

## TURN OF THE TIDE

### TRUST PROSPERITY HAS RUN ITS COURSE.

Important Industries Forced to Curtail Production in Consequence of Decreased Demand—Effect of the Dingley Bill.

In these days of retrenchment and decreased exports which are the natural results of a high protective tariff, our manufacturers have been looking for markets abroad that were not walled in by a protective tariff against them. The British colonies in South Africa seemed the best field for exploitation, and quite a nice business was springing up in that direction. The department of commerce, which now includes the bureau of statistics, was quick to call attention to our increased trade with South Africa and the protectionist organs pointed to it as an example of foreign trade that had not been reduced by our own protection wall. But, alas! those wretched Britishers who are free traders at home, where they cannot raise enough necessities to supply themselves, when transplanted to a new country with infant industries, which they are trying to build up, have determined on protection.

The department of commerce now informs us that all British territory in South Africa has put in operation a preferential tariff system in favor of Great Britain of 25 per cent. This will soon wipe out the trade that our exporters have built up, with such expense and care. The business thus lost with South Africa amounted to \$33,900,000, or about one-fourth of what the same territory bought from England, and the amount was increased with surprising rapidity. In 1898 our trade there amounted to only one-tenth of the British, which shows the great increase since that date.

Our trade with Canada is being cut off in exactly the same manner and all the European governments are also raising their tariff walls higher and higher against us. The principal sufferers by this system of protection adopted by other countries will be the American workman and the farmer. Both will be cut off from markets for the surplus they produce over and above what the people of the United States can consume. The workman will suffer by the decreased demand for what they manufacture and the farmer by the decreased markets for their surplus. As the demand decreases, prices for goods or produce fall and wages decline, which is the immediate result that may be looked for in this country. In fact, the process has already begun and some of the greater manufacturers—the trusts—have already notified their workmen that the reduction must be made. The steel trust has posted notices that on Jan. 1 a new agreement with its employees will be necessary. The Dover, N. J., Index of Oct. 2 says:

"Some of the employees of the mines in this section have received notice that their wages will be cut fifteen cents per day, and it is said that the same rule is to prevail in all of the mines in the country in the course of a few days. This is occasioned by the big slump in steel and a consequent reduction in the price of pig iron."

That is from a local newspaper published in the iron mine region and the information therefore comes at first hand.

A Chicago special correspondent of the New York Evening Post of Sept. 30 says:

"The railroads and machine shops are not using as many men as recent months. The slight shifts having in a number of instances been dispensed with, owing to a falling off in business."

This we have the natural result of protection brought home to us by the efforts of other countries to preserve their markets for their own goods. As the foreign demand for our surplus productions decrease, we must reduce our output. To reduce means men out of work and lower wages.

During the height of the trust boom, that has now run its course, wages have been increasing. They will now begin to fall, and only the best skilled workmen will find steady employment. The protectionist would have us believe that the Dingley bill, if untouched, will continue prosperity, but the facts show it; it has bred trusts and monopolies; raised the price of living far beyond the increase of wages; forced foreign countries to increase their tariff wall against American products and produced a panic in the stock market which seems destined to extend to all branches of trade.

That the tariff has been the mother of trusts was a sworn statement of one of the great trust magnates and that the trusts have been selling their products cheaper to foreigners than to our own people has been proven. Yet with all this evidence of the harm that the protective tariff has done and is doing, the Republican leaders have determined not to reduce or reform it and are already engaged in packing the committees of the coming congress so that the subject cannot even be reviewed.

## SHAW AND THE BANKERS.

### Loans More Millions Without Interest—The Administration and Wall Street.

The amateur statesman and financier who has been placed by the Republican leaders in charge of the United States treasury has been adding to the amusement of the world by telling how he would settle the currency question, and how he would build up American shipping. If, thinking about what he would do, if he had the power, was all there was to laugh about, Secretary Shaw could go on with his vapors and no harm would be done. As secretary of the treasury, he has, however, enormous opportunities for mischief and his zeal for the Wall street bankers born of numerous interviews with the astute masters of finance who control the money and stock markets, has led him to violate the plain enactments of Congress. Secretary Shaw, at the recent bidding of the stock gamblers, has been and is doing, the very acts that the Aldrich bill, that Congress refused to pass, would have authorized.

That Secretary Shaw is entirely in-

capable of comprehending the simple law that governs the movement of money is shown by his extraordinary efforts to increase the currency volume. With one hand he deposits with the banks the treasury surplus and with the other is retiring circulation, which the banks find it profitable to do, as the banks that secure it have so advanced its price that the banks find it more profitable to sell them. The increased premium on bonds has been brought about by the demand for them as security for the surplus cash Mr. Shaw is loaning to favored banks without interest. So far as increasing the money supply goes, this is merely loaning Peter to pay Paul, the only restriction being that the retirement of bank circulation is limited to \$3,000,000 a month.

Secretary Shaw has evaded, if not disobeyed, the law that provides for public money being deposited with banks, by depositing \$2,500,000 with the St. Louis banks without requiring them to deposit United States bonds as security. In this case he accepted state and municipal bonds as security and banks all over the country are demanding, on the same terms, their share of the \$4,000,000 that Secretary Shaw says he will loan; besides the \$156,000,000 already loaned.

It is rather discouraging to those who believe in a strict construction of the law in all that relates to the care of the public money that the evasion of the law in the interest of bankers by the Secretary of the Treasury is endorsed by President Roosevelt. It shows the desperate condition of, at least, some of the banks that the President has been forced to yield to their importunities for help. It likewise shows that the boasted independence of the present administration of the money power and Wall Street, if such ever existed, has been adjusted for political reasons and that the old alliance between the Republican leaders and the banks, trusts and corporations, is in full force and effect. It is not difficult to believe that for these loans, without interest, of nearly \$200,000,000 of the people's money, will return ample interest to the next Republican campaign fund in which President Roosevelt has such great personal interest.

### A Presidential Dilemma.

The statement of Postmaster General Payne that President Roosevelt was fully aware of the deal that had been made for the division of the spoils of office in Delaware is rather hard on a civil service reformer, as President Roosevelt professes to be. It must be especially disheartening to those Republicans who were hopeful that their party would not be disgraced by complicity with the attempt of Adickes to purchase the Delaware senatorship. That Mr. Payne should have given the Adickes faction their share of the political spoils was to be expected, but that the President acquiesced in supporting the notorious Adickes is a shock to all patriots who demand decent government.

The offense that Miss Todd had committed and for which her dismissal was requested was that she opposed the Adickes faction, and that alone is why Mr. Payne as official headman chopped off her head. There was no word against her personal or official conduct, no petition from patrons of the office for her removal, but she and her family were opposed to Adickes. That was crime enough for Mr. Payne. A feeling made him wondrous kind to Adickes and his ambition to represent Delaware in the United States senate. The respectable faction of the Republican party in Delaware has been trying to stem the tide of corruption and have denounced Adickes as a debaucher of the voters of the state, but Postmaster General Payne has evidently determined to aid him.

What will President Roosevelt do? Will he reinstate Miss Todd or stand by the action of his postmaster general?

President Roosevelt can afford to be independent of the Adickes faction, for in any event, they can send a delegation to the next national convention and their claim for recognition will be settled by that body where the will of the President, from the present outlook, will be omnipotent. But the voters of Delaware and the whole country will hold him responsible and expect him to carry out his own declaration that "Words are good only when backed by deeds."

## Jug-Handle Prosperity.

Even the Republican newspapers are at last beginning to open their eyes, and their columns to the fact that the Republican-High-Tariff-Trust brand of prosperity, about which we have heard so much during the last four years, is a fraud and a humbug, as far as a majority of our citizens are concerned. It is prosperity for the trusts, all right, but it has nearly exhausted the resources of a majority of the people. The following is from the Chicago Inter Ocean, a good Republican paper:

"Ever since 1897, this nation, on the surface, has prospered as never before. Yet it may be doubted if one-half the heads of American families are in as favorable a position as they were in 1897. The third party—the majority who are neither capitalists nor able to fortify themselves behind labor union walls—is to-day giving more proportionately than in 1897, while getting only the same.

"When capitalists combine to raise prices, reduce expenses, or anticipate profits it is this third party that pays the higher prices, stands the reduction of expenses, and converts the anticipated profits into actual ones.

"The plain truth is that fully one-half the workers of the United States—the men whose incomes are from \$600 to \$3,000 a year, the men who are neither in trusts nor labor unions, have not been getting their share of the national prosperity. They are working for the prosperity of capital and organized labor, but no one is working for them. And under this burden they are becoming exhausted."

"Why not remove the tariff on shoes? It cannot injure the weakest member of the trade. On the contrary, it will tend to broaden your markets and increase your opportunities."—Hon. Charles H. Jones.



—Courtesy of The Commoner.

## Commoner Comment.

### THE SILVER DOLLAR.

An East Oakland, Cal., reader of the Commoner writes: "It is asserted with emphasis by republicans on the Pacific coast that every silver dollar (which, of course, includes silver certificates) issued by the government is guaranteed by the gold behind it."

What is the status of silver money; and if secured by gold, why does the custom house require payment of duties to be made in gold exclusively? If the silver dollar is made equal to a gold dollar by law, can anybody truthfully claim the former to be worth 50 silver on a parity and good enough for Americans until the nobility of England were permitted to plow with the republican heifers?

The silver certificate is redeemable in the silver dollar. The silver dollar is irredeemable money. There is no gold behind it. The silver dollar is made legal tender for a debt, public or private except where otherwise stipulated in the contract; therefore, it can not be possible that the custom houses require payment of duties in gold. The silver dollar is just as good for the payment of duties as the gold dollar. The act of March, 1900, gave the secretary of the treasury, if in his opinion it was necessary to maintain the parity of all money, to exchange one kind of money for another; but so the secretary of the treasury has not accepted the act of March, 1900, as justification for the redemption of the silver dollar in gold; and one of the provisions of the Fowler bill, now being agitated by the financiers, is that all money, including the silver dollar, shall be redeemed in gold. The redemption of the silver dollar, so far as redemption is concerned, is the same today as it was at the beginning of this government. It is irredeemable money. Some men refer to it as a "50-cent dollar" because the commercial value of the bullion in the silver dollar is not equivalent to the value of the coin as "current money with the merchants." But it is not a 50-cent dollar because men are fighting for it and dying for it, and children are crying for it. Every one is willing to accept it for 100 cents on the dollar, knowing that it will pay every debt, public or private, except where otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract.

Prior to 1873 the commercial ratio of gold and silver kept pace with the coinage ratio, and bi-metallicists believe that restoration of the coinage conditions that existed prior to 1873 would raise the bullion value to the coinage value. The recent advances in the price of silver, owing to the Philippine coinage, provide an interesting object lesson. If the purchase of 1,750,000 ounces of silver for the Philippine coinage could make such marked difference in the price of silver, what will be the effect when the Philippine coinage is well under way and several hundred million ounces are required in order to sustain the Philippine system? Is it not, also, reasonable to believe that the effect on the price of silver by the mere purchase of a few ounces of metal for Philippine coinage would be incomparable with the effects upon the price of silver if the United States mints were open to free and unlimited coinage?

President Roosevelt talked to workmen on Labor Day. But words are good only when backed up by deeds, and up to date the number of trusts that have been shackled corresponds with the number of times Sir Thomas Lipton has won the cup.

Owing to the fact that there is a presidential campaign slated for next year Mr. Roosevelt is engaged in writing a message that will seek to placate selfish interest without arousing the antagonism of the victims.

Senator Allison has given his views on financial legislation, but he has unfortunately forgotten to submit the key to his views.

If the coal barons are not careful their continued extortions will make the public so warm that no coal will be needed.

Those who imagined that congress would be called in special session before election overlooked the fact that something besides legislation for the country's good is under consideration.

The Chicago Chronicle says: "Mr. Cleveland would poll every democratic vote in the land." Is the Chronicle still figuring that the 140,000 men who voted for Palmer and Burkner are the only democrats?

In thorough organization there is complete victory. Organize, and do it without further delay.

### "GRAFT."

The word "Graft" has been so frequently employed of late that it has come to have a technical meaning. It is used to describe the illegitimate profit which a corrupt public servant makes out of his office. The most common form of graft is in the form of a rebate on contracts made by the official for the public. The postoffice investigations show that several employees were interested in contracts made in their departments. Of course, it is plain bare-faced stealing, for the official acts for the people as a whole and to pay a high price for supplies with the understanding that a part of the price will be returned to him personally is only an indirect method of converting the money of the government to his own use. All purchasing agents are tempted to misuse their positions and public opinion ought to be such as to restrain and strengthen those who hold such positions of trust. Even school boards sometimes become venal and sell their decisions to the book company that offers the largest cash bonus to the board. What a sad commentary on public morals to say that men especially selected to supervise the instruction of the young should become purchasable. In the cities another form of graft is found in the selling of immunity. Saloon-keepers, gamblers and keepers of houses of ill-fame, are sometimes allowed to violate the law, provided a stipulated sum is paid to officers whose duty it is to enforce the law. This form of crime should be made so odious, that every party organization would, for its own protection, unrelentingly punish its own members when found guilty of trafficking in police authority, but back of all this misuse of official power stands the commercialism—the sordid, greedy commercialism—which is stimulating the love of money and condoning the offenses against law and good morals. The only permanent remedy is to be found in purifying public thought and in raising the ideals of the people.

### WAS SOMETHING CONCEALED?

Following close upon the announcement that the militia at Victor, Colo., had suppressed a newspaper, comes the report that the governor of the state has found it necessary to investigate the acts of the militia officers. It doubtless occurred to a great many people that the Colorado militia evinced considerable activity in suppressing free speech and interfering with constitutional rights.

Mr. Wilbur F. Wakeman, secretary of the American protective tariff league, is gathering the names of the members of the senior class of the various colleges for the purpose of sending out literature in favor of protective tariff. When the people understand that the money used to carry on a protective tariff propaganda is given by the people who secure an advantage from high import duties, such literature will be valueless. The protective tariff league ought to add a postscript to each document saying: "This postscript was paid for by Mr. who makes enough money out of the tariff laws to enable him to contribute to the treasury of the protective tariff league, which in turn is trying to secure legislation that will turn the people's money back into the pockets of the contributor."

Mr. Hanna has imported an army of republican spell-binders into Ohio, probably with an idea of attracting the attention of the people away from the main issue.

Ex-Secretary Smith's partiality for Cleveland is possibly due to his pleasant recollection of his catch-as-catch-can wrestling match with the Wilson tariff bill during Mr. Cleveland's second administration.

We may expect the Russian government to haul down its flag just about the time a republican administration announces some definite policy on the financial or Philippine questions.

Secretary Shaw shouts "stand pat," but it is noticeable that a very small shove from Wall street will move him.

According to Senator Allison the republican tariff song will read: "Go, tariff reform, go thy way, Some more convenient day On thee we'll call."

Now that Secretary Shaw has assured the voters of Ohio that we have prosperity, Messrs. Morgan and Schwab ought to make a few speeches showing how to keep it.

It seems that Governor Cummins is once more able to meet the "Iowa idea" on a public thoroughfare without growing red in the face.

### GROSSCUP'S BLOOD BOILS.

Judge Peter S. Grosscup, appointed to the federal bench by President McKinley, recently said: "When I see the laws of my country introduced to enable men to consolidate money for the public good, turned into the excuse for swindles that should land the promoters in the penitentiary, and when I see that to be the almost universal history of corporations, every drop of blood in me boils with hate and revenge." Judge Grosscup might also have expressed his indignation against the failure on the part of executives to enforce laws which were intended to land the violators of the law in the penitentiary.

### WAS IT A SLAP AT ROOSEVELT?

According to the chairman of the Rhode Island republican convention, Theodore Roosevelt is the "most brilliant and most courageous of living statesmen," but Nelson W. Aldrich, who is generally regarded as Mr. senate, is "the foremost defender of our national honor and of our national prosperity." It is dollars to doughnuts that Mr. Roosevelt won't surrender without a struggle to the right to be known as the "foremost defender."

### UNITED STATES MAIL CONTRACTS.

A Cherokee, Tex., reader of the Commoner writes: "I wish to ask if a man makes a contract with the government to carry the United States mail, has he a right to sublet it? If not, what is the penalty for subletting?" He has a right to sublet a contract with the approval of the post office department. In the event that a mail contract is sublet without approval, the contractor cannot recover from the government.

There is one faint hope that all the rascality in the governmental departments will end. There are faint indications that the grafters in the postal department, angry at the thought that the grafters in the interior department made better hauls, will lend their aid to exposing the land deals, and that the land grafters will retaliate by aiding in the exposure of the postal grafters.

Perhaps it would be easier to denounce the sultan of Turkey for permitting so much bloodshed in his domains if he could temporarily forget the fact that the transport Kilpatrick recently arrived from Manila with 306 dead American soldiers on board—victims of a policy contrary to the spirit of our free institutions.

Our exports to and imports from the Philippines during the last ten months amounted to about \$16,000,000. Even if the profits amounted to 25 per cent this is only \$12,000,000 for each of the 306 dead soldiers brought over by the Kilpatrick. But human life is cheap when measured by the imperialistic standard.

It is customary to accuse the average Englishman with being slow to see the point of a joke, but the average Englishman is quick to see the point of a joke about "the foreigner paying the tax."

It is reported that Mr. Rockefeller has lost an overcoat valued at \$100. The theft means that while the overcoat cost Mr. Rockefeller \$100 it will probably cost all consumers \$3,437,872, or thereabouts.

Doubtless those thirty indicted post-office officials are busily engaged in selecting the republican temple pillars they expect to pull down in case this sort of thing goes much further.

The Sioux City Journal says that in 1897 Mr. Bryan insisted that "the gold dollar was worth more in exchangeable value than the silver dollar." The trouble with the Sioux City Journal is that when it tries to discuss the money question it draws upon its imagination for its facts.

What President Roosevelt needs most is some copious doses of the old P. Davis remedy in his cabinet.

Russian evacuation of Manchuria has a decidedly republican-revision-of-their-appearance.

It appears now that while we were worrying about Charles Schwab's health, Charles was engaged in looking after something besides his health.

Sooner or later it will dawn upon Mr. Rockefeller's mind that he can get at Uncle Russ Sage only by forming a trust in the cheap clothing market.

Speaking of "guessing contests," have you guessed yet what Secretary Shaw is figuring on doing next for the ever and friendless barons of Wall street?

## ONE MAN THAT SHOULD KNOW DENIES LOVE IS A DISEASE



Lorin Farr, head of the largest family in the world, bitterly opposes the theories advanced by Dr. A. C. Cotton, dean of Rush Medical College, Chicago, that love is a disease due to a microbe.

Mr. Farr has had six wives, 39 children, 231 grandchildren and 66 great-grandchildren. He has seen his 250 or more descendants married and bearing children, and then, too, his experience as the husband of six wives, and living with all at the same time, makes him an authority on the question of love.

There is no fine spun mysticism or sentimental poetry in the mind of this father of thirty-nine children. His definition of love was unmistakably plain. "Love!" he said, without hesitation.

"Love is the natural affection between man and woman that has its foundation in the desire to perpetuate the race. That's love, but oh, how many come as soon as the man and woman meet in their minds."

For a few minutes the old man seemed lost in reveries of years long gone.

"Did I tell you that I agree with Roosevelt's views on the marriage question?" he asked. "His thoughts meet mine exactly."

"Love often comes at first sight," he continued. "With my first wife it did. It is not always, though, that this feeling comes at first sight. But love comes as soon as the man and woman are well acquainted. If they love each other they do not have to keep company for years to find it out."

### MISER'S CHART IS MISSING.

Paper Showing Location of Buried Wealth Suddenly Disappears.

The recent settlement and distribution of the estate left by Joseph Conatser, a miser, has again set the people of Whitman (Wash.) county guessing as to what became of a chart showing the location of various places where Conatser had buried his money. Just before death Conatser gave Thos. Keyes, his closest friend, a plat which contained a number of marks, dots and figures, and pointing from a window of his cabin, showed the spot where much money was buried. He asked Keyes to dig it up, and in an old tin can the latter found \$260 in gold coin. Conatser gave Keyes to understand that each spot on the chart marked a place where the coin was concealed.

When it was found necessary to move the old man to a hospital this chart and his other papers were sewed inside of Conatser's vest. After his death all the papers were turned over to the court, with the exception of the chart.

The mystery which surrounds the lost chart may never be explained, and the accumulations of Joseph Conatser, the miser, may remain buried forever.

### Victory Due to Lost Key.

An amusing incident occurred at Cuxhaven during some landing maneuvers which were being carried out by the German fleet.

An adversary's fleet was supposed to be attempting to force the entrance to the Elbe, which was defended by troops on shore. The first attack of the "enemy" had been repulsed during a severe storm. The troops on shore retired to their bivouac, and to protect the rifles from the rain, which was coming down in torrents, they locked them up in a small wooden house.

Suddenly the alarm sounded, but on rushing to get their weapons the key of the house was not to be found. When after considerable delay, the rifles were distributed, it was found that the "enemy" had forced the entrance and thus gained the victory."—London Mail.

### Train Girls for Domestic Service.

Sorely tried housekeepers in New York and vicinity hope great things from a newly started movement for a servants' guild whose main object will be to thoroughly train acceptable girls for the duties of domestic service. Mrs. Russell Sage has been especially prominent in the movement. In her view the chief trouble in keeping good servants lies usually with the mistresses, who are inclined to be inconsiderate slave-drivers. The title of the new organization is to be the Women's Domestic Guild.

### Writing Biography of Putnam.

James Putnam Stewart of Louisville, a direct descendant of Gen. Isaac Putnam of revolutionary fame, has many relics of his distinguished ancestry and is busily engaged in writing out the lineage of the family.

### When Railways Were Rare.

In 1850 there was not one mile of railway in Wisconsin, Tennessee or Florida or anywhere west of the Mississippi river. Even in 1870 half the area of the country was still without railways.

### PREACHER TELLS FUNNY STORY.

Dr. Parkhurst Narrates Anecdote of a Converted Savage.

Dr. Parkhurst delivered himself of a story in the course of his sermon in the Madison Square Presbyterian church at New York on a recent Sunday. This is the story:

"An African chief became converted and moved to London, where he wore fashionable clothes and behaved in every way as an irreproachable man. One day he was giving a lecture in a church on the advantages of a peaceful, civilized life. His collar did not fit well, and in attempting to adjust it he tore open the buttonhole.

"The ripping shirt band brought back all his old savagery, and he shouted out that civilization was all a sham, and he wished he was back in his old life. Whereupon he pulled off his collar, his coat and trousers and finally stood in the garb of the unadorned savage. Then he set fire to the church and took to the woods.

"If his buttonhole had been a little stronger," added Dr. Parkhurst, "he would probably have remained an irreproachable man the rest of his life. That's the way with much of our civilization and virtue. A very small thing will reveal the real conditions."

### Denounced by Dying Weman.

A dramatic scene was enacted in a dining room of a New York East side apartment, where an aged woman in her dying moments identified Patrick Shea as the murderer of William McMahon. The crime was committed last May, and was a typical Cherry Hill murder. Shea escaped and after a long chase was run down in Philadelphia. Mrs. Catherine Brown, who had known Shea from childhood, was the only witness, and she could not go to court, so the court went to her. Propped up by pillows, she told the magistrate that she saw Shea, who stood manacled beside the bed, walk up behind McMahon and deliberately shoot him down. Cross-examination failed to change her statements, and she finished by roundly denouncing Shea.

"Your mother," she exclaimed, shaking her head at him, "was a decent woman. Be off; I never want to see you again."

### Satisfied All Around.

A Philadelphia wrote recently to the department of public safety complaining about the barking of dogs in the vicinity of his home. The complaint was referred to the police lieutenant of the district, and he made a report. In this report the lieutenant wrote that the dogs are not noticed so much now, as the change in weather has caused people to close their windows and thus escape much of the barking. He concluded his report in this manner: "The person who complained was sick when he wrote to the department. Since then he has died, and his widow has no complaint to make."

### Monarch Has No Ear for Music.

Considerable surprise was manifested in Paris over the fact that the King of Italy did not applaud when President Loubet took his part in the opera. Parisians did not seem to know that their distinguished guest does not care a rap for music or poetry. King Victor Emmanuel takes his pleasure on horseback or in an automobile. He is also fond of military life, being a rigid disciplinarian.