

NEW YORK.

MEMORIAL

OF

INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

IN THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

PRAYING FURTHER PROTECTION TO

AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

DECEMBER 31, 1827.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures.

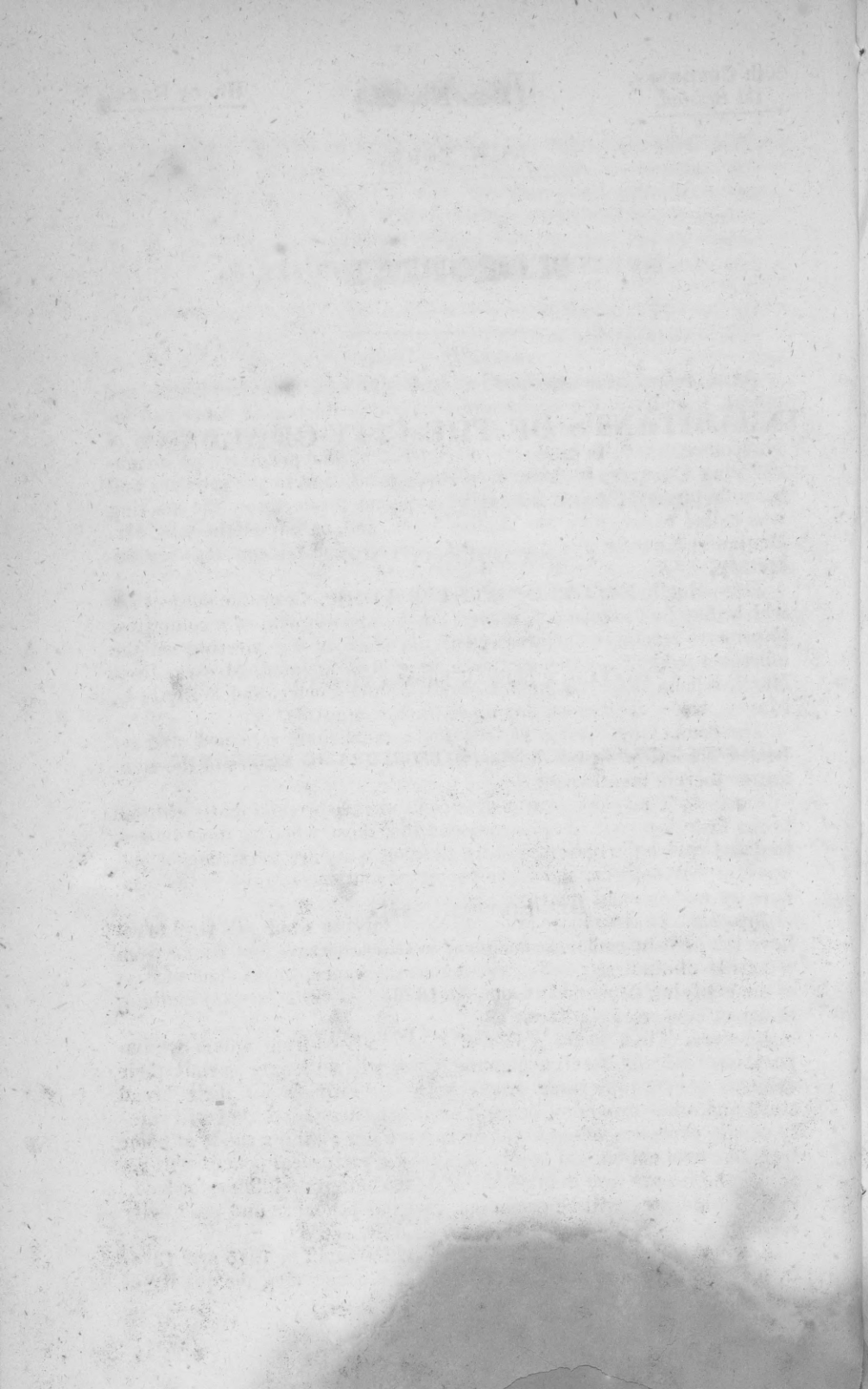
JANUARY 3, 1828.

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1828.



MEETING OF AGRICULTURISTS, &c.

At a respectable meeting of agriculturists, manufacturers, and others, friendly to the encouragement and protection of American industry, held at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, on the 26th day of November, 1827, to take into consideration the propriety of memorializing Congress in favor of further protection to the growers and manufacturers of wool, and other domestic productions, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Elisha Dorr, and, on his nomination, Mr. Benjamin Knower was appointed Chairman, and Gideon Hawley Secretary.

Jesse Buell, Esq. having addressed the meeting on the subject for which they had assembled, moved for the appointment of a committee to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting on the aforesaid subject ; which motion having been adopted, Messrs. Jesse Buell, Elisha Dorr, Samuel A. Foot, James Porter, and William L. Marcy, were, thereupon, appointed such committee.

The committee having retired for a short time, returned, and reported the following resolutions, in blank, as to the names of the committee therein mentioned :

Resolved, That the interests of agriculture are pre-eminently entitled to the fostering care of Government ; that those who, by their labors, feed and enrich the nation, and, in times of war, are the strongest bulwark of our defence, should be protected and encouraged in those labors by our national guardians.

Resolved, That an increased duty upon foreign wool will tend to relieve the present embarrassments of the farmer ; save his flocks from a further diminution ; and prevent the recurrence, in the time of war, of a mortifying dependence upon our enemy for the necessary clothing of our citizens and soldiers.

Resolved, That, as the policy of those nations from whom we import most of our foreign manufactures, will no longer permit their subjects to exchange their goods with our citizens for their bread stuffs and other provisions, except under circumstances that will rarely occur, prudence admonishes us to have our clothing made at home from our own cotton and wool ; whereby a reciprocal benefit will result to the farmer and manufacturer, in exchanging clothing for food : national industry will be promoted, and independence and prosperity secured.

Resolved, That the beneficial effects of the tariff of 1816 and 1824, in multiplying our cotton manufactories, in improving the quality of

their fabrics, and diminishing their price to the consumers, without lessening our national revenue, affords reasonable grounds for believing that a moderate increase of duties upon woollens, iron, hemp, and such manufactured articles as we possess the materials and skill for making in quantities sufficient for our wants, would be highly conducive to the public good.

Resolved, That we approve of the proceedings of the Convention of agriculturists, manufacturers, and others, assembled at Harrisburg on the 31st of July last, in recommending and urging upon Congress to extend an adequate protection and encouragement to the growing of wool, hemp, and flax, to woollens, iron and steel, and other articles of domestic production and manufacture.

Resolved, That Jesse Buell, Elisha Dorr, Samuel A. Foot, James Porter, and William L. Marcy, be a committee to prepare a memorial to Congress expressing the views of this meeting, and embodying in it such facts now presented to our consideration, as are calculated to evince the beneficial effects that are expected to arise from giving practical operation to these views; and that the committee cause the memorial to be presented to our fellow-citizens for their signatures, and forward the same to Congress.

Which resolutions having been read and considered, were adopted, and the blank therein filled with the names of the committee who reported the resolutions.

On motion of Mr. William Mayell, seconded by Jabez D. Hammond, Esq. the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the citizens throughout the State to convene together in their several towns, or otherwise, for the purpose of memorializing Congress on the subject of the encouragement of agriculture, wool growing, and manufactures; and that they solicit Congress to give such encouragement by the passing of a proper tariff bill; and that a Committee of Correspondence be appointed to further this object.

Messrs. William Mayell, Isaiah Townsend, Samuel M. Hopkins, John S. Van Rensselaer, and Jabez D. Hammond, were appointed a Committee of Correspondence under the preceding resolution.

The meeting, after ordering their proceedings to be published in all the newspapers in the city, adjourned.

B. KNOWER, *Chairman*.

G. HAWLEY, *Secretary*.

MEMORIAL.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial of the undersigned, citizens of the city and county of Albany,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWS :

That, under a justifiable confidence that Governmental protection would be afforded to the wool growers and woollen manufacturers of our country, arising as well from the reiterated recommendations of several of our National Executives, as from the manifest importance of these branches of industry to the independence and prosperity of the nation, a very large capital has been appropriated to the raising of sheep, and the erection of woollen manufactories. That the law of 1824 has failed to afford that protection which was expected from its operation, by reason of countervailing measures on the part of the British Government ; the reduced price of wool in the foreign market ; and the evasions, in various ways, of the provisions of that law. That both the wool grower and woollen manufacturer have, in consequence, become seriously embarrassed for want of a fair market for the products of their capital and industry, and are threatened with greater evils, should their hopes of prompt and efficient aid from Congress fail to be realized.

Your memorialists would further represent, that another class of our citizens, comprising more than half of the population of the nation, is deeply interested in the promotion of domestic manufactures. We allude to the grain-growing and grazing farmers. Their flour, beef, pork, &c. are no longer received in Europe in exchange for the foreign goods they buy. The exportation of flour, their great staple to foreign countries, has decreased, in nine years, from eighteen millions to about four millions of dollars. A home market can alone be depended on for remuneration for their labors. This has been already partially created in the numerous manufacturing establishments which have sprung up in our country.

Should Congress give growth and permanency to this market, by a moderate increase of duty upon such foreign goods as the nation can furnish within itself, the benefits will be great, your memorialists confidently believe, to every branch of national industry.

Your memorialists forbear to enlarge, presuming that the facts necessary to a right conclusion upon the subject are familiar to your honorable body.

Believing that you will be guided in your deliberations by an ardent zeal to promote the best interests of our country, we content ourselves with soliciting, respectfully, that relief and encouragement may be extended to our agriculturists and manufacturers, particularly to the growers of wool, flax, and hemp, and the manufacturers of woollens and iron.

ALBANY, *December 4, 1827.*

