

## THE HERALD.

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BY HENRY BROS.

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IN SPANISH the present democratic majority is called *locura de oficio*.

A BUNCH of redskins are making things lively for the Mexicans at present writing.

ALL of the office-seekers will now be taking rooms along with them when they go to see Cleveland.

PRESIDENT HARRISON thinks that tariff revision should be left for the next congress, and the present congress, it is safe to say holds the same opinion.

THE country is in favor of placing the matter of quarantine under national control, as President Harrison recommends. Congress ought to act promptly on this suggestion.

It will give President Harrison great pleasure to veto that anti-option bill if it reaches him, and the sooner it reaches him and is disposed of the better it will be for the country.

IN THE event of the passage of a bill providing that no man shall draw a pension while holding an office, General John C. Black will hesitate about asking for a federal appointment.

THE legal ratio of value between silver and gold in this country is about 16 to 1, but the commercial ratio is about 25 to 1. Silver is now down near the lowest figure at which it has ever been quoted.

SENATOR HILL has introduced a bill to repeal the silver law of 1890. As men as far apart as David B. Hill and John Sherman in politics are trying to get the law repealed, the chances are that its days are numbered.

DR. PARKHURST has stepped on the tail of the Tammany tiger, and he roars louder than he did about the time Mr. Cleveland use those big cuss words. The trouble is Mr. Parkhurst is in earnest.

THE trust funds held by the government for the various Indian tribes aggregate over \$24,000,000 which certainly does not show that the red man has been very badly worsted in real estate speculations.

THE recommendation of a president who has been beaten for reelection, and whose party has been voted out of power in congress seldom impress the country strongly yet the advice which President Harrison gives is wise and timely.

THERE is a general feeling over the country that we can get along for a spell now without European immigration. The character of the immigrant for some time has not been encouraging, but now the danger from the threatened plague makes restriction imperative. Congress should act, and act at once. There is not a day to lose.

IT is understood that Speaker Crisp is in favor of continuing in the next congress the "pop-gun" method of attacking the tariff which has prevailed in the present congress. This is not what the democrats promised in the canvass. Perhaps the Wilson faction of the party in the house and the Mills faction in the senate can spoil this game.

CHAIRMAN HARRITY says that he is too poor to accept a position in Cleveland's cabinet. This must be another calamity entirely due to the McKinley tariff, for the state of Pennsylvania paid Harrity's salary as secretary of the Commonwealth regularly every month while he was absent in New York running the democratic campaign. Five months' salary not earned ought to have allowed Harrity to accumulate something.

"I AM glad no lives were lost and that I alone am the principle sufferer from the disaster." This is the characteristic reply of George W. Childs to those who offered sympathy for the loss of his Public Ledger building in Philadelphia. The man who rejoices that others are not to share his losses is truly a philanthropist, and no one will doubt Mr. Childs' right to be disputed.

## THE MORTGAGE BURDEN.

The figures presented upon the mortgage question by Mr. Waite, special agent of the census Bureau are particularly interesting and suggestive. They show that the indebtedness from 1880 to 1890 was 153 per cent in the west and 201 per cent in the south, and that the incumbrance averaged 56 per cent of the assessed value of farms and 65 per cent of the assessed value of town lots. A large share of this great burden was assumed for the purpose of buying or improving property, and with the expectation that it would be lifted by the profits from crops or increased land values. But these sources of advantage have not come up to the requirements; and consequently the burden has been reduced only at the rate of about 3 per cent a year. The aggregate value of farm products has declined, but there has been no corresponding decrease in the aggregate obligations of the farmer. On the contrary, the indebtedness has increased faster than the accumulation of wealth. The borrowed money has not saved the intended purpose, or, in other words, has not yielded the borrower the profit that he looked for in his business. He has paid interests for the use of capital without making enough to justify the transaction. His condition has not been improved, because his gains have all gone to meet his expenses, and he sees no prospect of doing any better in the future.

This is all very unpleasant and the victims in the case are to be profoundly commiserated; but the fact remains that they did their borrowing voluntarily, not to say eagerly in many instances, and upon what they considered good prospects of realizing a handsome profit. It was not their fault that their calculations failed. They were mistaken, and things did not turn out as they had hoped and believed. The blame does not belong to the laws either, or to political considerations of any kind. There was no legislation at that time that tended to depress the price of farm products, or to prevent the appreciation of land values. The unfavorable conditions were produced by causes over which the law-making bodies had no control; and it is equally true that such bodies can not now reverse the situation and provide an easier way of paying debts than that which is prescribed in the contract. It is manifest that many of the farmers are mortgaged too heavily, but they are still worth a good deal more than the indebtedness, and it will pay to hold them and work out the problem in an honest and practical way. Less than half the whole number of farms are included in the mortgaged list, even in the new western states, and that is an encouraging fact. There is very little borrowing at present anywhere, and that is another wholesome indication. It will take several years to remove the existing burden, but it can be done by patient industry and economy, and it cannot be done by any other means, whatever the demagogues and fanatics may declare to the contrary.

## REFORM CLUB BANQUET.

The New York annex of the Cobden club, known as the Reform club, took occasion last Saturday night to assert itself. The banquet given in honor of Mr. Cleveland afforded opportunity for several very pronounced free-trade speeches. Carl Schurz, Roger Q. Miller, Senator Carlisle, and others of that type made speeches in which they insisted stoutly that the pledges made by the Chicago convention should be carried out in good faith. Mr. Cleveland himself dealt, as usual, in a string of platitudes. At one stage of his speech he seemed to be on the point of saying something in the same straightway way as the rest, but before really reaching any practical suggestion he lost himself in the fog of generalization. Almost any sentence would be all well enough as a preliminary flourish; a prelude to something definite. But from beginning to end it was a series of fog-banks; the culminating point, where something might be expected suggestive of an idea and a purpose, being this observation:

We who are to be charged with the responsibility of making and executing the laws should begin our preparation for the task by a rigid self-examination and by a self-purification from all ignoble and unworthy tendencies threatening to enter into our motives and designs; then may we enroll upon all our countrymen the same duty, and then may we hope to perform faithfully and successfully the work intrusted to our hands by a confiding people.

Evidently the sermons which the president-elect heard from his father's pulpit in childhood modeled his literary style and gave form to his public utterances, whatever other effect they may have had or failed to have. But this vague moralized as a substitute for real thought is so common that it has ceased to occasion any surprise. It is possible that his inaugural will

have some point to it, but he is certainly quite capable of saying a great deal without really saying anything.

Another notable thing about this banquet was the insult to Speaker Crisp. Officially he is the third highest dignitary in the land and practically the second, for the vice-president outranks him in theory only. When it comes right down to actual power in the government the speaker is second only to the president himself. Mr. Crisp was assigned the seat of honor to which he was entitled, and he had reason to expect to speak, quite as a matter of course. He gave his speech to the Associated Press in advance and in doing so he was guilty of no presumption. But it turned out that he was not expected to speak and left the hall before the speech-making was over, evidently not caring to conceal his chagrin. His vanquished rival, Mills of Texas, made a speech, and so did several lesser lights, including Congressman Johnson of Ohio, who shares with Henry Watterson the honor of placing the free trade plank in the Chicago platform.

Mr. Crisp will hardly fail to see in this conspicuous insult a notice from the new administration that some other man is wanted for the speakership—some one, perhaps, less pliant to Tammany. In return Speaker Crisp will be likely to force an extra session of congress if he thinks the president does not want it and his own chances for the speakership would be increased thereby. He is also believed to be master of the situation. If he should wish it the present congress will probably expire with some indispensable and annual appropriations unpassed. It is easy to get a disagreement and prevent an adjustment. Mr. Cleveland is herein at the mercy of the man his especial champions snubbed and insulted Saturday night.

It was a great night for mugwumps "anti-snappers." Hill, Gorman, Flower, Brice and all the Tammany braves were conspicuous for their absence. This may prove significant. Mr. Cleveland may have taken this method of notifying the opponents of his nomination that he can remember what happened during the first half of the year and that a "friend in need is a friend indeed." But the republicans must not rely upon the dissensions of democracy to restore to them the reins of power. They must, on the contrary, continue to be aggressive and constructive, and not merely alert to democratic blunders and animosities.

## TARIFF TINKERING.

An extra session of congress, in which wool, binding twine and tin plate might be put on the free list "readily," would help in "restoring hope and confidence to industry in general" is the conclusion of the Nation and of sundry other journals. "It would start the woolen industry, which has long been languishing, into renewed activity. The shoddy mills would shut up, but the poor man could get a coat whose cheapness and durability would, far from making him a 'cheap man,' increase his self-respect as well as his temperature, and he would go to sleep under a real wollen blanket, and not a McKinley cotton or shoddy simulacrum." Such is The Nation's verdict.

The truth is, as our columns have proved by solid facts, that the woolen industry has not languished but has revived under the McKinley tariff, and that less shoddy is used in American than in English wools, less made here than in England.

The Nation waxes indignant and says: "The fraud of the McKinley bill on the poor through their blankets alone contains moral guilt enough to fill one of the biggest penitentiaries in the country with malefactors."

Let every protectionist bow his head and be humbly thankful that his fraud is rebuked by this virtuous journal. In the next sentence after its assertion about shoddy, which never has and never can be proved, for it is not true, we are told that "McKinley's national reputation is now entering on a new phase, which raises a serious question for all patriotic Americans. When he was hated and feared among all civilized nations it was our obvious duty, of course, to bow before him as a miracle of wisdom and benevolence, and let him walk over us to his heart's content. But now he has become an object of world-wide and inextinguishable laughter."

Do the growing company of English workmen who are protesting against British free trade join in this laughter? Is it not the rejoicing of traders who would sell us their foreign products? It is an early and shallow shouting, which will do no harm to an eminently able and true man. Wait a little. Remember that old saying, "He laughs best who laughs last."

## THE MERCHANT MARINE.

The president, in that part of his message which advised liberal appropriations in aid of the rehabilitation of our merchant marine, said:

Our grain and meats have been taken at our own docks, and our large imports there laid down by foreign shipmasters. An increasing torrent of American travel to Europe has contributed a vast sum annually to the dividends of foreign shipowners. The balance of trade shown by the books of our customs houses has been very largely reduced, and in many years altogether extinguished by this constant drain. In the year 1882 only 12.3 per cent of our imports were brought in American vessels. These great foreign steamships maintained by our traffic are many of them under contracts with their respective governments, by which in time of war they will become a part of their armed naval establishments. Plunged by our commerce in peace, they will become the most formidable destroyers of our commerce in time of war. I have felt and have before expressed the feeling that this condition of things was both intolerable and disgraceful.

There are men who speak of subsidies for ships as "parts of an antiquated policy which Great Britain has renounced long ago." But Great Britain did not pretend to renounce it until by long use of it she had made herself mistress of the seas says the latter Ocean, and when she did pretend to renounce it she rested in pretension. She changed the name of the thing, but kept the thing. Instead of "subsidies," she paid "compensation for postal service," but she paid far in excess of the real value of the service. Call it "subsidy," or call it "compensation," but pay American vessels from the American treasury at the rates paid to British vessels from the British treasury, and there soon will be a revival of American shipping interests and a transfer of the American passenger and freight trade from British to American vessels.

The British government has paid to the "postal packet service," meaning to shipowners who carried British mails, the following named sums between 1868 and 1892.

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1868-69	\$3,043,640	1888-89	\$3,484,435
1869-70	3,043,640	1889-90	3,503,630
1870-71	3,043,640	1890-91	3,503,630
1871-72	3,043,640	1891-92	3,503,630
1872-73	3,043,640	1892-93	3,503,630
1873-74	3,043,640	1893-94	3,503,630
1874-75	3,043,640	1894-95	3,503,630
1875-76	3,043,640	1895-96	3,503,630
1876-77	3,043,640	1896-97	3,503,630
1877-78	3,043,640	1897-98	3,503,630
1878-79	3,043,640	1898-99	3,503,630
1879-80	3,043,640	1899-00	3,503,630

In 1890-70, while Britain was paying \$5043,640 to her vessels that carried foreign mails, the United States was paying the inconsequential sum of \$1,125,333. In 1888-9, while Britain was paying \$3,484,435, the United States was paying \$503,630 for the whole of its foreign mail service.

Over and above these payments, the British Government gives a virtual free insurance against risks of war to the vessels owned by firms that carry mails, by making contracts for the actual purchase, or the leasing, with payment of full value in the event of capture or destruction by the enemy, of the best and fastest vessels of the merchant marine.

It has gone further than this. In a contract made with the Royal Mail Steam Company, carrying mails between Southampton and Brazilian ports, in addition to the large "compensation" or "subsidy"—the name is immaterial—of \$1,350,000, which is about double what the United States paid for the carriage of all its last year's ocean-going mail, the British Government made his guarantee:

Whenever the annual income of the company from all sources does not amount to the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent on the capital employed, the subsidy shall be increased by so much—subject to a limit of \$100,000—as required to make up such a dividend.

And yet there are people who speculate upon the causes of the American merchant marine. It declined as life declines in all things that are insufficiently nourished or inadequately protected during the period of youth.

## THE SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST LAW.

A case is to be brought up in Massachusetts within a few days to test the constitutionality of the Sherman anti-trust law. This is decidedly welcome news to the country. Although the law has been on the statute book about two years, no really serious attempt has yet been made to enforce it. It was understood at the time of its enactment that the framers of the law acted in good faith in bringing it forward and pushing it to passage. They realized that the abuses against which it was directed were serious, and there is good cause for the belief that they were convinced this act would remedy them, or at any rate would lessen them. Mr. Edmunds, who was still in the senate when the Sherman bill was before that body, says that the measure received the careful revision of the best constitutional lawyers of the senate, and that, in his opinion, it can stand all the legal tests to which it can be subjected. The eminent Vermont lawyer is himself one of the best constitutional lawyers in the country, and has declared that this act is operative is doubtless the cause of the bringing up of the

## CRISP'S SPEECH.

It now seems likely that once again "the stone which the builders rejected the same shall be the head of the corner." In the ordinary course of events the speeches made at the New York Reform club banquet says the Inter Ocean, would be forgotten almost as soon as spoken, as transient as a bird of passage. But the Crisp speech that never was spoken is likely to be memorable. Whether the speaker who did not speak was justified in giving out his speech in advance or not may be an open question. It certainly proved a clear case of too previousness. But his friends insist that he was perfectly justified in his inference and not open to any criticism whatever.

This episode recalls the indignity put upon Martin Van Buren by a democratic senate, under the lead of John C. Calhoun, during Jackson's first term. Mr. Van Buren was appointed minister to England during the recess of congress. Without waiting for the senate to act upon the nomination he repaired to the court of St. James, never dreaming of opposition to confirmation. But Mr. Calhoun, then vice-president, and jealous of Van Buren's ascending star, procured his rejection, confident that he had disposed of the wily New Yorker forever. In his "thirty years in the senate," Benton tells the story, quoting the confident prediction of Calhoun that Van Buren would never recover from that humiliation. But the effect was just the opposite. From that time on the "Fox of Kinderhook" was the man of presidential destiny, and Calhoun was the corpse, except as his own state chose to honor him. Whatever effect this Crisp episode may have upon 1896, it is likely to enter largely into the speakership contest, already virtually begun. The prospect is that the Cleveland influence will be thrown for Breckinridge, of Kentucky; Wilson, of West Virginia, or some other candidate, and all quite apart from any question of principle or line of policy.

The speech itself was not particularly startling. The speaker came out flat and square for higher duties on luxuries and none at all on raw material. He made no exception. All raw material was to be put on the free list, and no duties should be levied for anything except revenue. He justified the policy of the democratic house in not attempting any sweeping and general changes in the McKinley bill, but wants the next congress to make thorough work of it. He said nothing about silver, state banks, or anything except the tariff.

Mr. E. Ellery Anderson says that Mr. Crisp is not their kind of man, that is, he is more of a Hillite than a Clevelander. This may be true, but in his undelivered speech he evidently intended to put himself in rapport with the reform club and went as far in the direction of free trade as any of the speakers of the evening. The only evasive speech of the occasion was the homily delivered by Grover Cleveland. If the president elect has any definite ideas he is keeping them all to himself and puts off the public with a dish of mush.

If it is true that General Van Wyck has rented his farm it is to be hoped that he does not have it in mind to abandon the state. He occupies a unique position in Nebraska and especially in Otoe county, and to be frank, we can't spare him. His politics may be all right for him, but people will pick flaws in them if they are so disposed; but then the general is out of politics and let "by-gones be by-gones." The general must be kept in the fold.—Nebraska City Press.

The speech of Carl Schurz at the "Reform" banquet last Saturday night may be condensed into the following: "Mr. Cleveland, you were elected upon your own merits, you don't owe anything to any party or to any faction of any party, and you can safely go ahead as you do—please for the next four years."

CLEVELAND has reason to be proud of the fact that he finds himself in the company of a man like John Sherman as a target for the animosity of the silver lunatics.

A HOTEL of Hamburg is built entirely of compressed wood, which is as hard as iron and by chemical treatment has been made proof against fire and insects.

REEDS rules will be needed in the next house in order to allow the democrats to push tariff legislation without unnecessary delay. The rules should be adopted.

A NUMBER of names are mentioned in connection with the New York senatorship, but Murphy is the name of the man who will get the plum.

HARRISON carried Montana at the recent election by 1,299 votes.