

WORST IN TWENTY YEARS.

BRADSTREET'S OPINION OF THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

THE CUTLOOK NOT ENCOURAGING.

The Only Encouraging Industrial Feature Is the Probable Settlement of Next Season's Iron and Steel Wage Scale Without a Strike—The Export of Wheat—The Price Movement.

New York, May 28.—Bradstreet's Trade Review says: "The unfavorable conditions prevailing in commercial and industrial circles throughout the country, together with the prospect for no material improvement during the summer, marks the present season as probably the dullest relatively for twenty years. At no time since panic and business depression manifested themselves last year have reports as to the volume of sales of merchandise, the manufacture of staple goods and the disposition of merchants generally to buy except for absolutely immediate wants, been so pronounced and so general throughout the country as during the past few weeks.

"Superficial examination of business conditions leading to unwarranted optimistic conclusions as to the nearby future of trade have not been wanting; but, as a matter of fact, based on comprehensive and careful examination, the next few months promise a continuance, if not an intensifying, of existing conditions of extreme dullness and depression.

"Quite unfavorable advices come from Pittsburgh, where there are numerous shut-downs, involving large numbers of men. The total number of industrial employes idle as a result of coal scarcity is placed at 35,000, and the total idle number on account of strike, which now appears likely to fail, is 210,000. In other industrial lines 25,000 men are reported idle as a result of strikes, making the total number now idle 235,000. An encouraging industrial feature is the probable settlement of next season's iron and steel wage scale without a strike.

"Exports of wheat (flour included), both coasts, United States and Canada, this week equal 2,510,000 bushels, against 2,420,000 bushels last week, 3,106,000 bushels a year ago, 2,542,000 bushels three years ago. The price movement as to staples continues to see-saw—cotton, wheat, corn and oats all reacting slightly from former depressions, while, wool, sugar, lard, coffee and live stock all show declines."

Clearing House Returns.

New York, May 28.—The following list, compiled by Bradstreet's, gives the clearing house returns for the week ending May 24, 1894, and the percentage of increase or decrease as compared with the corresponding week of 1893:

Cities	Clearings	Inc.	Dec.
Kansas City	19,024,140	15.7	
Omaha	5,067,278	19.7	
Denver	4,753,762	45.3	
St. Joseph	3,478,066	20.9	
Lincoln	468,100	3.9	
Topeka	406,702	30.8	
Wichita	317,355	42.9	

BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS.

Interesting Statistics Showing the Number Printed the Past Year.

SARATOGA, N. Y., May 28.—The American Baptist Publication Society began its seventeenth anniversary here yesterday. The annual address was made by Samuel A. Crozier of Chester, Pa. Forty-nine new publications have been issued during the year. Of these 737,000 copies have been printed. The entire number of books, pamphlets, periodicals and tracts, new and old, printed during the year is more than 35,700,000, an increase over the number issued the last year of more than 3,000. The total issues since the organization of the society are over 550,000,000 copies of books, pamphlets, periodicals and tracts. During the year there have been issued over 34,000,000 copies of periodicals alone, an increase of 850,000 copies over last year.

A POINT FOR BRECKINRIDGE.

Friends of the Colonel Succeed in Having a Late Convention Called.

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 28.—The meeting of the Democratic Congressional district committee here yesterday to select a method and time for nominating a successor to Colonel Breckinridge, decided on holding a primary September 15. The meeting was a victory for the Breckinridge men, as they much preferred a late primary. Owens' friends wanted an early primary. The meeting was an open one, and the room was crowded. Many prominent politicians were here, among them being Hon. W. C. Owens and Evan E. Settle, candidates against Colonel Breckinridge. Mr. Settle addressed a large audience in the afternoon. Desha Breckinridge was here for his father.

Played With a Loaded Gun.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., May 28.—The 6-year-old daughter of Dr. J. B. Gahrig of Appleton, Ohio, who was visiting her grand mother, Mrs. Waggoner of Cedar City, was accidentally shot and killed yesterday morning by Herman Bruning, a 14-year-old boy employed on Mrs. Waggoner's farm. She went up stairs to call Bruning. He was handling a shotgun, which was discharged just as the little one was entering the door. The charge tore away nearly one-half of her head and face, killing her instantly.

Work Stopped at Pleasanton.

PLEASANTON, Kal., May 28.—The miners of this district have voted to strike today. In the Pleasanton district are about 700 men who will be struck.

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REPORTER EDWARDS REFUSES.

Declines to Give Names to the Sugar Trust Investigating Committee.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Judge Dittenhoefer, counsel for Correspondent Edwards, appeared yesterday before the sugar trust investigation and announced he had advised his client not to give the committee the names of the persons from whom he received certain information bearing upon the subject under investigation. He quoted the supreme court decisions in the Kilbourne and Counselman cases in support of his position. Among other reasons, Judge Dittenhoefer stated that for Mr. Edwards to disclose the names of his informants would be to degrade him as a newspaper man.

The committee overruled Judge Dittenhoefer's objections, and again calling Mr. Edwards in, repeated its demand that he give the names requested in the first instance, and repeated his final decision not to comply with the demand. He was then excused, and the committee again went into secret session. No decision as to a future course of action was reached.

Senator Caffery and ex-Congressman Le Fevre of Louisiana were before the committee later, and denied the story of their participation in the alleged conference with the sugar trust.

APPEAL NOT SUSTAINED.

Southern Presbyterians Take Final Action in the Means Case.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 28.—In the general assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church yesterday, the Means case was taken up and argument was resumed by Dr. Flynn. He argued that the use of the telephone on Sunday was a necessity, and the result of its use was to lessen Sunday labor. His speech was a strong presentation of the synod's position.

Dr. Luper followed and spoke in favor of enforcing the law as it stood, and not construing laws to fit every case. This was not a question of what the law should be, but what it was. If Miss Means' work was a necessity she should not be disciplined, if it was not she should be. The question was, did the synod do right? He argued that the session and Presbytery did right. Then the vote was taken, and each member had two minutes to explain his vote and express his view. The roll call began at 4:30 and closed at 5:40. The result was, not to sustain the appeal from the synod, 77; to sustain, 48; to sustain in part, 8.

A Big Coal Deal.

COLUMBUS, Kan., May 28.—A large deal for Cherokee county coal land was completed yesterday and the money paid over amounted to about \$50,000, the purchasers being the Southwestern Coal and Improvement company, represented by Thomas Fleming of Cosgrove, L. T. It is said by those who claim to know that this land is being bought in the interest of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad company.

Shot by Tramps.

OMAHA, Neb., May 28.—When freight train No. 76, on the Burlington, leaving Council Bluffs at 8:15 last evening, had reached a point about two miles east of the city, Brakeman Stukesbury noticed five tramps on a flat car. He ordered them off, when one of them fired two shots at him, the first bullet going through the throat and the second entering the left ear. The throat wound is fatal.

Killed in a Duel Over a Woman.

LANDER, Wyo., May 28.—Robert Dixon and William Harvey, employes of the Diamond Development company at Miners' Delight, fought a duel in consequence of a quarrel over Dixon's wife, whose affections, Dixon claimed, Harvey had alienated. Dixon a fierce fight, starting with blows, Dixon shot and killed Harvey. Dixon, who is from Chadron, Neb., gave himself up.

Judge McNelevy Declines.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., May 28.—In reply to a number of letters from some of the leading Populists of the Second district asking him to accept the Populist nomination for congress in this district, Judge J. D. McNelevy has addressed letters to J. W. Stone of Fulton and H. C. Clay of Many informing them that he will not accept the nomination.

Colored Miners Present an Ultimatum.

PITTSBURG, Kan., May 28.—An unexpected turn in strike affairs has occurred here. The Alabama colored miners in Kansas and Texas shaft No. 22, at Litchfield, have demanded 69 cents per ton for mine coal run the year round, the alternative being an exodus of this element to the Indian Territory.

Against Dr. Smith.

SARATOGA, N. Y., May 28.—The proceedings in the Smith heresy case, yesterday reached the last order, and the members began to express their individual views as the roll was called. Forty-five three-minute speeches were delivered, and the trend of opinion was shown by the fact that only eleven of them were in favor of sustaining the appeal.

Mining Plant Destroyed by Fire.

WEBB CITY, Mo., May 28.—The General Nobis plant, on Sucker Flat, was completely destroyed by fire, supposed incendiary. Loss, \$5,000; small insurance.

OUR NATIONAL PLATFORM.

The People's Party Platform Adopted at Omaha July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the 116th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name and on behalf of the people of this country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

PREAMBLE.

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind; and the possessors of these, in turn, despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders. A vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industries. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once, it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon a suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious efforts to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver and the oppression of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation and filled with the spirit of the grand generation which established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whom it originated.

○ We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution: "To form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be planned together by bayonets; that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact as we are in name, the united brotherhood of free men.

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world; our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange; the results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that, if given power, we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation in accordance with the terms of our platform. We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal

service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions, important as they are, as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered. Believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is remedied, and equal rights and equal privileges securely established for all men and women of the country, therefore:

WE DECLARE

First—That the union of the labor forces of the United States, this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies identical.

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing any or all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character; so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

PLATFORM.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; that a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed two per cent. per annum, to be provided, as set forth in the subtreasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the moneys of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government, for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people, and to facilitate exchange.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

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