

Ex-Governor McCorkle Says It Is Decidedly for Expansion.

PHILIPPINES FURNISH A KEY

Islands Open the Door to Trade in the Orient—China the Greatest Field for Commercial Conquest, and United States Must Improve Her Opportunity

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 18.—The thirtieth annual dinner of the board of trade was held tonight. Among those in attendance were Governor Voorhees, Mayor Seymour and Congressman W. P. Hepburn, R. Wayne Parker and Charles N. Fowler. One of the guests of honor was ex-Governor William A. McCorkle of West Virginia, who spoke upon the topic "The Attitude of the Progressive South in Promoting the Country's Foreign Trade." He said in part:

"The first question of absolute importance today to the north is the matter of foreign markets. It is supreme in its importance to the whole people. We cannot longer live within ourselves and such is the situation that, if the American people propose to assume the required position in the great foreign trade, they must grasp these markets.

"First, of critical importance, is the market of the empire of China. This is the market for which Russia, Germany, Great Britain and France, with all their energies, are contending. Here is the most important market of the globe. Today, without organized effort, we sell them \$25,000,000 per year, and within a short time we will make it \$75,000,000. This means much to you. The mind can scarcely grasp our interest in an empire of 4,000,000 square miles, inhabited by an energetic people just opening their eyes to civilization. Within a short time in this new territory the American locomotive has under-sold those of every other country, and this year China has purchased from you and the south about \$11,000,000 of cotton. Here is fast developing the great cotton market of the world. These people need everything we manufacture. Already we have built up a great trade in cottons, machinery, leather goods, electric goods, chemicals, railroad equipment, tools, hardware and the general products of our workshops. At the present rate of progress, our trade with China will, in fifteen years, be the most important of any trade in the world. We demand a vigorous policy which will be permanent in its effects, under which the rights of this country will be preserved, and under which the markets of China shall not be turned over to European nations as their own exclusive property, but shall be held alike on terms of absolute equality for the citizens of the United States.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS THE KEY.

"Now, sir, we are face to face with the great question, how shall we keep open to our country the door of the great Chinese and eastern markets? There is but one door for us and that is through the Philippine islands. Here is the real strategic and commercial position of the east. Every eastern market can be reached far more easily through these islands than from any other position. Shanghai and Hong Kong, through which cities England has established her great trade, offer no such position for commercial success as do the Philippines. It gives control of the great northern and central coast of China, with its teeming, active population. They put us in a position to grasp through them the markets of Japan, with its 40,000,000 of energetic people and its annual trade of \$250,000,000. The great coast line of the Philippine islands of 800 miles practically dominates the northern coast of China, capable of a foreign trade of a billion dollars per year. Without our position in the Philippines, our commercial treaties with China would be valueless, and upon our withdrawal from these islands, the Chinese empire would not last a month, and its rich markets would forever be lost to the people of this country. Many who oppose our retaining an interest in these islands seem to imply that our retention of them is for the purpose alone of establishing a tyranny over the inhabitants. I find that thoughtful men are in favor of establishing the jurisdiction of our government, giving the Philippines full control of their local affairs when they are able to manage them, and allowing them the highest measure of liberty, such liberty as they have never enjoyed, and such as they never will enjoy if the flag should be removed therefrom. To leave the islands is to turn them over to anarchy.

"Now, as to the position of the south on this last great question. What has been her tradition? Those who suggest that the south has been ultra conservative as to the widening of the sphere of this country's influence do not know her traditions. As to her action in the future, I confidently refer you to her past.

"Cores, Siam, China, Philippine islands, Japan, South America, and the islands of the sea desire your merchandise; and these markets must be reached by a cheaper route than around Cape Horn. England, by the completion of the Suez canal, has the advantage in trade routes. The south has never faltered and no interest has ever interfered with the persistent desire to see the great work of the Nicaragua canal completed by American hands and for the glory of American commerce."

Part Played by the Farmers in the Wonderful Commerce of the United States What the Protective Tariff Does.

The republican party has always made a definite claim that their principles of government were intended to benefit the great mass of the common people, that they are a business party, that is, a party, who, when in power, establishes such policies that the business of the country has always materially increased. This is true at home, where by the workings of their methods manufacturers are encouraged, employment given the idle, and their capacity for purchasing from the producers of grain, the agricultural classes in other words, is greatly enlarged. Under the wise rule of the republican party foreign commerce of the United States also has always been helped and developed.

The foreign commerce of the United States is attaining wonderful proportions under the protective tariff laws, and is a great factor in adding to the general prosperity of the country. During the year 1899 this trade amounted to over two billion dollars, more than three-fifths being exports and less than two-fifths imports. The official figures are: Imports, \$79,434,620; exports, \$1,275,486,641. The excess of exports is larger than in any preceding year except in 1898. Products of agriculture form 63 per cent of the exports and less than 29 per cent of the imports.

TRADE IN BREADSTUFFS.

During last December the United States exported to foreign countries domestic breadstuffs, provisions and oils amounting to \$19,148,230; during the year ending December 31, the exports of these articles amounted to \$72,031,925.

During the four years of the last democratic administration the exports of breadstuffs amounted to \$623,051,656; during 1898 and 1899 of the present republican administration the exports of breadstuffs amounted to \$633,000,000. It is an expansion of trade that particularly interests the western farmer and stock raiser, and under republican rule it seems to be double what it is under democratic rule.

In this connection it is curious to compare the breadstuffs exports under the various administrations, and note the falling off when the democrats are in power:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Exports. 1877-80, Republican years, \$79,976,680; 1881-84, Republican years, \$23,588,612; 1885-88, Democratic years, \$79,177,728; 1889-92, Republican years, \$76,289,661; 1893-96, Democratic years, \$23,951,656; 1897-99, Rep. (only 3 yrs), \$31,754,233.

This tabulation, which is taken from the records, shows that during fifteen years of republican administrations the exportation of breadstuffs amounted to an average of \$210,640,479 per year, while under the eight years of democratic rule the average was only \$150,278,675 per year. So it makes a difference of sixty million dollars a year to the farmers of the country when the republicans are running the government.

The difference in the balance of trade under the different administrations is equally startling. During eight years of democracy the balance of trade in favor of this country was \$719,285,940, or an average of \$89,910,742 per year. This seems like a large amount, but it was doubled during the republican years. During the two last completed terms of republican presidents and the three years under McKinley, making a total of eleven years, the balance of trade in favor of this country was \$2,190,394,365, being an average of \$199,126,760 per year. This is proof conclusive that under republican management the people of this country draw from foreign countries as a net balance \$109,216,018 more every year than they do when the democrats are in power.

A STUDY OF THE FIGURES.

A study of the imports and exports of 1899 compared with those of earlier years presents some interesting facts. From 1869 to 1899, imports doubled, while exports quadrupled. The imports of 1869 were \$438,455,894 and the exports \$337,375,983, making an excess of imports over exports amounting to \$101,079,911, while, as above indicated, the excess of exports in 1899 is \$475,652,051. Relatively the proportion of free and dutiable goods in the list of imports differs very greatly, only \$21,775,643 of the total imported in 1869 being admitted free of duty, while in 1899, \$351,814,004 of the imports came in free of duty.

The contrast in the receipts and expenditures of the government is also worthy of notice. During Cleveland's first term the receipts exceeded the expenditures by \$372,232,729, but during the four years of his second administration, when the democrats had full swing, the government ran behind to the amount of \$136,672,675. In the meantime, during the last two completed republican administrations, which, like the democratic years, were in times of peace, the receipts of the government exceeded the expenditures by just \$692,440,638, or an average of nearly three times more every year than under democratic rule.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT.

Bradstreets in December reported as follows: "Pennsylvania industries are using 300,000 more persons than at this time a year ago; 100,000 New England cotton mill operatives have received an advance of 10 per cent in wages; wages of employes in the cotton mills in Augusta, Ga., and Bath and Langley, S. C., are to be advanced; the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad has increased the wages of its yardmen, conductors and brakemen 10 per cent; 2,400 workers in Elgin watch factory will receive an increase of wages January 1, etc."

Leaders of the Populist Party Involved in Questionable Practices.

The news comes from Lincoln that there is a scandal in the affairs of the oil inspection bureau. Chief Inspector has made a report, showing that the fees of the office are coming in more than twice as fast as they did when Edmisten was in charge.

This is not unexpected. It was well known that the bureau was conducted as an adjunct to the fusion party, and that the populist chairman was put in charge of it in lieu of other salary for his political labors.

But the question now comes up: What become of the fees which were not reported? Were they pocketed by the chairman of the "reform party," or were they turned into the treasury of the party? The latter supposition cannot be true, as a statement of the condition of the populist campaign treasury was published, and no mention of the oil fees appeared in the report.

Some of the crooked deals of the chief oil inspector came to light over a year ago, when he was detected in the act of padding his expense bills. He reported railroad fare when he carried free passes over the lines. There were also expense bills for many fictitious trips.

And yet this official was placed in command of the populist "reform forces," and is kept there. The conclusion is plain. Either the populist campaign steers are deriving a benefit from party pilferings that are going on; or else the populist party winks at and permits misappropriation of public money when only individuals are to be benefited.

The recent action of the populist committee in suppressing the resolution on the matter of fraudulent "board of transportation" would indicate that the party is hopelessly in the clutches of unprincipled politicians. The people of the state cannot too soon have their eyes opened to the real condition of affairs.

Read the following extract from the World-Herald: "The World-Herald yesterday contained the following interesting matter:

SHELVED THE RESOLUTION.

Populist State Central Committee Steer Clear of Demand for Action.

Majority Defeated a Formal Request Urging State Board of Transportation to Grant Relief.

Action of Committee at Recent Meeting Leaks out—How the Members Stood on the Proposition.

Special Dispatch to the World-Herald.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 13.—It has just leaked out in populist circles that at the meeting of the populist state committee held in this city last week a resolution urging the state board of transportation to do something was defeated. The resolution was as follows: "Be it Resolved, By the state central committee of the people's independent party:

"First—We demand of the secretary of state, the attorney general, the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer and the commissioner of public lands and buildings, constituting the board of transportation and elected by the suffrages of the party which we represent, that they cause their secretaries to investigate the complaints of shippers without further delay and, if those complaints be well founded, we demand that relief be given to the shippers of the state by a regulation of the freight rates charged by the railroads.

"Second—We demand of the secretaries of the state board of transportation that they proceed immediately to examine into the complaints of shippers and to determine whether the complaints are just and if the rates are unreasonable, we demand that the said secretaries regulate and reduce the same in such manner as that the cause of complaint may be removed; and if said secretaries are unwilling to regulate the freight rates in the state within their powers we then demand that they resign their offices and that the board of transportation appoint secretaries who will act.

"Third—We demand a regulation by the said board of the telephone and express charges in this state with view to allowing the companies controlling these monopolies to earn a reasonable income upon their investments and to give the consumers of these services the benefit of the enormous profits now being collected by those companies."

John C. Sprecher of Colfax county, D. W. Hamilton of Butler county, Judge Hale of Butler county and Elmer E. Thomas of Douglas county all spoke in favor of the resolution and urged its adoption. Senator Sprecher made several earnest appeals to the committee not to defeat the resolution. Wilbur F. Bryant, who is not a member of the committee, came in and made a very eloquent speech pleading for the defeat of the resolution.

J. H. Edmisten also spoke in opposition to the resolution. LeMar of Saunders and Lewis Beltzer both made speeches against the resolution. J. W. Edgerton, one of the secretaries of the board, came in while the resolution was under discussion and made a speech pleading for the resolution's defeat.

Senator Howard of Hamilton county spoke against the resolution and then made a motion to table it. This motion was adopted.

Those who voted against the resolution were as follows: Howard of Hamilton, LeMar of Saunders, Felber of Cedar, O'Hara of Knox, Gentry of Burt, Anderson of Fillmore, Hayes of Holt, Swoboda of Howard and Tibbles of Thurston.

Those who voted for the resolution were Sprecher of Colfax, Hamilton of Butler, Thomas of Douglas, Dailey of Nemaha and Hale of Butler. Those not voting were Witford of Washington, Nownes of Sarpy, Wagner of Gage and Uhl of Cuming.

China has six smokeless powder mills.

Characteristics Free-Trade Contention That the Cause of Christianity is Best Promoted by Human Destitution and Misery.

The Brooklyn Eagle, a Free-Trade but gold standard newspaper, is very certain that The American Protective Tariff League is on the wrong track in its effort to show the extent to which the churches have shared in the restoration of prosperity through increased plate collections. The Eagle says:

"Religious revivals follow disasters, and big financial panics make men think of their sins and induce them to turn their thoughts to the churches and to give to them more liberally than in their prosperity. Flood and pestilence are potent influences in making men think of serious things. A wave of prosperity does not advance the cause of religion. It rather retards it. If our present prosperity is occasioned by the Dingley law then the churches might well hope for a return to the Wilson law, with its alleged depressing effect on business, and its consequent direction of the thoughts of men to their souls' salvation."

It was the Wilson law that made the churches prosperous, and not the Dingley law. It may be so, but if so, let us have the facts and figures to prove it. The Eagle, chief among the newspapers of the "City of Churches," should know whereof it speaks; but does it know for certain that religion fares best when the people fare worst? Is it true that poverty increases crime and morality at one and the same time? Do idleness, hunger and want operate to fill the jails and also the churches?

Is the minister surest of his salary when the burglar is busiest? Do the dire conditions which impel men to steal and murder promote Christian morality? Are pew rents more promptly paid and is the contribution box better filled when churchgoers have empty pockets?

Does the appeal in behalf of home and foreign missions meet with the most liberal response when the congregation is "broke?" Are church debts the smallest when individual debts are largest? Do men think most about the salvation of their souls in times when they are most engrossed with the problem of how to keep body and soul together?

Is it, in short, true, as the Brooklyn Eagle asserts, that "it was the Wilson law that made the churches prosperous, and not the Dingley law?" The American Economist does not believe that any of these things are true. To believe them would involve the necessity of believing Christianity to be a curse instead of the greatest boon and blessing the human race has ever known.

If the churches will do their part in furnishing information as to the relative difference between plate collections in 1895 under a Free-Trade tariff and in 1899 under the Dingley tariff, the American Economist will guarantee to show that religion and morality thrive best when mankind is happiest, most prosperous, and freest from the necessity and the temptation to commit crime.

Of the truth of this there is not the slightest doubt. Wouldn't it be a good thing to demonstrate it beyond question in the manner proposed by the American Protective Tariff League?

RIGHTLY NAMED.

Democrats Ashamed of the Term "Free-Trade" as Applied to the Wilson Law

Some of the Democratic newspapers are scolding at Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio, because he said in his recent speech on the Currency bill that in the campaign of 1896 the Democrats demanded "the maintenance of the Free Trade Tariff bill, called the Wilson act." They complain of the term "Free Trade" as applied to the Wilson bill, insisting that it was in a measure protective, since it carried an average duty of nearly 40 per cent. Isn't it rather late in the day to bring up this question? Three years and two months ago the people of the United States registered their judgment of the Wilson tariff by overthrowing the party responsible for its enactment. They condemned it for what it was, a Free Trade measure in principle and intention, and, if not wholly so, as near an approach to Free Trade as the Democratic party dared to make at that time. It was meant to be the entering wedge that should split asunder the American system of protection, and the horrible wreck and ruin wrought by that entering wedge foreshadowed only too plainly the ultimate fate of American industries in the event of the complete realization of Free Trade in this country.

Congressman Grosvenor's appellation, "the Free Trade tariff bill, called the Wilson act," is fully justified by the facts. Democrats, however, are naturally a little sensitive about it, in view of all that has happened in the past three years. Formerly they were only too glad to take the credit of the Wilson Tariff law as "a step in the right direction." They found no fault in the campaign of 1896 when that law was characterized as a Free Trade measure. The only fault they found then was that it didn't go far enough in "the right direction," that is in the direction of Free Trade. But times have changed, and the Democrats would like to have the Wilson

law relegated to the limbo of oblivion. Forward the law and the blame which attaches to the party responsible for it the greatest charity would be forgetfulness. That is why the sting of Mr. Grosvenor's reminder has called forth so many manifestations of pain and uneasiness. But there are some things not to be forgotten. The "Free Trade tariff bill, called the Wilson act," is one of these things.

THE WAGES OF 75,000 OPERATIVES IN NEW ENGLAND HAVE BEEN ADVANCED 10 PER CENT



Adapted from the New York Tribune.

Textile Industries. They Are Flourishing Grandly Under Protection. The cotton and woolen mill operatives of New England have news that came just too late to be celebrated on Thanksgiving day, but which will much increase the cheer of Christmas-tide. Owing to the prosperous condition of the cotton goods trade the mill companies have been able to announce advances in wages amounting in most instances to 10 per cent. For many of the cotton mills this is the second increase of 10 per cent within a few months. The American Woolen Company, which operates twenty-six mills in a score of towns, also announces a general advance of 10 per cent. By several independent woolen companies a similar advance is made.

What this prosperous condition of the textile industries means to New England may be gathered from the fact that fully 300,000 persons will now receive higher wages. From the advances already announced it is estimated that the cotton-mill operatives will receive an addition of \$180,000 weekly to their present earnings. The increase thus far to the woolen-mill operatives amounts to \$20,000 weekly. Some of the advances went into effect yesterday, others will date from next Monday, and still others will begin on January 1. Counting the families of the mill workers, fully 1,000,000 persons are directly affected by the advance, and probably as many more will benefit indirectly.

That the cotton manufacturers can see their way clear to make these advances in wages is a proof of the general prosperity of the country, for the demand for their goods is not confined to any one section. There is also a growing foreign demand for American cotton fabrics. The contrast between the present prosperity of the cotton industry and the depression of 1893 is most striking. So severe was the prostration of business then that many New England cotton-mill owners talked of moving to the southern states in the hope of obtaining cheaper labor, and the Massachusetts legislature appointed a special commission to consider the problem of unemployed textile workers. Now all the cotton mills are busy and the prospects of trade are excellent.

The woolen manufacturers also testify to the improvement in conditions. "The woolen business was never in a more flourishing condition than today," says William M. Wood, treasurer of the American Woolen Company. "The mills are busy and are looking forward to the new season with the highest anticipations." With the restoration of confidence and prosperity which followed the verdict of the polls in 1896 the people are able to spend more money for clothing. Owing to the accumulation of stocks during the depression the cotton-mill operatives did not gain much benefit from the changed conditions until early this year. Enormous importations during the last days of the Wilson tariff act held back the woolen trade still longer.

The textile industry of New England has suffered much from the policy which came into effect with President Cleveland's accession to office. The textile workers of New England have had a bitter object lesson. Under the Republican policy of protection, sound money, and expansion they are prosperous as never before. It has been a subject of comment that Massachusetts, misrepresented by the Atkinson crowd as opposed to expansion, should have led all the other states in the number of soldiers, in proportion to population, furnished for the army in the Philippines. The fact is that the workmen of Massachusetts understood much better than their self-constituted leaders the value and advantages of the Philippines as a base for oriental trade. They were willing to do their share toward securing these advantages for themselves, their kindred, and their country.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Folly of It. The laboring man has more work to do today than he has had for years; he is getting higher wages for doing it than he has received for a long

time. Now he is talking about voting to tear down the party that gave him the work and the wages, and enthroned in its place a party whose watchword is "Low prices for everything." Since we were children, all of us have been taught to think of the man who killed the goose that laid the golden egg was the Prince of Fools. Compared to the laboring man who votes to reduce his wages and the number of days he works, the man who killed the goose is a wise man and a philosopher.—Lawrence (Kan.) Journal.

DANGER AHEAD. California's Protest Against Proposed Reciprocity Concessions.

If reciprocity treaties with foreign nations mean the release from restrictive tariff regulations of foreign products which we do not produce, in return for the admission for such of our products into foreign territory as they do not produce, no one will deny their wisdom. On the other hand, if these treaties mean the withdrawal of tariff in such a manner as to build up one class of products in our own country at the expense of another, or the fattening of powerful Eastern corporations by the destruction of protective industries of the country, it is time to call a halt.

The news from Washington that not only the Jamaica reciprocity treaty, but the French reciprocity, contains provisions that strike staggering blows not only to the fruit industry of the Pacific coast, but to our wine industry and still other products, at the behest of rich and powerful corporate interests in the East, is amazing and disheartening.

If that is the way the administration and the Republican party interpret the duty they owe to the country, the sooner the president and the party learn that they are treading the path that leads to disaster the better. It will not do to lightly put this question aside by saying that California must suffer for the general good. If that were true it might be a good excuse, however lamentable, but it is not.

Will it be for the common good to shatter the industrial interests of this immense western region that the Standard Oil company, the northwestern millers and greedy importers in the east may fatten? The Republican party has stood for protection to our growing industries with magnificent results. If it permits itself to be used by designing men it will basely desert its colors, and will deserve the fate that will surely overtake it.

It is not a question alone of injury to our local interests; the affair assumes a national importance. Should the Republican party prove faithless to its trust in California, it will prove faithless in other states.—Los Angeles (Cal.) Express.

Happy Times for Wage Earners.

On the morning of Dec. 18 an advance of 10 per cent in wages went into effect in many of the cotton manufacturing cities and towns of New England. The increase affects from 70,000 to 75,000 hands. The places included in these advances are Lowell, with about 18,000 operatives; Augusta, Me., with 1,100; Lawrence, 12,000; Chicopee, 3,000; Biddeford, Me., 3,500; Manchester, N. H., nearly 15,000; Newburyport, 500; Waterville, Me., 1,000; Lisbon, Me., 500; Brunswick, Me., 700; Hooksett, N. H., 500; Suncook, N. H., 1,500; Amesbury, 800, and Nashua, 1,500. In addition an advance goes into effect in a number of the cotton mills of central and western Massachusetts. Some of the woolen mills also increased wages 10 per cent Dec. 18. These are outside of the American Woolen company, which will make a general advance on Jan. 1, affecting 26,000 operatives, while in the southern cotton mills an advance is shortly to be made in the wages of about 50,000 workers.

From the West comes the announcement that on Jan. 1 the Elgin National Watch Company will put in force a new scale of wages amounting to an advance of 5 to 10 per cent, and affecting over 3,000 hands.

Many thousands of workmen in other parts of the United States started the year 1900 with increased wages. It is Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for the wage earners in these days of protection and prosperity.

New Use for Sheep Shears.

The Kansansians who three years ago used their dinner horns to cry calamity are now using their sheep shears to clip coupons.—Louisville Courier-Journal.