

Politics of the Day

THE PROSPERITY FRAUD.

The monopoly organs are having much to say these days about the phenomenal exports and "favorable balance of trade" during the last fiscal year. The facts they present are interesting and in a manner instructive, but what good reason the shouters for McKinleyism have for parading them with so much boasting is one of the things that "no fellow can find out." The value of domestic merchandise exported was \$1,032,007,603. The nearest approach to this was \$1,015,732,011 in 1892. The excess of merchandise exports over merchandise imports was \$286,263,144. The nearest approach to this was \$264,061,666 in 1879, and the excess of exports was never greater than \$200,000,000 but five times before last year; with the exception of only three years, the imports exceeded the exports from 1844 until after the panic of 1873. Our exports of agricultural origin during the last fiscal year were \$689,755,193, or 66.84 per cent. of the total. The increase, as compared with 1896, was \$115,356,929, or about 20 per cent. In 1896 the agricultural exports were 66.54 per cent. of the total. Our merchandise imports during the last fiscal year were valued at \$764,730,412, against \$779,764,674 in 1896. They were somewhat greater than in 1894 and 1895, but decidedly less than in 1892, 1893 and 1894, when they ranged from \$827,402,462 to \$866,400,922. These facts may be very gratifying, as the McKinley philosophers say they are, but why should they parade and crow over them? The point to which the Chronicle would direct their attention is that the Democratic tariff was in force during all the last fiscal year and during all that year the McKinleyites were crying "calamity!" They were telling the people how wretched they were and how despairing they ought to be because of the ruinously low Democratic tariff. They were saying that the country was plunged into a deep gulf of adversity and that it would never prosper again until they should hoist it up by means of a rousing high tariff. They told us that we were "deluged" with foreign goods because the wicked Democrats had reduced the duties on them so low. They told us we could not sell enough of our own products abroad to pay for our imports, and therefore foreigners would get all our gold and leave us to silver and misery. But what do we find the facts to be? For one thing we find that the excess of merchandise exports over merchandise imports was over \$22,000,000 greater during the last year of the Democratic law than in any year under a Republican tariff and were over 37 per cent. more than enough to pay for all our imports. And we find, for another thing, that the average value of merchandise imports for three years of the Democratic law was \$758,800,000 while during the first three years of McKinley law it was \$846,200,000. These facts prove conclusively that the country was not "flooded" with foreign goods under the Democratic law so much as it was under the McKinley law, and that there was a bigger balance of trade in our favor under the Democratic law. In view of what they prove it is somewhat surprising to find the McKinley organs making a great parade of them. It is also somewhat surprising, when we come to think of their recent calamity howls, to find them adducing these facts to prove that the country was wonderfully prosperous during the twelve months from June 30, 1896, to June 30, 1897. Yet it was not so surprising. As they dated the Democratic tariff back more than a year to make it account for the deficit of nearly \$70,000,000 in 1894 under the McKinley law, they might fairly be expected to date their own tariff back more than a year to account for a prosperous time which at the time they called deep adversity and which they now, with their characteristic gall, seek to place to their own credit. Some such audacious performance seems to be necessary to divert attention from the deficiency under their own Dingley law, which is at a rate not much less than \$100,000,000 a year, or more than the deficit for all the three years of the Democratic law.—Chicago Chronicle.

Argument for Free Trade.
The iron trade has always been supposed to be Great Britain's stronghold. The juxtaposition of her coal and iron mines gives her an advantage over all possible rivals. Or so it was supposed. But a stiff-necked generation of Yankees would not be persuaded, and now the result is apparent. Liverpool buys tramway rails in America. Glasgow buys water pipes in America. Plymouth and Hull send to America for the equipment for their new electric tramways. Other cities and towns in Great Britain are following the same example, and so are many in India and the colonies. Why? It cannot all be charged against the engineering strike, for many of these orders were placed before that strike began. It is simply that the United States are able to underbid Great Britain in her own market and in the very things the latter has made her specialty.—New York Tribune.

One Wise Act of McKinley.
Consul General Lee is undoubtedly the right man in the right place, and must be the main reliance of the Government for information, as well as the conduct of affairs at Havana, looking to a thorough investigation of facts. He has had the benefit of responsible

and dangerous service for years, is a trained soldier, and besides that has had valuable civil experience as Governor of Virginia for four years. In the way of foreign appointments the wisest thing, as events have proved, that President McKinley has done has been to retain the services of General Lee.—Pittsburg Post.

Where Is John Sherman?
All the symptoms go to show that the official candle of John Sherman has been snuffed out. He is still holding on to his office, with the bitter resolution that is a part of the equipment of an Ohio politician, but, as a political factor, he has actually passed away while yet in life. Nobody knows where Mack and Mark have the poor old man hid. His name is never heard, and all the transactions of the State Department are carried on by a Mr. Day, who, if he did not know, has rapidly learned, how to talk Spanish.

Dingley's Latest Proposal.
Mr. Dingley in one of his recent speeches explained why his prosperity had failed to hit the New England mills. He said that the difficulty lay in the varying hours of labor in different parts of the country, and that Congress might be compelled to regulate the subject. In other words, a committee of Congress is to be used as a propaganda for the purpose of creating a sentiment which there is not a particle of evidence to show has any existence at this time.—Philadelphia Record.

What Might Have Been Expected.
About the first official action of Attorney General Griggs, who represents the trusts and big corporations in the cabinet, was to authorize the sale of the Kansas Pacific Railroad to the reorganization committee of the Union Pacific for less than 50 per cent. of the government's claim, or at a loss of nearly \$7,000,000. This was the committee's offer of compromise and the task of inducing the attorney general's office to accept it was evidently an easy one.—Peoria Herald.

Quandary of Republicans.
Western Republican Congressmen are apprehending trouble with their constituents from the immigration bill. If they are held up to its support by party that run imminent risk of losing re-election in localities where it is not popular. There is considerable Republican regret that the bill was never brought into Congress. It may not be possible to avoid a vote upon the subject now, but it is widely regarded as poor politics to have presented the issue at this time.

Cowardice in Congress.
It is evident that the people of this country must still further burdened with taxation; that they must suffer yet more from deficits, and that universal popular indignation must be aroused before Congress will consent to lop away a single branch of the vast growth of abuses by which our pension laws have been surrounded, until justice, equity and patriotism itself are choked to death.—St. Paul Globe.

More Dispatches from Havana.
The Ohio statesman seized his pencil and wrote furiously for a few moments. Then he rang for the messenger boy and sent the dispatch. It read: "W. McKinley, Washington, D. C.—Satan reigns in Ohio and the investigation committee still lives. M. A. H." Then he sent a dispatch to one H. H. Rolce, of Canada, and continued to saw wood.—San Francisco Examiner.

Political Small Shot.
"I wonder," quoth one president of a trust to another, "I wonder where the people get all the money we take from them."—Des Moines News.

"Let us on to Morro castle," cries Senator Mason, waving his windmill. And the President softly asks: "To Morro?"—Minneapolis Journal.

Ben Tillman is against Hawaiian annexation. For once the South Carolina Senator has turned his pitchfork in the right direction.—Manchester (N. H.) Union.

Prince Bismarck once referred to a certain kind of politician as "the shrieking women of public opinion." It is in this class that Senator Mason belongs.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

The galleries always applaud the jingo speakers in Congress and the applause always brings on more jingo talk. It is a kind of endless chain arrangement.—Nashville American.

Really about the most serious objection to having a war with Spain is the size of the pensions to be paid to marriageable candidates for widowhood fifty years after peace is declared.—Chattanooga News.

Washington thieves made a queer haul the other day—6,000,000 Congressional envelopes of the sort that go free through the mails. The thieves got them at the headquarters of the Republican Central Committee.—Kansas City Times.

The statement is made that President McKinley has at last refused an application to pardon a bank wrecker—several of them, it is said. Let us hope that the President has turned over a new leaf in this regard.—Rochester Herald.

THE CRATER OF KILAUEA.

It Excites Fascination by Day and Terror by Night.

It is no wonder that the nature-loving and nature-fearing natives deified the cause of this tremendous display, and that they held their fire goddess perhaps in greater reverence than any other. Restless, easily provoked and jealous of all restraint, no pathway seemed open to gain her good will but that of absolute submission. Every effort was made to pacify her capricious and wild fancies, and votive offerings of the most costly character, even, it is said, of human lives, were freely given to turn aside her wrath. Until within a few years it has been a difficult matter to persuade a native to approach the caldron. Their old superstitions have lingered down to the present generation, and the memory of the deeds of the dread Pele are still too fresh in the minds of most of them to be easily set aside. The crossing of the intervening crust between the wall of the crater and the caldron by daylight is about as serious an affair as most people wish, but more than half of its glories and hidden dangers are lost through the effect of that same daylight. Wait till the stars are out, and then pass carefully down to the surface of the same floor, and it becomes a very different place. It had all the fascination of danger by day, it inspires all the terror of an approaching catastrophe by night. You feel your way by the lurid glare of the lake which lies ahead of you, and the half-gloom of your surroundings is lighted up by the fitful gleam of fire which sheds its greasy-colored tints upon the knotted and gnarled lava which crumbles beneath your feet. Where there were dark cracks under you in the daytime, you now see that you are crossing a pavement of blocks each edge of which is fringed with glowing light, and as your eyes glance down along those lines the white-hot molten lava is plainly visible but a few inches from the surface. To say that the perspiration rises all over you when you first experience the full meaning of your situation under such conditions, expresses your feelings only too mildly, for often the native who may be acting as your guide trembles and wants to turn back from this test of his nerves. None of them go out over this crust at night with any degree of willingness. The trip should be made, however, if it can be done safely, and one can generally judge of the amount of danger from the condition of the caldron, as the volcano has heretofore been a very law-abiding one. At no time can the full beauty of the spot be apprehended so well as by night. By daylight much of the color of the bright lava and the burning gases is lost; while by night the whole effect is most impressive, and the mind is nearly stifled by the rush of sensations, if only the fear of immediate danger is lost sufficiently to allow you to give yourself wholly to the enjoyment of a scene which, in the elements of grandeur, is not to be surpassed on the face of the globe.—From "Kilauea, the Home of Pele," by Prof. William Libbey in Harper's Magazine.

MAKING SUGAR IN AFRICA.

Dark Continent to Be a Great Producing Country.

In the distant future Africa promises to be a great sugar producing country. A number of Englishmen have demonstrated after several years of difficulties that the industry can be successfully worked. The first expedition of the company proceeded to the Zambesi late in 1890. The river had not been opened for traffic; the men were landed at Quillimane, and paddled up a small river to a point called Mopea, where it almost joins the Zambesi at about a hundred miles from the mouth. Here the men settled, with Kaffir huts to live in and Kaffir food to eat.

The first work was the planting. Up to this time there was no sugar cane in the whole of the Zambesi Delta, consequently hundreds of tons of plants had to be imported from the neighboring Colony of Natal. The cane plants were brought up the river in fleets of native canoes, rude enough vessels, made by simply scooping out the trunk of a tree; but, owing to the black man's innate penchant for sweet things more than half the plants were eaten on the way, the native children swarming like monkeys along the banks for a bite of sugar-cane. The next task was the education of the Kaffirs, a tedious business, for before they could be started on the A, B, C of the work, they had to be initiated in the reason for work at all, and then to be convinced of the absolute necessity that the worker should do a regular full day's work. They preferred an hour or two at a time with a corresponding amount of sleep to follow, and if the overseer turned his back for a moment, he would find half his men fishing in the river or catching rats, the latter being a very tasty morsel to a Kaffir. However, perseverance, fair treatment and good temper have had their reward; and to-day the company has several hundred good workers. In June of 1893 the first crop was reaped, amounting to six hundred tons, but it was only finished in November, owing to the innumerable difficulties and delays before the natives could be taught how to work with machinery. In 1894, eight hundred tons of sugar were made in three months, which showed an immense improvement. To give the Kaffir his due, it must be said that the tedium of instructing him is not without its alleviations. It was distinctly humorous to watch the utter surprise on the negro's countenance when he first saw the sugar made and tasted it; and that of the man who trying to stop the fly-wheel of one of the engines with his hands, found him self precipitated into a heap of sawdust some four yards off. The humor, however, was not always so unmixed with pain. A common accident was for the men to get their toes jammed in trying to stop the loaded trucks of cane with their naked feet. One inquisitive fellow, wanting to test by feeling the revolutions of the circular saw, did so with disastrous result, and at the sight of his hand minus a finger he bolted and has not been seen again to this day.

Why He Lost a Client.

One of Detroit's reputable lawyers is doing a good deal of his laughing and swearing from one and the same cause. "What makes me mad enough to scrap," he says, "is to have a woman tell me my business when I know more about it in a minute than an average forty of her sex will know at the end of eternity. And nine out of ten of them do it, no matter how complicated the case or how important the matter at issue. But this last one gave me a new experience. I've looked her up since and find that she is a literary personage of much more than usual ability. I don't know whether being able to write and get your stuff into print swells a person's head or not, but from the way she started in you'd think I was nothing but an amanuensis. She had a mortgage of \$1,500 as collateral for a loan made to some hard luck cousin in the northern part of the State. As the instrument had been duly recorded and the property was evidently good for more than the amount of the claim, I assured her it was all right. Now, what do you think that woman insisted on? She was bound that I have that mortgage copyrighted so that her cousin couldn't get out another like it. Yes, sir, copyrighted. And when I ridiculed the idea she told me that she had suspected from the start that I didn't know my business. She would put the matter in the hands of some one that did; and then she sailed out of my office like the flagship of a squadron."—Detroit Journal.

Miles and Knots.

A statute mile is 5,280 feet long. It is our standard of itinerary measure adopted from the English, who in turn adopted it from the Romans. A Roman military pace by which distances were measured was the length of the step taken by the Roman soldiers, and was approximately five feet long; a thousand of these paces were called in Latin a mile. The English mile is therefore a purely arbitrary measure, enacted into a legal measure by a statute passed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it has no connection with any scale in nature. A nautical mile, on the other hand, is equal to one-sixtieth part of the length of a degree of a great circle of earth. But the circumference of the earth is nowhere a true circle; its radius of curvature is variable; hence the nautical mile, as a matter of fact, depends upon the shape as well as the size of the globe sailed over; and hence, strictly speaking, the length of the nautical mile should vary with the latitude from 6,046 feet at the equator to 6,100 feet at the pole. Such extreme accuracy is not necessary in navigating, and cannot be well attained without undue labor.

Uses of Curiosity.

The Bishop of London, in a recent address on "Reading," said, "All human knowledge has been gained by the impertinence and pig-headedness of a small number of people who were always seeking 'Why?'"

Gold Accidentally Discovered.

Many gold finds have been purely accidental. An adventurer who had drifted into Leadville awoke one morning without food or money. He went out and shot a deer, which, in its dying agonies, kicked up the dirt and disclosed signs of gold. The poor man staked out a "claim," and opened one of the most profitable mines ever worked in Leadville. Another rich mine in Leadville, called Dead Man's Claim, was discovered by a broken-down miner while digging a grave.

A man hates to put on a new pair of shoes as much as a woman hates to have a tooth pulled.

The English admiralty, therefore, have adopted 6,080 feet as the length of a nautical mile, which corresponds with the length of one-sixtieth of a degree—or one minute of arc—of a great circle in latitude 48 degrees. The United coast survey has adopted the value of the nautical mile "as equal to one-sixtieth part of a degree on the great circle of a sphere whose surface is equal to the surface of the earth. This gives the length of one nautical mile as equal to 6,080.27 feet, which is very nearly the value of the admiralty mile adopted in the English navy. Practically the nautical mile is 800 feet longer than the statute mile. In other words, one nautical mile is equal to 1.1515 statute miles; or one statute mile is equal to 0.869 nautical mile. Multiply nautical miles by 1.1515 and the product will be statute miles; or multiply statute miles by 0.869, and the product will be nautical miles.—Harper's Round Table.

Value of Reading in School.

A school superintendent was asked, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, how he managed to advance his pupils in all their studies so much more rapidly than his predecessor had done. His reply is worthy of special note: "I make it a point to bring them along as rapidly as possible in reading. In the primary grades I give more time to this exercise than is customary in other schools, and I persuade or entice the pupils of higher grades to read books, newspapers, and magazines, anything wholesome that will give them practice, and at the same time instruct them. Every day we spend from fifteen to twenty minutes asking and answering questions about what we had read. To excite curiosity, we post the most important caption lines from the columns of the newspapers. The next morning nearly every one of the older scholars is prepared to give particulars on the subject of the previous day's bulletins. If I can get our scholars to read, it is easy to induce them to study; by as much as they become more expert in reading so much is the labor of pursuing their other studies reduced, and their enjoyment heightened."

Cost of School Books.

The cost of school books is often made to appear as an enormous and unreasonable burden. While poor people who have large families in school really have some burden to bear in this matter, the average person has an exaggerated idea of the cost of schoolbooks.

It is interesting to note from the last census report the cost of certain things as compared with the cost of schoolbooks. It has been found by a series of investigations in different States, based upon reliable information, that the cost of school books amounts to a sum which would be equal to ten cents for each inhabitant, or \$7,000,000 a year in the whole United States. Compare this with the following: Cost of artificial flowers and feathers, \$9,000,000; tobacco and cigars, \$105,000,000; confectionery, \$55,000,000; cigar boxes, \$7,000,000; liquors—distilled, malt and vinous—\$298,000,000.

Textile School in the South.

Just before its final adjournment, the Georgia Senate passed a House bill providing for the establishment of a textile school as a branch of the State School of Technology in Atlanta. The bill appropriates only \$10,000, and provides that a like sum must be raised for the school before the appropriation is available. The friends of the movement say that more than the requisite amount on the outside is already in sight, and believe that the next Legislature will increase the appropriation for the school, which will be the first institution of the kind in the South.

Unique Spelling Lesson.

Write upon the blackboard in columns fifty words such as a grocer's boy would be called upon to use in taking orders, a housewife or servant in giving the same. Have them copied by the pupils. After the spelling has been learned, have each pupil make store orders or mail-charges on memoranda until he has used in this way every one of the fifty words. This tests their knowledge of the meaning, the spelling, the method of measuring and a reasonable price.—Bayette County (Iowa) Teacher.

College of Electricity.

A unique institution has been started in Genoa, Italy, for the instruction of master mariners, electricians and others who have charge of electrical work aboard ship. The new institute bears the name of Christopher Columbus and has its quarters on board a vessel in the Genoa harbor.

Notes.

In 1895 there were 400,000 teachers in the United States, of which number 268,000 were women.

It is again rumored that Dr. Caird, the venerable principal of Glasgow University, is about to retire.

J. J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railroad has given \$20,000 to Hamline University on condition that \$15,000 more is raised.

Princess Therese, daughter of Prince Luipold, Regent of Bavaria, has had conferred upon her the degree of Ph. D., by the University of Munich. The residence of the late Henry W. Sage, at Ithaca, has been offered to Cornell University for hospital purposes, the sons of Mr. Sage pledging an endowment of \$100,000.

The Massachusetts State Board of Education has asked the Legislature for authority to confer degrees upon graduates of the State normal schools who have completed four years of study in these institutions.

Daily newspapers are now published in ten colleges and universities in the United States: Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Brown, Stanford, Tulane, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin and University of Michigan.

During the past year the colleges and universities in the United States have received bequests and endowments amounting to \$16,814,000. Nearly one-fourth of this amount was given to the University of California and the rest in larger and smaller amounts to other colleges.

The Winthrop Normal and Industrial College for Young Women at Rock Hill, S. C., is supposed to be the best equipped institution of the kind in the South. It was started earlier than any other, and assumed its present location and conditions when the normal schools were started in other States.



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A WORD OF ADVICE

To Those Coming to Alaska or the Klondike Gold Fields.

One thing should be impressed upon every miner, prospector or trader coming to Alaska, to the Klondike, or the Yukon country, and that is the necessity for providing an adequate and proper food supply. Whether procured in the States, in the Dominion, or at the supply stores here or further on, this must be his primary concern. Upon the manner in which the miner has observed or neglected this precaution more than upon any other one thing will his success or failure depend.

These supplies must be healthful and should be concentrated, but the most careful attention in the selection of foods that will keep unimpaired indefinitely under all the conditions which they will have to encounter is imperative. For instance, as bread raised with baking powder must be relied upon for the chief part of every meal, imagine the helplessness of a miner with a can of spoiled baking powder. Buy only the very best flour; it is the cheapest in the end. Experience has shown the Royal Baking Powder to be the most reliable and the trading companies now uniformly supply this brand, as others will not keep in this climate. Be sure that the bacon is sweet, sound and thoroughly cured. These are the absolute necessities upon which all must place a chief reliance, and can under no circumstances be neglected. They may, of course, be supplemented by as many comforts or delicacies as the prospector may be able to pack or desire to pay for.—From the Alaska Mining Journal.

A book of receipts for all kinds of cookery, which is specially valuable for use upon the trail or in the camp, is published by the Royal Baking Powder Company, of New York. The receipts are thoroughly practical, and the methods are carefully explained, so that the inexperienced may, with its aid, readily prepare everything requisite for a good, wholesome meal, or even dainties if he has the necessary materials. The matter is in compact though durable form, the whole book weighing but two ounces. Under a special arrangement, this book will be sent free to miners or others who may desire it. We would recommend that every one going to the Klondike procure a copy. Address the Royal Baking Powder Co., New York.

A Race of Imitators.

Biggs—Columbus taught the Italians a lesson that they have never forgotten. Diggs—What was that? Biggs—Old Christopher, you know, made an egg stand. Diggs—Yes, so history tells us. Biggs—Well, you have doubtless observed that the majority of Italians in this country have either a fruit, peanut or bootblack stand.

Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease.

A powder to shake into your shoes. It cures Corns and Bunions, Chilblains, Swollen, Nervous, Damp, Sweating, Smarting, Hot and Callous Feet. At all druggists' and shoe stores, 25c. ASK TO-DAY. Sample FREE. Address Allen S. Oimstead, LeRoy, N. Y.

Following That.

Physician—Heavens, woman, what do you mean by giving Patsy a bath? With his pneumonia it may prove fatal. Mrs. Midhooley—Faith, your honor, an' didn't yer prasephirin rade. 'To be taken in wather?—Brooklyn Life.

Blood Humors

Spring is the Cleansing Season—Don't Neglect Your Health.

You Need to Take Hood's Sarsaparilla Now.

Spring is the season for cleansing and renewing. Everywhere accumulations of waste are being removed and preparations for the new life of another season are being made. This is the time for cleansing your blood. Winter has left it impure. Spring Humors, boils, pimples, eruptions are the results. Hood's Sarsaparilla expels all impurities from the blood and makes it rich and nourishing. It builds up the nervous system, overcomes that tired feeling, creates an appetite, gives sweet, refreshing sleep and renewed energy and vigor. It cures all spring humors, boils, pimples and eruptions.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is America's Greatest Medicine. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills

are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.



POMMEL SLICKER

The Best Saddle Coat. Keeps both rider and saddle perfectly dry in the hardest storms. Substitutes will disappoint. Ask for Pommel Slicker. It is entirely new. If not for sale in your town, write for catalogue to A. J. TOWER, Boston, Mass.

POTATOES \$1.50 a Bbl.

Largest Seed POTATO growers in America. The "Rural New Yorker" gives SALZER'S EARLIEST a yield of 465 bushels per acre. Prices dirt cheap. Our great SEED BOOK, 11 Pages. Seed Sample, worth \$1.00, sent at once, and list of names. JOHN A. SALZER SEED CO., Latrobe, Pa. (C. O.)

PISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION

CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.