

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

PETITION

OF

FARMERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE,

PRAYING

PROTECTION FOR THE INTERESTS

OF

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

JANUARY 22, 1828.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures.

WASHINGTON :

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

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FARMERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR SIR,

PROTECTION FOR THE INTERESTS

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES

JANUARY 22, 1852

Presented to the Legislature of New Hampshire

WASHINGTON

PRINTED BY GALE & SON

MEMORIAL.

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

In a country like this, embracing nearly every variety of climate and of soil, affording peculiar natural advantages, and presenting inducements to every species of useful industry, one of the most important as well as delicate duties of the Government, is to protect and foster the true interests of the different sections of the country, and of the various classes of its citizens, in such a manner as to combine the utmost individual advantage with the general safety and welfare :

We, therefore, the undersigned, inhabitants of New Hampshire, would respectfully present, for the wise consideration of Congress, our views and most earnest wishes, upon a subject which we deem to be of pressing and vital interest to a very large portion of this great country, and, more especially so, to that part of it which we inhabit. And we doubt not, that our prayer, and the almost unanimous prayer of the immense population of the wool growing and manufacturing States of this Union, will receive that early and deliberate attention, which their present embarrassments and imminent ruin so urgently demand. We appeal with confidence to the magnanimity and comprehensive policy of our brethren of the South ; and are assured, that, when this subject shall come up, in its true light and important bearings upon our national wealth and prosperity, no unkindly feeling, no sectional interest, no illiberal political considerations, will, for a moment, induce them to refuse any constitutional and wise protection to the interests of a State, which bore so manly and honorable a part in the great struggle for our common liberty, and which, as it has never since shrunk from its portion of the public burdens and public dangers, is still resolved to pursue the great interests of the whole country, at every hazard and every sacrifice.

Your memorialists would not enter into the argument upon the constitutionality, or the expediency, of further legislative protection of their interests. They would, however, presume to suggest their astonishment, that, after all the legislation upon similar subjects, in eighteen successive Congresses, guided in their deliberations, by the best wisdom of the land—from that which framed the Constitution, down to that which has distinguished the ablest statesmen, that have grown up under its influence—it should, now, be made a solemn question, whether it be consistent with the fundamental laws of the State,

to preserve the products of national industry and national genius, from the destructive influence of foreign commercial policy.

We beg leave also to represent, that we, in general, assent to the received doctrines of political philosophy on this subject. Abstractly, they may be just and salutary. But they may be, also, and your memorialists confidently believe they, in fact, are, utterly impracticable by a single nation, while the other great commercial communities, with whom that nation interchanges commodities, refuse to acknowledge those doctrines in their own regulations. Facts, abundant and conclusive, we doubt not, will occur to your honorable body, to prove the truth of this assertion.

We deem it worthy of remark, also, that, though the principle may be abstractly sound, trade, if left free, will regulate itself; it is a principle no less sound, and no less important to be kept in view by every wise Legislature, that it may be desirable for a People to put themselves to temporary and partial inconvenience and expense, for the purpose of *improving their own skill*. Suppose the immediate effect of protective duties should be to raise, in some degree, the market value of our woollen fabrics; the encouragement thus afforded to the manufacturer will bring into the business a vastly augmented amount of capital, of talent, and of enterprise. And the result of the active competition which must inevitably ensue, cannot but be to perfect our machinery, to improve our skill in the various processes of manufactures, and thus, in no long time, to enable us, with the natural and civil advantages we enjoy, to exclude foreign fabrics altogether from our markets, even without the aid of prohibitory duties. On the other hand, if we suffer other nations to supply us, as they must do, while allowed to hold competition with us, in the unequal contest of experience and perfect art, against inexperience and infantile skill, our capital and our invention will be directed into other channels, or left unemployed; and the principal sources of wealth and prosperity, which nature has prepared for the great Northern and Western sections of our country, will remain unopened and unapproached.

On this subject we must be permitted to be urgent: for it involves all that is dear to us in the prosperity of this ancient State. Of our climate and the fertility of our soil, we have little to boast. The hard earned products of the hoe and the plough, we may, indeed, consume, but we cannot sell. Our granite mountains and rugged hills may be tilled to preserve our present population in its scattered and distressed condition; but the great meadows of the West, and the rich and mild tracts of the Middle States, already, to a great extent, supply our seaboard and inland towns, and the day must be at hand, when, with their increasing facilities of transportation, they may exclude our agricultural products altogether, even from our own markets.

But, unkindly as our soil is, we are blessed with streams, which afford a water power inferior to that of no State in the Union. On these streams we have, already, erected manufactories to an immense extent. Our hills, too, may be covered with flocks to their summits. And our cold marshes, natural grass lands, though susceptible of

scarcely any other culture, promise an adequate supply of Winter food.

In these circumstances can we mistake the intentions of Providence, or the course of duty? And, these circumstances being known, can we but believe, that the Government of our choice, placed over us to dispense the blessings which a free People have put into their hands, will hasten to relieve us from present distress, and from the prospect of poverty and wretchedness, by such wise and beneficent enactments as are called for by the united voices of this great agricultural and manufacturing community?

Your memorialists would not presume to suggest to your honorable body, the detail of a system of duties to meet the present exigencies of the country; but they venture, with all respect and deference to the superior wisdom of Congress, to allude to the measures recommended for your consideration by the respectable Convention at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in July, 1827, as substantially expressing their views on the important subject, upon which they have deemed it their duty thus to address the National Legislature.

STRATHAM, N. H. *December 21, 1827.*

