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Description: Committee on Manufacturing report on silk bounties

State of Maine

The joint Standing Committee on manu – factures to which was referred the petition of Luther Carey and others praying the Leg – islature to fix a bounty on silk manufac – tured within this state, have had the Same under consideration and ask leave to submit the following,

Report

The committee are fully impressed with the importance and correctness of the policy of protecting, and encouraging the production and manufacture within our own borders of all those necessaries of life, which our climate will admit, and of such of the luxuries as the habits and customs of the society have brought into almost universal use, and the use of which society will not be likely to abandon. Of the latter class silk is among the first. The consumption of this article is not confined to any particular

clop in the community, but is used more or Up by obmost every individual. Of the mony considerations which they where the views of your committee upon the subject. They will name only a few. The first is the protective policy tends to place us as a nation, in a date of independence in relotion to other powers, to which pulles without it we Could never hope to arine, For we con hardly conceive how a notion con he considered independent, which depends whom foreign, countries for those orticles which are meanory for the comfort once convenience of its citizens. again the division and employment of labore which such a policy tends to produce has in the opinione of the Committee a strong tendency to add to not only one wealth but the our independence, and contribute to the permonence of our institutions. They Rofus, to rely for the mointenance of goo orders, and a forthfull dischorge ond upcentiones our lows, whom a dober once industrious populations, thou, whom on idle disspoted and miscroble populace

class in the community, but is used more or less by almost every individual. Of the many considerations, which strenthens the views of your committee upon this subject, they will name only a few. The first is the protective policy tends to place us as a nation in a state of independence in relation to other powers, to which perhaps without it we could never hope to arrive. For we can hardly conceive how a nation can be considered independent, which depends upon foreign countries for those articles which are necessary for the comfort and convenience of its citizens. Again the division and employment of labor which such a policy tends to produce has in the opinion of the committee a strong tendency to add to not only our wealth but to our independence, and contribute to the permanence of our institutions. They believe it will not be denied that it is safer to rely for the maintenance of good order, and a faithfull discharge and execution of our laws, upon a sober and industrious population, than upon an idle dissipated and miserable populace.

3 If puronal is any quaronte for our natronal independence, we hove a state further inducements, to faster once protect domistic industry. And we may adol to oreste 1 necessory and possible employunless It con be shown. Frot idliness holdbinds or that A linds to hop hones there Mustrate. let us Luphose a community exclusively engaged in ony lobours pursuit infloged, out compose it to voiceurs mechanic orto ore prosecutives thus guing omploy ment to young, old whent and fieble and where cash instead of

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If personal is any guarantee for our national independence, we have a still further inducement to foster and protect domestic industry. It is believed by your committee that were the [crossed out] subject of national prosperity and independence left entirely out of the question, motives of humanity and good feelings for ones fellow beings would be sufficient inducement for every philanthropist to countenance and aid such a policy. For unless it can be shown, that idleness is happiness or that it tends to happiness then certainly the contrary opposite is true. To illustrate, let us suppose a community exclusively engaged in any laborious pursuit where the very young or old or feeble when In fact none but the most robust can be employed, and compare it to one where, in addition to agriculture, the various mechanic arts are prosecuted, thus giving employment to young, old, robust and feeble, and where each instead of

suffered the mortification consequent whose personal, or public dependence for Support, Knows and feds that he is supported by the products of his awar bottom industry. It is hordly possible to colculate the difference in the how Lituations. aside from the important fact - that inclushed is one of the Lofist baniers against rice once interpresence and that the offusite is the most antern way to inquiste and produce it Believe the the only dope quorontes we can have for the Stobilit of our free institutions lies in the talie industry and inlettique of our citizens it seems to us to be the port of Misdon to pursue such a policy as shole in the quotest possible dique I tend to those points - The division of lobor among offords a letter once more office rewow to these employed by oreoling for cook a better, a never and more entone morket for Their products as your commenter believe that. The punts they house Stolente well not be con trounted. They prosend to mokes a fine remorks in relotions to the policy generally of prolections domisting industry once montheclities

suffering the mortification consequent upon personal, or public dependence for support, knows and feels that he is supported by the products of his own labor industry. It is hardly possible to calculate the difference in the two situations, aside from the important fact that industry is one of the safest barriers against vice and intemperance, and that the opposite is the most certain way to engender and produce it Believing therefore that the only safe guarantee we can have for the stability of our free institutions lies in the virtue, industry and intelligence of our citizens, it seems to us to be the part of wisdom to pursue such a policy as shall in the greatest possible degree tend to those points. The division of labor among pursuits of agriculture, the mechanic arts &C in addition to giving employment to all affords a better and more ample reward to those employed, by creating for each a better, a [?] and more certain market for their products. As your committee believes that the points they have listed will not be controverted, they proceed to make a few remarks in relation to the policy generally of protecting domestic industry and manufactures

This protection they think Should be given with the rew first to enable thate who may and necessory white to withstone the Competitionen which they must necesarily thrown into the morket from showed and from those countries, where the man Sactived has animed to a great deque of perfections and where lotor as compound with owe own custs muchy nothing and with the trew dos of producing emplogment for all closins ages once conditions his society. They do not believe it is withing disintle or newsony that this protections Should be propertial . The should of our people for organity and persuence is a laffered guorontee on this point. The history I the cotton monoforter in this country is protected for a period of time sufferent. to anoble the mon focline to poy the lohour a just compensation. Hot you the ingundy will diffly the rist

This protection they think should be given with the view first to enable those who may engage in the manufacture of any new and necessary article to withstand the competition which they must necessarily encounter by having the same article thrown into the market from abroad and from those countries, where the manufacture has arrived to a great degree of perfection, and where labor as compared with our own costs merely nothing, and with the view also of providing employment for all classes ages and conditions in society. They do not believe it is either desirable or necessary that this protection should be perpetuatal. The character of our people for ingenuity and perseverance is a sufficient guarantee on this point. The history of the cotton manufacture in this country is evidence that if any branch of industry is protected for a period of time sufficient

to enable the manufacturer to pay the

ingenuity will supply the rest

laborers a just compensation, that yankee

The cotton monufoctures in this country ore The A the pusered moment not only toundusele foreigns in our own morker but the compele sucessfully with there obown neorly or quite three times as much as is from in Emope for lobor in the some employ This his him auomphished with only a few years of protectione from governout and in the opinion of your committee should be one of the shongest onducements to It offord to other bronches of time I Should dispel all fen that cisson to moke it perpolute. Enous may and no doubt have been commented to necessary to pay the difference in the port of the mon factions, to improvements is necessory to Luces in ale ordersory

The cotton manufacturers in this country are able at the present moment not only to undersell foreigns in our own marketts but to compete successfully with them abroad while at the same time they pay for their labor nearly or quite three times as much as is paid in Europe for labor in the same employ.

This has been accomplished with only a few years of protection from government and in the opinion of your committee should be one of the strongest inducements to government to afford to other branches of industry the same aid, and at the same time it should dispel all fear that there is any danger that it will be neccessary to make it perpetual. Errors may and no doubt have been committed by

in some instances granting a protection ^ beyond what was necessary to pay the difference in the price of labor and the raw material, thusly making the business profitable for a time, without that effort on the part of the manufacturers, to improvement or that close application to business which is necessary to success in the ordinary business.

But became these errors have been Committed A day not follow that we Drouber Shoudon the policy, your Committee how reason to alive that This Lystem has not been properly riewed by a portion of bast of the community It has been looked whom as a sort burnt given to the monufactures where ne foot it is downthe, enobling him to employ aur awn labour of the ording frice of blow, instable of oboudoning his business or employing for your at the low pure for which they would be stigo to work in them own country, on thereby throwing cutoin bronches of to Shusings into the honds of a population not our own, once which as they believe more would wish to have take the place of our own notice cotizons, They believe also that This policy should be parsun with a tiem to notional independence of life and with portunite ofme to our position on case of Hor

But because these errors have been committed it does not follow that we should abandon the policy. Your committee have reason to believe that this system has not been properly viewed by a portion at least of the community It has been looked upon as a sort of bounty given to the manufacturer where in fact it is simply enabling him to employ our own laborers at the ordinary price of labor, instead of abandoning his business, or employing foreigns at the low price for which they would be obliged to work in their own country, [crossed out] thereby throwing certain branches of tot business into the hands of a population not our own, and which as they believe none would wish to have take the place of our own native citizens. They believe also that this policy should be pursued with a view to national independence by producing at home all the necessaries of life and with particular [?] to our position case of war

ance with the object of moking us on exporting instead of on importing a suddon insterned of a dellow Country your Committee do not believe that the can be are on plished by ony State legislotione but should believe to the notional government They believe that any effort on the port of this state to encurrage the monofocture of silk while Some hounty millions worth of delks ore annually brought into the country duty fre would fait to accomplish the durine object, It wender like putting he sea against wind and tide the only course of Lystolione which we believe it is disrible for this State to pursee in relation to monafactures is one which shall put there whom on equal footing with the monofactions of others states. A such a policy should be paised It is the spinion of your committee that the bost woll power of this state being more thou ole New England ander with our other notical advantages will be a sufficient indust to copilations of home and altood to invest

and with the object of making us an exporting instead of an importing a creditor instead of a debtor country. Your committee do not believe that this can be accomplished by any state legislature, but should be left to the national government They believe that any effort on the part of this state to encourage the manufacture of silk while some twenty millions worth of silks are annually brought into the country duty free, would fail to accomplish the desired object. It would like putting to sea against wind and tide The only course of legislation which we believe it is desirable for this state to pursue in relation to manufactures is one which shall put them upon an equal footing with the manufacturers of other states. If such a policy should be pursued it is the opinion of your committee that the vast water power of this state (being more than all England besides) with our other natural advantages will be a sufficient induent to capitalists at home and abroad to invest

There copilal weither one own horders and on our own noble and permount waterfoles, inteacl none of the facilities one better when infine to ours. with the news your committee would recount that the politions have leave a withdrow there petitions La Calter Chamme In Senaw April 13.1861 Reis Lacuful -Dami Sombon. Sus Head & concurred Stather Cleh

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their capital within our own borders and on our own noble and permanent waterfalls, instead of investing it in other states where none of the facilities are better and where water power is vastly inferior to ours. With these views your committee would reccomnd that the petitions have leavee to withdraw these petitions

[?]
In Senate April 13, 1841
Recd & acceptd –
Sent down for [?]
Daniel Sanborn. Secy
House of Representatives
April 15, 1841
Read & concurred
Geo C [?] Clerk