

PORTO RICAN SUGAR.

SPANISH, ENGLISH AND GERMAN LAND OWNERS.

Department of Agriculture Official Says They Would Be the Only Gainers by an Absolute Free Trade Tariff With the United States.

Mr. C. F. Saylor, of the Department of Agriculture, has recently been on an official trip to Porto Rico. He shows clearly that those who would benefit by absolute free trade are the Spanish, English and other European owners of the plantations, and not the native islanders. He says:

"Let us look into the factories themselves, and I do not fear challenge in this respect because I have been in every factory in Porto Rico. Whatever capital is invested in those factories emanating at all from island sources is purely Spanish. It does not belong to Porto Rico. The peculiar system maintained by Spain through all of the business concerns, and so far as their own capital was employed, threw everything into the hands of the Spaniards, who were simply in Porto Rico doing business. They do not belong to that element of Porto Ricans that we feel so tender about, and would not become citizens of Porto Rico or this country, whatever becomes of the constitutional question. Other factories are owned and controlled by English capital; others by German, and the entire factory system by Spanish, English and German."

"These factories mainly through their cheap labor, can, with absolute free trade, put sugar on the market of New York, at cost to themselves, for 2 cents a pound. This would be \$40 for a short ton of sugar. Sugar has been selling this year for \$70 per ton. With free trade this would be a profit of \$30 on an outlay of \$40, which I figure is 75 per cent. Who gets this profit? There is only one way for handling imported sugar in this country and that is through the two or three sugar combinations, mainly through the sugar trust. They agree with the planters or manufacturers to take this sugar, refine it, and place it on the market, dividing the profit on a certain basis, as is now being done and as has been done between the Hawaiian planters and the sugar trust for years. How will they divide the profits? Even? Each getting 37 1/2 per cent? We do not know. Only the parties interested know. This point is clear, however, and that is that the Porto Ricans are not benefited. Simply the sugar combinations of this country and the foreign planters or manufacturers of Porto Rico."

"Isn't it a great deal that we should have freed the Porto Ricans from a condition as bad as slavery, making what concession we of right ought to make, in justice to the people of this country, assuring them that after they had attained the standard that one ought to have to enjoy the rights and privileges of the constitution of the country, that then they might be admitted with equal privileges with the rest. Do you think this ought to be before wages are paid in that country somewhere near in comparison with wages in this country, or before the average citizen of that country shall at least be able to understand the primary principles of our government and institutions? We say no. We should especially not bring in this great horde of cheap laborers who receive less per day than one person could live on in this country, and yet they are supposed to support families on this. We believe the laborers of this country will en masse resent this proposition."

"Of course we don't undertake to say that Porto Rico in itself is affording all this great hazard, but in the Porto Rican bill we have the principle at stake. Only 15 per cent of the present McKinley tariff is exacted, and this only to maintain the principle that we have the constitutional right to place a tariff against the Philippines and Cuba when the time arrives."

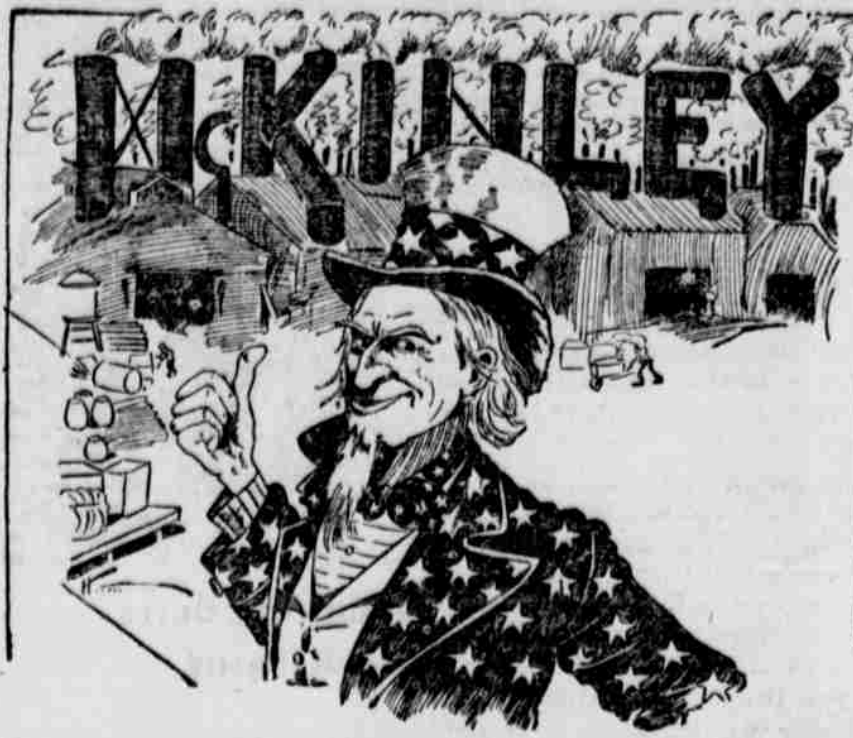
"Porto Rico has been able, at her maximum, to export about 60,000 tons of sugar. She would be able if all her resources were brought into play, to send us about 3 per cent of our consumption. But when the Philippines and Cuba ask for the same privilege, then it will be an entirely different question. And yet the same principles are involved that I have discussed in Porto Rico. Isn't it enough that we have expended so much blood and treasure in wresting these islands from the condition they were in, at the same time offering every help in the future that is consistent with fair and honest dealing with our own interests and people? "I am a thorough believer in expansion. I believe that expansion is fraught with incalculable benefit both to the inhabitants of the island and to the people of this country, when congress shall have framed such fair, honest, just and equitable regulations as are consistent with the right of our own labor and industries."

SOME TRADE FAILURES.

Record of Years of Prosperity and Business Depression.

Business failures during the first three months of this year were even less in number and liabilities than in the early months of 1899, notwithstanding the fact that there are a larger number of business concerns in the country. Less than 900 business failures in each of the three months of this year is a fact that stands out prominently as a record of business prosperity. But the value of this year's record can be better appreciated

A CONSPICUOUS SIGN OF THE TIMES,



by the following tabulated comparison:

FAILURES—JANUARY TO MARCH.

Year.	Number.	Liabilities.
1891	3,400	\$44,348,753..Harrison
1892	3,207	35,861,749..Harrison
1893	3,069	39,424,144..Harrison
Average 3,226		\$39,878,225..Harrison
1894	3,969	\$49,085,088..Cleveland
1895	3,812	46,910,443..Cleveland
1896	4,512	62,513,926..Cleveland
1897	4,042	51,994,482..Cleveland
Average 4,084		\$52,625,985..Cleveland
1898	3,515	\$36,198,566..McKinley
1899	2,779	\$1,221,658..McKinley
1900	2,697	29,157,101..McKinley
Average 2,997		\$32,192,442..McKinley

During the Republican administration of President Harrison, with the McKinley protective tariff in operation, there were on an average 3,226 failures in the United States in the first three months of 1891-93, with liabilities averaging less than \$40,000,000 a month.

But the Democratic president, the Democratic administration, the Democratic congress and the Democratic free trade tariff of "perfidy and dishonor," changed this moderate record. They made a new record for the country, a Democratic record of failures, and brought the monthly average number up to 4,084—an increase of 858 a month—and the average liabilities up to \$52,625,985 a month, an increase of \$12,747,760. This was a great Democratic record of failures. It was unparalleled. Nearly everything went smash.

But a Republican president, William McKinley, a Republican administration, a Republican congress and a Republican protective tariff began to build up the country again, and the three months' records of 1898-1900 show only an average of 2,997 failures—1,087 a month less than the Democratic average, and only \$32,192,442 of liabilities, or AN AVERAGE OF \$20,500,000 LESS OF LIABILITIES EACH MONTH THAN THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD OF BUSINESS BREAKING. The figures are from Bradstreet's.

MILITARY NOT GUILTY.

Idaho's State Officials Alone Responsible in Mining Riot Acts.

Bartlett Sinclair, who was the active representative of Governor Steeneger in the Idaho mining riots, has been giving his testimony before the committee on military affairs of the house of representatives. He declared that the military authorities, who had been called into that district by the labor troubles, never went beyond their bounds in a single instance. As it is the acts of the military which are made the subject of this investigation it matters not, so far as congress is concerned, what may have been done by the state authorities of Idaho in suppressing the riots and maintaining order. If there was any misconduct on the part of those officials they must answer to the people, or the authorities of the state.

In reply to the questions of Mr. Robertson as to why the sheriff and county commissioners of Shoshone county had been suspended from office and martial law declared witness Sinclair said that his actions were in accordance with the instructions of Governor Steeneger, and were in the interest of law and order. He suspended the county commissioners because he believed they were in collusion with the lawless element, and because he feared they might wrongfully expend the county's money and do other things antagonistic to the state. He assumed from the attitude of these county officials, who, instead of assisting in the apprehension and prosecution of those who had been guilty of conspiracy resulting in the destruction of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mills and the murder of two men, that they favored the miners, and obstructed the process of justice. He believed that the interest of the community demanded that they should be prevented from interfering with the execution of the law, and from comforting the lawless element, and he accordingly placed them under arrest. For that, he said, he was answerable to the people of Idaho, and that the military officers were not to be held responsible in any degree.

Western Prosperity.

One of the oldest transportation officials in Indianapolis said the other day that during the last six months every car and locomotive had been kept in constant service there.

"Usually," he added, "there is, in

winter months especially, a week and sometimes a month when there are empty cars in considerable numbers standing on sidetracks and dead engines in the houses, but in the last six months—yes, twelve months—our business has been limited to cars and the power to haul them, and there is as yet no sign of a decrease."

Shipments of grain and provisions for export have considerably increased, and the east-bound movement of live stock and dressed meats was the heaviest ever known in April. West-bound the tonnage of both high and low-class freights continued heavy. Agricultural and harvest implements are being carried by train loads, and in heavy groceries, hardware, glass, paints, oils, etc., the shipments are also unusually large.

ELI PERKINS DOWN SOUTH.

Gets Strange Admissions from a Dyed-in-the-Wool Democrat.

The other day, says the Louisville Commercial, Eli Perkins was introduced to Judge Scott, an old dyed-in-the-wool Kentucky Democrat. The judge is well known in the Blue Grass region and the grand old Kentuckian has always been looked up to as a High Priest of "befo'-the-wah Democracy."

Perkins was introduced by an old Democrat and Judge Scott supposed that Eli was a Democrat too and he became confidential with him at once.

"How are we Democrats getting along, Judge?" asked Eli in a confidential tone.

The judge looked at Eli a moment to see if he really wanted information about the party, and slowly remarked: "Well, sir, we are getting on very well financially, but politically we are running behind.—Yes, I'm afraid we are running behind."

"What causes this?" asked Eli. "Well, sir," said the judge, sadly, "I am afraid our party has not been altogether right. We have erred in some things."

"Where have we erred, Judge?" "Well, sir, I hate to admit it, but our Grover Cleveland policy hurt us Kentuckians. I wouldn't say it to a black Republican, but we Democrats all admit it among ourselves. You see," said the judge, "we used to get 35 cents for wool, and a big price for hemp and tobacco before Grover came in, but that Wilson bill hurt us. It knocked wool down to 12 cents. Free jute, put in to help the cotton fellows, ruined our hemp and it rotted in the ground. Then we lowered the tariff on tobacco and our tobacco went down on us. We didn't complain, but we Democrats did a good deal of thinking. Cattle and hogs got lower and lower and when Grover went out we were pretty poor—yes, dog-on hard up, sir!"

"Are they still bad—the times?" asked Eli.

"No, honestly the times are good. Wool and hemp and tobacco have doubled in price and are still going up. Cattle and hogs are high and our blue grass farmers are getting rich."

"Well, what is the matter then?" "Why these good times have knocked out our dear old Democratic party. Our Democratic farmers say they will never vote for free trade or low tariff again."

"Well, what can we Democrats do?" asked Eli.

"I hate to admit it," said the judge, sadly, "but if we Democrats want to win in Kentucky again we've got to keep the tariff right where it is. That old Wilson bill and Bryan's free silver would be a scarecrow to every farmer in Kentucky and Tennessee. We've tried low tariff and we know—I'm ashamed to say so—but we know it hurt us! No, sir, the people are prosperous, but our Democratic party is doing poorly. I wouldn't say it to a black Republican but that is the way we Democrats talk among ourselves."

As the judge got off the train at Lexington, he remarked: "Yes, and there was another mistake we Democrats made. Grover Cleveland wanted to sink the Republic of Hawaii and put a nigger on the throne. We Democrats didn't complain, but it made us sick, for, between you and me, we Democrats ain't puttin' niggers on thrones. McKinley's white governor over a republic suits old Kentucky and the South."

Led Into Temptation.

Mr. Cleveland could not resist the temptation to write that letter to Mr. Burchard. There is a pleasing reminiscent sound to the name.

BRITAIN'S MAINSTAY.

THE MERCHANT MARINE FLEET SAVES THE EMPIRE.

Her Shipping Makes Good Her Enormous Adverse Balance of Trade—Shipbuilder Cramp's Views—Passage of the Shipping Bill is Urged.

Four generations of the Cramp family have in succession contributed to their present pre-eminence in American shipbuilding. Their Philadelphia shipyard now ranks in extent and output with the best in Europe, its product being always regarded as unexcelled in finish and efficiency. Mr. Charles H. Cramp is the present head of the family and its shipbuilding company. On this account, and the weight of authority given to his utterances on the subject of shipbuilding, as well as the probable early passage of the shipping bill, what he says is of timely value.

"Great Britain's imports in 1897," said Mr. Cramp, when asked for a brief statement, exceeded her exports by \$780,000,000, which is the largest adverse balance of trade in British history. How does she make it good? Chiefly through her vast shipping. Let me explain: At the last meeting of the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company—the largest in the world, by the way—its president placed its average earnings at \$50 per gross ton, and which, in view of the competition to which it is subjected, may be regarded as the minimum per ton earned of British steamships. Information from other authentic sources indicates that the average earning of the entire British steam fleet, consisting of 7,310,000 tons, will not fall short of \$70 per ton per year. The British steam fleet, therefore, annually earns \$500,000,000 a year. Her sea-going sailing fleet, consisting of 2,735,976 tons, earns between \$45 and \$50 per ton per year, or say in the aggregate \$130,000,000. The annual profits of banking, commissions and insurance in connection with this shipping are about 14 per cent of the traffic earnings. This shows: Steam fleet earn \$500,000,000, sailing fleet earn \$130,000,000, and other profits on shipping amount to \$68,200,000—showing a total annual earning from British shipping of \$698,200,000 a year, say in round numbers \$700,000,000.

"The earnings of her shipping, it will be seen, nearly wipes out Great Britain's adverse trade balance," continued Mr. Cramp, "and her revenue from foreign investments far more than exceeds the difference."

"Of this colossal revenue," concluded Mr. Cramp, "the United States contributes a little more than two-fifths directly; or, in other words, the producers and consumers of the United States pay to British ship owners not less than \$280,000,000 a year as the common carriers of American commerce to and from all parts of the world."

Congress is therefore confronted with the necessity of relieving the

JOE SIBLEY'S PLATFORM.

Tells a New York "Yellow" Why He Will Seek Re-Election.

Congressman Joe Sibley, who was nominated by the Republicans of the district in Pennsylvania that formerly was represented by a Democrat, was asked by a correspondent of the New York Journal on what platform he proposed to ask for re-election to Congress. His reply was characteristic of the man. He said:

"As an optimist, and not as a pessimist; as in favor of \$16 a thousand for hemlock lumber in my district as against \$6 a thousand four years ago; for 9-cent cotton as against 4-cent cotton; for \$1.55 a barrel for oil as against 55 cents a barrel; for 40-cent corn as against 20-cent corn; for a bigger rate per ton for the man who digs the coal than was paid to the owner four years ago; for three-eighths of one per cent of the population out of employment as against 40 per cent four years ago; for \$2 a ton for carrying ore on the great lakes as against 60 cents a ton; for \$2.55 a day for the ore handlers as against \$1.25; for an average increase of 25 per cent in wages over four years ago; for a surplus of \$30,000,000 in our national budget as against a deficit of \$75,000,000 under the last Democratic administration; for the continuance of the opportunity for every man to secure remunerative employment, and the banishment forever of soup houses from this glorious country; for an export trade of two billions annually, requiring three times greater product of our manufactures than we have at the present time; for the growing trade of the Orient, which will require all the farm products of the great west and a good deal of our industries, and will keep wheat at \$1 a bushel and upward."

"There are 100 more planks in my platform similar to the above, but my chief plank is that I am for a continuance of the splendid prosperity that we are enjoying under the administration of President McKinley."

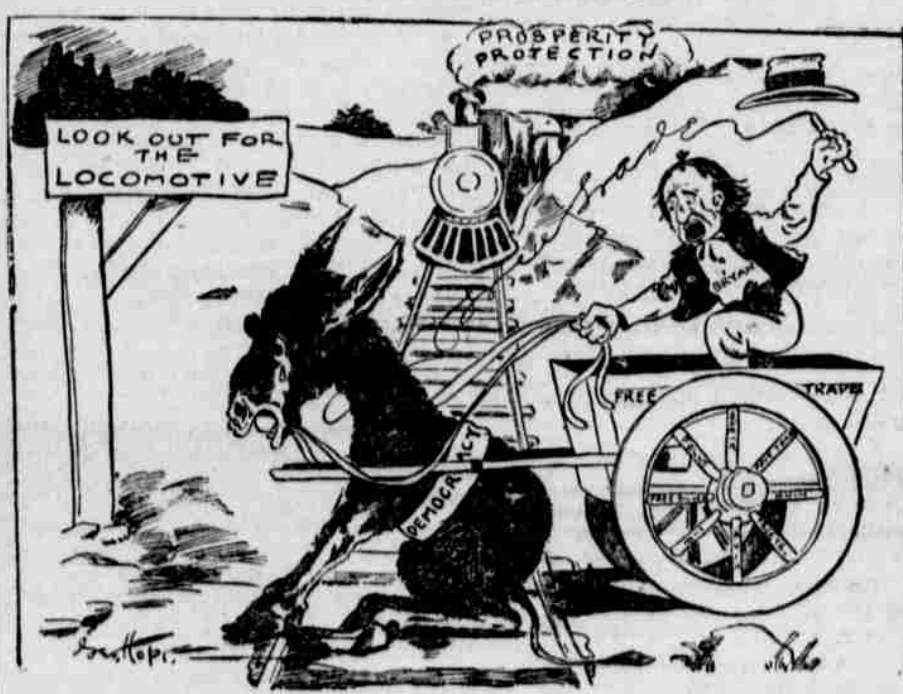
Jeffersonian Imperialism.

Mr. Bryan's recent remarks about "imperialism" sound very much like the criticisms that were hurled at the Jefferson administration when the Louisiana purchase bill was before Congress. As a sample here is a quotation from the New York Herald of March 21, 1894: "We revolted from Great Britain because her Parliament taxed us without our consent, expressed by representatives. Our colonies may adopt our principles. Even the limited monarchy proposed in the bill now under discussion in the House of Representatives will not probably be established, and it is next to a certainty that the session will terminate leaving Jefferson in complete possession of all the despotic powers which were lately acquired by the Spanish monarch."

Colored Voters.

Senator Tillman's recent speech about the negro voter seems to have been but a preliminary toward disfranchising him in the south, judging from the action of the leading political party in Virginia. This evil-

CAN HE ESCAPE A SMASH-UP?



American people from the annual drain of \$280,000,000 now contributed by them for the employment and permanent enrichment of Britons. It is conceded by all, and the president and his cabinet are emphatic on the subject, that the only way of overcoming this adverse and dangerous condition is for congress to speedily come to the aid of American shipping. The passage of the shipping bill, the provisions of which are in perfect accord with the urgent official recommendations of the president and the secretary of the treasury, and which bill has been favorably reported from the committees to each branch of congress, will revive American shipping in the foreign trade and lead to the eventual retention at home of these vast millions, the foreign outgo of which drains us of all our gold or its equivalent in our products.

Expansion for Farmers.

The agricultural reports show that our sales of agricultural products abroad during the past three years, 1897-1899, were more than \$500,000,000 greater than in the preceding three years, 1894-1896. The American farmer is participating in the benefits of expansion.

David Jekyll-Hyde Hill.

The report that the Hon. David B. Hill is prepared to support a platform that drove him to the political woods in 1896 is by no means startling. David is just that sort of person.

Big Trusts Fighting.

Recent troubles between the steel and wire combines show that even big trusts can not compete amicably for trade. As a matter of fact, the bigger the corporation, and the more it attracts publicity, the more vulnerable it is if it does not deal fairly by the public or its employees.

More Work at Home.

With 100 per cent of increase in the population of the United States during the last thirty years, there has been an increase of only 60 per cent in our total imports of foreign goods. This shows how the American workman under protection is acquiring the American market.

Populistic Wisdom.

The Hon. Thomas E. Watson has a corner on the wisdom in Populistic circles. He declares the issues upon which the party existed are all dead and he will not assist the Democratic combine in its effort to dangle the corpse in the faces of the people.

The Railroad Record.

There were 4,500 miles of new railroad built last year, as against 2,219 miles in 1898, and 1,650 miles in 1895.

THE ARMY OFFICERS

TESTIFY IN THE IDAHO MINING INVESTIGATION.

Ate Prisoners' Food and Thought It Excellent—Punished Miners Who Tried to Build a Tunnel and Escape.

The Military Affairs Committee has listened to the testimony of three army officers on the matter of the treatment of the Coeur d'Alene miners, held as prisoners in Idaho by the soldiers, and on the general character of the food and accommodations. Capt. Edwards narrated the circumstances of the detention of Mr. Heney after the state authorities had given permission for his release. He said that a tunnel had been dug by the prisoners, that they might escape. When it was discovered investigation was made to determine who had done it. He suspected that Mr. Simpkins had been a leader of this movement, accused him, and upon admission, had him confined in the county jail. He ordered Mr. Heney and some of the other prisoners to fill up this tunnel, and they refused to work. For this insubordination, the witness said, he put Mr. Heney on bread and water, for the good of prison discipline, and held him until he had performed the work. Some other prisoners had been punished by his orders for violation of prison rules. This punishment consisted of a diet of bread and water, and being required to forego the luxury of hay for their beds. This, however, was not severe because they had their blankets and quilts to sleep on. He said there was no denial of free speech, and added that on the 4th of July, a celebration was had in which the soldiers, as well as the men, participated; speeches were made, rough riding and other games were indulged in. The suppression of the Mulen Mirror, and the order preventing the commemoration of July 11th, by a public gathering, originated with the civil and not the military authorities.

Major Allen Smith of the 1st Cavalry corroborated much of Capt. Edwards' testimony, and approved all of the measures taken by the latter, such as the punishment of prisoners, for the good of prison discipline. He told of a meeting which had been held at which the question of permitting men to resume work at the pumps was considered. The union had ordered the men to quit the pumps, and as this would have resulted very speedily in the flooding and the destruction of the mines, the matter was brought to the attention of the witness and of Lieut. Lyons. Ten minutes was given the union to meet and rescind its action, and the union complied, after which the men returned to work. Had this action not been taken the mines would have been damaged to such an extent that it is doubtful if they could ever have been resumed.

Major Smith said that he had not arrested any one, but that he had required a man to be prosecuted for draping the American flag in black, and putting it at half mast on the 4th of July. He said he had received no complaints of brutal or inhuman treatment of the men, nor had he heard any complaints of suffering among their families. As to the quantity and quality of the food served he said it was sufficient and very good.

Lieut. Helberg testified as to the treatment of prisoners and their food and accommodations. He said that he had heard of no infractions of the rules by the men, nor of any improper treatment of them by the troops. He said he subsisted for two weeks and a half upon the food from the prison kitchen, and considered it of superior excellence. As to the matter of punishment inflicted by Capt. Edwards he considered that it was not severe, and that it was necessary to maintain discipline.

Nebraska's Farm Values.

Regarding the prosperity now prevalent in the west, a paper from the Interior of Nebraska says: "With the price of steers ranging at from \$1.60 to \$5 in Omaha, hogs near the \$5.50 mark, corn near the 30 mark at home, and the country full of money, it doesn't look as though the presidential campaign is going to materially affect prosperity, at least not in the agricultural and stock-growing belt. Four years ago hogs sold for \$2.80 in Stanton, while good corn commanded but 14 cents. Oats, rye and barley show the same wide difference in price. Butter is worth nearly double what it was then. The same is true of everything the farmer has to sell, with the exception of wheat, and even that is several cents higher now than then."

Nebraska's Horrible Example.

Nebraska affords a striking horrible example of the effects of a Democratic administration and a free trade tariff. Its bank deposits show it:

Year.	Amount.
1892	\$24,891,113
1893	17,208,476
1894	18,074,832
1895	14,200,715
1896	10,227,637
1897	13,902,940
1898	18,225,180
1899	21,666,111

These figures represent the deposits in all banks in Nebraska under State supervision only. The decline during the Democratic administration of 1893-97 is as remarkable as the increase in deposits under the present administration of President McKinley.

Demand for Paper.

The man who writes the Kansas City platform will have to draw heavily upon the paper mills if he attempts to explain all of the miscarried predictions of 1896.