

PUERTO RICO TARIFF.

VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON SENSE.

The People of the Island Would Not Suffer Through the Temporary Imposition of Low Tariff Duties.—A Convincing Statement.

The Journal has seen no reason for smiting shrill cries of anguish over this matter. We have not expected that the world would fold together as a scroll if the Puerto Ricans did not have free trade with the United States. We cannot go so far as to say, with yet another contemporary, that a low tariff against Puerto Rico means that "we must as well turn our soldiers loose in the island to butcher the inhabitants." Even a high tariff would perhaps be more humane than that. What the Journal believes is that Puerto Rico is part of the United States, and that a tariff should no more be imposed against imports from there than on Michigan butter sold in New York city. But we are prepared to wait without showing signs of hysteria till the Supreme court of the United States makes a decision that confirms our belief.

In the meantime if the Puerto Ricans are compelled by congress to charge a low tariff against us at their custom houses and we against them for the sake of enough revenue to support the government of the island, what of it? A raving contemporary says that a duty of 2 cents the pound on rice will compel the Puerto Ricans to pay \$389,000 annually. That is a little over 40 cents for each Puerto Rican, and there are five other articles on which the increase may be as much—about \$2 the year per capita. We regret that it is anything, but until the Supreme court says this is illegal, abuse of congress for what we regard as a mistake will effect nothing.

Now as to exports from Puerto Rico on which it is proposed to charge a duty here. The current understanding has been that Puerto Rico was not selling a dollar's worth of its products elsewhere than in the United States, and not much here; that it once had free trade with Spain, and lost that market when the island was ceded to us. But the fact is that Puerto Rico did not have free trade with Spain. Coffee shipped from Puerto Rico to Spain paid a duty of \$5.70 the hundred pounds, and as to her other products the Spanish tariff was relatively as high, or more than twice what is suggested to be imposed in the United States on imports from the island. Puerto Rican coffee, in fact, is in any event to be admitted free into our markets. Moreover, of the duties collected in Puerto Rico when it was a Spanish province about 40 per cent went for the support of the government of Spain; under the United States both the revenue from duties on exports from Puerto Rico, collected in our custom houses, and the revenue from duties collected at the island will be expended in the island.

Nor is it true that the markets of Spain have been closed to Puerto Rico since the cession. The figures furnished by our government to cover the first thirteen months of our occupancy show that Puerto Rican exports to Spain (\$969,729 worth), Italy, France, the United States, Germany and to other countries amounted in value to over six millions of dollars yearly, above the average of the period from 1887 to 1891, thought somewhat less than the total for the one other year for which the figures are available. Besides, general exports to the United States from the island are rapidly increasing.

It is not accurate therefore to state that the Puerto Ricans are standing starving in the midst of a mass of unexportable and unsalable products because we do not give them free trade with this country. We ought to give them free trade if the island is decided to be an integral part of this country, and we ought to give them some form of government at once, for uncertainty tends to prevent the highest prosperity and development, and because the people deserve at least that much at our hands of right. But it is unnecessary that our local free trade contemporary should beat its breast and mix ashes in its flowing locks as might become a sincere mourner. It is not sincere, and there is no funeral.—Detroit Journal.

BRADFORD'S WOES.

Caused by the Fact That Americans Are Wearing Clothes Made in America.

"Prospects in the American trade generally are not encouraging, for the exports of cotton goods are likely to fall away, America having got machinery by which they can produce special effects themselves."

Such is the dismal forecast of the Bradford correspondent of the Financial Times of London. For the year 1899 cotton goods formed the principal part of Bradford's trade with the United States, the gross value amounting to nearly \$3,000,000, but the export of woollen goods fell off from about \$2,200,000 in 1898 to only about \$6,000 in 1899. Five years ago Bradford sent us in one year over \$8,000,000 worth of worsted coatings, while the amount for last year was a trifle over \$360,000. The Dingley tariff is to blame for it. Through its operations the demand for domestic fabrics has increased, and the trade losses lamented by Bradford and other European woolen centers are represented by the immense gain for American labor and material through the purchase and use of cloths made in our own country.

Now it appears that by reason of the tariff on fine cotton American mills are being equipped with machinery

IT WILL SURELY OVERWHELM HIM.



that will turn out these goods so successfully as to seriously diminish the amounts purchased abroad. It would seem that there is no end to the ravages wrought by the Dingley tariff in that portion of our foreign trade which is included in the imports. Not so the exports. They keep right on growing year by year. The tariff is a two-edged sword which cuts both ways for our prosperity.

HAMPERING FOREIGN TRADE.

Not Only That Part Which Relates to Home-Produced Articles.

The placing of an order with a Maryland company for 2,000 tons of steel rails for use in Norway foreshadows the opening of a hitherto untouched market for our manufactures of iron and steel. This is the first sale of American steel rails in that part of the world, and it is another evidence of the steady advance of our manufactured products in the markets of Europe. The foreign country which is not buying American rails, locomotives and other railway supplies is the exception instead of the rule.—New York Mail and Express.

It is becoming more and more evident from such frequent recurring instances as that cited above that the free-traders have much reason to feel aggrieved at the manner in which the Dingley tariff "hampers foreign trade." Anything which hampers the trade of foreigners is always offensive to the American free-trader. Here is a clear case of hampering the trade of the ironmongers of Norway by the introduction "in their midst" of a big order of American-made steel rails. For this the policy of protection is directly responsible, for under the workings of that policy the ironmongers of the United States have grown so strong that they can invade all the markets of the world with their products, and thus hamper the trade of foreigners everywhere. When to this unpleasant state of affairs is added the enormous reduction that has taken place in the marketing by foreigners of their competitive products in the United States by reason of the protective duties of the Dingley tariff, it is impossible to deny that foreign trade is indeed greatly hampered, and that there is much ground for the sympathy felt for the unfortunate foreigners by the free-traders of America.

An Unanswerable Argument.

The excess of exports over imports for three years of President McKinley's administration has been: 1897, \$285,263,144; 1898, \$615,431,676; 1899, \$529,874,813.

That the United States sold far more than a billion dollars' worth of products more than it bought during this period, despite the fact that a state of war existed during a greater part of it, is an unanswerable argument in favor of the protective tariff. During the last two years, under a wise and careful Republican administration and an adequate tariff for protection of American industries, the people of the United States have sold more goods abroad than under any three years of Democratic administration.

During the past two years the excess of the sales made by the people of the United States in foreign markets over the purchases in foreign markets, over one billion of dollars, has been greater than in twenty years of Democratic administration.

During the past two years the people of the United States have sold in excess of their purchases in the markets of the world five hundred millions more than the entire excess over imports during the eight years that Cleveland was president.—Quincy (Ill.) Whig.

Motor Field Gun Cartridges.

The French war department is now carrying out a series of trials with motor cartridges for field guns, and Gen. de Gallifet has stated in the chamber that there is every prospect of a satisfactory result. The point is of considerable importance, in view of the necessity established by war operations in South Africa for a much heavier weapon than the 12-pounders and 15-pounders with which our army has been hitherto equipped. The 4.7-inch and the six-inch guns are regarded with favor as necessary additions to the equipment of our field forces. As to the difficulties of mobility, the 4.7-inch gun with a mobile field carriage, which is not an excessive load, and mechanical power could easily be applied for the movement of these guns as well as for heavy transport wagons. Letters from the front speak with approval of the success of the traction

engine, used by Gen. Buller's army service corps, notwithstanding that on the way from Frere and Chieveley to Spearman's camp and Potgieter's Drift very heavy loads were experienced, and the fact that they have been sent for Lord Roberts' service now further proves their utility.—Engineering.

A FREE-TRADE TRUST.

English Wall Paper Manufacturers Organize a Combine.

The following bit of news, contained in a special cablegram from London, will be interesting to those that contend that free trade is the proper remedy for the trust evil:

"The English wall paper trust, forming since last September, is now complete, with a capital of \$30,000,000. Practically every manufacturer in the United Kingdom is in the combination."

As England already has free trade, and has had it for many years, the theorists there cannot throw the responsibility for the formation of the wall paper trust upon the tariff. We may properly ask how it is, if it is the tariff protection that enables trusts to thrive in this country, that a number of them can thrive in the British Isles, where there is no tariff protection?

The wall paper trust, which is described as embracing practically every manufacturer in the United Kingdom, is a more comprehensive trust than any that has yet been formed in this country, with the exception of the Standard Oil trust, and the Standard Oil trust has no protection upon its product. The great Rockefeller trust has been organized and maintained without any aid from the protective tariff.

In England the wall paper manufacturers are not protected against importations from abroad by duties on wall paper, and yet it seems that they can combine every manufacturer into a trust and fix their own prices for what they sell.

There must, then, be something besides the tariff that is responsible for the trusts, and if that is the case, the introduction of free trade would not prove to be an effective remedy. On the contrary, free trade would probably serve to extend the operations of the trusts. With the duties abolished we should see international instead of merely national combinations to control the output and price of many articles.

The protective tariff operates to keep the foreign trusts out of the United States, leaving us with only our own creations to deal with—and the way will be discovered to curb and control them effectually.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Bad for the Calamity Party.

Prosperity stories have taken the place of calamity croakings in Kansas, and Mr. Bryan is wondering what he can do to regain his former hold upon the ears of those who no longer find him interesting. The story is told of an old farmer who, at the point of a shotgun, compelled a creditor to accept payment of a note before it fell due. "Why did he do that?" some one asked the narrator. "Oh, he wanted to stop the interest," was the reply. John W. Breidenthal, the state bank commissioner, tells of a banker out in the short grass country who wrote a letter asking if there was any law that would compel him to receive money for deposit in his bank. "I wrote him," said Breidenthal, "that if he had more money than he knew what to do with, I knew of no law in Kansas that would compel him to take more. You see, they are paying their taxes, and the county treasurer wanted to make a depositary out of his bank, but he would be mandamused before he would submit to it."

All this looks bad for the political party and candidate who hope to win by reviving the free-trade and free-silver issues of the Chicago platform. Opposed to All Reciprocity Treaties. The way to fight these treaties is not to spend all our strength in exposing the gross injustice done to this state in these particular cases, but to attack the principle involved. It is utterly vicious. No reciprocity treaty can be negotiated whose effect is not to directly and without compensation take money from one class of our citizens and bestow it elsewhere at the caprice of the negotiator of the treaty. It is a relic of medievalism; it should have no place on the statute books of any civilized nation. Fight not merely these treaties, but all reciprocity treaties. Let us end the whole business once for all.—San Francisco Chronicle.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

SOME GOOD JOKES, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

A Variety of Quips, Gibes and Ironies, to Cause a Smile—Frolic and Jests from the Title of Humor—Witty Sayings.

Got What He Asked For.

"So you are looking for a position," said the merchant to the youth with a high collar and noisy necktie. "What can you do?" "Oh, any old thing," replied the young man. "Of course, I don't expect the junior partnership at the start, but I want to be sure of an early rise." "Very well," replied the merchant. "I'll make you assistant janitor. You will rise at 4 o'clock every morning and sweep the floors."—Chicago News.

Not Good Eating.

The prime minister was idly turning the pages of a book of proverbs and pithy sayings which he had found among the effects of the late missionary.

"I wonder what this means?" he said suddenly. "One man's meat is another man's poison?" "Perhaps," replied the cannibal king. "It refers to the fact that the cigarette smoker is not edible."

Taken at His Word.

"Here," said the timid caller to the editor, "is an article that I have written on 'The Value of Time.' Let me read it to you. The fool may waste his own time, if it pleases him to do so, but he has no right to take the time of others. The—'You're right. Never mind the other ninety-seven pages. Good-day.'"—Chicago Times-Herald.

In the Black Watch.

"Hol' on dar, Private Scott!" exclaimed the colored captain of the raw recruits: "I notice dat in marchin' you lifts yo' leg too high." "Cap'n," said Private Scott, "I can't he'p it; I got a sorter jerk in it." "Lemme see," said the captain. "Now, march to'rd me en lif, both yo' legs at de same time, so's I kin see which comes de 'highest!'"—Atlanta Constitution.

Wonderment.

"A man can't help pausing in this busy life to be astonished at the wonders of science," remarked the reflective person.

"Yes," answered the flippant friend; "I never will get over being surprised at how they managed to get up some of those words of five and six syllables."—Washington Star.

Confident of His Strength.

"Young man," said Miss Heavy-wate's father, "if you marry my daughter on your present small salary, aren't you afraid you might have an elephant on your hands?" "Oh, I am not afraid," replied the young man, boastfully; "I've had her on my knees quite frequently already."

She Meant Business.

"How shall I prove the sincerity of my devotion?" asked the young man who had been so long coming to the point that doubt had begun to accumulate against him. "Call the parson as a witness," suggested the young woman, who meant business.—Detroit Free Press.

Too Long to Wait.

"If you will get my new suit done by Saturday," said a customer to a tailor. "I'll be forever indebted to you." "If that's your game," replied the tailor, "the clothes will not be done at all."—Indianapolis Journal.

A Reasonable Supposition.

"You know that lady who was here yesterday who smelled so strong of perfume, mamma?" "Yes, my boy." "Well, isn't she one of the cologneal dames?"

The Uncle's Disgrace.



Uncle—It's disgraceful, Karl, that you have so many debts! Nephew—Isn't it, when I have such a rich uncle?—Fliegende Blaetter.

Too Serious.

In a case of an assault by a husband on his wife the injured woman was reluctant to prosecute and give her evidence. "I'll have him to God, me lord," she cried. "Oh, dear, no!" said the judge. "It's far too serious a matter for that."—Green Bag.

Not Himself.

"You are not yourself today," said the friend. "No," replied the amateur theologian. "Today I feel like the devil."—Philadelphia North American.

A Brighter Side.

The officers of the Kimberley garrison were at mess—and such a mess. "Well," remarked the cheerful subaltern, taking his second helping of horseflesh, "we might be worst off." "Indeed! I can't imagine it," exclaimed the dyspeptic major. "No? Well, just fancy where we'd be if the automobile had been introduced here."—Philadelphia North American.

Where the Paint Went To.

"I thought you were working on Jay Krank's new house," said the house painter's friend.

"I was going to," replied the house painter, "but I had a quarrel with him and he said he'd put the paint on himself."

"And did he do it?" "Yes, that is where he put the most of it."—Philadelphia Press.

Curiosity Satisfied.

Burly Tramp—Wot's th' good of a little dog like that?

Mrs. Rural—To keep off tramps.

"Hee, hee! Wot kin that little critter do?"

"He can bark, that will wake up the big dogs under the porch."

"Y-e-s, mum. Good-day, mum."

Give the Water Away.



Servant (facetious)—Do you charge extra for the water? Milkman (equal to the occasion)—No; the water is thrown in.

Difficulties.

"It was very kind of that naval officer to bring you this parrot," said Maude.

"Yes," answered Mamie, "but the bird is so profane."

"Shocking!"

"And that isn't the worst of it. It doesn't speak English, and I've got to hire an interpreter in order to understand him."—Washington Star.

A Reminder.

"What did the minister do when you inadvertently dropped the buckshot into the plate?" asked one Kentuckian.

"He was very much annoyed," said the other; "he looked at me severely, and said that this was a church collection, not a campaign contribution."—Washington Star.

Always Short.

"I don't know what Smith does with his money."

"No."

"No, I don't. Yesterday he was short, and he's short again today."

"Did he want to borrow from you?"

"No, hang it. I wanted to borrow from him."—London Tid-Bits.

At Early Ages.

"What's Mamma crying for?"

"She wants to vote when she grows up."

"Well, what's she crying about? Maybe she can vote all right."

"Yes, but little Tommie Sticklebat says he won't marry a strong-minded girl."—St. Paul Globe.

The Doctor's Orders.

Larry—Faith! O'm almost starvin'!

Denny—Phoy don't yer ate something?

Larry—Th' doctor told me not to ate in'nying on an empty stomach.—Chicago News.

Hare or Well-Done Jonson.

"I am a great admirer of Ben Jonson," remarked the doctor. "Everything he tried to do was well done."

"And yet," the professor said, "I have always heard him spoken of as rare Ben Jonson."—Chicago Tribune.

When the Jury Was "Hung."

"Yes, sub," said the friend of the prisoner, "de news is dat de lawyers what wuz tryin' ter git de jury ter hang William so confuse en mix up matters dat de jury went in en hung itse!'"—Atlanta Constitution.

Hoodoo Removed.

"This won't do," exclaimed Mrs. Box excitedly. "there's thirteen at table."

"Never mind, ma," shouted little Johnnie, "I kin eat fur two."—Stray Stories.

Why He Drank.

The Wayside Missionary—Why do you drink that vile stuff?

Dismal Dawson—Cause it's the easiest way to git it down; I can't breathe it, kin I?—Indianapolis Press.

Remarkably Reserved.

"Shrinkish is a very reserved man."

"Yes, indeed. Of course I don't know, but I honestly believe he could have a toothache without anyone knowing it."—Harper's Bazar.

MARRIAGE BY FORCE.

Indians of Tierra Del Fuego Take Advantage of Their Strength.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook tells of a little known race of aborigines in an article in the Century magazine for March on "The Giant Indians of Tierra del Fuego," whom he visited on the Belgian antarctic expedition. Of their marriage customs he writes: "Marriage, like almost everything Ona, is not fixed by established rules. It is arranged and rearranged from time to time to suit the convenience of the contracting parties. The bargain is made almost solely by the men, and physical force is the principal bond of union. For ages the strongest bucks have been accustomed to steal women from neighboring tribes, and from neighboring clans of their own tribe. The Onas, being by far the most powerful Indians, have thus been able to capture and retain a liberal supply of wives. A missionary who has been in constant contact with these Indians for thirty years has given it as his opinion that a plurality of wives is entirely satisfactory to their peculiar emotions and habits of life. The relation to one another of the women who possess but one husband in common in the family wigwam is of novel interest. As a rule, they are no more jealous than are the children in a civilized home circle. The principal reason for this is that the several wives are often sisters. A young man takes by force, by mutual agreement, or by barter, the oldest daughter of a family. If he proves himself a good hunter and a kind husband, the wife persuades her sister to join her wigwam and share her husband's affections. Frequently, when a girl is left an orphan, she is taken into a family and trained to become the supplementary wife of her benefactor in after years. In the hut each wife has her own assigned position, always resting in exactly the same spot, with all of her belongings about her. The wealth of the household is not common to all the occupants. Each woman has her own basket of meat fragments or shellfish, her own bag with implements, needles, sinews and bits of fur, and each wife has her own assemblage of children. The work of the man is strictly limited to the chase. He carries his bow and quiver of arrows, and his eye is ever on the horizon for game; but he seldom stoops to anything like manual labor that is not connected with the actual necessities of the chase. He kills the game, but the wife must carry it into camp. In moving, the women take up all of their earthly possessions, pack them into a huge roll, and with this firmly strapped across their backs they follow the uncumbered lead of their brave but ungallant husbands. Thus the women carry, day after day, not only all the household furniture, but the children and the portable portions of the house. The women certainly have all the uninteresting detail and the drudgery of life heaped upon them, but they seem to enjoy it. In defense of the men it should be said that they are worthy husbands. They will fight fiercely to protect their homes, and they will guard the honor of their women with their own blood. It is a crying sin of the advance of Christian civilization that this red man of the far south should be compelled to lay down his life at the feet of the heartless pale-faced invaders to shield the honor of his home."

THE WORD "GUN."

How Its Meaning Has Changed with Modern Ordnance.

Evolution of the word "gun" forms an interesting little story in an up-to-date etymology. A dozen or so years ago we all understood gun to mean a fowling piece—shotgun as distinguished from a rifle or musket. Heavy and light ordnance—in fact, all pieces of artillery, without regard to size—were known as cannon. That, of course, was in the confines of civilization, where people made an effort to speak English. Out in the frontier the word gun was applied almost exclusively to pistols, and when a citizen of Tombstone or Deadwood invited another citizen to "pull his gun" he was understood to refer to the 44-calibre instrument worn as a chatelaine-belt ornament by everybody in good society in those localities. Nowadays the nomenclature has curiously changed. By degrees the good old term gun has become monopolized by the long, slim, murderous machine that constitutes our modern artillery. We speak of quick-fire guns, wire-wound guns, automatic guns, eight-inch, ten-inch, twelve-inch guns, and the word seems singularly apropos. They are not cannon. "Cannon" immediately suggests the big, lumbering, black-throated smooth bores of the past. The word conjures up all sorts of martial pictures—motionless men holding lighted matches, frigates lashed together and bring into each other's ports, Sepoys bound to the muzzle, neat geometric pyramids of round shot, the light brigade and lots of other things too numerous to mention.—New York Telegraph.

Made Trouble for Himself.

They met at the Woman's Republican club ball at Christensen's. She was from the east; he was a home product. The conversation lagged between the dances. Finally he ventured this: "How do you like 'David Harum'?" She bristled like a porcupine. "I have no use for harems of any kind," she retorted; "they're just perfectly horrid. Look at the sultan of Sulu! Look at those wretches in Turkey! The whole system is intended to degrade women into beasts. Don't talk to me about harems." The young man was frantically trying to square himself when the music drowned the conversation.—Salt Lake Herald.