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DUTY ON COAL.

MEMO. SUBMITTED TO THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE BY
HON. H. G. DAVIS, OF WEST VIRGINIA,
JANUARY 11TH, 1897:

The main objects of an American tariff, are, or should be, to raise revenue for the support of the Government, to benefit labor, and to stimulate trade.

Bituminous coal, from the early days of the Government, has been subject to duty. It is used principally by corporations for steam and manufacturing purposes.

Anthracite coal has for years been on the free list. It is used generally for domestic purposes.

The duty on bituminous coal under the present law is much less than at any previous time. It has been as high as \$2.80 per ton. In 1872 it was reduced from \$1.25 to 75c. per ton, and in 1894, by the Wilson Bill, to 40c. This is much too low, considering either the revenue required by the Government or an equitable distribution of duties. The duty should be 75c.

The average advalorem duty on all articles under the McKinley law was about 48 per cent. The average duty under the Wilson law is about 41 per cent. A specific duty of 40c. a ton on coal is equivalent to about 14 per cent. advalorem. If the duty is restored to 75c. per ton it would be about 23 per cent. advalorem, or only about half the average duty of the present tariff.

Canada exacts from the United States a duty on coal of 60c. a short ton, or 67c. a long ton. There is no good reason why we should pay more duty on the same article to foreign countries than we receive. Labor is higher, capital more valuable, and the expenses of conducting business greater in the United States than elsewhere, and these interests should be fairly fostered and encouraged by the Government.

The coals that compete with us from other countries, on an average are mined less than forty miles from the sea, while in the United States the average distance of coals carried to tide-water is from three hundred to four hundred miles.

Under the law coals must be carried between American Ports in American bottoms, while foreign coals coming to the U. S. from Canada and elsewhere have the advantage of the competition of foreign vessels.

The duty on articles used by wage earners engaged in mining and transportation is much higher than it is on coal.

	1893. McKinley Bill. Duty 75 cts. ton. Ad valorem Duty.	1895 Wilson Bill. Duty 40 cts. ton. Ad valorem Duty.
Average duty on all articles.....	.49 per cent.	41 per cent.
On bituminous coal.....	.23 "	14 "
Manufactured articles of		
Wool.....	.98 "	56 "
Cotton.....	.57 "	46 "
Leather.....	.34 "	26 "
Iron and Steel.....	.62 "	48 "
Revenue to United States from coal under McKinley Tariff, during the year 1893.....		\$822,188.
Revenue to United States from coal under Wilson Tariff, during the year 1895.		\$486,158.

This shows nearly twice as much revenue was collected by the Government with the 75c. duty as with the 40c. duty, and at the same time without detriment to any industrial interest.

The census of 1890 shows that in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Alabama about 75,000 men were engaged in the production of coal. There are now perhaps 100,000. If five be taken as an average of each man's family, we have probably half a million people in these States alone depending on the production of coal for a living.

The following statistics from official reports of the United States Government relating to bituminous coal, bear directly upon this question.

IMPORTATIONS OF BITUMINOUS COAL TO THE UNITED STATES.

— AT —

Fiscal Year.	Total Tons.	Amt. Duty Collected.	Value Per Ton.	Boston.	Portland.	Bangor.	San Francisco.	New York	Other Ports.
1892	1,331,964	\$988,239	\$3.32	14,187	5,172	7,997	946,459	19,159	339,040
1893	1,102,231	822,188		11,350	9,240	8,094	775,015	10,499	288,033
1894	1,148,454	848,429	3.22	20,736	9,144	6,903	730,989	38,550	342,132
1895	1,260,109	549,384	3.05	40,439	27,692	6,124	813,604	7,560	364,690
1896	1,243,835	486,158	2.70	40,629	61,744	12,682	768,604	5,197	354,979
6 mos. ending Nov. '96				46,371	18,655	19,707	288,265		

— FROM —

	Total	Great Britian.	Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edwards Island.	Quebec, etc.	British Columbia.	Mexico.	Australia and Japan etc.
1892	1,331,964	235,182	24,409	39,335	616,644	56,611	359,917
1893	1,102,231	151,251	21,897	35,582	591,513	9,795	292,194
1894	1,148,454	119,459	57,965	39,306	674,035	49,949	207,740
1895	1,260,109	100,615	77,910	30,337	721,174	54,419	275,654
1896	1,243,835	75,128	123,404	39,987	627,257	72,056	306,003

BITUMINOUS COAL SENT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO CANADA.

Year.	Tons.	Duty.	Value.
1895	1,481,508	\$888,905	\$3,209,205