ABSORBING THE POPS

Sidelight Upon the Manner of Working Nebraska Fusion Schemes.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE REVEALED

Edmisten Pulling the Wires for Bryan—One Populist Who Refused to Be Swallowed—A Few Things That All Who Wish Their Country Well Should Read and Remember.

How Populists Were Caught.

In connection with the recent meeting of the members of the Populist National Committee, at Lincoln, some interesting correspondence has come to light, showing that it was a well-planned preliminary step toward capturing the Populist national organization for Bryan and fusion.

The character of the letters sent is shown in the letter which J. H. Edmisten, chairman of the Populist State committee, sent to his colleagues in the national committee, of which he is also a member. Among other things he said:

"Mr. Bryan will be here at that time and would be pleased, I know, to meet as many of the national committee as possible. There are doubtless some matters in connection with the work of the national committee that should be carefully considered. That of holding our national convention thirty days before either of the other parties is one. Those supporting Baker and Donnelly should not, in my opinion, be permitted to take part in the meetings of our committee or convention.

"J. H. EDMISTEN."

Mr. Edmisten evidently did not know his man in one instance. Dr. Eskew replied under date of of Poplar Bluff, Mo.:

"Yours of late date to hand and contents noted. In reply will say that I cannot take part in the meeting of your State committee, as I understand it will be a democratic meeting, and I was elected a member of the national committee from Missouri as a Populist; and for that reason, if no other, I could not and will not betray the confidence placed in me by the Populists of Missouri by taking part in a meeting that I believe is called for the benefit of the Democratic party.

"You say that those supporting Baker and Donnelly should not, in your opinion, be permitted to take part in the meeting of your committee or convention. Well, I think so myself, and I want you to see to it that no Populists are permitted in your meeting, for they have no business there. Yours,

"DeWITT ESKEW,
"Member People's Party Nat. Com."

Some Questions.

Will Secretary of State Porter and the populist state committee please answer?

Secretary of State Porter state he favors the re-organization of the secretaries of the state board of transportation. Why?

Is it possible that he thinks that the law firm of Allen & Rounson are too largely represented in Congress?

Secretary of State Porter says that the reason he is in favor of it is because the people are not satisfied with the inaction of these secretaries.

The World-Herald says, "But he would be a bold and reckless prophet who, from present aspects, would forecast any awakening from the slothful and well paid slumber which has so markedly distinguished the office of the secretaries of the board of transportation under the present occupants."

If Secretary Porter and the World-Herald is correct, it is up to the Populist State Central committee who recently laid a resolution on the table instructing the secretaries to act.

Thus doth the great and good populist party have troubles of its own, and always will until the people rise in their might and discharge not only the secretaries but the whole machine ring.

Local Increase in Business.

The increase of postal receipts show the increase in business activity, and general prosperity. In the city of Lincoln the postal receipts for 1899 exceeded those of 1896 by $43,763.55, being an increase of over 58 per cent. The increase in all departments over the receipts of 1898 has also been large. The increase in the weight of mail is 25 per cent, while the increase in stamp sales is over 15 per cent.

The increased postal receipts in Nebraska in bank deposits, the reduction of real estate indebtedness, the lowering of interest rates, the demand for laboring men, all furnish proof of the onward march of prosperity and the happiness and contentment of the people.

Three Prosperous Counties.

As proof of the great reduction in indebtedness that is being made in Nebraska, attention is called to the records made by the following counties:

Otoe, real estate mortgage reduction	$113,117.92
Platte, real estate mortgage reduction	101,000.00
Richardson, real estate mortgage reduction	77,403.97
	$291,521.89

This record, which was made in 1899, is only a sample of what has been done by the other counties. Farming pays in Nebraska.

"A Ridiculous Cause."

Representative Sibley, one of the Bryan leaders in 1896, has seen the hopelessness of the silver issue. He says: "The cause I held sacred in 1896 has become ridiculous. I believe if the democratic party is victorious this fall it will not be able to write a single line of financial legislation in the next six years. If the democratic party is to live, it must have a policy. It must do something besides carp and fault-find. If it will adopt a policy I will keep with it, but if it invites me to a banquet of carping and fault-finding, it will have to excuse me."

It is said that the engines of the new British battleship Montague are to be the most powerful ever placed in a man-of-war. They are to develop 18,000 indicated horsepower and the speed is to be one knot or over for every 100 horsepower. There will be two sets of triple expansion engines and thirty Belleville boilers, which will cost £150,000. The total cost of the vessel will be over £1,000,000.

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

The individual deposits in the banks of Nebraska are nearly double what they were in 1896.

Every man who voted for the seating of a polygamist in Congress was a democrat.

The Nebraska Populist state committee is on record against any reduction in freight rates.

The present Republican administration will provide for the building of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

The legislatures of Maryland and Virginia voted down resolutions of invitation to Bryan to appear and make speeches.

The United States shipped goods to the port of Havana in 1899 amounting to $19,746,318. The total import duty receipts of the port for the year were $8,500,582.

For the year ending June 30, 1897, still under the Wilson law, the exports of breadstuffs from this country amounted to $197,857,219 the following year, under the Dingley law, they amounted to $333,897,119.

Almost one-half of the receipts of the oil inspection department of Nebraska were used in 1897 and 1898, either to enrich an individual, or to furnish campaign funds to a sham reform party, the chairman of the party being responsible for the diversion.

During 1899 the United States exported over sixteen million bushels of corn per month, and the average price was 40 cents per bushel. The total number of bushels shipped in 1898 and 1899 was over four times larger than the total for 1893 and 1894.

Silverites say Ben Harrison was for free coinage. However, this is what Harrison said in his letter of acceptance in 1892: "I am thoroughly convinced that the free coinage of silver at such a ratio to gold as will maintain the equality in their commercial uses of the two coined dollars would conduce to the prosperity of all the great producing and commercial nations of the world." No 16 to 1 there.

RIDICULES A PROTECTORATE.

Auditor Andrews Comments on Bryan's New Ideas.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—Auditor of the Treasury W. E. Andrews was asked by the Lincoln Journal correspondent this morning what he thought of Bryan's new position on the Philippine question.

"I see that Bryan is opposed to the retention of the Philippines, but wants this government to maintain a protectorate," said the auditor. "As a business proposition this looks ridiculous. If we were to give up the islands and at the same time protect the islanders from enemies, both within and without, our expense would go right on. We would have to maintain an army to restore order, and keep it ready to prevent encroachments of other nations."

"Then you think Bryan's idea would really result in imperialism instead of preventing it?"

"Yes, I do," said the auditor. "Under a protectorate there could be no reduction in the size of the army and not cutting down of expense. I believe both would be larger. They want us to give away our property and yet continue to guard and take care of it. Their pretended policy would involve every problem and difficulty that we have to meet, now, and would result in absolutely no benefit to us. In fact, it would in time be sure to bring on international complications.

"Suppose we gave up our claim to the property, and at the same time went to the expense of maintaining an army to guard it. And suppose that after a year or two Aguinaldo and his portable cabinet should sell the islands to some other nation, where would we be? It is impossible that Bryanism will be allowed to lead the country up to such a fiasco as that?"

Cannot Deliver.

State Journal: It was a republican congress that passed and a republican president that signed the only effective anti-trust law that is in our statute books. The Bryanites declare that it is not good for anything and that they must be put into power before anything can be done to down the trusts. But its mouthpiece and dictator was in congress four years and did not introduce or get anybody to introduce any amendment to the Sherman law. The alleged anti-trust laws passed by democratic or popocratic legislatures are all laughing stocks because they invariably turn out to be unconstitutional and void ab initio.

The same utter inability of that outfit to do anything that they promise to do is illustrated in this state where the fusionists have been elected to the executive and legislative offices for several years, on the pledge that they were going to do something decisive if not dreadful in the way of putting down "monopolies" and curbing the power of the transportation corporations. What have they done? The republican boards of transportation can point out in every year of their unostentatious exercise of the powers given them by the legislature, some valuable concessions by the railroad companies for the benefit of the public, notably the reduction of the corn rates in 1896 for the relief of the farmers to 15 cents, until they could snip their damaged crop that was "soft," in the subsequent arrangement of differentials so as to break up the monopoly of certain terminal points, and to a revision of the classification so as to equalize rates on many of the necessaries of life. They made no fuss about the matter but accomplished their objects without going into courts, by good diplomacy and reasonable demands.

What have the fusionist outfit in the legislature and in the board of transportation accomplished in the past three years? Can they point to a single benefit to the public after all their noise, in consideration of the salaries, expenses and lawyers' fees they have regularly drawn from the pockets of the people? What do they lack? Is it brains or diligence or a sense of obligation, or all three?

It is cited in evidence of the increased trade which expansion is likely to bring to the United States that the exports of this country to China, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines for the first eleven months of 1899 were $28,000,000, against $16,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1898, and $15,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1897, while the fact that we will be able to buy more and more of our tropical products in those islands instead of sending the money to other parts of the world is shown by the fact that our imports from them were in the first eleven months of 1899, $58,000,000 against $39,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1898 and $37,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1897.

The Boston Transcript tells a story of a man who has a class of boys in natural history. One of the subjects which he took up was butterflies and moths, and he told the children a good deal about the chrysalides and cocoons. After he had got the boys well instructed, he showed one of the smallest of them one of the cocoons, and asked: "What buterfly is this cocoon of?" Then the little boy looked up and said, slowly and respectfully: "My papa says that all cocoons look alike to him!"

Queer Acts of Reformers.

Fremont Tribune: A most remarkable disclosure is made with reference to the neglected duty on the part of the State Board of Transportation.

Some time during the year 1897 the Board directed that the railroads of the state should withdraw their new schedule for live stock shipments on pound rates and restore the old schedule based on carload rates.

The attorney general has since that time begun suit against the Union Pacific road for alleged violation of the order, but the discovery has lately been made that the 1897 order of the Board was not served on the roads until January 19th of the present year and the attorney general's suit falls flat.

When the order was passed by the Board it was done with much blowing of horns and beating of populist tomtoms. The people were to understand they had a friend at court that would protect their rights though the heavens fell. But the clamor and noise, it was understood, should not be taken seriously by the railroads. The attorney general, who in mock solemnity, began a suit for $5,000 penalty against the Union Pacific, is a member of the Board. All interest in the shippers ceased when the 1897 meetings of the Board adjourned and before legal notice was served on the roads. The proceedings were for publication, not for regulation.

Now the roads are asking that the order be rescinded and it is up to the Board to do something. But for more than two years the roads have been absolved from the original order. Meantime they have shown their appreciation of popocratic favors. Last year they apparently threw their support to Holcomb for judge. They have played fair with the Board, for they have "delivered the goods."

Without reference to justice or injustice of carload or pound rates on live stock the people of the state must look with surprise on the picture revealed.

Obviously the shippers of Nebraska must view with some amazement the brazeness of a Board that evades serving its own processes, or regard with pity public functionaries who haven't the intelligence to perform the vital part of a legal action.

A Profitless Debate.

The weariesome debate on the Philippine question was continued in the Senate yesterday without an interesting feature. What good isit doing, and where is it to end? These are pertinent questions which the country will soon be asking of the senators unless they pause long enouga in their oratorical craze to ask themselves and be guided by the obvious answer.

If talk is profitless, why keep talking? It will convince nobody that the administration is always wrong and its opponents always right, whatever the latter may think or say. The "anti's" oratory can have no effect at home, and is altogether useless, but not altogether harmless, for it cheers the Luzon rebels. They cannot expect their speeches will have the effect of causing the recall of troops from the Philippines, until the war is ended, and just what they do expect to accomplish is certainly not clear to others, and probably not to themselves. If they are talking for self-glorification or partisan ends they surely deserve all the opprobium which they are heaping upon themseives, and more. Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

Great Bank Deposits.

The state banks of Nebraska, according to their last report show individual deposits amounting to $21,666,111.12; the national banks carrying $28,859,660.38, according to the last published report of the Comptroller of the Currency. This makes a grand total of $50,525,771.50, and is exclusive of United States deposits, which amount to $928,969.27. This is an indication of prosperity that cannot be avoided by the calamity howlers. Compare it with the condition in 1896, after four years of democracy, and at a time when free silver was threatening the country.

Plain Democratic Talk.

General Simon Buckner, one of the old time democratic leaders, says: "The democratic party has no future until the element now in control has been wiped out, which, however, promises to be done at the elections of this year. Expediency, not principle, is the motto of this element; the energies of its leaders, Mr. Bryan, are engaged in hunting for an issue which he hopes will attract votes, and not to the promulgation of those great principles on wihch the democratic party rests. The controlling element of the party today would commit it to opposition to expansion, whereas expansion was the essence of Jeffersonion democracy."

William Kerr, of Providence, R. I., is still pursuing the trade of watchmaking at the age of 82 years, after sixty-six years' work at it. The Jewelers' Circular says he has invented several curious clocks, the best known being one on which a litle ball makes a zigzag journey down an inclined plane, which tilts back and forth at regular intervals. In 1879 he made a large working model of the Strassburg cathedral clock.

PROSPERITY'S FACTS.

FIGURES ILLUSTRATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Enormous Increase in the Amount of Money in the Hands of the People, and in the Vaults of the National Treasury.

In a timely and instructive contribution to the Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia Frank A. Vanderlip, assistant secretary of the treasury, brings into view some of the splendid facts of the prosperity with which the people of the United States are blessed, and for which they mainly have to thank the change in national policies brought about by the presidential election of 1896. The assistant secretary, whose relations to government finances enable him to speak with knowledge and authority, draws attention to the remarkable statistics of the iron trade as presenting "a comparison of both relative and absolute development such as has not been seen before." Some of the facts resulting from wise economic laws are best stated in Mr. Vanderlip's own words:

"A decade ago we imported $71,000,000 and exported $14,000,000 of iron and steel manufactures. Since that time imports have steadily fallen and exports risen, until for the fiscal year 1899 we imported but $12,000,000 and exported nearly $94,000,000. In spite of this unparalleled production the price of pig iron rose in eight months, February to September, from $1 to $24 a ton, and at this advance nearly every mill in the country is so busy that practically no orders can be accepted for early delivery.

"For five years we imported almost double the value of manufactures that we exported. For the fiscal year 1893 we exported nearly $80,000,000 more manufactured goods than we imported. In 1898, for the first time, our exportations of manufactures exceeded the importations, the excess being about 25 per cent."

Where for many years we imported on an average of $1,000,000 of manufactured goods a day and exported about half that amount, he says, "for the fiscal year just closed we exported considerably more than $1,000,000 of manufactured goods every working day of the year."

The shipping industry, he says, also shared in the general prosperity, quoting statistics showing the increase in tonnage and in the number of new vessels constructed.

He shows that the bank clearings have increased 41 per cent and the deposits 23 per cent. If the figures were contrasted with those of three years ago the increase in the deposits would be 70 per cent.

He shows in the two years up to Oct. 1, 1899, the total money circulation in the people's hands has increased $270,000,000.

"The total gold in the country today," he says, "stands at $1,000,000,000, which contrasts with $641,000,000 three years ago. Gold is becoming the everyday money of commerce, and is no longer found only locked up in banks and safe deposit vaults."

Another fact he brings out is the breaking of large bills into small ones. In four years the number of $1 bills has been increased from $40,000,000 to $57,000,000; of $2 bills from $28,000,000 to $36,000,000 and of $5 bills from $245,000,000 to $291,000,000.

The government securities have advanced and the agricultural department estimates that the value of farm animals has increased $342,000,000. Money orders have increased more than $20,000,000. Immigration has increased 36 per cent.

All these things have come to pass, together with many other things of equal importance, under a strictly American administration. The tide turned when we began to show less concern for the fortunes of our own people.

IN SAFE HANDS.

The French Reciprocity Treaty Certainly to Be Rigidly Scrutinized.

General interest has been excited regarding the provisions of the new reciprocity treaty between the United States and France, now awaiting the consideration of congress, by the publication in the American Economist of Nov. 24 of information setting forth the injury that would be inflicted upon the domestic coal tar dye and color industry by the proposed reduction of 20 per cent in the duty on that class of French products. From the letter of our Washington correspondent, which is printed in the current issue of the Economist, it appears that through regard for the traditional courtesy due to the senate as the co-ordinate treaty making branch of our government it is necessary that the publication of the treaty be deferred until the instrument shall have been transmitted to the senate. It also appears that in due time the treaty will come before the house of representatives for practical review by that body, and that full information will be had by the public long before conclusive action shall be taken by congress.

Meanwhile it is safe to assume that the proposed reciprocity treaty will have received careful examination by the administration and its operations and effect fully ascertained. Therefore the interests of all the different industries concerned are in safe hands, for the present administration is thoroughly American, thoroughly Protectionist, thoroughly Republican.

In order that accurate and reliable information may be available as a guide in the treatment of this important question the American Economist invites expressions on the subject from the industries that are affected by the proposed reciprocity treaty.

SAMPLE INDUSTRIAL BOOM.

Result of Placing National Affairs in Honest and Capable Hands.

No better illustration of our country's new prosperity can be obtained than in the work of the great locomotive building plants. Never before in the history of the concerns have they had so many men on the pay rolls, never before have they turned out so many locomotives in a year, and never before have they been so far behind in their orders. During last month the famous Baldwin works turned out ninety-two locomotives, an average of over three for every working day in the month. And they are bigger and better locomotives, too, than the roads used to order. No railroad now orders for its main line freight and passenger service engines that weigh forty to fifty tons, for everything now is from 100 to 120 tons in weight. Until prosperity returned to this country with the incoming of President McKinley the locomotive industry was simply paralyzed. The last good year was in 1893, and from then on until Republicanism and Protection returned, the big shops were closed half the time and running on half forces and half time the remainder of the year. The railroads were ordering about half as many locomotives as they needed to keep up the ordinary wear and tear, for it was very plain to them that there was a crisis in the affairs of this country, and they wanted to be able to see daylight before they made any great improvements in their rolling stock. The sudden revival of business compelled the roads to replace their worn out engines, and now the builders are having a hard time filling orders. The policy of Protection has also created a great foreign demand for the American built locomotives, and several hundred engines will be sent abroad this year. In the one big shop of the Baldwin works there are now 7,250 men at work, and the company is planning extensions and improvements that will make their plant still larger. It is but a sample of the prosperity that comes to all when the affairs of our nation are in capable and honest hands.—Des Moines (Ia.) State Register.

What Senator Daniel Does Not See.

"I see no encouragement to Democrats in the recent elections," is the concluding sentence of a letter written to the New York World by John W. Daniel, United States senator from Virginia and a leader in the Democratic party. Right you are, senator. There is no encouragement visible to Democrats, always excepting the halcyon and vociferous optimist out in Nebraska, who sees encouragement for Mr. Bryan's overpowering ambition to lead his party to certain defeat. All else is gloom and discouragement for Democrats, but it is a mighty fine prospect for the country as a whole, for does it not give assurance that the march of prosperity shall continue uninterrupted under a second term of McKinley and protection? Such is verily the outlook. Hence the inability of Senator Daniel to discover any "encouragement to Democrats in the recent elections."

A Financial Contrast.

Under Cleveland and free trade we had peace and no extraordinary expenses of any kind, and the government was obliged to issue bonds in order to keep good the national credit and to get gold for our depleted and well-nigh empty treasury. Under McKinley and protection we are conducting a costly war, yet, to relieve stringency in the money market, the secretary of the treasury has offered to take from an overflowing treasury $25,000,000, and put it into general circulation by buying bonds to that amount. The contrasting circumstances outline in vivid colors the difference there is, in respect to the conditions of our national finances, between free-trade and protection.

How the Shoes Are Paid For.

Yes, shoes have advanced, but the $26 which a good yearling calf now brings will pay for the family supply for one year, but the $5 or $6 which the aforesaid yearling would hardly bring in free trade times would leave the family barefooted, and with good old Democratic stone bruises on the children's feet, with shoes at calamity prices. And, laying all jokes aside, the whole situation, and difference, is practically summed up and illustrated in this incident.—Carmi (Ill.) Times.

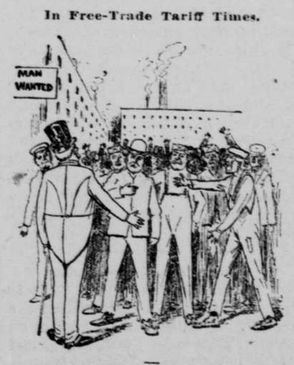
The People's Pass Book.

In 1889 there were 6,708,971 depositors in the banks of the United States, and their total deposits amounted to $3,776,410,402.

In 1899 there are 13,153,874 depositors, and their aggregate deposits amount to $7,513,954,361.

How can a campaign for cheap money be made against facts like these?—Sioux City (S. D.) Argus-Leader.

In Free-Trade Tariff Times.



In Protective Tariff Times.

The Real Issue.

The greatest issue before the American people is that of business prosperity. When all the mills are open and working overtime, and when the workingmen have all they can do and are paid good wages, they have no time to listen to agitators. That is the general condition now.—El Paso (Tex.) Herald.

THE POOR MAN'S SUIT.

American Wage Earners Wear the Best and the Cheapest Clothing.

Under all kinds of tariff laws wealthy people can obtain good clothing. It is the poor and semi-poor who are most vitally interested in such laws. Realizing this fact in a way, the advocates of low tariffs and no tariffs most strenuously insisted that the duty on wool should be removed and that on woolens cut down in order that the poor man's clothing could be reduced in price. The Wilson act made wool duty free and took off both the pound rate or compensating duty and about one-third of the ad valorem duty from woolen cloths. What was the result?

The first result was a great increase in the importation of foreign cloths of low grade, every additional yard of which took the place of a yard of American cloth, and helped to throw American workers out of employment. These foreign cloths, chiefly English, were in general not sound, all wool stuffs, but largely made of cotton and shoddy mixtures. England's use of wool substitute is far in excess of ours per capita, while her proportionate consumption of wool is only two-thirds as great as ours. English woolen manufacturers are adepts in the fabrication of cloths of good appearance from the trashiest materials, and the American market was soon flooded with spurious woolens. The foreign manufacturer had his chance and he reveled in it. If the price of clothing was slightly decreased the standard of quality was decidedly lowered.

The American woolen manufacturer soon saw what he was "up against." He was compelled to compete with the kind of stuff that was making the market. He accordingly began to import wool substitutes. This is clearly proven by the statistics of imports. The McKinley act, which preceded the Wilson act, discouraged the importation of shoddy by a duty of 30 cents a pound. The Wilson act took the opposite course by putting a merely nominal duty of 15 per cent on such materials. During the seven months ending March 31, 1893, the imports of shoddy and waste were 193,487 pounds, and for a like period ending March 31, 1894, only 40,288 pounds. In the seven months ending March 31, 1895 (succeeding the passage of the Wilson act), the imports of shoddy and waste amounted to 9,596,780 pounds, or 225 times the quantity brought in during the same section of the preceding year.

Will any person now assert that the degradation of the American woolens market thus brought about was an advantage to the poor man, even with a considerable reduction in price? And the reduction in price could not be considerable, and was not. A suit of clothes takes on an average about three yards of cloth, the cost of which is, say, about half the first cost of the suit. Reducing the duty on the woolen cloth does not lessen the cost of labor, trimmings or other expenses, and the amount so decreased was found by many expert investigations and calculations to cut but a small figure in the retail price of a suit. But the injury to quality, the lessened durability was a practical and tangible evil, as many a wearer of medium and low-priced clothing discovered.

The Dingley act restored the duty on shoddy as well as on wool and woolens, and the American mills are turning out honest and durable cloths in all grades. The "poor man's suit" costs little if any more than when it was made of a spurious worsted from the shoddy mills of England.

Why, Indeed.

Every now and again some upholder of free trade, who is more ardent than he is well informed, claims that working men and women in this country receive no better wages than do those in the same line of work in other countries. One such ranter was once holding forth at a public meeting, along these lines. After he had had it all his own way for some time, a brawny laboring man, who had been in this country only long enough to become naturalized, called out in stentorian tones: "Wages no higher in this country! What are we all here for, then?" waving his hand in the direction of numbers of his comrades, men foreign-born, but at that time American citizens.

It was a stumper. The speaker failed to answer it satisfactorily, and, so far, all the free traders have failed to make an adequate reply to the question. If wages are not any higher in this country than they are in European countries, why do workmen, why, during all these years, have workmen, by thousands and hundreds of thousands, left their own countries and come over to the United States to better their condition? We are still waiting for an answer.

McKinley Prosperity in Ohio.

A thorough inquiry into the condition of 225 factories, mills and workshops in Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, Piqua, Springfield, Cleveland, Toledo and Lima reveals the following facts: Number of men employed in 1896, 50,474; in 1899, 84,580; gain, 34,105. Monthly wages paid in 1896, $2,414,651; in 1899, $4,263,491; increase, $1,848,840. It is estimated that $3,500,000 per month more is being paid as wages in Ohio this year than in 1896. The increase of wages per man in Cleveland averages $7.76 per month. The increase per man in the Miami Valley averages $8.31 per month.—Indianapolis (Ind.) Journal.

How It Was Settled.

During the palmy days of Free Trade talk, when Mills and Wilson bills were the fashion of the hour, it was actually prophesied that the passage of the latter bill would settle the question of the tariff for a generation. In fact, it did settle it. It brought in so little revenue that President Cleveland was obliged to borrow right and left, and business went into a hole, and drew the hole in after it. It is a curious fact that the passage of Protective Tariff acts is always followed by periods of prosperity, and the ascendency of Free Trade has always just as surely brought on panics and hard times.—Ashland (Wis.) Press.

Even Bryan Is Prosperous.

It is a curious fact that Mr. Bryan was never so prosperous in his life as at this time, when he is trying to convince people there is no prosperity.—Burlington Hawk-Eye.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VII, FEB. 18—JOHN IV: 5-26—AT JACOB'S WELL.

Golden Text—God Is a Spirit: and They That Worship Him Must Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth—John 4:24.

5. "Then cometh he," on his way from Judea to Galilee. "A city . . . called Sychar." The ancient Shechem between Mts. Ebal and Gerizim. Sychar means drunken town, or lying town.—Vincent. "That Jacob gave to his son Joseph." Few places in Palestine, after Jerusalem, have had so much of Bible history connected with them.

6. "Now Jacob's well was there." "One of the few sites about which there is no dispute." This well, measured in late years by Captain Anderson and by Lieutenant Conder, is seventy-five feet deep, and eight or nine feet in diameter. "Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey." He was not weary of his work, but only in his work. "Sat (was sitting) thus on (by) the well," probably on the low curb usually placed around wells, resting, waiting for the return of his disciples. "It was about the sixth hour." Either noon, according to Jewish reckoning, or 6 p. m., according to one method of Roman reckoning, which many learned men think was used by John.

7. "There cometh a woman of (out of) Samaria." Not the city of Samaria, seven miles away, but from the country of Samaria; one of Samaritan race and religion. "To draw water." "Jesus saith unto her." The reason is given in the next verse. The disciples had gone to the city half or three-fourths of a mile away (8) "to buy meat," food. "Not meat, but 'provisions,' the plural being used in the Greek."—Professor Riddle. "Give me to drink." In regard to Oriental customs it is not considered "important for a man, though a stranger, to ask a woman to let down her pitcher and give him to drink."

9. "How is it that thou, being a Jew." "Jesus would be recognized as a Jew by his dress. The color of the fringes on his garments was probably white; that of Samaritans would be blue. "Askest drink," etc. The wonder of the Samaritan woman was that a Jew should seek, by asking and receiving drink, to make a friendly compact with a member of a hostile race. "For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." They have no dealings of friendly intercourse.

10. "If thou knewest the gift of God." His son, the Messiah, and the salvation he was bringing to man. "Thou wouldst have asked of him." Emphasize the thou and him. "And he would have given thee living water."

11. "Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with." That is, the usual leather bucket and line. Note her change of tone.

12. "Art thou greater than our father Jacob?" Can you dig a better well, or find sweeter water?

13. "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again." This water satisfying only bodily thirst for brief periods, and a type of all worldly supplies for the deeper thirst of the soul.

14. "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him." Observe the representation throughout that the water is a gift from Christ to humanity. God's good things can never be bought. "Shall never thirst." This does not contradict the Beatitudes, "Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after righteousness," but it declares that there is an unfailing supply always at hand for the thirst. The water that satisfies is not from without, an external supply, that may fail, or be far away, but "shall be in him a well (a fountain, a spring) of water springing up into (unto) everlasting life."

15. "Sir, give me this water." Her soul is being awakened, and yet she does not fully comprehend his meaning. Hence the next lesson he teaches her in the following verses, the consciousness of her sin and need.

16. "Go, call thy husband." A natural request, but leading to her confession of sin.

18. "Thou hast had five husbands." Dr. Van Lennep (Bible Lands, p. 557), referring to the terrible frequency of divorces among Jews and Muslims at the present day, says: "We have known a man not 40 years of age who had successively married and put away a dozen wives."

19. "I perceive that thou art a prophet." Both from his knowledge of her past life and from his treatment of her sin.

20. "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain." Doubtless pointing to Mt. Gerizem at the foot of which they were standing. This was doubtless an oft discussed and puzzling question.

21. "Jesus saith unto her." His answer is admirable, the plain truth told in a way not to repel her. "The hour (the time) cometh, when ye shall," etc., i. e., when ye shall "worship the Father." Showing the loving and attractive side of God, drawing us to worship above, but unrestricted by time or place.

22. "Ye worship ye know not what." Better as in R. V., "Ye worship that which ye know not; we worship that which we know." "For salvation is of the Jews." Literally, the salvation, the expected salvation, is of the Jews, i. e., proceeds from them (not belongs to them).—Cambridge Bible.

23. "But the hour cometh, and now is." The new day has dawned; the Messiah has come. "When the true worshippers." Who worship not in forms merely, but with the heart. "Shall worship the Father." The true object of worship, God, presented in that aspect which most calls out sincere loving, heartfelt worship. "In spirit" designates the worship of the mind and heart, a real, spiritual worship as distinguished from a merely formal worship. "In truth" designates sincerity of worship in the true way. "For the Father seeketh such to worship Him."

24. "God is a Spirit." Essentially, absolutely spirit. Therefore, true worship must be of the Spirit.

25. "I know that Messias cometh." "Messias" is the Greek form of the Hebrew Messiah, as Christos is the Greek translation of it. "He will tell us all things." What Jesus had been telling the woman implied that he could tell all things. Therefore, she thought that possibly he might be the expected one.

26. "I . . . am he." Your judgment is right. All that has been foretold of the Messiah is true of me.

RAMS' HORNS.

Faith is reason's telescope.
True prayer consumes all pride.
The Christian is never off duty.
Christ is the world's conscience.
Not need, but pride, keeps us poor.
No man hits higher than he aims.
Death levels down, but love levels up.
Meditation is the breathing of the soul.
None love life like those who live love.
The books of heaven are written by men.
Love lights up the loved with love-lines.
Patience is not necessarily a virtue on a hot day.
True patriotism moves upward, rather than outward.
The way to get more is to make the most of what we have.
To admit our imperfection is to move toward perfection.
He who fails to build up, sins as truly as he who tears down.
The shades that hide the flowers bring out the blossoms of the sky.
God takes interest in us on his loan, while men take it out of us on theirs.
He who says we die as the beasts is quite likely to shape his living on the same rule.—Ram's Horn