and ought to be apstroke have achieved pecuniary independence are among the plied to such productions as are essential to the comfort of the last to recognize the value of an invention or the claims of people at large. It is easy to imagine the distress which late war as something like a "providential dispensation," to breadstuffs' should be suddenly stopped. Our own land is so social garden. We could not give him encouragement. wide and its products so diversified that it would be difficult same path. It is almost as difficult for an inventor to procure to name a commodity which, if its importation should at once overcrowded proves nothing in favor of the idea that the laboreven an interview with the men whose inventions and discov- cease, would now seriously embarrass the Government, or maers are too many. It proves only that this labor is misdirectterially detract from the comfort of the people; but it is easy, ed, either by its possessors or others. Commerce, or rather we think, to see how improper legislation might so dwarf the the mercantile branch of business has grown to be a fungus home production of—say iron, for example, and so stimulate on our industries. It was once used and is now calculated to its importation, as to render such a contingency as we have be a support and aid to productive industry, but that it has

ent, among other things upon diversified occupations. It is by this means only that the full mental power of the population can be developed. All are not adapted to pursue the direct labor make seemingly fairer offers. If the cities are same calling, and different pursuits are as necessary to the crowded, the country is open; if it is hard to procure even in-

The danger of enriching a few at the expense of the many, is, in this country, limited by a free competition; and we are not in sympathy with those who view a proper protective tar-

# CENTRAL LAKE NAVIGATION.

ventor. His patent secured, the favorable opinion of experts American Continent together affords navigation almost oceanic enough to give good homes and profitable or comfortable inand influential persons obtained, and even a fair trial having in its proportions. The improvement and development of comes to all the possessors of muscle and brain, however unproved the superiority of his device over others used for a these great waters have, with the increased settlement of the educated, that come to our shores from foreign lands in a similar purpose, he must meet the unreasonable objections of fruitful regions surrounding them, become a matter of neces. twelvemonth. unreasoning or captious men. He may have considered his sity, and the public will be interested to know something of

Introducing his device and procuring the assent of the partis now directing the improvement of what is known as St. \* At Chicago, other improvements worthy of notice are progress ing under the direction of the Chicago Dock and Canal Im-This conservatism—vulgarly called old-fogyism—among provement Company. These improvements consist of a sys-

The breakwater is to be a very extensive structure. It is to but for the mechanic and the manufacturer to look fairly, try ments shall demonstrate the safety of such a structure. The six thousand feet.

The canals are to be divided by cribwork consisting of two rows of piles driven as closely together as they can be set, and capped longitudinally with timbers. The space between is to be filled with stone, and planked. The docks are to connect with every railroad in the city by special tracks and switches, so that goods can be transferred directly from the cars to the vessels. The expense of the work is estimated at two million dollars, and when completed will be as complete and convenient as any system of inland dockage in the world.

### IS LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY THE ENEMY OF LABOR?

The old, old fight, almost interminable, and persisted in notwithstanding the recorded verdict of history-and the events now transpiring, shortly to become a portion of history -is still going on. It is between ignorance and enterprise, dull conservatism and wide awake improvement. Will this protective duties on special articles of manufacture raises the absurd conflict never be ended? Will our would be social tie way of inventors, the compulsory exactions of poverty price of these articles to the entire mass of consumers, while theorists ever be willing to accept facts as better than their theories? Will ever the Malthus philosophy cease to affect social relations and the opinions of those philosophers whose thoughts intend to "shake mankind" and mold the ideas of the active ones who strive to make these thoughts a reality? Is the advance of the race by means of new scientific discovof their fellows. But these difficulties overcome, there are taxed products. We believe this position is sound, but with eries and new mechanical improvements to be checked by the bugbear of a plus of laborers over the work to be done? Have we reached the point where we must either stay the progress any commonwealth demands a diversity of industries. The of labor-saving, and time-saving, and brain-saving, to allow the cheap lands and the high rates of labor prevalent in the muscle as wielded by the puny arm of man to exploiter us and prevent all progress by brain muscle, or allow the serfdom and feudal lordliness of the past ages to return? Must all our boasted improvements in the arts and the sciences be considered only as toys for the intellect, unaffecting the well-being of the race? Shall we return to the laws of Lycurgus, and It is unwise to be dependent upon foreign sources for any immolate our progeny upon the altar of national advantage,

Such would seem to be the idea of some theorists. A genthat their time is too valuable to waste on him. In conse- serious disturbance, and that the increase of values upon ar- tleman of culture—æsthetic and literary—called upon us a ticles of import consequent upon war is often enough to make few days ago to make inquiries relative to the subject of supply and demand as concerning the progress of the race. He seemed to be devoted to the idea that the supply of labor exceeded the demand, and that labor-saving contrivances were only laborer-slaying devices. The information we might give him in relation to this subject as shown by the record of patents, and their aggregate or proportionate usefulness, he supposed might be available to sustain what was his plainly preconceived view, that the laborers were many and the harvest small. He alluded to the destruction of labor (life) in our would be felt in some European states if the importation of weed out and lessen the choking growth of laborers in our

That some of the centers of manufacture and commerce are proved to be either a parasite or a fungus, garroting the There is another reason why national prosperity is depend-growth and sapping the life of industry, alluring by its temporary or periodical luxuriance, does not prove that labor is less in demand, only that other means of living than that of health of a nation as different articles of diet to bodily health. different shelter and precarious living in crowded cities, both are easily obtained outside. Take the State of New York, for instance, and go through the nearest one hundred miles from the metropolis, what acres upon acres, miles upon miles of fertile soil which one passes on the line of a railroad, may be seen from the window of the swiftly gliding car, that seemingly have never felt the magnetic and magical touch of the laborer's The grand chain of lakes occupying the center of the North hand! This State alone has unoccupied and unused land

> Do the improvements made by researches in science or experiments in art add to the difficulties of labor in seeking its